

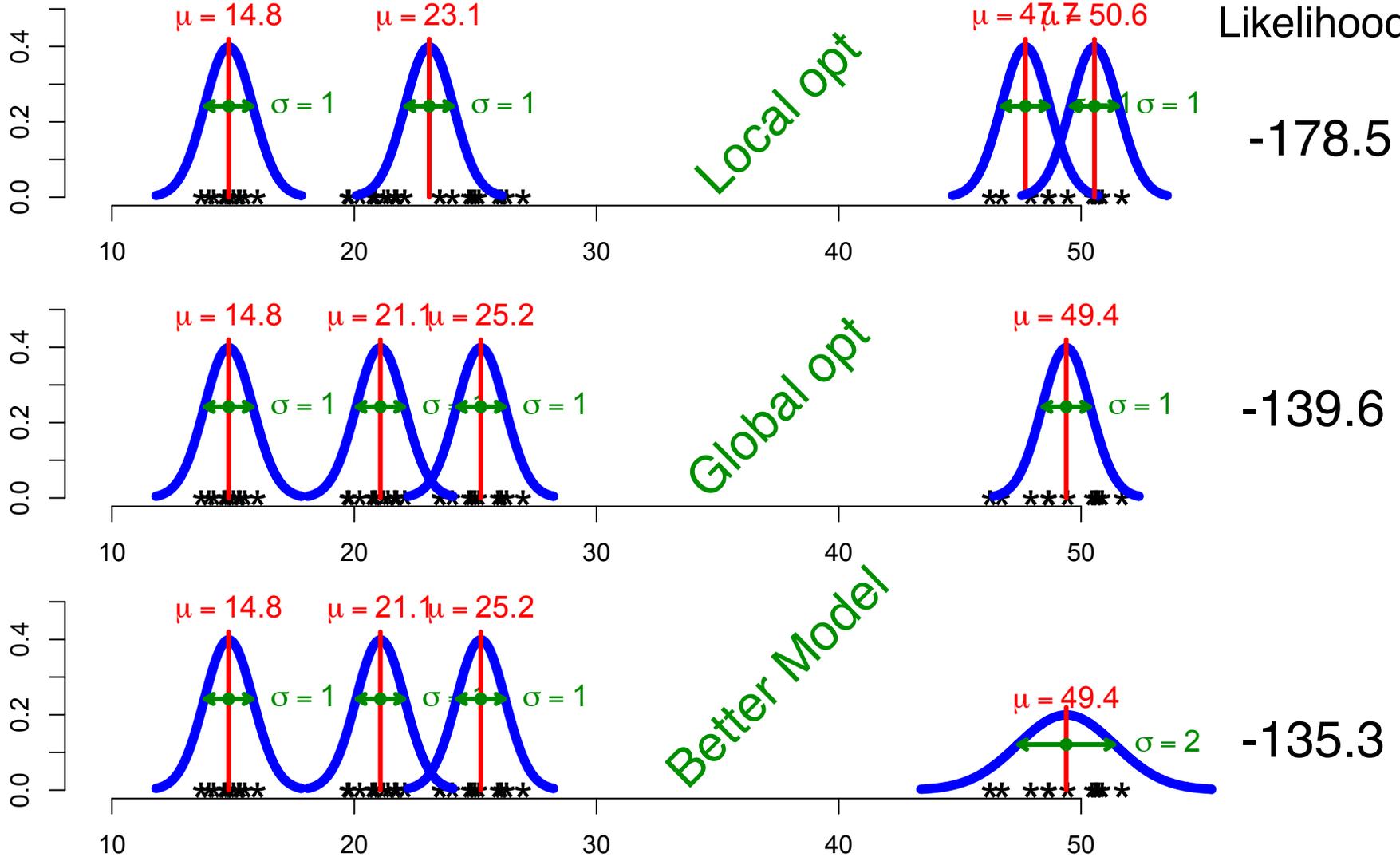
# CSEP 590 A

# Computational Biology

Genes and Gene Prediction

# A Note on HW #3

Log Likelihood



3% change in LL may look small, but  $\exp(4.3) = 73.7$  time more likely<sub>2</sub>

# Gene Finding: Motivation

Sequence data flooding in

What does it mean?

protein genes, RNA genes, mitochondria,  
chloroplast, regulation, replication, structure,  
repeats, transposons, unknown stuff, ...

More generally, how do you: learn from  
complex data in an unknown language,  
leverage what's known to help discover  
what's not

# Protein Coding Nuclear DNA

Focus of this lecture

Goal: Automated annotation of new seq data

State of the Art:

In Eukaryotes:

predictions ~ 60% similar to real proteins

~80% if database similarity used

Prokaryotes

better, but still imperfect

Lab verification still needed, still expensive

Largely done for Human; unlikely for most others

# Biological Basics

Central Dogma:

DNA transcription→ RNA translation→ Protein

Codons: 3 bases code one amino acid

Start codon

Stop codons

3', 5' Untranslated Regions (UTR's)

# RNA Transcription

(This gene is heavily transcribed, but many are not.)

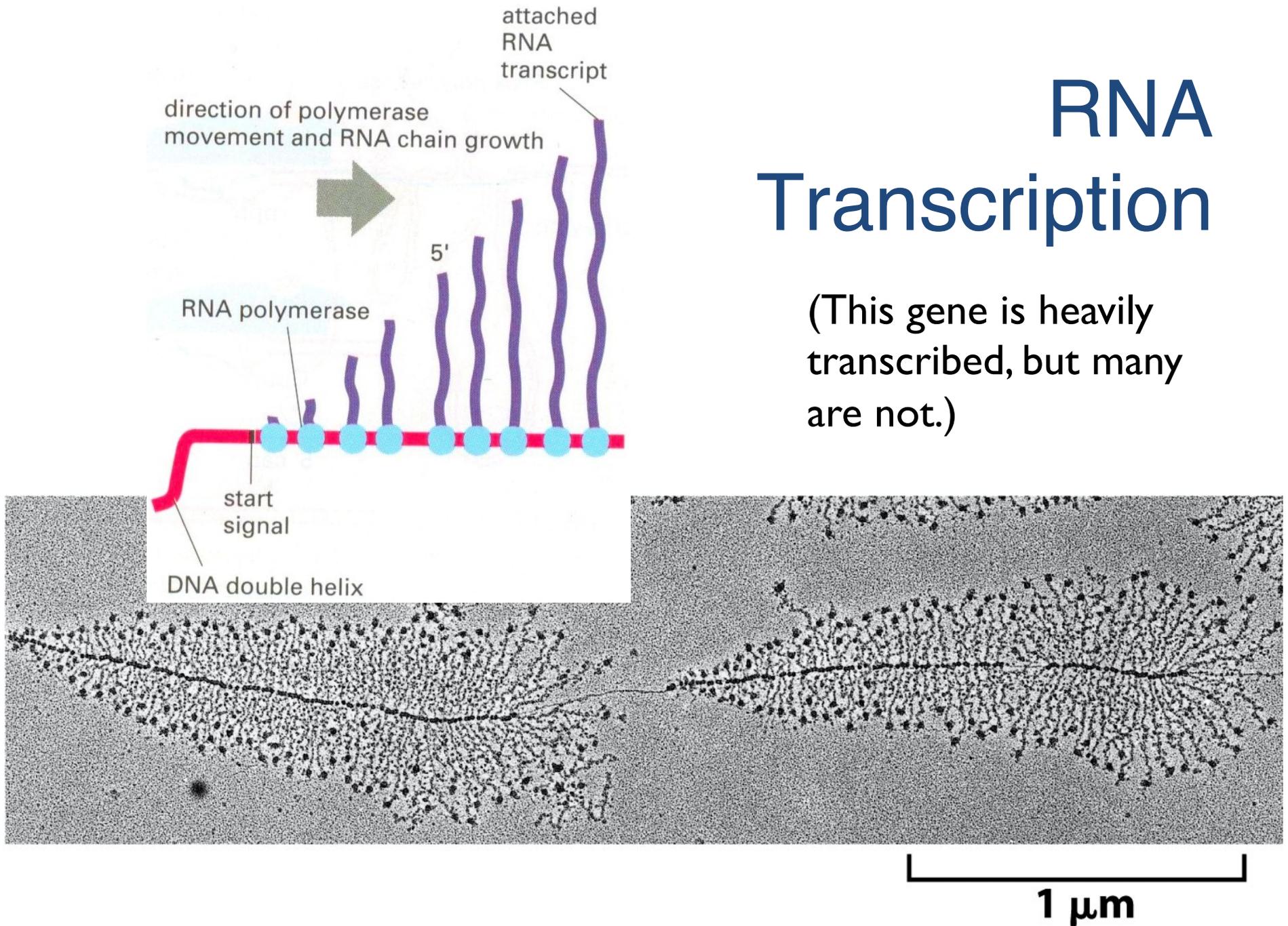
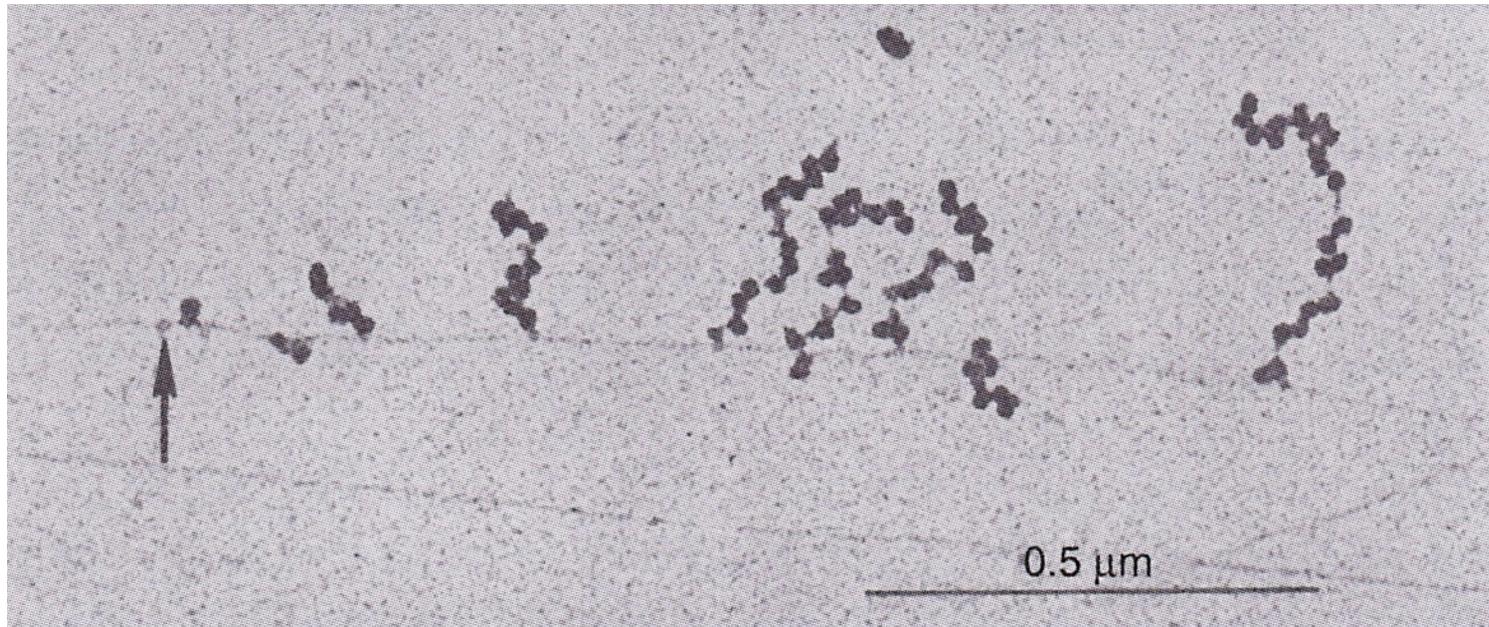
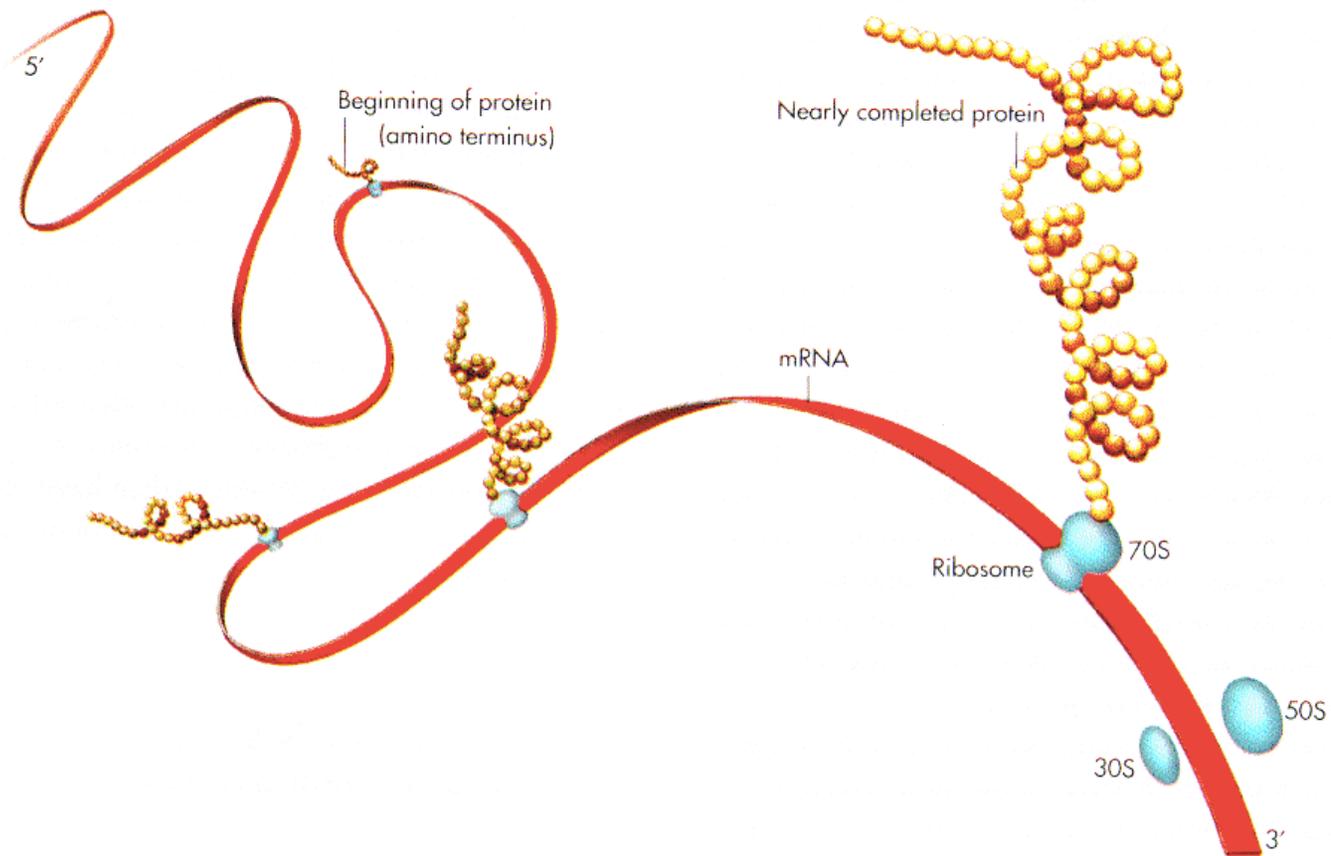


