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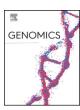
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# iRSpot-SF: Prediction of recombination hotspots by incorporating sequence based features into Chou's Pseudo components

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#### ABSTRACT

Recombination hotspots in a genome are unevenly distributed. Hotspots are regions in a genome that show higher rates of meiotic recombinations. Computational methods for recombination hotspot prediction often use sophisticated features that are derived from physico-chemical or structure based properties of nucleotides. In this paper, we propose iRSpot-SF that uses sequence based features which are computationally cheap to generate. Four feature groups are used in our method: k-mer composition, gapped k-mer composition, TF-IDF of k-mers and reverse complement k-mer composition. We have used recursive feature elimination to select 17 top features for hotspot prediction. Our analysis shows the superiority of gapped k-mer composition and reverse complement k-mer composition features over others. We have used SVM with RBF kernel as a classification algorithm. We have tested our algorithm on standard benchmark datasets. Compared to other methods iRSpot-SF is able to produce significantly better results in terms of accuracy, Mathew's Correlation Coefficient and sensitivity which are 84.58%, 0.6941 and 84.57%. We have made our method readily available to use as a python based tool and made the datasets and source codes available at: https://github.com/abdlmaruf/iRSpot-SF. An web application is developed based on iRSpot-SF and freely available to use at: http://irspot.pythonanywhere.com/server.html.

#### 1. Introduction

Meiotic recombination plays an important role in human genome evaluation. However, the distribution of recombination along the genome is uneven. Hotspots are small regions in a genome where recombinations are more clustered or where recombination rates are high [2]. On the other hand, the regions with lower rates of recombinations are known as cold spots. In vitro method to find recombination hotspots uses DNA binding array to find initiation sites for recombination [2]. However, a large number of computational methods are proposed in the literature in recent years.

Most of the computational methods in the literature of recombination hotspot prediction have formulated the problem as a supervised learning problem of binary classification. Many classification algorithms are found to be used in the literature. They include Random Forest (RF) [35], Support Vector Machines (SVM) [47], Neural Network [36], Ensemble Methods [42], etc. Most of these methods make use of two types of features: sequence based features and derived features based on structure or other properties. Among sequence based features are gapped dinucleotide compositions [35], hexamer positions [59], kmer frequencies [47], etc. Among other derived features are pseudo nucleotide composition [4,37], pseudo-amino acid compositions [51],

dinucleotide based auto-cross covariance (DACC) [46], etc.

One of the first computational methods was proposed in [35]. They introduced the benchmark dataset for hotspot prediction and used gapped dinucleotide composition features with Random Forest to develop their method called RF-DYMHC. The increment of diversity combined with quadratic discriminant analysis (IDQD) was used in [47] with k-mer frequencies. Chen et al. [4] proposed iRSpot-PseDNC which used local structural properties of DNA intro pseudo dinucleotide composition and SVM as classification algorithm. Qui et al. used trinucleotide composition and pseudo amino acid components and SVM to develop their method named iRSpot-TNCPseAAC [51]. Li et al. [37] used a fusion of pseudo nucleic acid composition and SVM. Genetic algorithm based ensemble model iRSpot-GAEnsC was proposed in [36] that used di and tri nucleotide composition with probabilistic neural networks. An ensemble based method iRSpot-EL was proposed in [42]. A comparative study of different classification algorithms to solve hotspot prediction problem was presented in [26].

In a recent work by Liu et al. [45] an ensemble based method SVM-EL was proposed that used three types of features: k-mer frequencies, DACC and pseudo dinucleotide composition. In a subsequence work, they proposed iRSpot-DACC [46] that used the same set of features and SVM as classification algorithm. Application of z-curve method was

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presented as a case study to show improvements in predicting hotspot prediction in [25]. Another recent method was proposed in [62] called iRSpot-ADPM. They used feature selection techniques to select an optimal set of 85 features for effective prediction of hotspots. The same authors have proposed iRSpot-PDI [63] using diversity information of di-nucleotides. Another recent work in this area is iRSpot-Pse6NC [59], where the authors have used general PseKNC as features to identify recombination hotspots in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

In this paper, we propose iRSpot-SF, a novel recombination hotspot prediction method using sequence based features. We use several sets of sequence based features that are computationally easy to generate. Recursive feature elimination technique is used to select only a small set of effective features. We have selected Support Vector Machine with RBF kernel as our classification algorithm. On a standard benchmark dataset, iRSpot-SF is able to produce significantly better results in terms of standard performance metrics. We have made our source codes available for other researchers to use at: https://github.com/abdlmaruf/iRSpot-SF.

