HMMER

Laboratory of Bioinformatics I Module 2

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http://biofold.org/



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HMMER: biosequence analysis using profile hidden Markov models

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HMMER is used for searching sequence databases for sequence homologs, and for making sequence alignments. It implements methods using probabilistic models called profile hidden Markov models (profile HMMs).

HMMER is often used together with a profile database, such as Pfam or many of the databases that participate in Interpro. But HMMER can also work with query sequences, not just profiles, just like BLAST. For example, you can search a protein query sequence against a database with **phmmer**, or do an iterative search with **jackhmmer**.

HMMER is designed to detect remote homologs as sensitively as possible, relying on the strength of its underlying probability models. In the past, this strength came at significant computational expense, but as of the new HMMER3 project, HMMER is now essentially as fast as BLAST.

HMMER can be downloaded and installed as a command line tool on your own hardware, and now it is also more widely accessible to the scientific community via new search servers at the European Bioinformatics Institute.

Eddy SR (1998) *Profile hidden Markov models*. **Bioinformatics** 14:755-763 Eddy SR (2008) *A Probabilistic Model of Local Sequence Alignment That Simplifies Statistical Significance Estimation*. **PLoS Comp. Biol**. 4: e1000069 Eddy SR (2011) *Accelerated profile HMM searches*. **PLoS Comp. Biol**. 7:e1002195

Why HMMER?

HMMER is an Hidden Markov Model based tool used for

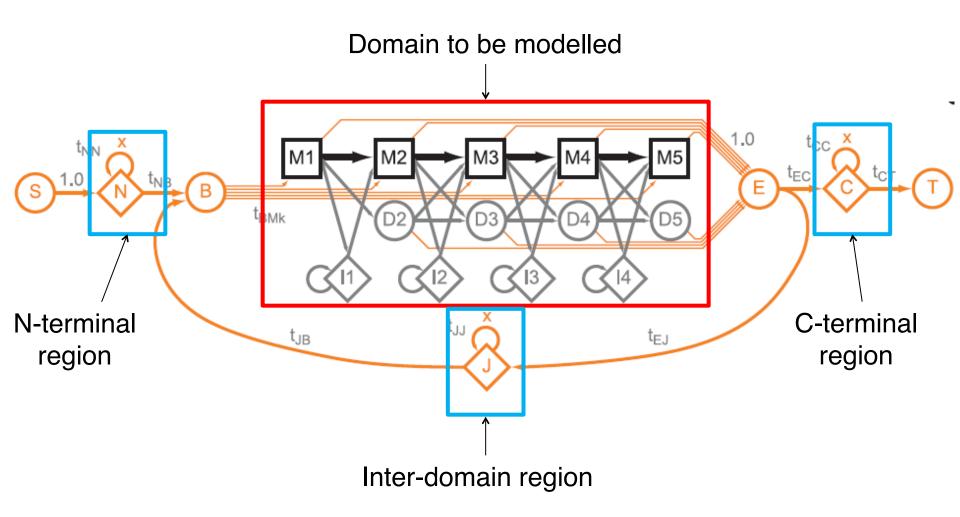
- searching sequence databases for sequence homologs
- make sequence alignments

HMMER is designed to detect remote homologs relying on the strength of its underlying probability models.

The new version of HMMER (HMMER3) is as fast as BLAST.

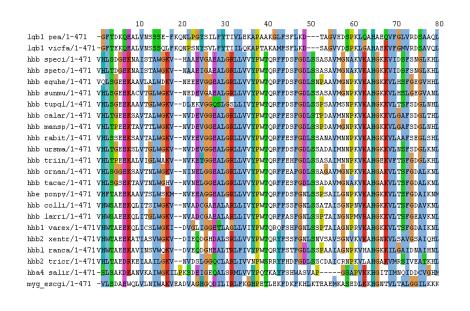
HMMER: General Model

The domain model has multiple hits and for each hit insertion and deletion

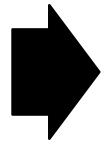


Aligning a protein family

Takes the aligned sequences, checks for redundancy and sets the emission and the transitions probabilities of a HMM, setting the parameters for the Extreme value distribution



hmmbuild



Trained profile-HMM

HMM calibrated with the accurate E-value statistics

Scoring the Sequence

After the training, the model M associates to a sequence s the probability $P(s \mid M)$

This probability answers the question:

What is the probability for a model M (e.g. describing the Globins) to generate the sequence s?

BUT the question we want to answer to is:

Given a sequence s, does it belong to the class described by the model M? (e.g. is it a Globin?)

We need to compute P(M | s) !!