Figure 6-9 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

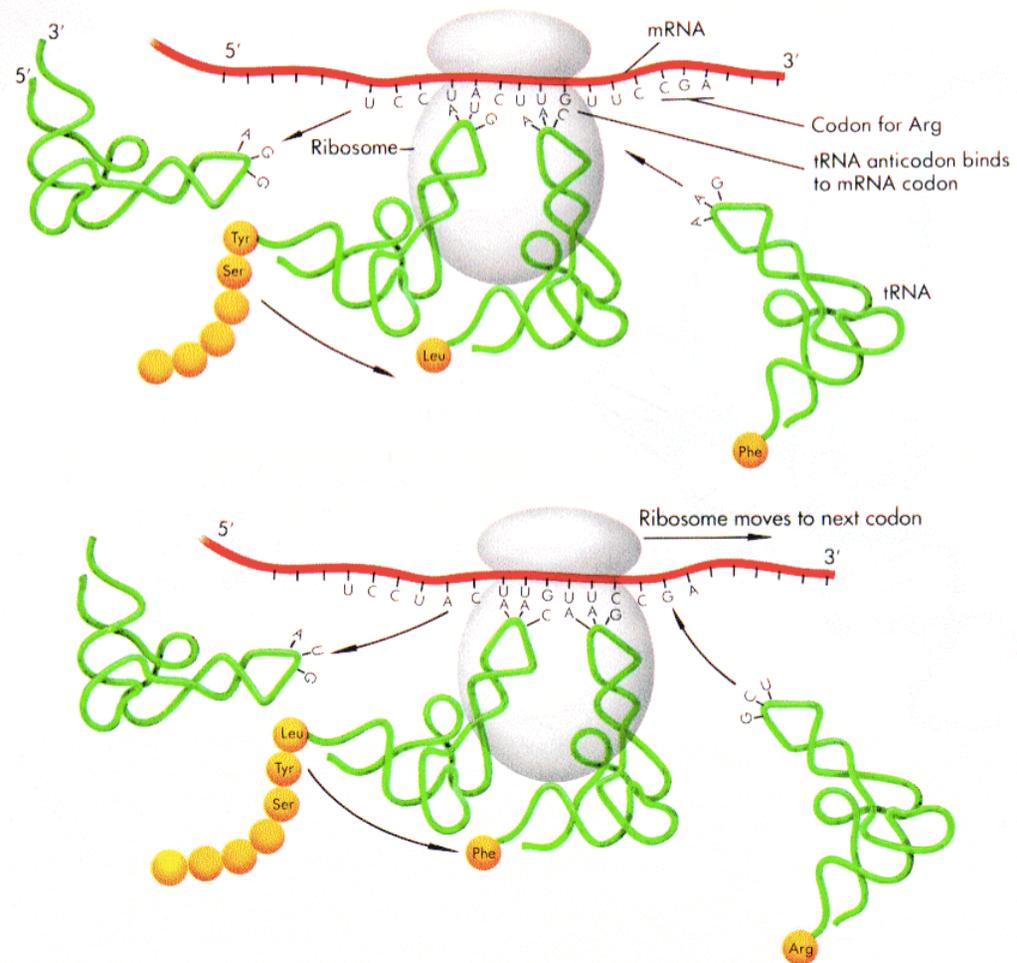


**Figure 3-7.** Coupled transcription/translation in bacteria is visualized. Oscar Miller and colleagues lysed *E. coli* cells and immediately collected the cell contents on electron microscope grids. They saw threads of mRNA still associated with DNA (thin lines), and ribosomes—several at a time—were already translating protein along the mRNA. Thus, in bacterial cells, the picture of information recovery and use, at least in broad outline, was complete: mRNA was made on demand; ribosomes recognized the 5' end of the mRNA, bound, and began protein synthesis even before the mRNA had been completely synthesized. (In this photo, the arrow indicates a presumptive RNA polymerase [the faint disk to the left of the first ribosome]. The DNA thread at the top is being copied into mRNA, but the one at the bottom is not. Both are presumably double stranded.) (Reprinted, with permission, from Miller et al. 1970 [©AAAS].)

# Translation: mRNA → Protein



# Ribosomes



# Codons & The Genetic Code

		Second Base					
		U	C	A	G		
First Base	U	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	Third Base	U
		Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys		C
		Leu	Ser	Stop	Stop		A
		Leu	Ser	Stop	Trp		G
	C	Leu	Pro	His	Arg		U
		Leu	Pro	His	Arg		C
		Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg		A
		Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg		G
	A	Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser		U
		Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser		C
		Ile	Thr	Lys	Arg		A
		Met/Start	Thr	Lys	Arg		G
	G	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly		U
		Val	Ala	Asp	Gly		C
		Val	Ala	Glu	Gly		A
		Val	Ala	Glu	Gly		G

Ala : Alanine  
 Arg : Arginine  
 Asn : Asparagine  
 Asp : Aspartic acid  
 Cys : Cysteine  
 Gln : Glutamine  
 Glu : Glutamic acid  
 Gly : Glycine  
 His : Histidine  
 Ile : Isoleucine  
 Leu : Leucine  
 Lys : Lysine  
 Met : Methionine  
 Phe : Phenylalanine  
 Pro : Proline  
 Ser : Serine  
 Thr : Threonine  
 Trp : Tryptophane  
 Tyr : Tyrosine  
 Val : Valine

# Idea #1: Find Long ORF's

**Reading frame:** which of the 3 possible sequences of triples does the ribosome read?

**Open Reading Frame:** No stop codons

In random DNA

average ORF  $\sim 64/3 = 21$  triplets

300bp ORF once per 36kbp per strand

But average protein  $\sim 1000$ bp

# A Simple ORF finder

start at left end

scan triplet-by-non-overlapping triplet for AUG

then continue scan for STOP

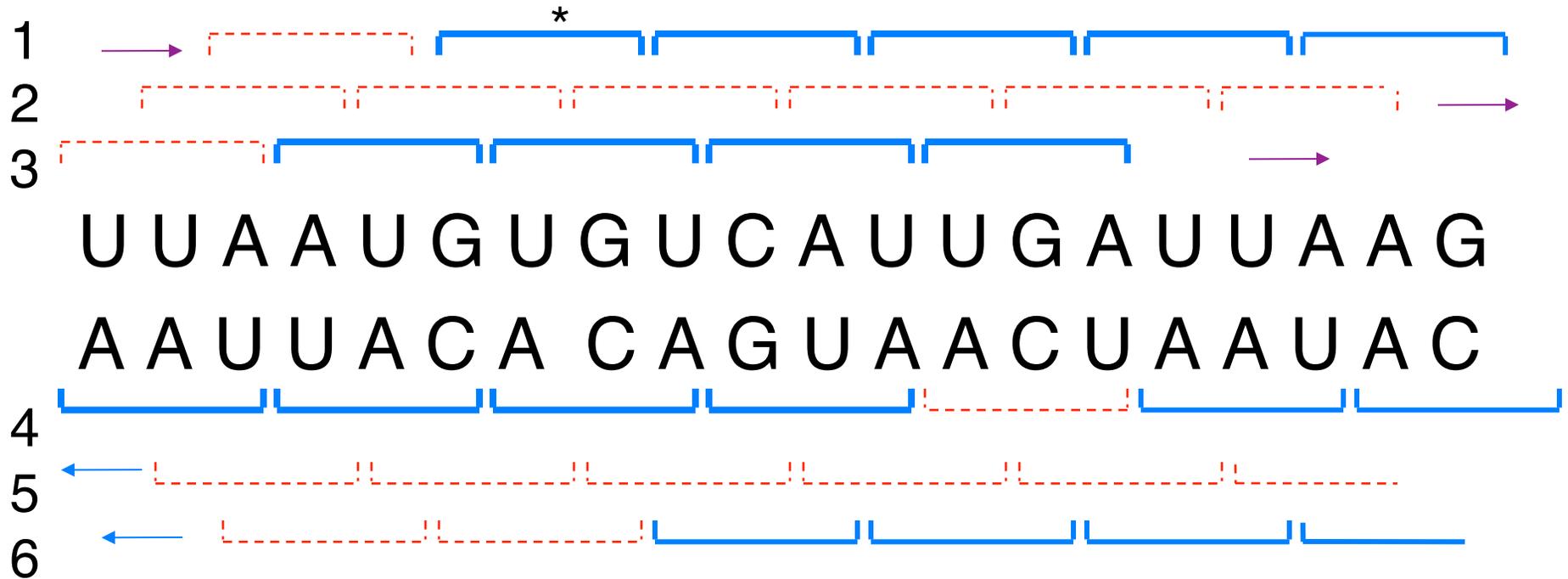
repeat until right end

repeat all starting at offset 1

repeat all starting at offset 2

then do it again on the other strand

# Scanning for ORFs



\* In bacteria, GUG is sometimes a start codon...

# Idea #2: Codon Frequency

In random DNA

Leucine : Alanine : Tryptophan = 6 : 4 : 1

But in real protein, ratios  $\sim 6.9 : 6.5 : 1$

So, coding DNA is not random

Even more: synonym usage is biased (in a species dependant way)

examples known with 90% AT 3<sup>rd</sup> base

Why? E.g. efficiency, histone, enhancer, splice interactions

# Recognizing Codon Bias

Assume

Codon usage i.i.d.;  $abc$  with freq.  $f(abc)$

$a_1a_2a_3a_4\dots a_{3n+2}$  is coding, unknown frame

Calculate

$$p_1 = f(a_1a_2a_3)f(a_4a_5a_6)\dots f(a_{3n-2}a_{3n-1}a_{3n})$$

$$p_2 = f(a_2a_3a_4)f(a_5a_6a_7)\dots f(a_{3n-1}a_{3n}a_{3n+1})$$

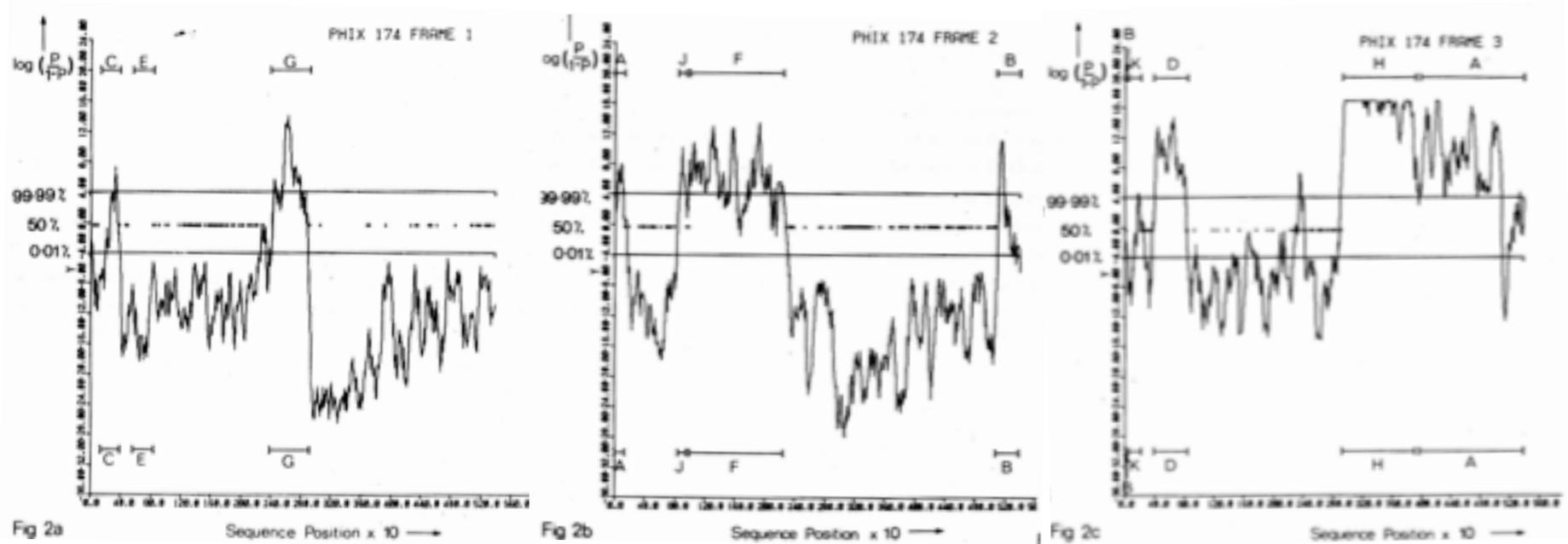
$$p_3 = f(a_3a_4a_5)f(a_6a_7a_8)\dots f(a_{3n}a_{3n+1}a_{3n+2})$$

$$P_i = p_i / (p_1 + p_2 + p_3)$$

More generally:  $k$ -th order Markov model

$k = 5$  or  $6$  is typical

# Codon Usage in $\Phi$ x174



# Promoters, etc.

In prokaryotes, most DNA coding

E.g. ~ 70% in *H. influenzae*

Long ORFs + codon stats do well

But obviously won't be perfect

short genes

5' & 3' UTR's

Can improve by modeling promoters, etc.

e.g. via WMM or higher-order Markov models

# Eukaryotes

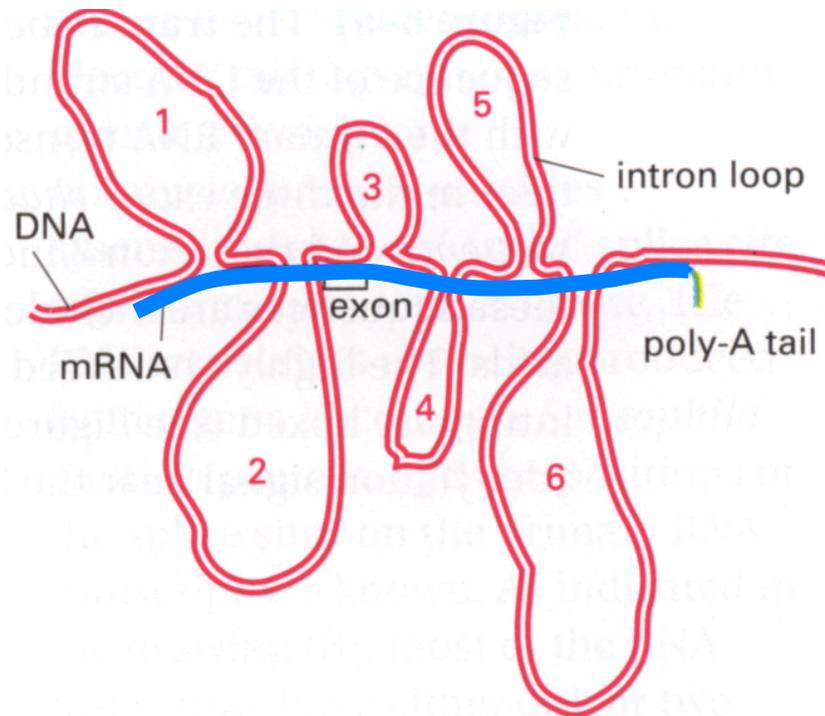
As in prokaryotes (but maybe more variable)

promoters

start/stop transcription

start/stop translation

# And then...



Nobel Prize of the week: P. Sharp, 1993, Splicing

# Mechanical Devices of the Spliceosome: Motors, Clocks, Springs, and Things

Jonathan P. Staley and Christine Guthrie

CELL Volume 92, Issue 3 , 6 February 1998, Pages 315-326

Figure 2. Spliceosome Assembly, Rearrangement, and Disassembly Requires ATP, Numerous DExD/H box Proteins, and Prp24. The snRNPs are depicted as circles. The pathway for *S. cerevisiae* is shown.