#### 2. Materials and methods

In this section, we present our proposed method, iRSpot-SF. This section is presented as suggested in [16] for attribute prediction of biological sequences. Firstly, we describe the benchmark dataset selected for this problem, followed by a description of the feature extraction process and different features generated for iRSpot-SF. Then we present feature selection and classification algorithm used by iRSpot-SF followed by a description of the performance measures and evaluation techniques. The tool implemented for this paper is described in the results and discussion section.

A simple system diagram of iRSpot-SF is given in Fig. 1. It starts with a dataset for recombination hotspot detection consisting negative and positive instances. Sequence based features are generated for each of these instances using a feature extraction module. Extracted features are then fed into a feature selection module where only effective features are selected. Using the selected features, the reduced dataset is then fed into a classification algorithm and a predicted model is stored for testing and prediction phase. The predicted model is output after

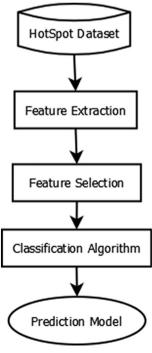


Fig. 1. A system diagram for iRSpot-SF.

cross-validation and saved for further use. The tool generates only the selected features for any test instance and using the stored model predicts whether the given sequence is a recombination hotspot or cold spot.

#### 2.1. Dataset description

The most important part of supervised machine learning based computational methods is the construction or selected of a benchmark dataset. For any binary classification task as recombination hotspot prediction task, the dataset consists of positive and negative instances. It can be formulated as following:

$$S = S^+ \cup S^- \tag{1}$$

Here, \$\\$ is the total dataset that consists DNA sequences as strings of nucleotides. The set of positive instances or recombination hotspots is denoted by \$\\$^+\$ and the set of negative instances or recombination coldspots is denoted by \$\\$^-\$. The dataset selected in this paper is taken from [35] and widely used in the literature of recombination hotspot prediction [4,47,51,42,46]. In total, 490 DNA segments of hotspot samples and 591 DNA segments of coldspots were selected for the dataset. The recommendation for selecting these instances was following the suggestions in [29]. To reduce the effects of homology and redundancy of similar sequences in the datasets, CD-HIT [27] was used to remove sequences with > 75% similarity. The resulting dataset consists of 478 sequences that are positive samples or hotspots and 572 sequences that are coldspots. A summary of the dataset is given in Table 1.

#### 2.2. Feature extraction

A number of different features are used in the literature of recombination hotspot prediction. Among them are dinucleotide based auto cross-covariance [46], pseudo k-tuple nucleotide composition [42], etc. It is important to note that all these methods despite their effectiveness and success in prediction of hotspots in DNA sequences are different forms of Chou's general form [8] for DNA/RNA features. Also, note that they depend on different structural properties of the nucleotide compositions.

With the explosive growth of biological sequences in the postgenomic era, one of the most important but also most difficult problems in computational biology is how to express a biological sequence with a discrete model or a vector, yet still keep considerable sequence-order information or key pattern characteristic. This is because all the existing machine-learning algorithms can only handle vector but not sequence samples, as elucidated in a comprehensive review [18]. However, a vector defined in a discrete model may completely lose all the sequence-pattern information. To avoid completely losing the sequencepattern information for proteins, the pseudo amino acid composition or PseAAC [15] was proposed. Ever since the concept of PseAAC was proposed, it has been widely used in nearly all the areas of computational proteomics [23,3,49,54,19]. Encouraged by the successes of using PseAAC to deal with protein/peptide sequences, its concept has been extended to deal with DNA/RNA sequences by the PseKNC (Pseudo K-tuple Nucleotide Composition) [5, 6, 44] and proved very useful as well. Particularly, recently a very powerful web-server called Pse-in-One [41] and its updated version Pse-in-One [43] have been

**Table 1**Summary of the dataset.

Class	Number of instances	Relative hybridization ratio
Hotspot Coldspot Total	478 572 1050	> 1.5 < 0.82

**Table 2**Summary of features used in this paper.

Feature Group	Nnumber of Features
Nucleotide Composition	84
g-gapped Di-nucleotide Composition	128
TF-IDF of k-mers	320
Reverse Complement Composition	680

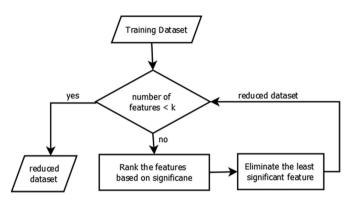


Fig. 2. Block diagram of recursive feature elimination procedure.