A Priori Probabilities

$$P(M \mid s) = \frac{P(s \mid M)(P(M))}{P(s)}$$
 A priori probabilities

P(M) is the probability of the model (i.e. of the class described by the model) BEFORE we know the sequence:

can be estimated as the abundance of the class

P(s) is the probability of the sequence in the sequence space.

Cannot be reliably estimated!!

The Null Model

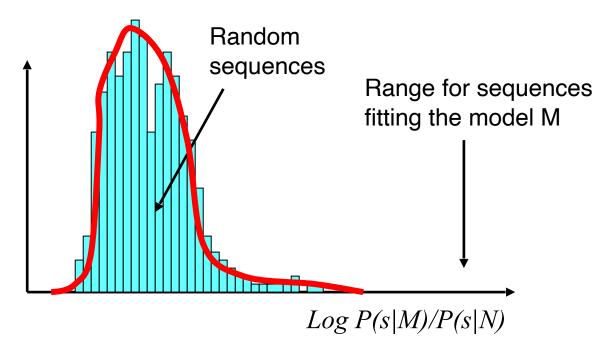
Null Model: a model that generates ALL the possible sequences with probabilities depending ONLY on letter (e.g. residue) statistical abundance (in HMMER3, by default, mean residue frequencies in Swiss-Prot 50.8 (October 2006)

Log odd score (in bits)
$$S(M, s) = log_2 \frac{P(s \mid M)}{P(s \mid N)}$$
 Sequences NOT belonging to model M S(M, s)

In this case we need a threshold and a statistic for evaluating the significance (E-value, P-value)

Extreme Value Distribution

Given a trained model M, a number of N (default 200 in HMMER3) random sequences are generated and scored with the model.



The random distribution is fitted with a Gumbel distribution, by estimating λ and μ

$$P(S \ge t) = 1 - \exp\left[-e^{-\lambda(t-\mu)}\right]$$

The E-value

After setting λ and μ

$$P(S \ge t) = 1 - \exp\left[-e^{-\lambda(t-\mu)}\right]$$

gives the probability of finding random matches with score > t: This is by definition the P-value corresponding to the score t

The E-value(t), namely expected number of random sequences with a score > t, is obtained with the relation

$$P = 1 - e^{-E}$$

E-value vs P-value

If E is the expected (average) number of occurrences of a rare event, we can adopt the Poisson's statistics to estimate the probability of observing a of such events.

$$p(a) = e^{-E} \frac{E^a}{a!}$$

P-value (P) is the probability of observing at least one rare event, that is

$$P = 1 - p(0)$$

$$P = 1 - e^{-E}$$

HMMER Installation

For Debian/Ubuntu Linux distributions

apt-get install hmmer apt-get install hmmer-doc

Root privileges are needed User guide http://eddylab.org/software/hmmer/Userguide.pdf

Otherwise:



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Globin Alignment

The multiple sequence alignment is provided in Stockholm format

```
# STOCKHOLM 1.0
HBB HUMAN
            .....VHLTPEEKSAVTALWGKV....NVDEVGGEALGRLLVVYPWTQRFFESFGDLSTPDAVMGNPKVKAHGKKVL
HBA HUMAN
            .....VLSPADKTNVKAAWGKVGA..HAGEYGAEALERMFLSFPTTKTYFPHF.DLS.....HGSAQVKGHGKKVA
MYG PHYCA
            .....VLSEGEWQLVLHVWAKVEA..DVAGHGQDILIRLFKSHPETLEKFDRFKHLKTEAEMKASEDLKKHGVTVL
GLB5 PETMA
            PIVDTGSVAPLSAAEKTKIRSAWAPVYS..TYETSGVDILVKFFTSTPAAQEFFPKFKGLTTADQLKKSADVRWHAERII
HBB HUMAN
            GAFSDGLAHL...D..NLKGTFATLSELHCDKL..HVDPENFRLLGNVLVCVLAHHFGKEFTPPVQAAYQKVVAGVANAL
HBA HUMAN
            DALTNAVAHV...D..DMPNALSALSDLHAHKL..RVDPVNFKLLSHCLLVTLAAHLPAEFTPAVHASLDKFLASVSTVL
MYG PHYCA
            TALGAILKK....K.GHHEAELKPLAOSHATKH..KIPIKYLEFISEAIIHVLHSRHPGDFGADAOGAMNKALELFRKDI
GLB5 PETMA
           NAVNDAVASM..DDTEKMSMKLRDLSGKHAKSF..QVDPQYFKVLAAVIADTVAAG.......DAGFEKLMSMICILL
HBB HUMAN
            AHKYH....
HBA HUMAN
            TSKYR....
MYG PHYCA
            AAKYKELGYOG
GLB5 PETMA RSAY.....
//
```

```
HEADER: # STOCKHOLM 1.0 END: //
GAP: .
```