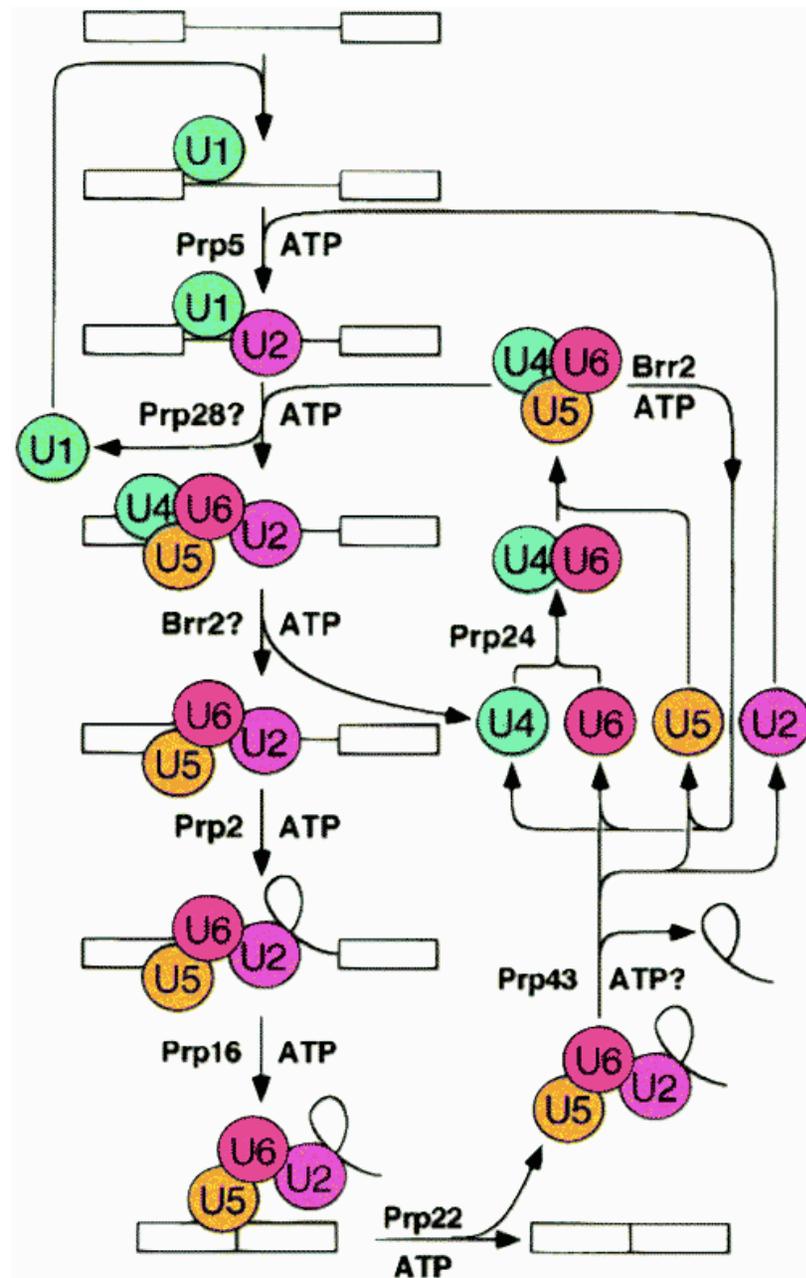
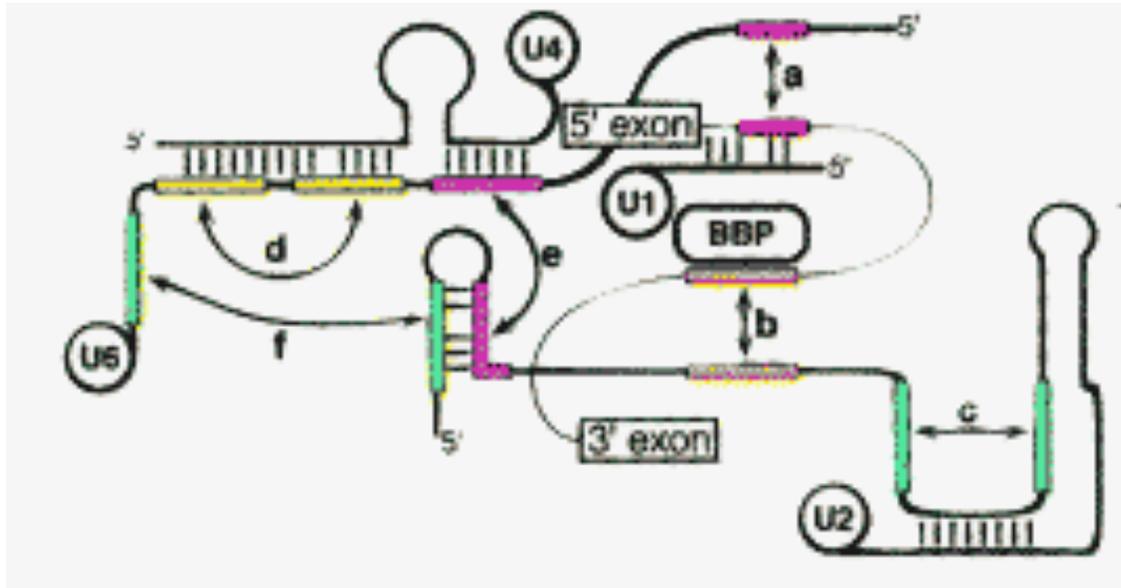
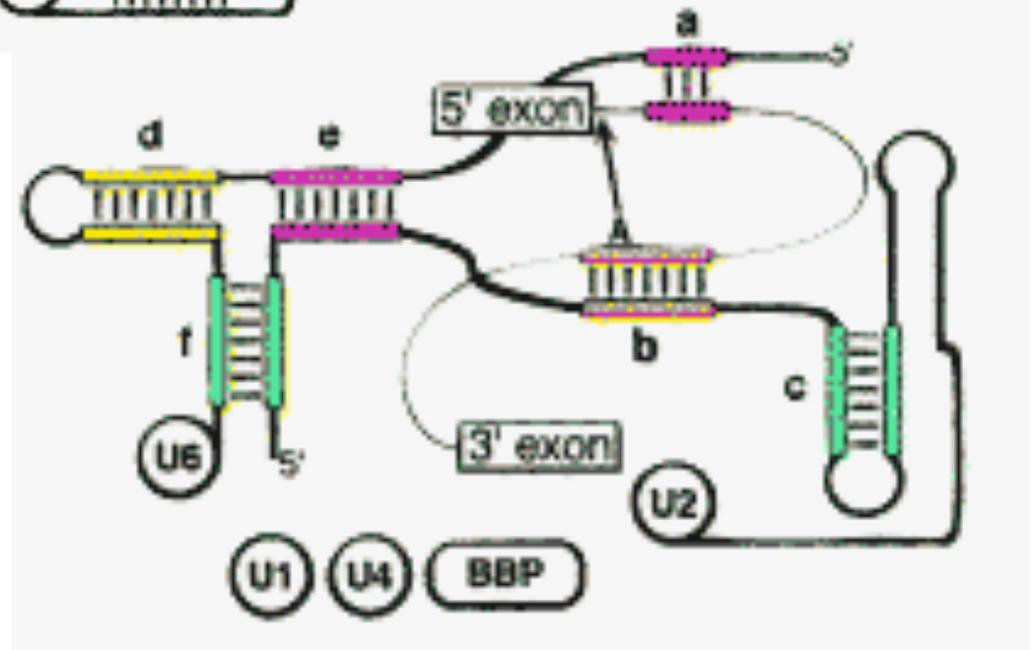


Figure 3. Splicing Requires Numerous Rearrangements



E.g.:  
exchange of  
U1 for U6



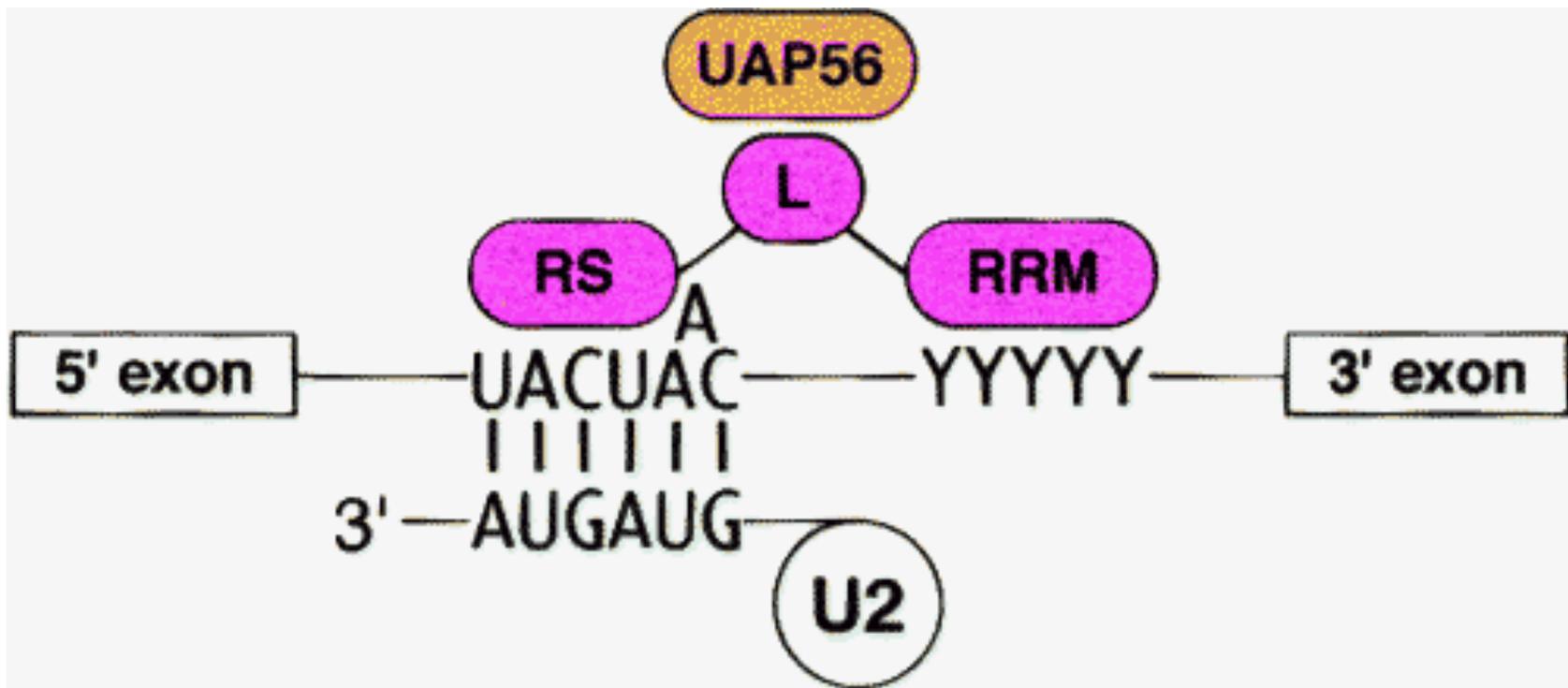
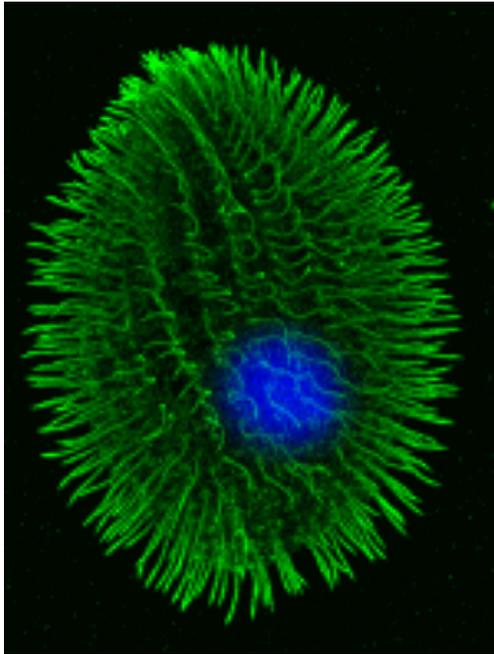
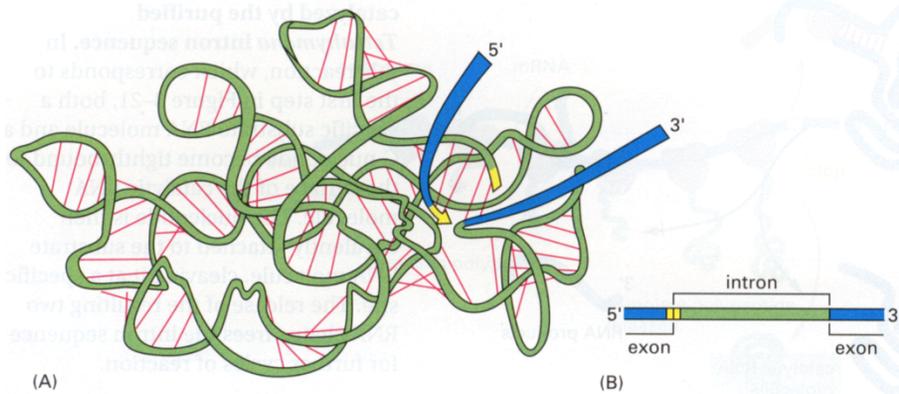
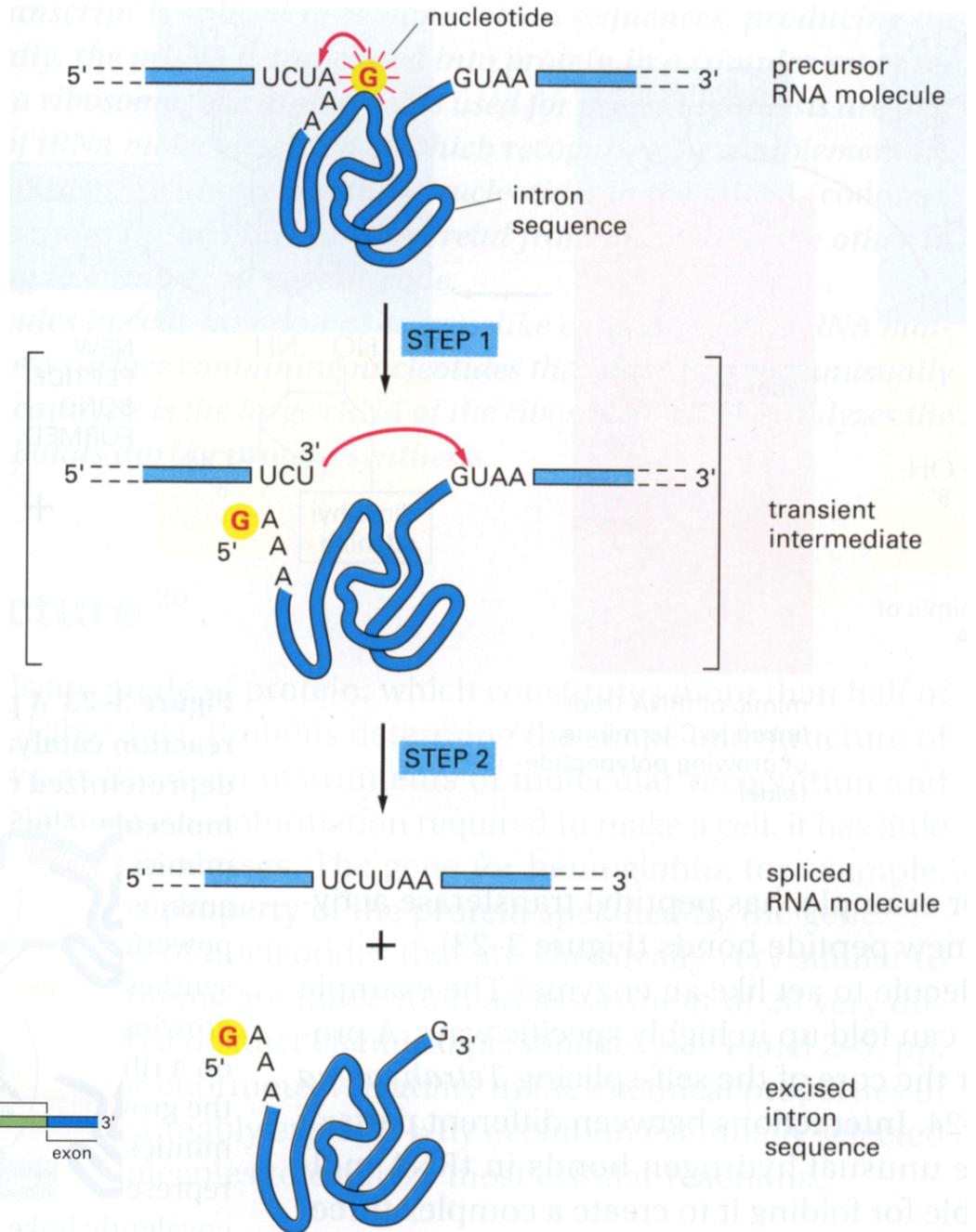