Table 3
Summary of selected features.

No	Feature	Feature Group
1	T***A	Gapped dinucleotide
2	C****C	Gapped dinucleotide
3	G****C	Gapped dinucleotide
4	C****C	Gapped dinucleotide
5	G*****G	Gapped dinucleotide
6	RC(CGCC)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
7	RC(CTAA)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
8	RC(AAAAG)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
9	RC(AGATA)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
10	RC(CCCAC)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
11	RC(CGCAC)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
12	RC(CTAAG)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
13	RC(GGCAC)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
14	RC(GGCCA)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
15	RC(TATAA)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
16	RC(TATCA)	Reverse complement k-mer composition
17	RC(TATGA)	Reverse complement k-mer composition

**Table 4**Comparison of the performance by selected 17 features by RFE with other feature selection method and full feature set without any feature selection.

Classifiers	Acc(%)	$P_c(\%)$	$S_n(\%)$	$S_p(\%)$	MCC	AUC
No Feature Selection Ranking (AdaBoost)	80.18% 81.72%				0.6027	0.886
RFE	81.72%		81.72%		0.6941	0.8946

established that can be used to generate any desired feature vectors for protein/peptide and DNA/RNA sequences according to the need of users studies. PseKNC have been successfully used in prediction of nucleosome position [31], promoters [39, 40], replication origin region [61] and epigenetic modification sites [7]. In the current study, we are to use some most effective features to define pseudo components for analyzing the recombination spots.

In this paper, we use only sequence based features which is cheap to generate and effective in use. In this section, we describe the sequence based features used in this paper. Let's assume a DNA sequence in the dataset \$ is denoted by D. Given the length of this sequence is L, formally it can be represented as following:

$$D = N_1 N_2 \cdots N_L \tag{2}$$

here,  $N_i \in \Sigma$  are nucleotides of the DNA sequence and the alphabet consists four symbols,  $\Sigma = \{A, C, G, T\}$ . All the features presented in this paper are based solely on this sequence. A summary of the features used in this paper is given in Table 2.

#### 2.2.1. Nucleotide k-mer composition

A k-mer is a string of k literals taken from the DNA alphabet  $\Sigma = \{A, C, G, T\}$ . In this paper, we have considered k-mers, with k = 1, 2, 3. Nucleotide k-mer composition can be formally defined as following:

k-mer composition
$$(s_i) = \frac{1}{L}count(s_i), \forall k = 1, 2, 3, s_i \in \Sigma^k$$
 (3)

here,  $Count(s_i)$  is the number of occurrences of the k-mer  $s_i \in \Sigma^k$  in the given input DNA sequence D. Composition is found after normalizing it by the length of the DNA sequence or segment.

#### 2.2.2. Gapped dinucleotide composition

Gapped di-nucleotide compositions were first proposed in the literature in [30] for regulatory sequence prediction and later used for recombination hotspot prediction in [57]. However, it is to be noted that the concept of gapped composition was earlier in literature of protein attribute prediction [55, 24, 38] by using gapped dipeptide compositions. In this paper, we use the composition of gapped di-nucleotides with gaps,  $g = 1, 2, \dots, 8$ . A g-gapped di-nucleotide (g-gapped 2-mer) is a string of the form uvw, where  $u \in \Sigma$  and  $v \in \Sigma$  are nucleotides that compose the di-nucleotide and  $v \in \Sigma^g$  is any string of length g over the alphabet. This feature can be formally defined as following:

g-gapped 2-mer composition(
$$s^g$$
) =  $\frac{1}{L}count(s^g)$ ,  $\forall g = 1, 2, \dots, 8$  (4)

#### 2.2.3. TF-IDF of k-mers

Term frequency(TF) and inverse document frequency (IDF) are used in information retrieval [1] and recently been used in genome sequence attribute prediction [28]. We have used k-mers with  $k \in \{3, 4\}$ . TF is the normalized frequency or composition of a string in a given sequences (defined by Eq. 3). However, IDF searches for k-mers that are sparsely distributed in the sequences. It is formally defined as below:

$$IDF(s_i) = log\left(\frac{|S|}{\sum\limits_{D \in S} d(s_i, D)}\right)$$
(5)

Here, |\$| is the number of sequences in the dataset \$ and  $d(s_i, D)$  is a function that returns 1 if and only if the k-mer  $s_i \in \Sigma^k$  is present in the sequence D, and otherwise 0. TF-IDF is the multiplication of TF and IDF for each of the k-mers. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first application of TF-IDF features for recombination hotspot prediction.