Stockholm Format

More information can be added. They can be used to guide the HMM training.

```
#=GC SS_cons Secondary structure (consensus)
```

Often the consensus RNA or protein sequence is used as a reference Any non-gap character (e.g. x's) can indicate consensus/conserved/match columns . or - indicate insert columns

~ indicate unaligned insertions

Upper and lower case can be used to discriminate strong and weakly conserved residues respectively

```
#=GC MM Model Mask
```

Indicates which columns in an alignment should be masked, such that the emission probabilities for match states corresponding to those columns will be the background distribution. Masked positions are marked with "m"

Building the HMM model

SINTAX:

hmmbuild <hmm file> <msa file>

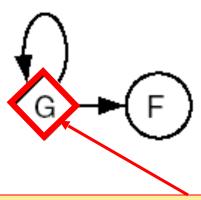
```
# hmmbuild :: profile HMM construction from multiple sequence alignments
# HMMER 3.1b2 (February 2015); http://hmmer.org/
# Copyright (C) 2015 Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
 Freely distributed under the GNU General Public License (GPLv3).
 input alignment file:
                                    globins4.sto
 output HMM file:
                                    globins4.hmm
# idx name
                            nseq alen mlen eff nseq re/pos description
                                                 (0.96)
                                                       0.589
     qlobins4
                                         149
# CPU time: 0.40u 0.02s 00:00:00.42 Elapsed: 00:00:00.42
Length of the MSA
                                                     Entropy per position
                                                     [0 bits--4.32 bits]
   Length of the HMM
   (number of match states)
                                   Number of "effective" sequences
```

HMM Model Output

```
HMMER3/f [3.1b2 | February 2015]
                                  HEADER: General info
NAME
     globins4
LENG
     149
                       Use information from RF and MM lines in Stockholm
ALPH amino
RF
     no
                        Build a consensus sequence
MM
     no
                        Use information from SS cons line in Stockholm
CONS yes
                       Map with respect to the alignment file
CS
     no
MAP
     yes
DATE Sat Mar 8 23:36:44 2014
NSEO
     0.964844
EFFN
CKSUM 2027839109
                                       Statistical parameters needed for
                   -9.9014 0.70957
STATS LOCAL MSV
STATS LOCAL VITERBI
                   -10.7224 0.70957
                                       E-value calculations (\mu, \lambda)
                   -4.1637 0.70957
STATS LOCAL FORWARD
                                     Ε
                                                       G
HMM
            Α
                             D
                                                               Η
                   m->i
                            m->d
                                     i->m
                                             i->i
                                                      d->m
                                                              d - > d
           m->m
         2.36553 4.52577 2.96709 2.70473 3.20818
                                                   3.02239 3.41069
  COMPO
         2.68640 4.42247 2.77497 2.73145 3.46376 2.40504
                                                            3.72516
         0.57544 1.78073 1.31293 1.75577 0.18968
                                                   0.00000
         1.70038 4.17733 3.76164 3.36686 3.72281
                                                   3.29583 4.27570
                                                   2.40513 3.72494 ...
         2.68618 4.42225 2.77519 2.73123 3.46354
         0.03156 3.86736 4.58970 0.61958 0.77255 0.34406 1.23405
         2.62748 4.47174 3.31917 2.82619 3.63815 3.49607 2.75382 ... 10 v - - -
         2.68618 4.42225 2.77519 2.73123 3.46354 2.40513 3.72494 ...
         0.02321 4.17053 4.89288 0.61958 0.77255
                                                   0.48576 0.95510
```