Figure 6. A Paradigm for Unwindase Specificity and Timing? The DExD/H box protein UAP56 (orange) binds U2AF65 (pink) through its linker region (L). U2 binds the branch point. Y's indicate the polypyrimidine stretch; RS, RRM as in Figure 5A. Sequences are from mammals.

# Hints to Origins?



Tetrahymena thermophila



# Genes in Eukaryotes

As in prokaryotes (but maybe more variable)

promoters

start/stop transcription

start/stop translation

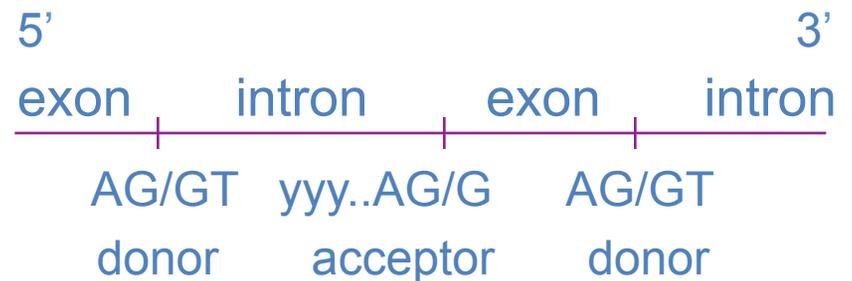
New Features:

introns, exons, splicing

branch point signal

alternative splicing

polyA site/tail



# Characteristics of human genes

(Nature, 2/2001, Table 21)

	<b>Median</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Sample (size)</b>
Internal exon	122 bp	145 bp	RefSeq alignments to draft genome sequence, with confirmed intron boundaries (43,317 exons)
Exon number	7	8.8	RefSeq alignments to finished seq (3,501 genes)
Introns	1,023 bp	3,365 bp	RefSeq alignments to finished seq (27,238 introns)
3' UTR	400 bp	770 bp	Confirmed by mRNA or EST on chromo 22 (689)
5' UTR	240 bp	300 bp	Confirmed by mRNA or EST on chromo 22 (463)
Coding seq	1,100 bp	1340 bp	Selected RefSeq entries (1,804)*
(CDS)	367 aa	447 aa	
Genomic span	14 kb	27 kb	Selected RefSeq entries (1,804)*

\* 1,804 selected RefSeq entries were those with full-length unambiguous alignment to finished sequence

# Big Genes

Many genes are over 100 kb long,

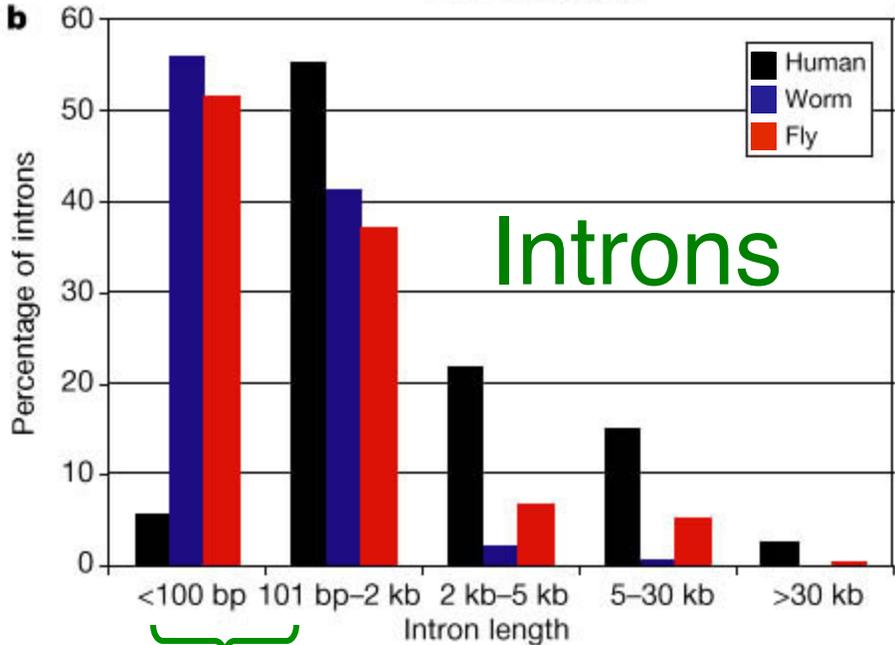
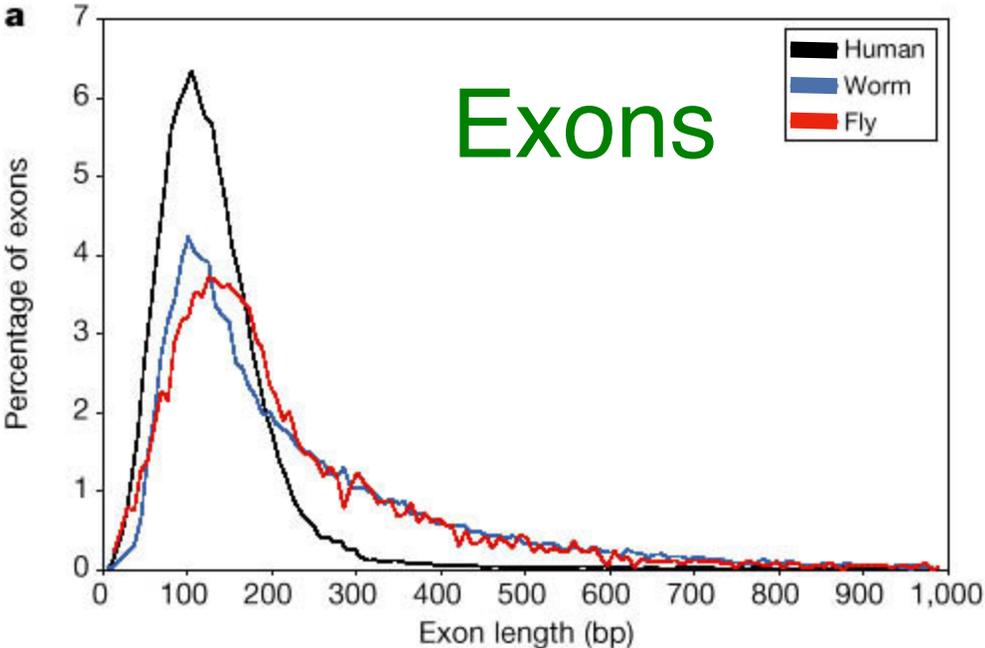
Max known: dystrophin gene (DMD), 2.4 Mb.

The variation in the size distribution of coding sequences and exons is less extreme, although there are remarkable outliers.

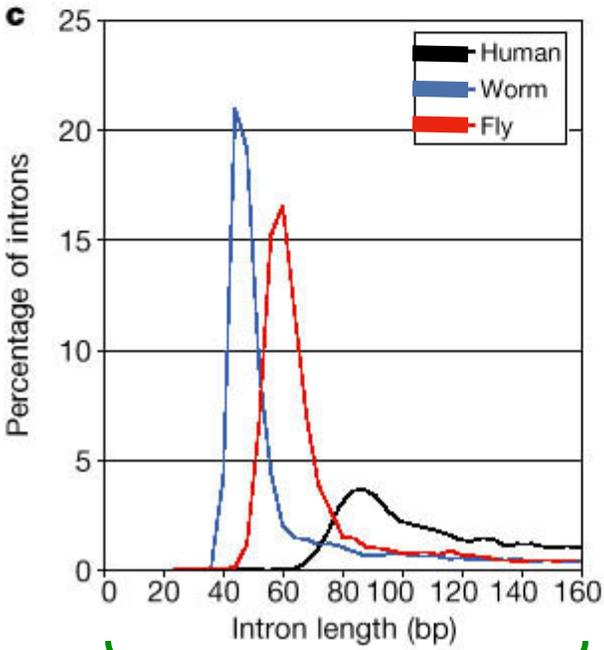
The titin gene has the longest currently known coding sequence at 80,780 bp; it also has the largest number of exons (178) and longest single exon (17,106 bp).

RNApol rate: 1.2-2.5 kb/min = >16 hours to transcribe DMD

Nature 2/2001

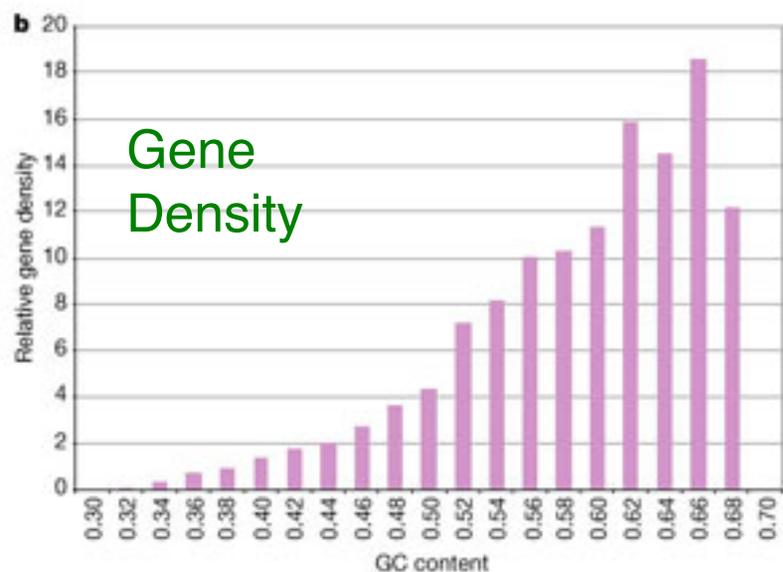
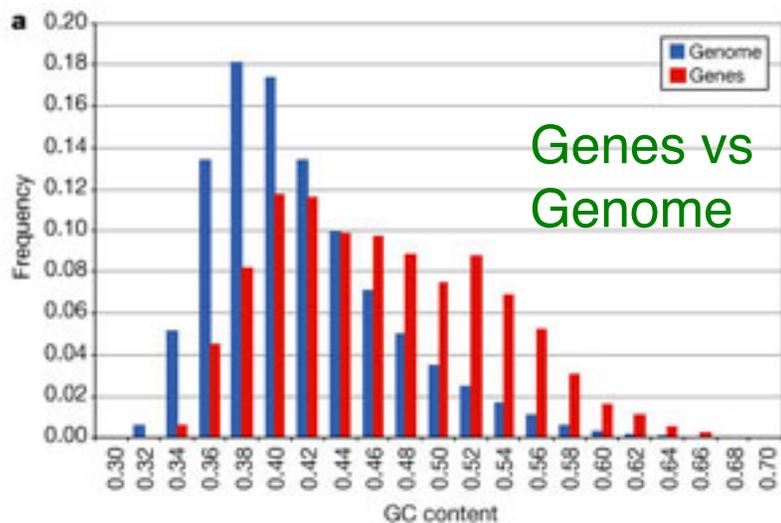


### Introns

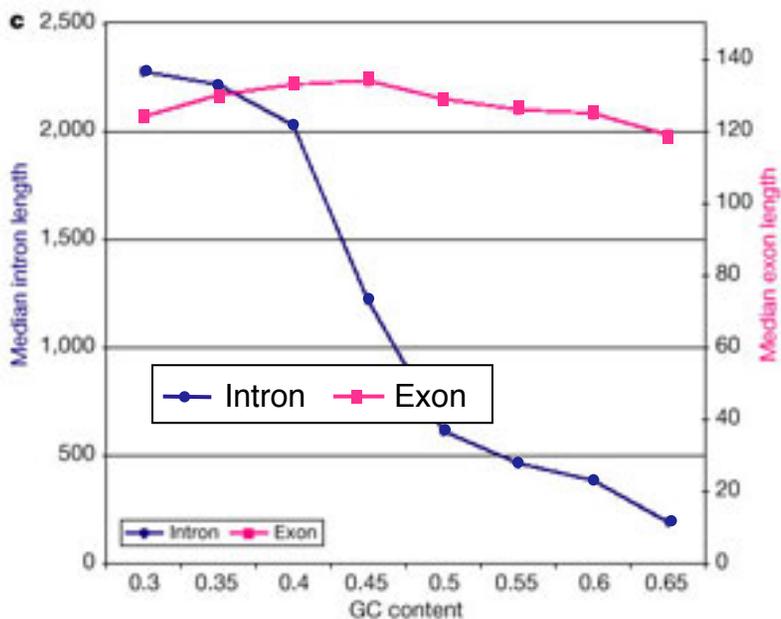


# Figure 36 GC content

Nature 2/2001



**a:** Distribution of GC content in genes and in the genome. For 9,315 known genes mapped to the draft genome sequence, the local GC content was calculated in a window covering either the whole alignment or 20,000 bp centered on midpoint of the alignment, whichever was larger. Ns in the sequence were not counted. GC content for the genome was calculated for adjacent nonoverlapping 20,000-bp windows across the sequence. Both distributions normalized to sum to one.