#### 2.2.4. Reverse complement composition of k-mers

Its often observed in genome sequences that hidden patterns and their reverse complements are both present. Such patterns often provides important regulatory information [48]. Reverse complement composition of k-mers are the normalized count of k-mer and its reverse complements present in the DNA sequence.

k-mer RC composition(
$$s_i$$
) =  $\frac{1}{L}count_R(s_i)$ ,  $\forall k = 3, 4, 5, s_i \in \Sigma^k$  (6)

The difference of this feature with that defined in Eq. 3 is that here,  $count_R(s_i)$  with count all the occurrences of the k-mer and its reverse complement.

#### 2.3. Feature selection

We merged all the features generated using our feature generation methods and created a huge feature set. As we extract these features

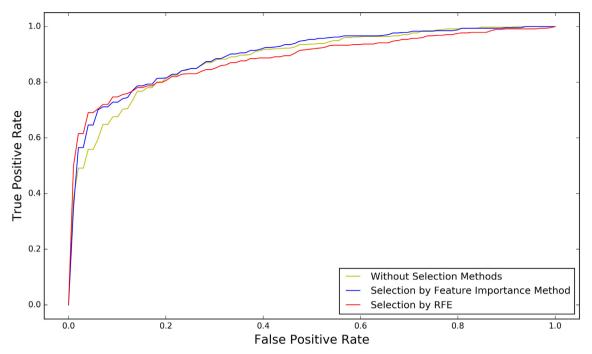


Fig. 3. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve for different feature selection methods and no feature selection.

**Table 5**Comparison of performances of different classification algorithms on the benchmark dataset using the selected feature.

Classifiers	Acc(%)	$P_c(\%)$	$S_n(\%)$	$S_p(\%)$	MCC	AUC
kNN	82.19%	84.07%	82.18%	66.97%	0.6553	0.8685
SVM(Linear kernel)	83.82%	84.34%	83.81%	75.76%	0.6773	0.8828
SVM(RBF kernel)	84.58%	85.27%	84.57%	75.97%	0.6941	0.8937
RF	82.58%	83.06%	82.57%	75.77%	0.6522	0.8796

directly from the sequences of DNA, they are very easy to generate compared to physico-chemical properties or structure based features and pseudo-nucleotide compositions. But after merging the feature sets to a unified feature set, it has 1212 features which are very time-consuming to learn. We have used a recursive feature elimination technique. Recursive feature elimination (RFE) [32] depicted in Fig. 2 recursively selects and eliminates the features until it reaches its maximum performance in accuracy. During each iteration, the dataset is assessed with cross-validation of 10 folds and then SVM with linear kernel is used to compute the accuracy of the feature set. After some iteration, our feature selection algorithm gives us maximum accuracy from our feature set with just 17 features. The details of the features

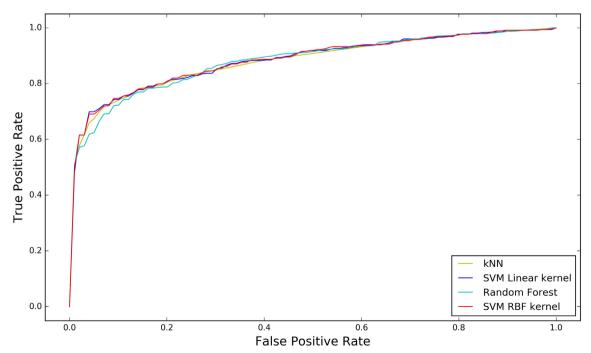


Fig. 4. Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve for different classification algorithms on the selected optimal feature set.

**Table 6**Comparison of performance of iRSpot-SF with other state-of-the-art predictors using cross-fold validation.

73.01%	06.560/		
	86.56%	0.6049	80.40%
9.52%	81.82%	0.6160	80.77%
1.75%	85.84%	0.5830	79.33%
76.56%	70.99%	0.4737	73.52%
75.29%	88.81%	0.6510	82.65%
74.88%	90.04%	0.6613	83.14%
7.19%	90.73%	0.6905	84.57%
71.48%	92.56%	0.6658	83.16%
84.57%	75.76%	0.6941	84.58%
	71.75% 76.56% 75.29% 74.88% 77.19% 71.48%	71.75% 85.84% 76.56% 70.99% 75.29% 88.81% 74.88% 90.04% 77.19% 90.73% 71.48% 92.56%	71.75% 85.84% 0.5830 76.56% 70.99% 0.4737 75.29% 88.81% 0.6510 74.88% 90.04% 0.6613 77.19% 90.73% 0.6905 71.48% 92.56% 0.6658