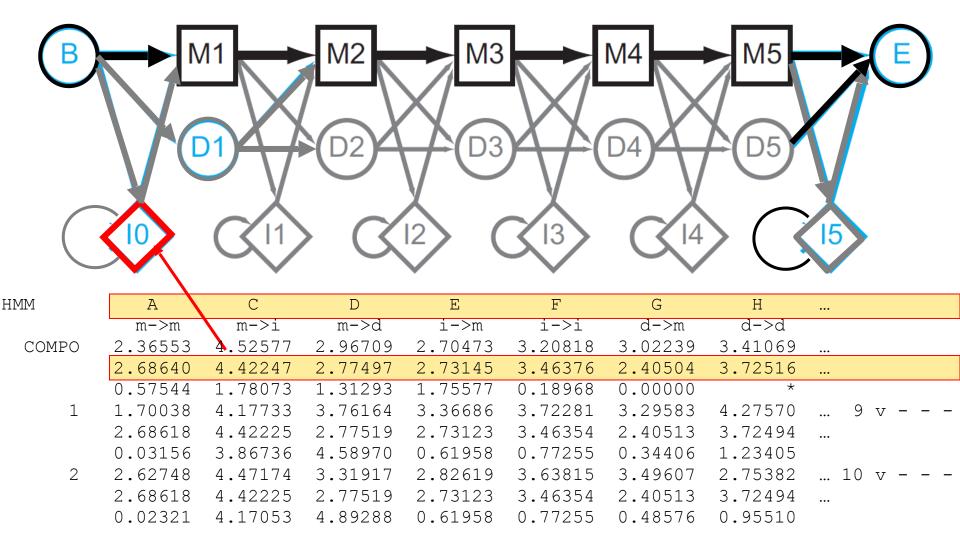
NULL Model

Score = -ln (p) or '*' if p=0 Where p = is function of the natural abundance of residues Swiss-Prot 50.8 (October 2006)

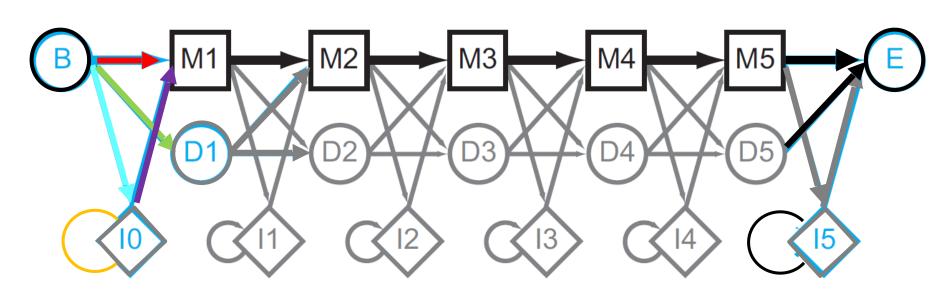


HMM	А	С	D	E	F	G	Н		
	m->m	m->i	m->d	i->m	i->i	d->m	d->d		
COMPO	2.36553	4.52577	2.96709	2.70473	3.20818	3.02239	3.41069		
	2.68640	4.42247	2.77497	2.73145	3.46376	2.40504	3.72516	•••	
	0.57544	1.78073	1.31293	1.75577	0.18968	0.00000	*		
1	1.70038	4.17733	3.76164	3.36686	3.72281	3.29583	4.27570		9 v
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494		
	0.03156	3.86736	4.58970	0.61958	0.77255	0.34406	1.23405		
2	2.62748	4.47174	3.31917	2.82619	3.63815	3.49607	2.75382	1	0 v
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494		
	0.02321	4.17053	4.89288	0.61958	0.77255	0.48576	0.95510		

0-states (emissions)



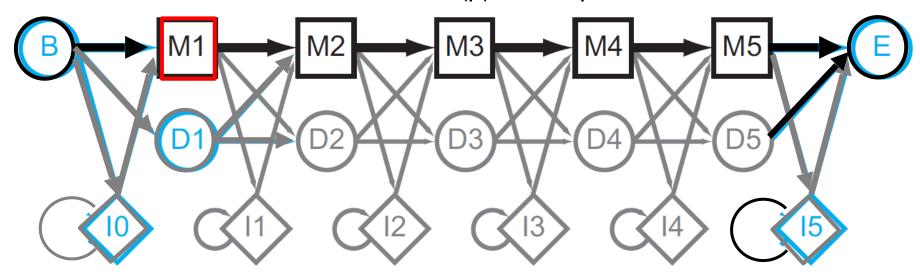
0-states (transitions)



HMM	А	С	D	E	F	G	Н	
	m->m	m->i	m->d	i->m	i->i	d->m	d->d	
COMPO	2.36553	4.52577	2.96709	2.70473	3.20818	3.02239	3.41069	
	2.68640	4.42247	2.77497	2.73145	3.46376	2.40504	3.72516	•••
	0.57544	1.78073	1.31293	1.75577	0.18968	0.00000	*	
1	1.70038	4.17733	3.76164	3.36686	3.72281	3.29583	4.27570	9 v
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494	•••
	0.03156	3.86736	4.58970	0.61958	0.77255	0.34406	1.23405	
2	2.62748	4.47174	3.31917	2.82619	3.63815	3.49607	2.75382	10 v
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494	•••
	0.02321	4.17053	4.89288	0.61958	0.77255	0.48576	0.95510	

1-states (emissions)