**b:** Gene density as a function of GC content (= ratios of data in a. Less accurate at high GC because the denominator is small)

**c:** Dependence of mean exon and intron lengths on GC content.

The local GC content, based on alignments to finished sequence only, calculated from windows covering the larger of feature size or 10,000 bp centered on it

# Other Relevant Features

## PolyA Tails

100-300 A's typically added to the 3' end of the mRNA after transcription—*not* templated by DNA

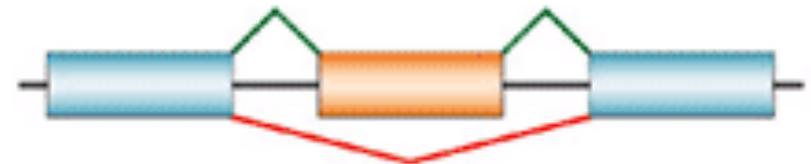
## Processed pseudogenes

Sometimes mRNA (*after* splicing + polyA) is reverse-transcribed into DNA and re-integrated into genome

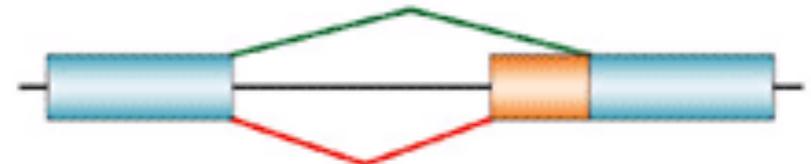
~14,000 in human genome

# Alternative Splicing

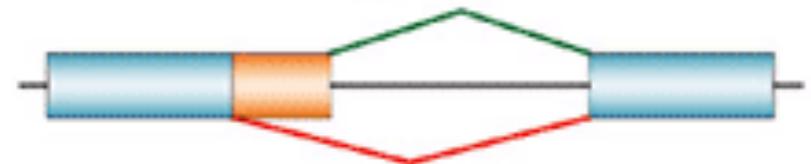
Exon skipping/inclusion



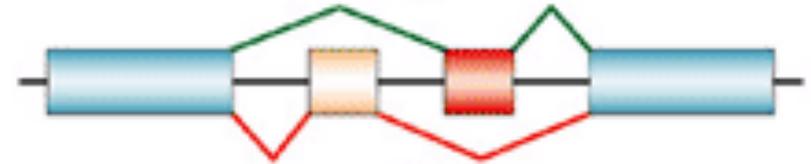
Alternative 3' splice site



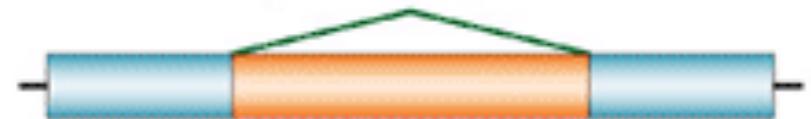
Alternative 5' splice site



Mutually exclusive exons



Intron retention



 Constitutive exon      Alternatively spliced exon

These are *regulated*, not just errors

# Other Features (cont)

Alternative start sites (5' ends)

Alternative PolyA sites (near 3' ends)

Alternative splicing

Collectively, these affect an estimated 95% of genes,  
with ~5 (a wild guess) isoforms per gene  
(but can be huge; fly Dscam: 38,016, potentially)

Trans-splicing and gene fusions

(rare in humans but important in some tumors)

# Computational Gene Finding?

How do we algorithmically account for all this complexity...

# A Case Study -- Genscan

C Burge, S Karlin (1997), "Prediction of complete gene structures in human genomic DNA", *Journal of Molecular Biology*, 268: 78-94.

# Training Data

238 multi-exon genes

142 single-exon genes

total of 1492 exons

total of 1254 introns

total of 2.5 Mb

NO alternate splicing, none  $> 30\text{kb}$ , ...

# Performance Comparison

Program	Accuracy						
	per nuc.		per exon				
	Sn	Sp	Sn	Sp	Avg.	ME	WE
GENSCAN	0.93	0.93	0.78	0.81	0.80	0.09	0.05
FGENEH	0.77	0.88	0.61	0.64	0.64	0.15	0.12
GeneID	0.63	0.81	0.44	0.46	0.45	0.28	0.24
Genie	0.76	0.77	0.55	0.48	0.51	0.17	0.33
GenLang	0.72	0.79	0.51	0.52	0.52	0.21	0.22
GeneParser2	0.66	0.79	0.35	0.40	0.37	0.34	0.17
GRAIL2	0.72	0.87	0.36	0.43	0.40	0.25	0.11
SORFIND	0.71	0.85	0.42	0.47	0.45	0.24	0.14
Xpound	0.61	0.87	0.15	0.18	0.17	0.33	0.13
GeneID‡	0.91	0.91	0.73	0.70	0.71	0.07	0.13
GeneParser3	0.86	0.91	0.56	0.58	0.57	0.14	0.09

After Burge&Karlin, Table 1. Sensitivity, Sn = TP/AP; Specificity, Sp = TP/PP

# Generalized Hidden Markov Models

$\pi$ : Initial state distribution

$a_{ij}$ : Transition probabilities

One submodel per state

Outputs are *strings* gen'ed by submodel

Given length  $L$

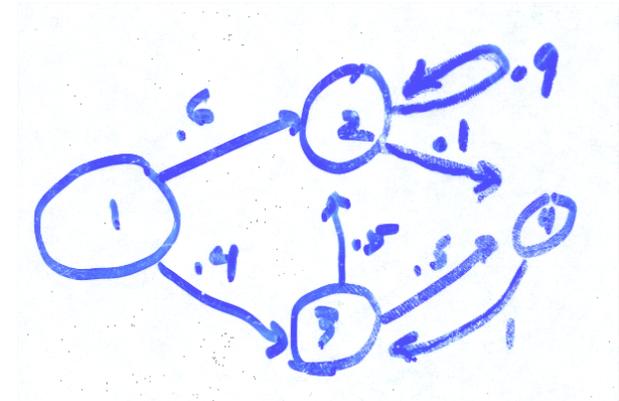
Pick start state  $q_1$  ( $\sim \pi$ )

While  $\sum d_i < L$

    Pick  $d_i$  & string  $s_i$  of length  $d_i \sim$  submodel for  $q_i$

    Pick next state  $q_{i+1}$  ( $\sim a_{ij}$ )

Output  $s_1 s_2 \dots$



# Decoding

A “parse”  $\phi$  of  $s = s_1s_2\dots s_L$  is a pair  $d = d_1d_2\dots d_k$ ,  $q = q_1q_2\dots q_k$  with  $\sum d_i = L$

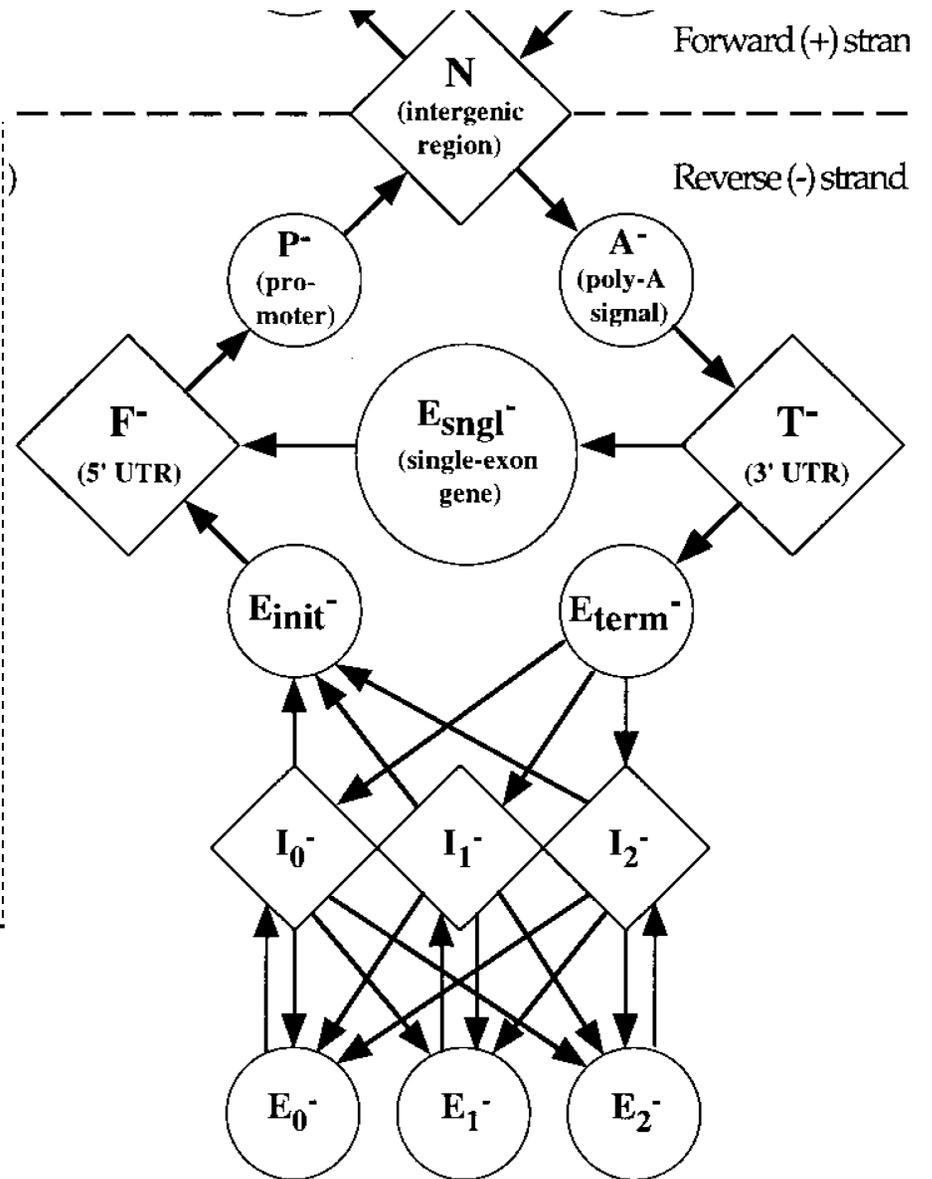
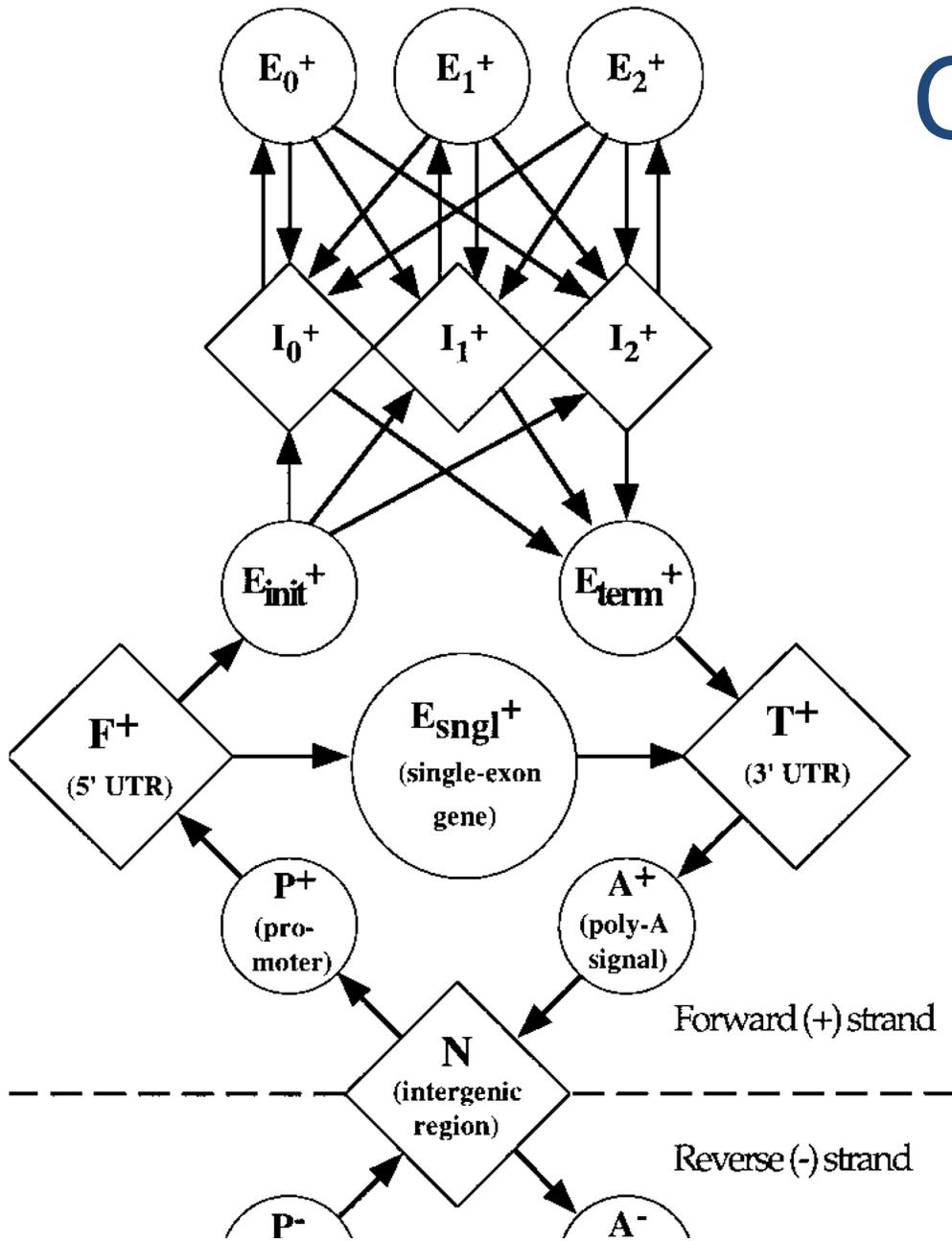
A forward/backward-like alg calculates, e.g.:

$Pr(\text{generate } s_1s_2\dots s_i \text{ \& end in state } q_k)$

(summing over possible predecessor states  $q_{k-1}$  and possible  $d_k$ , etc.)