**Table 7**Comparison of performance of iRSpot-SF with other state-of-the-art predictors using jack knife test.

Methods	$S_n(\%)$	$S_p(\%)$	MCC	Acc(%)
iRSpot-PseDNC iRSpot-DACC iRSpot-GAEnSc iRSpot-ADPM1575 iRSpot-ADPM iRSpot-PDI	73.06% 75.71% 73.77% 74.08% 75.51% 71.63%	89.49% 88.16% 79.92% 90.69% 90.52% 93.91%	0.6380 0.6470 0.6620 0.6620 0.6730 0.6810	82.04% 82.52% 83.44% 83.16% 83.72% 83.81%
iRSpot-SF	75.31%	91.08%	0.6774	83.91%

selected are given in the next section. The reduced set of features then used for learning and predicting the recombination hotspots.

#### 2.4. Classification algorithm

We have selected support vector machines (SVM) [22] as our classification algorithm for iRSpot-SF. SVM tries to separate two classes in a binary classification problem using a maximum margin. The problem of finding the decision boundary is an optimization problem. SVM's often use kernel functions that convert the feature space and enables nonlinear classification. We have tried linear and RBF kernels for our method. Two other important parameters for SVM are  $\gamma$  and C. They were selected using grid search. We have also used K-Nearest Neighbor algorithm (KNN) and Random Forest (RF) [33] algorithms in order to compare the performance of SVM with them.

## 2.5. Performance evaluation

In order to assess the performance of classification algorithms, it is very important to fix a sampling method on the datasets. Three of the most popular techniques are: independent test set, cross-fold validation and jack-knife test. In order to compare the performance of iRSpot-SF with the other state-of-the-art methods, we have used cross-fold validation technique. To make sure that we are not overfitting our model on the dataset, we have performed the feature selection method nested within the loops of the cross-fold validation.

Several performance measures are used in this paper. They are: accuracy, sensitivity, specificity, precision and Mathew's Correlation Coefficient (MCC). For a binary classification problem, the confusion matrix gives four different measures: i) true positives (TN) or number of positive samples in the dataset that are correctly predicted by the classifier; ii) true negatives (TN) or number of negative samples in the dataset that are correctly predicted by the classifier; iii) false positives (FP) or number of negative samples that are wrongly predicted as positives by the classifier and iv) false negatives (FN) or number of positive samples that are wrongly predicted as negatives by the classifier. Based on these values different measures are calculated as given in following equations:

$$Accuracy(Acc) = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \tag{7}$$

$$Sensitivity(S_n) = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$
(8)

$$Specificity(S_p) = \frac{TN}{TN + FP}$$
(9)

$$Precision(P_c) = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \tag{10}$$

$$MCC = \frac{TP \times TN - FP \times FN}{\sqrt{(TP + FP)(TP + FN)(TN + FP)(TN + FN)}}$$
(11)

Except MCC all the measures have the values in the range [0,1]. Here a maximum value of 1 will mean the best classifier with 100% of accuracy or precision or other measures and 0 means the worst classifier. However, MCC has a value in the range [-1, +1]. Here a maximum value of +1 indicates a perfect prediction algorithm. Many of the classifiers are probabilistic and uses a threshold to cut-off the negative samples from positive samples and thus the confusion matrix becomes dependent on the threshold. In such cases area under receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve is preferred. ROC curve is the plot of true positive rate against false positive rate for different threshold values. Area under ROC (AUC) has the values in the range [0,1]. Here 0.5 value indicates a random classifier and + 1 is the maximum value indicating a predictor with the maximum true positive rate. The set of metrics is valid only for the single-label systems. For the multi-label systems whose existence has become more frequent in system biology [10, 11, 12, 58, 9] and system medicine [13, 14] and biomedicine [50], a completely different set of metrics as defined in [17] is needed.

#### 3. Results and discussion

In this section, we present the experimental results achieved for iRSpot-SF. All the programs and the algorithms were developed in Python language using the sci-kit learn library. All experiments were run 10 times and only the average results are reported.

#### 3.1. Feature selection

We have generated four set of features in our method and performed recursive feature elimination method on the training dataset. To avoid overfitting of the data, we have put the feature selection nested within the loop of the cross-fold validation. The feature selected algorithm provided us with 17 most effective features. A summary of the selected features is given in Table 3. We could notice that most powerful of all the features are gapped dinucleotide compositions [5] and newly proposed reverse complement k-mer compositions [12].