Score = $-\ln (p)$ or '*' if p=0

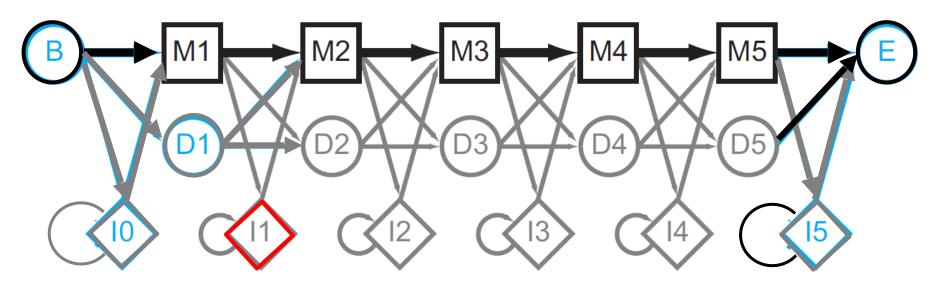


Corresponding position in initial MSA Consensus residue (lowest score)

HMM	А	С	D	E	F	G	Н		•
	m->m	m->i	m->d	i->m	i->i	d->m	d->d		
COMPO	2.36553	4.52577	2.96709	2.70473	3.20818	3.02239	3.41069		
	2.68640	4.42247	2.77497	2.73145	3.46376	2.40504	3.72516		
	0.57544	1.78073	1.31293	1.75577	0.18968	0.0000	*	<u> </u>	
1	1.70038	4.17733	3.76164	3.36686	3.72281	3.29583	4.27570	9 7	J
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494		
	0.03156	3.86736	4.58970	0.61958	0.77255	0.34406	1.23405		
2	2.62748	4.47174	3.31917	2.82619	3.63815	3.49607	2.75382	10 7	J
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494		
	0.02321	4.17053	4.89288	0.61958	0.77255	0.48576	0.95510		
									▼

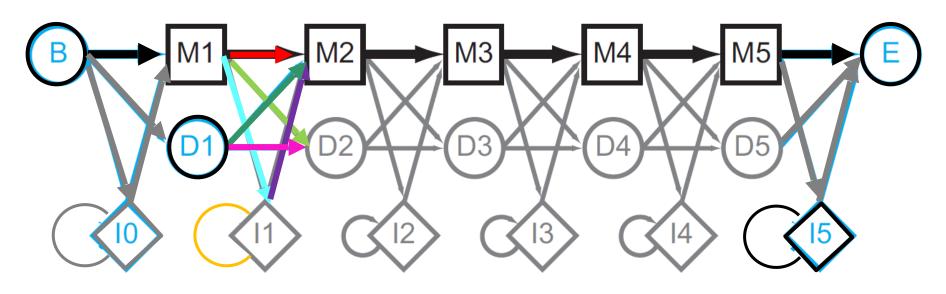
Column annotation for RF, MM, SS_cons (if present)

States of layer 1 (emissions)



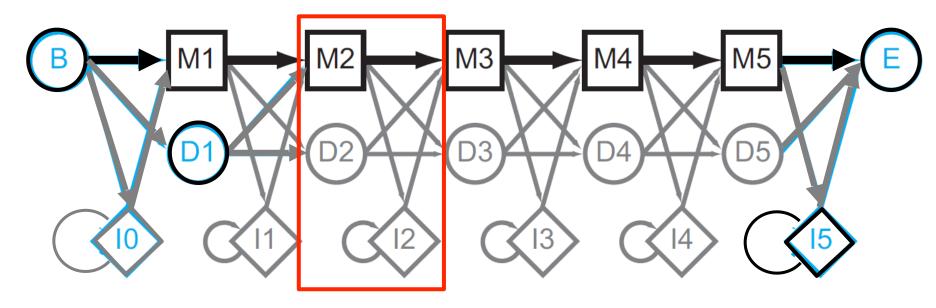
MMH	A	С	D	E	F	G	Н					
	m->m	m->i	m->d	i->m	i->i	d->m	d->d					
COMPO	2.36553	4.52577	2.96709	2.70473	3.20818	3.02239	3.41069					
	2.68640	4.42247	2.77497	2.73145	3.46376	2.40504	3.72516					
	0.57544	1.78073	1.31293	1.75577	0.18968	0.00000	*					
1	1.70038	4.17733	3.76164	3.36686	3.72281	3.29583	4.27570		9 v	7 –	-	-
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494					
	0.03156	3.86736	4.58970	0.61958	0.77255	0.34406	1.23405					
2	2.62748	4.47174	3.31917	2.82619	3.63815	3.49607	2.75382	•••	τ 01	7 –	_	-
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494					
	0.02321	4.17053	4.89288	0.61958	0.77255	0.48576	0.95510					

States of layer 1 (transitions)