$$Pr(\phi | s) = \frac{Pr(\phi \wedge s)}{Pr(s)} \dots$$

# GHMM Structure



# Length Distributions

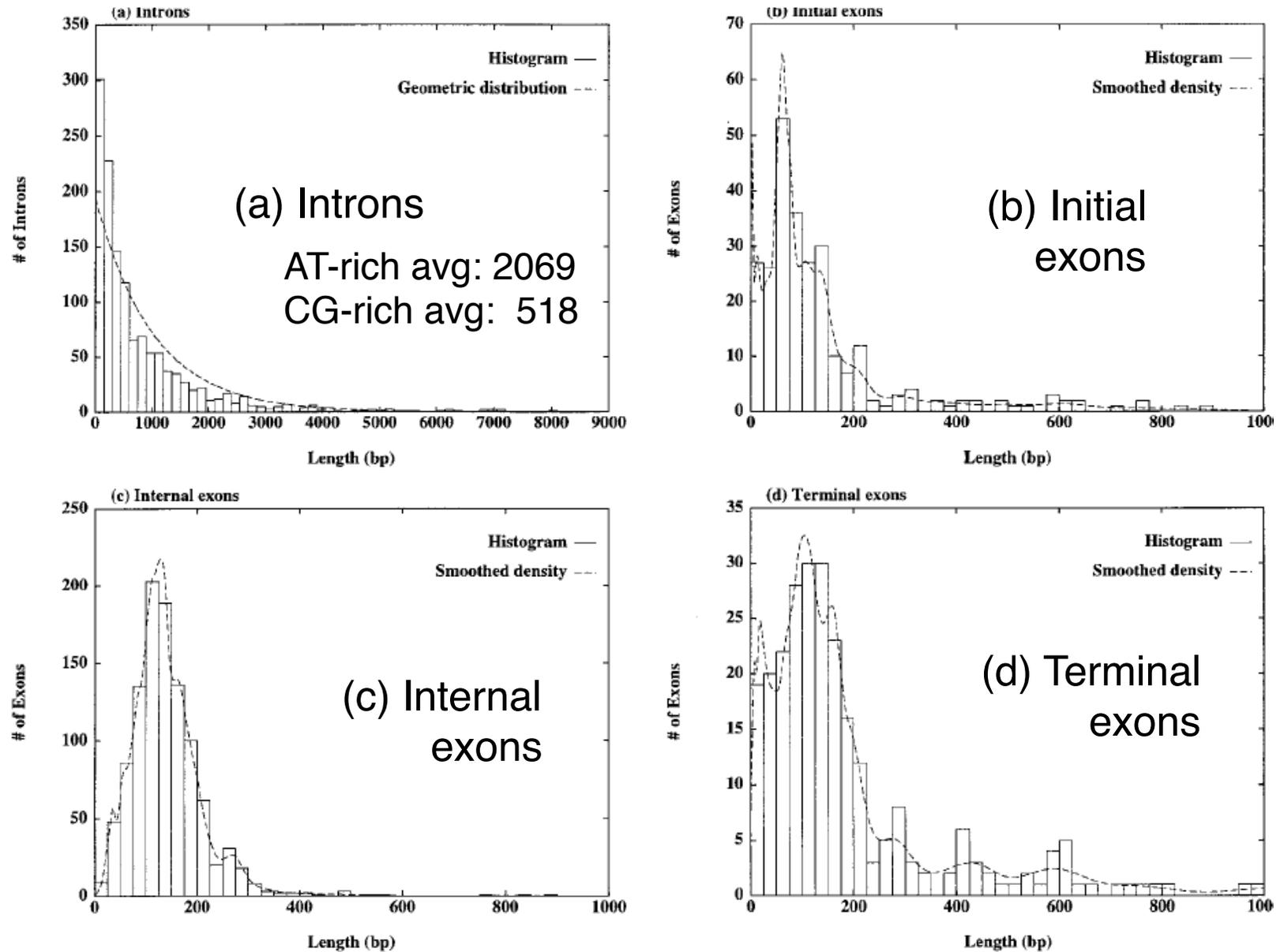


Figure 4. Length distributions are shown for (a) 1254 introns; (b) 238 initial exons; (c) 1151 internal exons; and (d) 238 terminal exons from the 238 multi-exon genes of the learning set  $\mathcal{L}$ . Histograms (continuous lines) were derived with a bin size of 300 bp in (a), and 25 bp in (b), (c), (d). The broken line in (a) shows a geometric (exponential) distribution with parameters derived from the mean of the intron lengths; broken lines in (b), (c) and (d) are the smoothed empirical distributions of exon lengths used by GENSCAN (details given by Burge, 1997). Note different horizontal and vertical scales are used in (a), (b), (c), (d) and that multimodality in (b) and (d) may, in part, reflect relatively

# Effect of G+C Content

<b>Group</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>
C ≠ G% range	<43	43-51	51-57	>57
Number of genes	65	115	99	101
Est. proportion single-exon genes	0.16	0.19	0.23	0.16
Codelen: single-exon genes (bp)	1130	1251	1304	1137
Codelen: multi-exon genes (bp)	902	908	1118	1165
Introns per multi-exon gene	5.1	4.9	5.5	5.6
Mean intron length (bp)	2069	1086	801	518
Est. mean transcript length (bp)	10866	6504	5781	4833
Isochore	L1+L2	H1+H2	H3	H3
DNA amount in genome (Mb)	2074	1054	102	68
Estimated gene number	22100	24700	9100	9100
Est. mean intergenic length	83000	36000	5400	2600
<b>Initial probabilities:</b>				
Intergenic (N)	0.892	0.867	0.54	0.418
Intron (I+, I- )	0.095	0.103	0.338	0.388
5' Untranslated region (F+, F-)	0.008	0.018	0.077	0.122
3' Untranslated region (T+, T-)	0.005	0.011	0.045	0.072

# Submodels

## 5' UTR

$L \sim \text{geometric}(769 \text{ bp}), s \sim \text{MM}(5)$

## 3' UTR

$L \sim \text{geometric}(457 \text{ bp}), s \sim \text{MM}(5)$

## Intergenic

$L \sim \text{geometric}(\text{GC-dependent}), s \sim \text{MM}(5)$

## Introns

$L \sim \text{geometric}(\text{GC-dependent}), s \sim \text{MM}(5)$

# Submodel: Exons

Inhomogeneous 3-periodic 5th order Markov models

Separate models for low GC (<43%), high GC

Track “phase” of exons, i.e. reading frame.

# Signal Models I: WMM's

## Polyadenylation

6 bp, consensus AATAAA

## Translation Start

12 bp, starting 6 bp before start codon

## Translation stop

A stop codon, then 3 bp WMM

# Signal Models II: more WMM's

## Promoter

70% TATA

15 bp TATA WMM

$s \sim \text{null}$ ,  $L \sim \text{Unif}(14-20)$

8 bp cap signal WMM

30% TATA-less

40 bp null

# Signal Models III: W/WAM's

## Acceptor Splice Site (3' end of intron)

[-20..+3] relative to splice site modeled by “1st order weight array model”

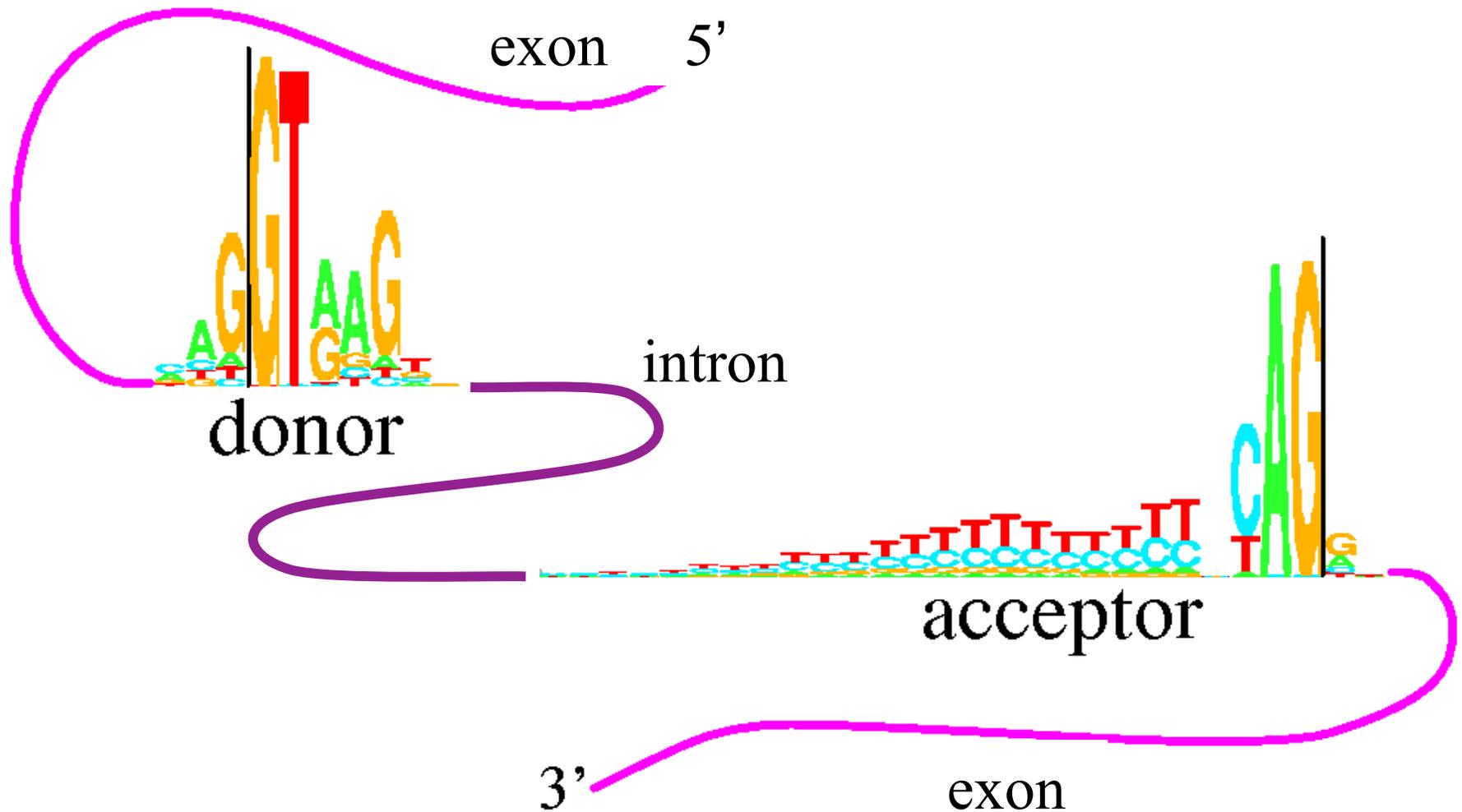
## Branch point & polypyrimidine tract

Hard. Even weak consensus like YYRAY found in [-40..-21] in only 30% of training

“Windowed WAM”: 2nd order WAM, but averaged over 5 preceding positions

“captures weak but detectable tendency toward YYY triplets and certain branch point related triplets like TGA, TAA, ...”

# What do splice sites look like?



# Signal Models IV: Maximum Dependence Decomposition

Donor splice sites (5' end of intron) show dependencies between non-adjacent positions, e.g. poor match at one end compensated by strong match at other end, 6 bp away

Model is basically a decision tree

Uses  $\chi^2$  test to quantitate dependence

# $\chi^2$ test : Are events A & B independent ?

	B	not B	
A	8	4	12
not A	2	6	8
	10	10	20

← Event counts plus marginals

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{(\text{observed}_i - \text{expected}_i)^2}{\text{expected}_i}$$

“Expected” means expected assuming independence, e.g. expect B 10/20; A 12/20; both  $12 \cdot 10 / 20 = 6$ , etc.

Significance: table look up (or approximate as normal)

# $\chi^2$ test for independence of nucleotides in donor sites

<b>i</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>j:</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+5</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>Sum</b>
<b>-3</b>	c/a	---	61.8*	14.9	5.8	20.2*	11.2	18.0*	131.8*	
<b>-2</b>	A	115.6*	---	40.5*	20.3*	57.5*	59.7*	42.9*	336.5*	
<b>-1</b>	G	15.4	82.8*	---	13.0	61.5*	41.4*	96.6*	310.8*	
<b>+3</b>	a/g	8.6	17.5*	13.1	---	19.3*	1.8	0.1	60.5*	
<b>+4</b>	A	21.8*	56.0*	62.1*	64.1*	---	56.8*	0.2	260.9*	
<b>+5</b>	G	11.6	60.1*	41.9*	93.6*	146.6*	---	33.6*	387.3*	
<b>+6</b>	t	22.2*	40.7*	103.8*	26.5*	17.8*	32.6*	---	243.6*	

\* means chi-squared p-value < .001

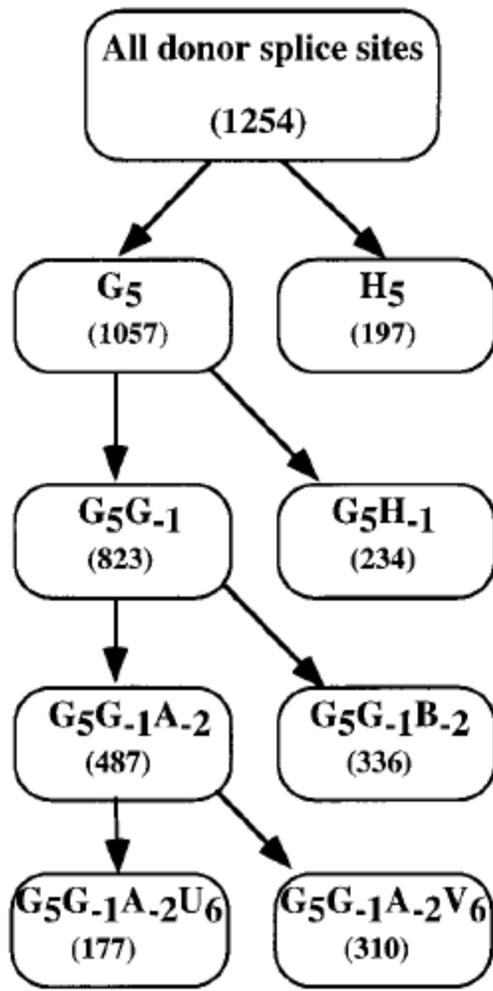
Technically – build a 2 x 4 table for each (i,j) pair:

Pos i does/does not match consensus vs pos j is A, C, G, T

calculate  $\chi^2$  as on previous slide, e.g.  $\chi^2$  for +6 vs -1 = 103.8

If independent, you'd expect  $\chi^2 \leq 16.3$  all but one in a 1000 times.

Pos	A%	C%	G%	U%
-3	33	36	19	13
-2	56	15	15	15
-1	9	4	78	9
+3	44	3	51	3
+4	75	4	13	9
+6	14	18	19	49
-3	34	37	18	11
-2	59	10	15	16
+3	40	4	53	3
+4	70	4	16	10
+6	17	21	21	42
-3	37	42	18	3
+3	39	5	51	5
+4	62	5	22	11
+6	19	20	25	36
-3	32	40	23	5
+3	27	4	59	10
+4	51	5	25	19