To test the significance of the selected features and the effectiveness of the feature selection method, we have compared the performance of the selected 17 features with that of two other combinations. We have used ranking based feature selection using an AdaBoost classification algorithm that selected 135 most important features using significance ranking. We have also used the whole set of features. For these three sets, we have used the SVM classifier with RBF kernel and reported different performance metrics using 10-fold cross-validation method. The results are reported in Table 4.

From the reported values in Table 4, note that the optimal set of features selected by our method is able to produce better results in terms of accuracy, precision, sensitivity and MCC. The area under ROC curve is very similar to the ranking method. The ROC analysis curve is given in Fig. 3. Note that among these two methods, our method produces only 17 features compared to 135 features by the ranking based feature selection method.

#### 3.2. Strength of classification algorithm

We have compared the performance of SVM classifier with RBF kernel with three other configurations of algorithms to show the effectiveness of the algorithm used for iRSpot-SF. They are: K-nearest neighbor algorithm (KNN), Random Forest (RF) and SVM with linear kernel. We have used the same 17 selected features and performed 10-fold cross validation on the data and reported results in terms of accuracy, sensitivity, precision, specificity, MCC and AUC in Table 5. The best results in each criterion are shown in bold-faced font in the table.

From the values reported in Table 5, it is clear that SVM with RBF kernel outperforms all other classification algorithms used in the experiments. However, the closest competitor of that is the SVM with linear kernel. Note that, almost all classifiers are performing very similar to each other and that denotes the effectiveness of the selected features. The ROC analysis for different classifiers on the optimal feature set is also given in Fig. 4.

#### 3.3. Comparison with previous methods

We have also compared the results achieved by iRSpot-SF with that of previous methods in the literature. We have used eight different methods for the sake of comparison. They are RF-DYMHC [35], IDQD [47], iRSpot-PseDNC [4], iRSpot-TNCPseAAC [51], iRSpot-DACC [46], iRSpot-EL [42], iRSpot-ADPM1575 [62], iRSpot-ADPM [62] and iR-Spot-PDI [63]. We have reported sensitivity, specificity, MCC and accuracy achieved by different algorithms in Table 6. For the other algorithms, the results are taken as reported in the literature. The best values are shown in bold faced fonts.

As suggested in [16] and followed in many proposed methods in the literature [63, 56, 53, 60, 21], jackknife tests often report the robustness of the method and ensures that the classification algorithms are not over-fitting the data. We report the jack-knife test results of iRSpot-SF with a comparison to other methods in the literature in Table 7. Here too, note that iRSpot-SF is able to produce best results in terms of accuracy and comparable results in terms of other performance metrics in comparison to the previous methods. Note the increase in the specificity of our method in jackknife test compared to that found in cross-validation methods.

From the reported values in the table, we could notice that the accuracy of iRSpot-SF is highest among all the methods. The closest performer to iRSpot-SF is iRSpot-ADPM [62]. We notice that the accuracy achieved by different algorithms in the literature in past we slightly better than each other. It encourages us to look at the value of MCC achieved by our algorithm which is also highest among all and that is 0.6941. Here too, the next best performing method is iRSpot-ADPM which has a value of 0.6905 and significantly better than other methods. In terms of sensitivity our method, iRSpot-SF achieves a value of 84.57% which is 7.38% improved. Note that the dataset is slightly imbalanced with less number of positive samples and thus such increase in the sensitivity shows the effectiveness of finding positive samples of hotspots.

## 3.4. Web application

As pointed out in [20] and demonstrated in a series of recent publications [60, 53, 52, 34], user-friendly and publicly accessible webservers represent the current direction for developing practically more useful prediction methods and computational tools. With a similar vision, we have implemented an web application based on the models learnt in this paper for iRSpot-SF. Our web application is redily available for use at: http://irspot.pythonanywhere.com/server.html. The website contains a guideline for users with a user friendly interface.

#### 4. Conclusion

In this paper, we have proposed iRSpot-SF a method for prediction of recombination hotspots using sequence based features. Effective features were selected from sequence based features generated using recursive feature elimination. We have extracted four different set of features which produced state-of-the-art results using an SVM classifier with RBF kernel. We believe the reverse complement k-mer composition features have got potentials for further investigation. One of the limitations of our work was that we could not implement a web application for iRSpot-SF. However, we wish to develop a further improved version of our method and present it with an easy to use web server application.

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