HMM	A	С	D	E	F	G	Н	•••
	m->m	m->i	m->d	i->m	i->i	d->m	d->d	
COMPO	2.36553	4.52577	2.96709	2.70473	3.20818	3.02239	3.41069	
	2.68640	4.42247	2.77497	2.73145	3.46376	2.40504	3.72516	•••
	0.57544	1.78073	1.31293	1.75577	0.18968	0.00000	*	
1	1.70038	4.17733	3.76164	3.36686	3.72281	3.29583	4.27570	9 v
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494	
	0.03156	3.86736	4.58970	0.61958	0.77255	0.34406	1.23405	
2	2.62/48	4.47174	3.31917	2.82619	3.63815	3.49607	2.75382	10 v
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494	•••
	0.02321	4.17053	4.89288	0.61958	0.77255	0.48576	0.95510	

States of Layer 2



HMM	A	С	D	E	F	G	Н	•••	
	m->m	m->i	m->d	i->m	i->i	d->m	d->d		
COMPO	2.36553	4.52577	2.96709	2.70473	3.20818	3.02239	3.41069		
	2.68640	4.42247	2.77497	2.73145	3.46376	2.40504	3.72516		
ſ	0.57544	1.78073	1.31293	1.75577	0.18968	0.00000	*		
1	1.70038	4.17733	3.76164	3.36686	3.72281	3.29583	4.27570		9 v
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494		
1	0.03156	3.86736	4.58970	0.61958	0.77255	0.34406	1.23405		
2	2.62748	4.47174	3.31917	2.82619	3.63815	3.49607	2.75382	1	.0 v
	2.68618	4.42225	2.77519	2.73123	3.46354	2.40513	3.72494		
	0.02321	4.17053	4.89288	0.61958	0.77255	0.48576	0.95510		

Skylign

Interactive logos for alignments and profile HMMs

Skylign is a tool for creating logos representing both sequence alignments and profile hidden Markov models. Submit to the form on the right in order to produce (i) interactive logos for inclusion in webpages, or (ii) static logos for use in documents.

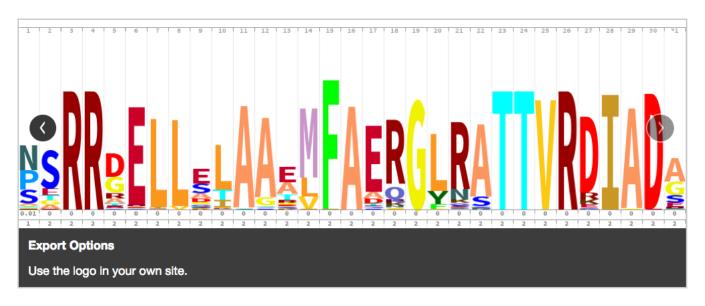
See an example

Create your logo

Upload an HMM or Multiple sequence alignment
Choose File No file chosen

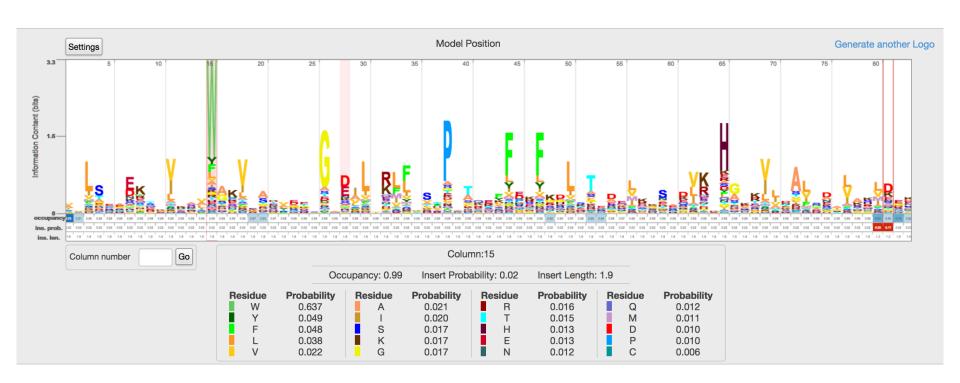
Letter Height
Information Content - All
Information Content - Above Background
Score
Generate Logo