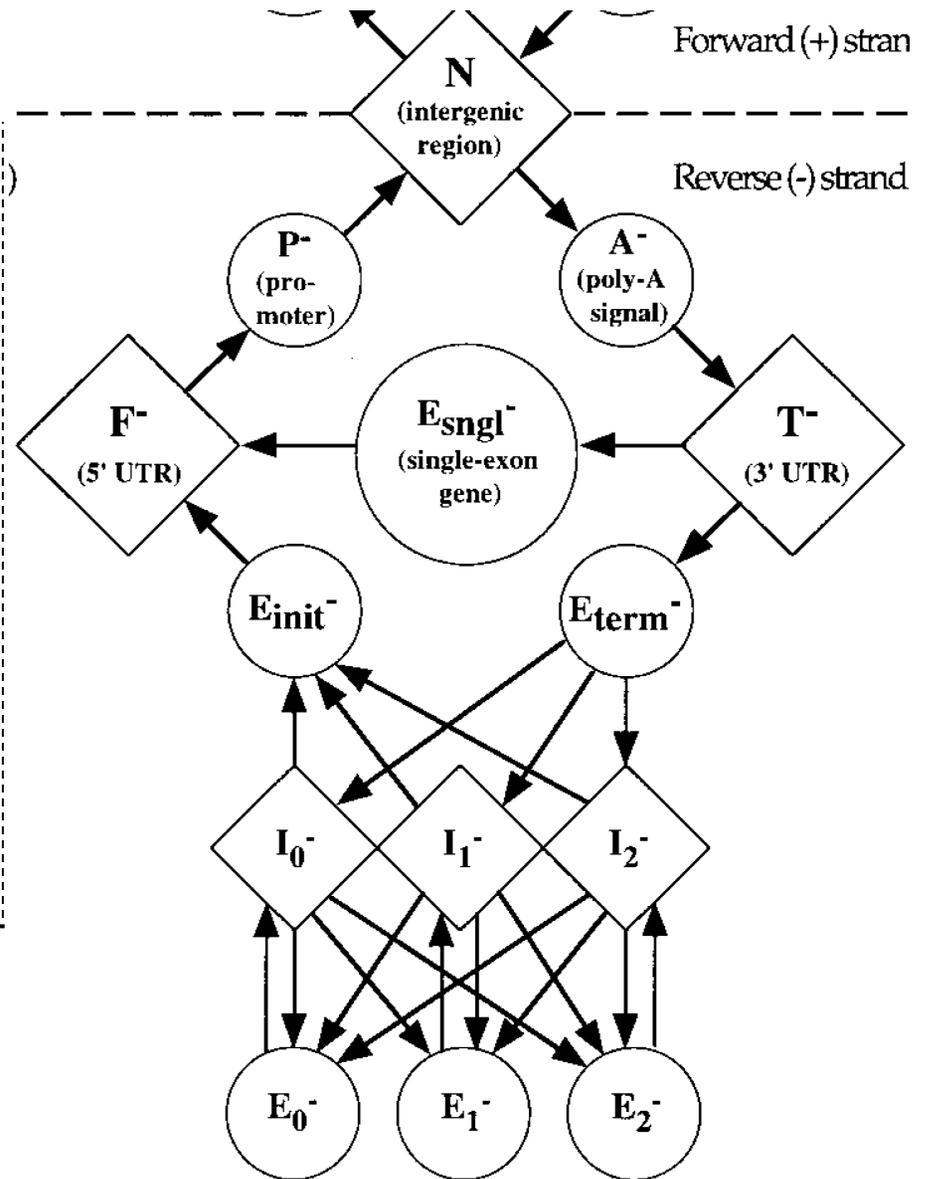
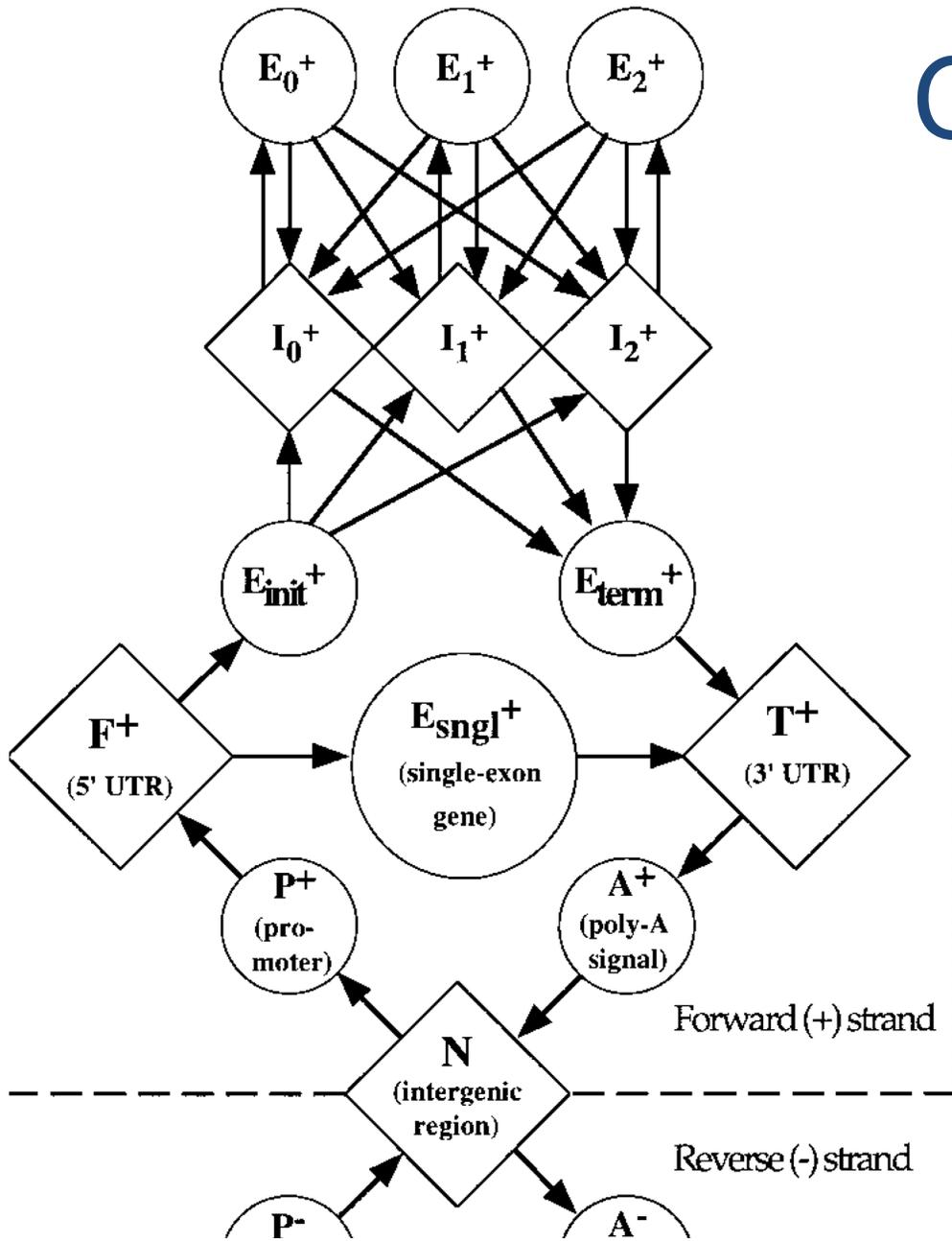
Pos	A%	C%	G%	U%
-3	35	44	16	6
-2	85	4	7	5
-1	2	1	97	0
+3	81	3	15	2
+4	51	28	9	12
+6	22	20	30	28
-3	29	31	21	18
-2	43	30	17	11
+3	56	0	43	0
+4	93	2	3	3
+6	5	10	10	76
-3	29	30	18	23
+3	42	1	56	1
+4	80	4	8	8
+6	14	21	16	49
-3	39	43	15	2
+3	46	6	46	3
+4	69	5	20	7

All sites:	Position									
Base	-3	-2	-1	+1	+2	+3	+4	+5	+6	
A%	33	60	8	0	0	49	71	6	15	
C%	37	13	4	0	0	3	7	5	19	
G%	18	14	81	100	0	45	12	84	20	
U%	12	13	7	0	100	3	9	5	46	

U1 snRNA: 3' G U C C A U U C A 5'

Many dependencies, such as 5'/3' compensation, e.g. G<sub>-1</sub> vs G<sub>5</sub>/H<sub>5</sub>

# GHMM Structure



# Summary of Burge & Karlin

Coding DNA & control signals are nonrandom

Weight matrices, WAMs, etc. for controls

Codon frequency, etc. for coding

GHMM nice for overall architecture

Careful attention to small details pays

# Problems with BK training set

1 gene per sequence

Annotation errors

Single exon genes over-represented?

Highly expressed genes over-represented?

Moderate sized genes over-represented?

(none > 30 kb) ...

Similar problems with other training sets, too

(Of course we can now do better for human, mouse, etc., but what about cockatoos or cows or endangered frogs, or ...)

# Problems with all methods

Pseudo genes (~ 14,000 in human)

Short ORFs

Sequencing errors

Non-coding RNA genes & spliced UTR's

Overlapping genes

Alternative TSS/polyadenylation/splicing

Hard to find novel stuff – not in training

Species-specific weirdness – spliced leaders,  
polycistronic transcripts, RNA editing...

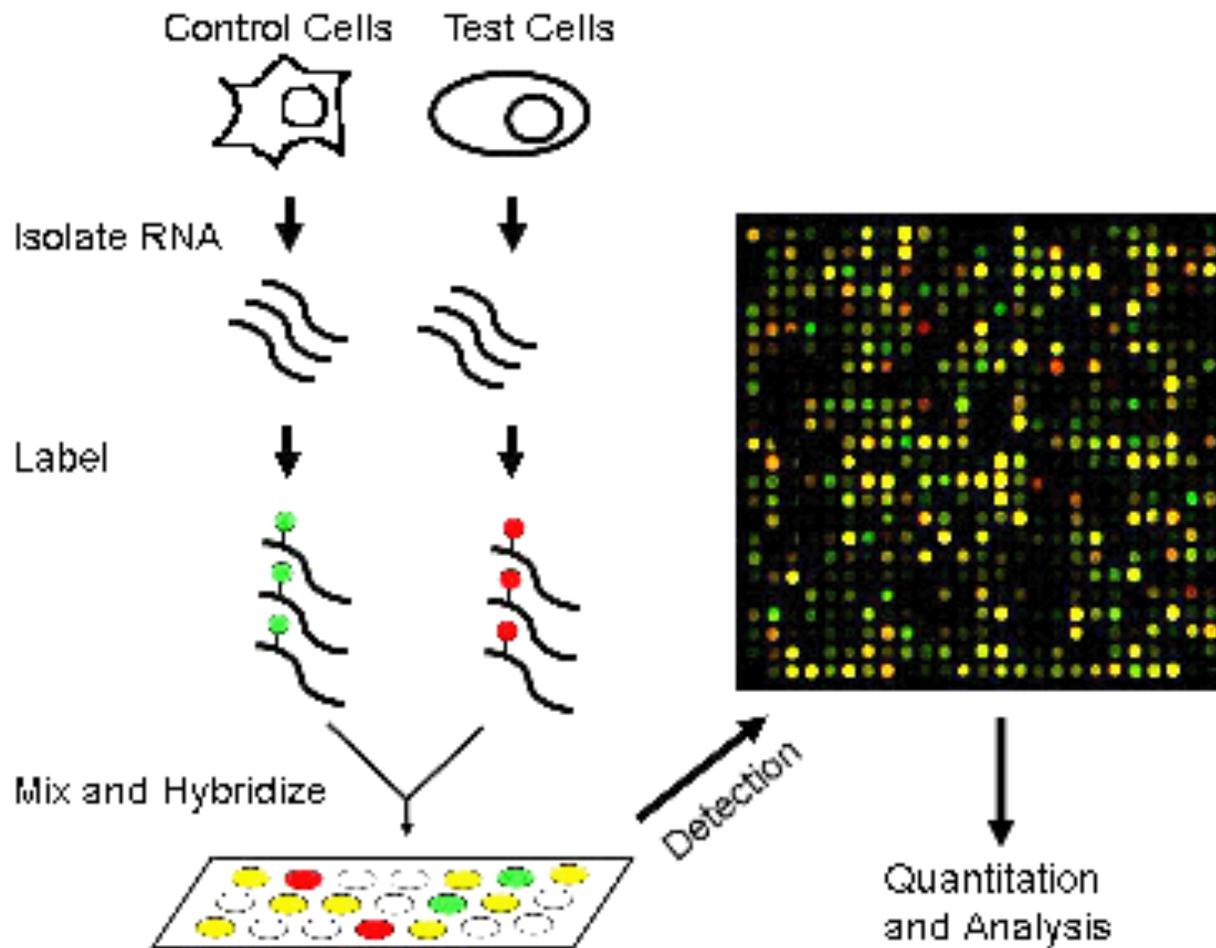
# Other important ideas

Database search - does gene you're predicting look anything like a known protein?

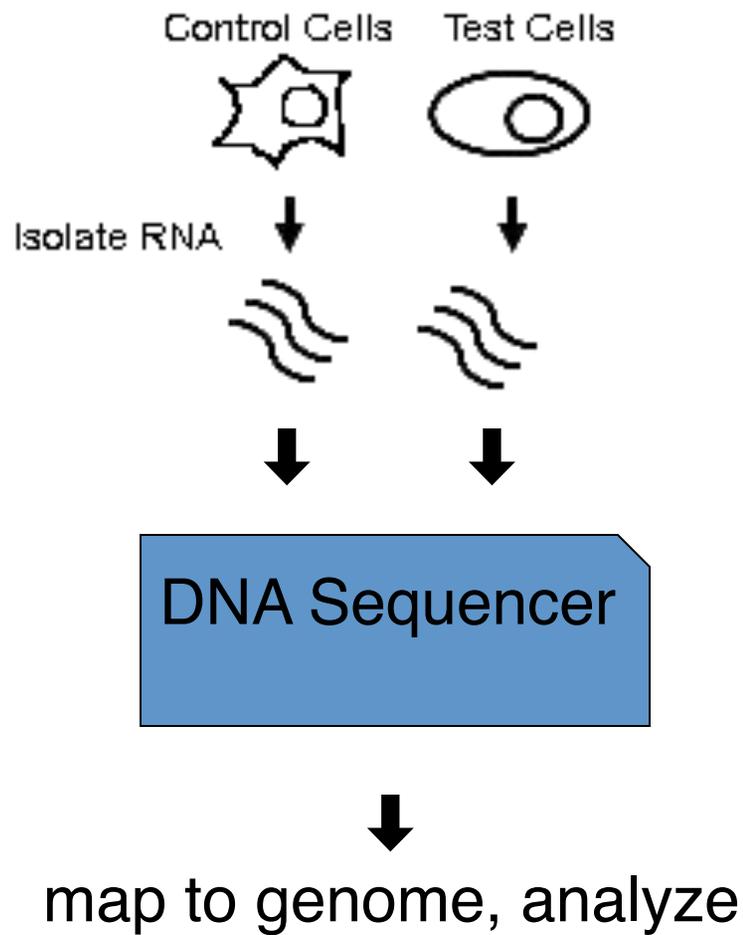
Comparative genomics - what does this region look like in related organisms?

# Assaying Gene Expression

# Microarrays



# RNAseq



# RNAseq protocol (approx)

Extract RNA (maybe by polyA ↔ polyT)

Reverse-transcribe into DNA (“cDNA”)

Make double-stranded, maybe amplify

Cut into, say, ~300bp fragments

Sequence ~100-175bp from one or both ends

**CAUTIONS:** non-uniform sampling, sequence (e.g. G+C), 5'-3', and length biases

# Goals of RNAseq

#1: Which genes are being expressed?

How? *assemble* reads (fragments of mRNAs) into (nearly) full-length mRNAs and/or *map* them to a reference genome

#2: How highly expressed are they?

How? *count* how many fragments come from each gene—expect more highly expressed genes to yield more reads, after correcting for biases like mRNA length

# RNAseq Data Analysis

## De novo Assembly

mostly deBruijn-based, but likely to change with longer reads  
more complex than genome assembly due to alt splicing,  
wide diffs in expression levels; e.g. often multiple “k’s” used  
pro: no ref needed (non-model orgs), novel discoveries  
possible, e.g. very short exons  
con: less sensitive to weakly-expressed genes

## Reference-based (more later)

pro/con: basically the reverse

Both: subsequent bias correction, quantitation,  
differential expression calls, fusion detection, etc.