Reset



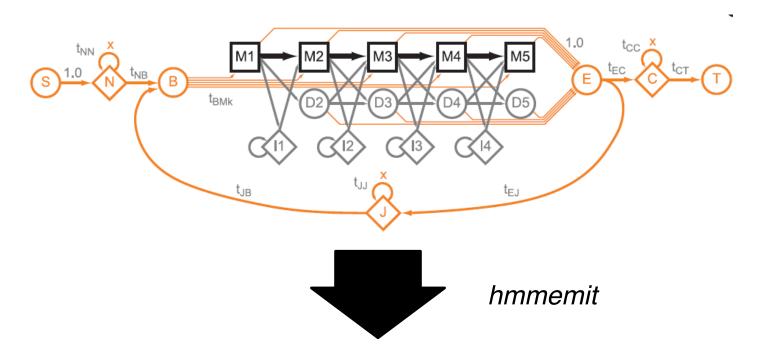
Skylign Output

Can be computed with the hmmlogo command



Generate sample sequence

Trained HMM



Generate (sample) sequences from a profile HMM

Generate Sequences

hmmemit can be used to generate sequence using the Null model

```
SINTAX:
```

hmmemit [-N <num>] <hmm_file>

hmmemit -N 2 globins4.hmm

>globins4-sample1

EIPLMDLTEMESIWSGVNAAYKQVGKEEIVMMLQSLPTTVETFEKFHGNVSLDTEYKYRE EYTKHAKTLLGAMLAASLSLKQHTENLDHLSKQLAAKVSIGPRPPRLCQRAAVTVLKAKF PKNYTKHAMASSKKAMSDQEDLLDGKYK

>globins4-sample2

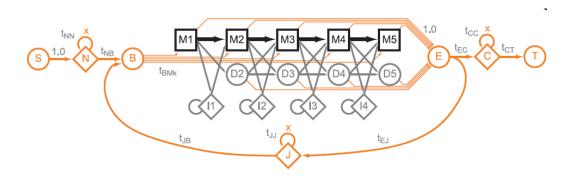
SHIEINPLEAVADLYTTLVIESQYDTPRIQSLHSLEWKKPAACYYRRNFDSFSDVTTTNM MRVSASLRKMTMRVINAFITISATRDNHVQRIIPNAEDHSHKKSNAIDFKAIGVLPEISL KMVPCRHPQDMGNEIHSIEEGLKEGGESADVRY

Search Matching Sequences

Set of sequences

Trained HMM







List of sequences that match the HMM (sorted by E-value)

Search Sequence

SINTAX:

hmmsearch <hmmfile> <seqdb>

Reads a set of sequences and finds occurrences of the modelled domain. Accepted formats include fasta, embl, genbank, ddbj, uniprot, stockholm, pfam, a2m, and afa.

```
# hmmsearch :: search profile(s) against a sequence database
# HMMER 3.1b1 (May 2013); http://hmmer.org/
# Copyright (C) 2013 Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
# Freely distributed under the GNU General Public License (GPLv3).
                        globins4.hmm
# query HMM file:
# target sequence database: tutorial/globins45.fa
# output directed to file: search1.txt
Query: qlobins4 [M=149]
Scores for complete sequences (score includes all domains):
  --- full sequence --- --- best 1 domain --- -#dom-
   E-value score bias E-value score bias exp N Sequence
   8.7e-67 215.6 2.9 9.7e-67 215.4 2.9 1.0 1 MYG_ESCGI
   1.1e-65 211.9 0.1 1.3e-65 211.8 0.1 1.0 1 HBB MANSP
```

Model Line

IN MODEL LINE:Capital letters represent the most conserved (high information content) positions. Dots (.) in this line indicate insertions in the target sequence with respect to the model.

MIDLINE indicates matches between the query model and target sequence. + indicates positive score("conservative substitution", with respect to what the model expects at that position).

BOTTOM LINE represents the posterior probability of each aligned residue. 0: 0-5%, 1: 5-15%, .. 9: 85-95%, *: 95-100% posterior probability. You can use these posterior probabilities to decide which parts of the alignment are well determined or not.

Searching Globin Sequence

hmmsearch -o search1.txt globins4.hmm tutorial/globins45.fa

```
# hmmsearch :: search profile(s) against a sequence database
# HMMER 3.1b1 (May 2013); http://hmmer.org/
# Copyright (C) 2013 Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
# Freely distributed under the GNU General Public License (GPLv3).
# query HMM file:
                         globins4.hmm
# target sequence database: tutorial/globins45.fa
# output directed to file: search1.txt
Query: qlobins4 [M=149]
Scores for complete sequences (score includes all domains):
  --- full sequence --- --- best 1 domain --- -#dom-
   E-value score bias E-value score bias exp N Sequence
   8.7e-67 215.6 2.9 9.7e-67 215.4 2.9 1.0 1 MYG ESCGI
   1.1e-65 211.9 0.1 1.3e-65 211.8 0.1 1.0 1 HBB MANSP
```

Score is in bits.

Bias is a correction: pay attention when it is on the same order of magnitude of the score (biased compositions/repetitive seq)

E-values

• if both E-values are significant (<< 1), the sequence is likely to be homologous to your query.

• if the full sequence E-value is significant but the single best domain E-value is not, the target sequence is probably a multidomain remote homolog: it contains multiple weakly-scoring domains, even if no single domain is solidly significant on its own; but we need to check if it's just a repetitive sequence.

The Alignment

In a match column, residues are upper case, and a '-' character means a deletion relative to the consensus.

In an insert column, residues are lower case, and a '.' is padding.

Insertions in a profile HMM are unaligned

BOTTOM LINE represents the posterior probability of each aligned residue. 0: 0-5%, 1: 5-15%, .. 9: 85-95%, *: 95-100% posterior probability.

Match Scores

- !: pass both per-domain and per-sequence E-value thresholds (0.001).
- ?: pass only one E-value threshold

c-Evalue: conditional E-value: statistical significance of the domain given that we know that the sequence is a true homolog

i-Evalue: independent E-value: statistical significance of the best domain identified in the sequence.

Then the portions of the aligned HMM and the sequence are provided

Envelope is the best aligned sequence portion

Acc: mean per residue alignment a-posteriori probability

Statistics Summary

```
Internal pipeline statistics summary:
                                              1 (149 nodes)
Query model(s):
                                             45 (6519 residues searched)
Target sequences:
Passed MSV filter:
                                           45 (1); expected 0.9 (0.02)
Passed bias filter:
                                               (1); expected 0.9 (0.02)
                                               (1); expected 0.0 (0.001)
Passed Vit filter:
Passed Fwd filter:
                                               (1); expected 0.0 (1e-05)
                                               [actual number of targets]
Initial search space (Z):
                                           45
Domain search space (domZ):
                                           45
                                               [number of targets
                                              reported over threshold]
# CPU time: 0.02u 0.01s 00:00:00.03 Elapsed: 00:00:00.03
# Mc/sec: 32.38
```

MSV: Multi-Segment Viterbi filter: sort of «local» BLAST-like alignments (heuristic)

Expected counts must be much lower than real counts.

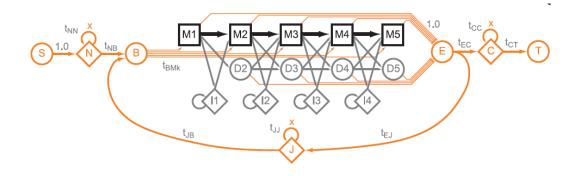
Reported thresholds (in parenthesis) are in terms of P-values

MSA with HMM

Set of sequences

Trained HMM







Alignment of all sequences to the model

HMMALIGN

SINTAX:

STOCKHOLM 1.0

hmmalign [-options] <hmmfile> <seqdb>

Reads a set of sequences and builds a MSA based on the model. Accepted formats include <u>FASTA</u>, EMBL, GenBank, DDBJ, <u>UniProt</u>, Stockholm, and SELEX.

In a match column, residues are upper case, and a '-' character means a deletion relative to the consensus.

In an insert column, residues are lower case, and a '.' is padding.

Insertions in a profile HMM are unaligned

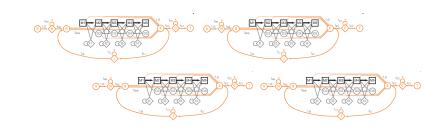
BOTTOM LINE represents the posterior probability of each aligned residue. 0: 0-5%, 1: 5-15%, .. 9: 85-95%, *: 95-100% posterior probability.

Scan HMM Library

Protein Sequence

>protein_id
VQLTVETITELAKNSYVAWGLSAAPISQNK
GKNGLHKFYFKMDNSEDFFEKLQELAGKDE
TYKGANIRWLGENVFDANSTIVSQDQEHHS
AEVMDSLSRELHAKVARYDMAYVEYLSMCI
APGFFANNEPIGAVECVSGIAHKMLKLIAA
LLSAKY

HMM Library





List of HMMs that best match the sequence

HMMPRESS & HMMSCAN

SINTAX:

```
hmmpress [-options] <hmmfile>
```

```
hmmscan [-options] <hmmdb> <seqfile>
```

- 1. Generate a unique file putting together with "cat" all the previously generate hmm models. Use press to generate an hmm library.
- 2. Scan the new sequence against the hmm library

Exercise

In the tutorial directory (https://goo.gl/DsE2im) two protein MSAs are present: Pkinase.sto (protein kinase) and fn3.sto (fibronectin 3).

- Build two HMMs for the two alignment
- Check if the sequence 7LESS_DROME contains protein kinase or fibronectin3 domains. If yes, how many?