# “TopHat” (Ref based example)

BWA

- map reads to ref transcriptome (optional)
- map reads to ref genome
- unmapped reads remapped as 25mers
- novel splices = 25<sub>mers</sub> anchored 2 sides
- stitch original reads across these
- remap reads with minimal overlaps
- *Roughly*: 10m reads/hr, 4Gbytes  
(typical data set 100m–1b reads)

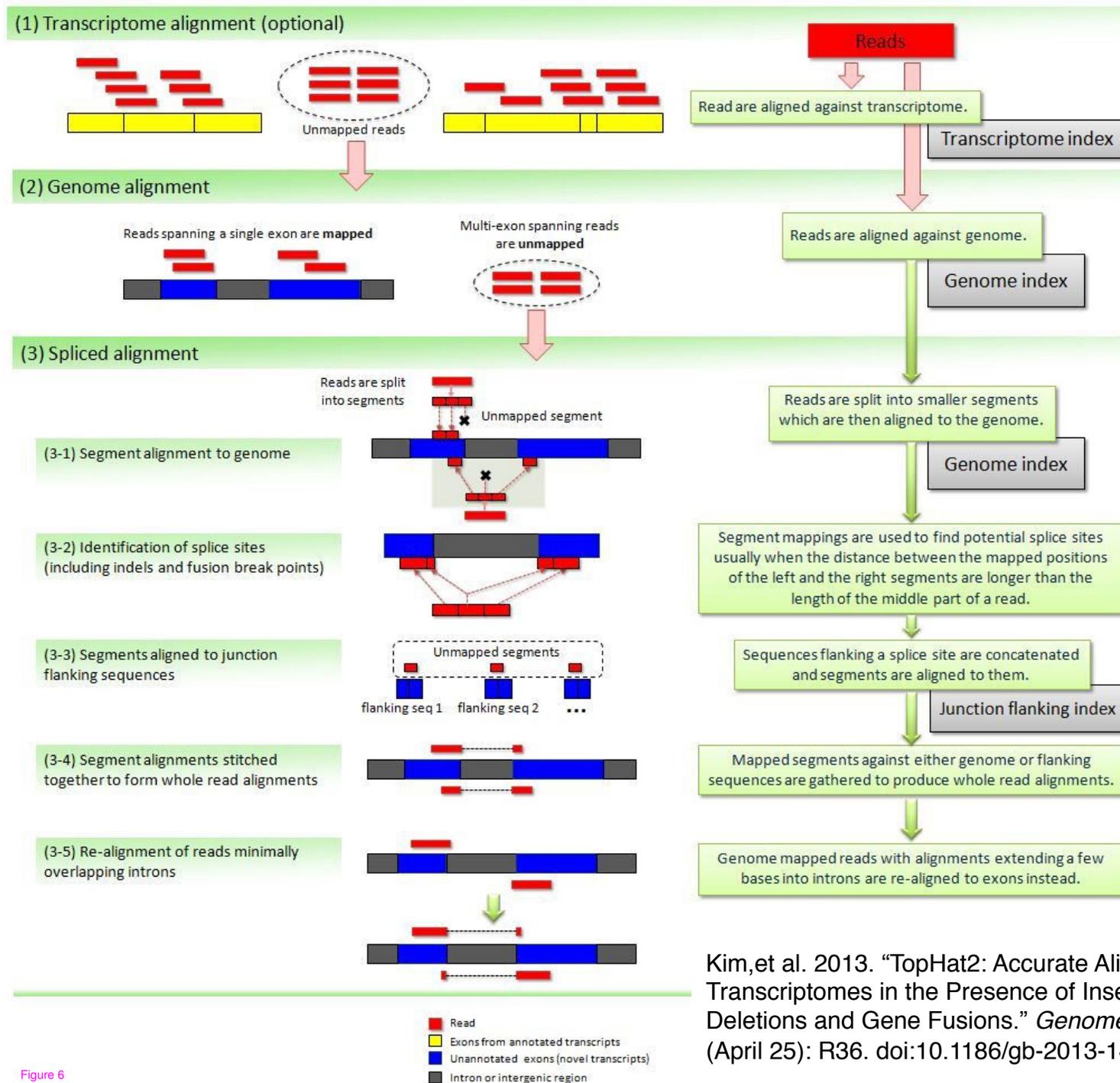


Figure 6

Kim, et al. 2013. "TopHat2: Accurate Alignment of Transcriptomes in the Presence of Insertions, Deletions and Gene Fusions." *Genome Biology* 14 (4) (April 25): R36. doi:10.1186/gb-2013-14-4-r36.

# RNAseq Bias

**BIOINFORMATICS**

**ORIGINAL PAPER**

Vol. 28 no. 7 2012, pages 921–928  
doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/bts055

*Gene expression*

Advance Access publication January 28, 2012

## **A new approach to bias correction in RNA-Seq**

Daniel C. Jones<sup>1,\*</sup>, Walter L. Ruzzo<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Xinxia Peng<sup>4</sup> and Michael G. Katze<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-2350,

<sup>2</sup>Department of Genome Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-5065, <sup>3</sup>Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA 98109 and <sup>4</sup>Department of Microbiology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

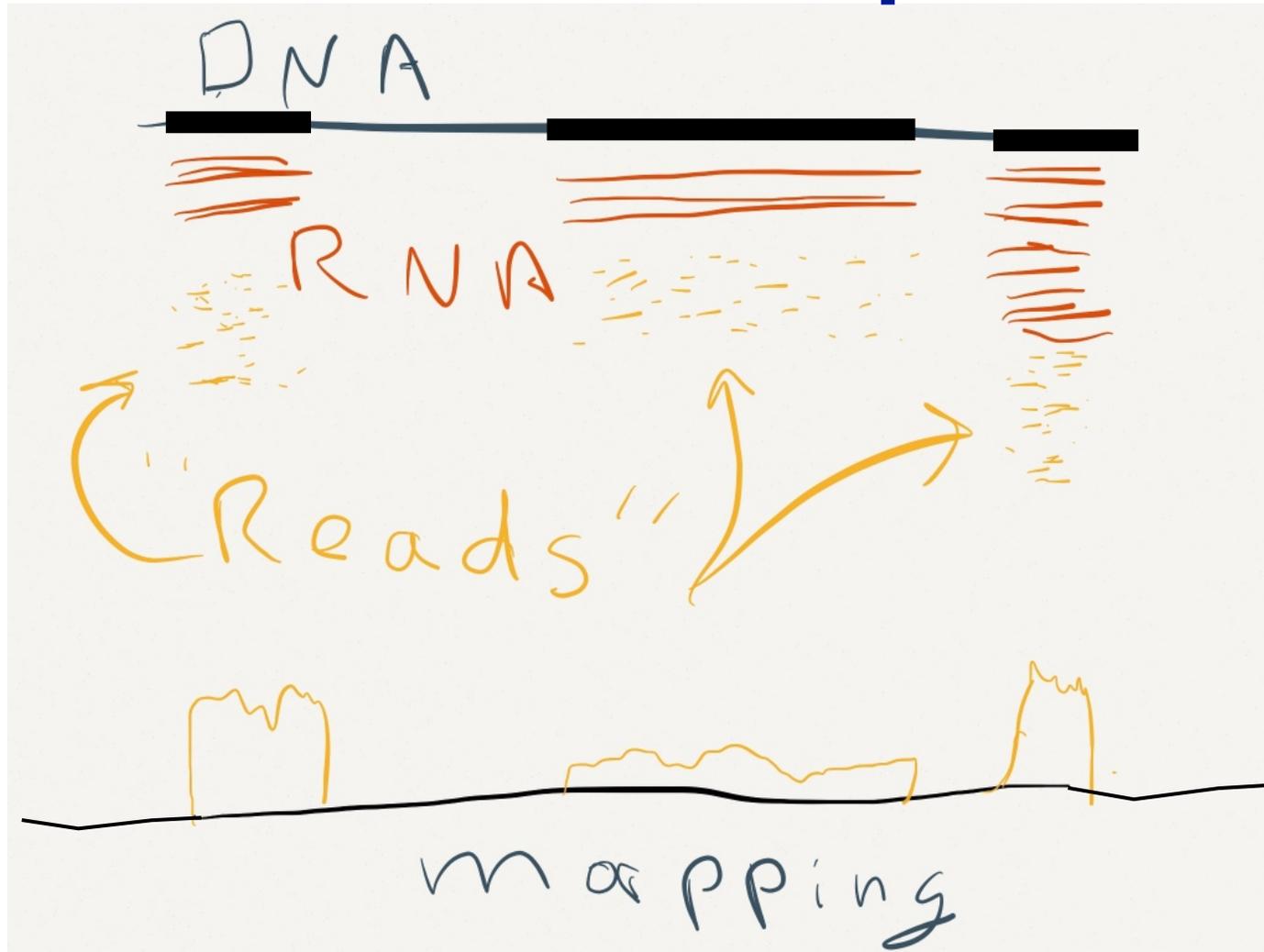
Associate Editor: Alex Bateman

### **ABSTRACT**

**Motivation:** Quantification of sequence abundance in RNA-Seq experiments is often conflated by protocol-specific sequence bias. The exact sources of the bias are unknown, but may be influenced by

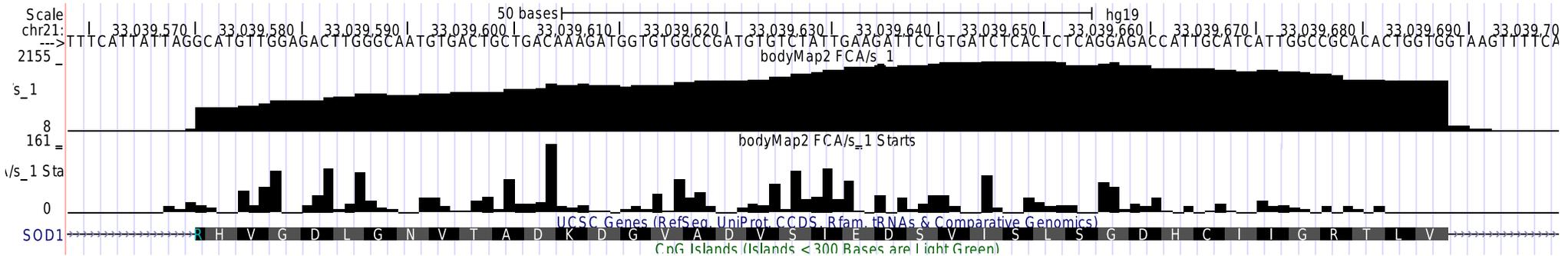
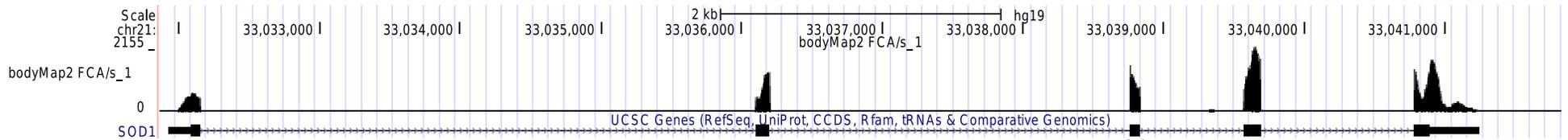
These biases may adversely affect low level

# RNAseq

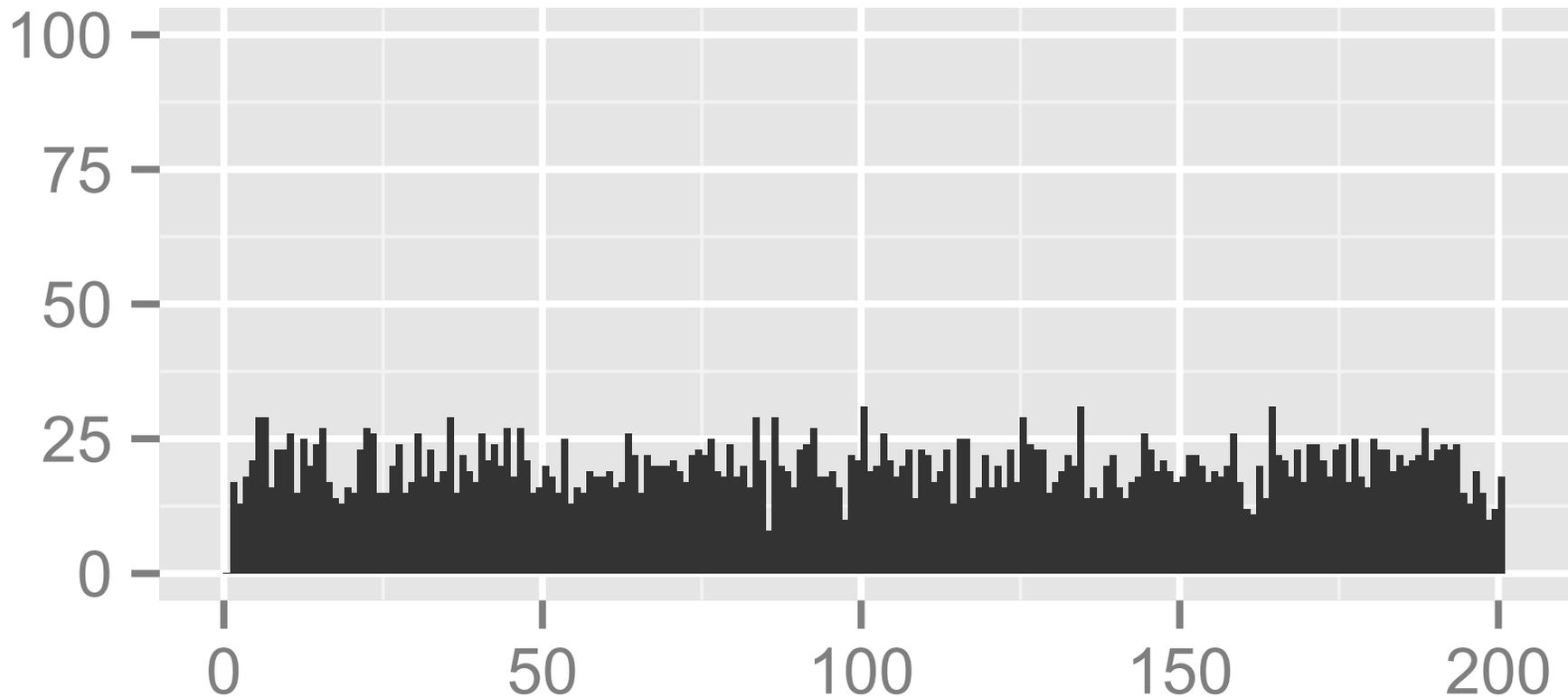


Extract RNA. Fragment it. Sequence it. Map it. Count it.  
More mRNA  $\Rightarrow$  more reads. A random sampling process.

# Example

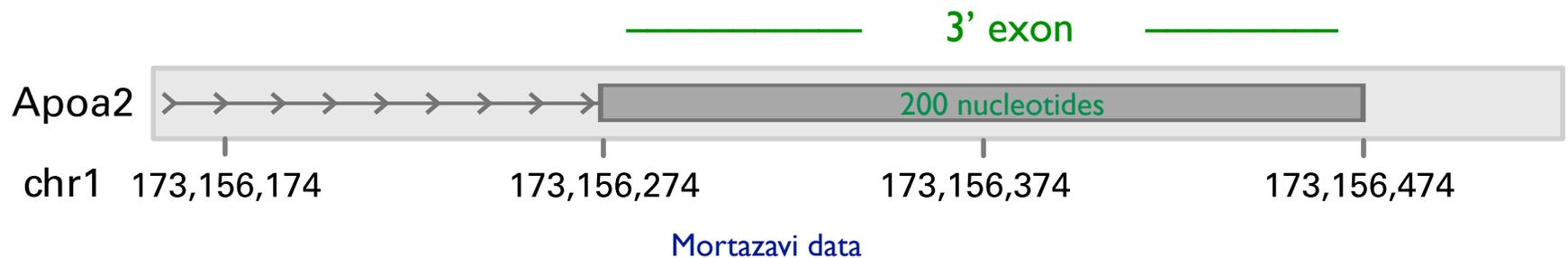
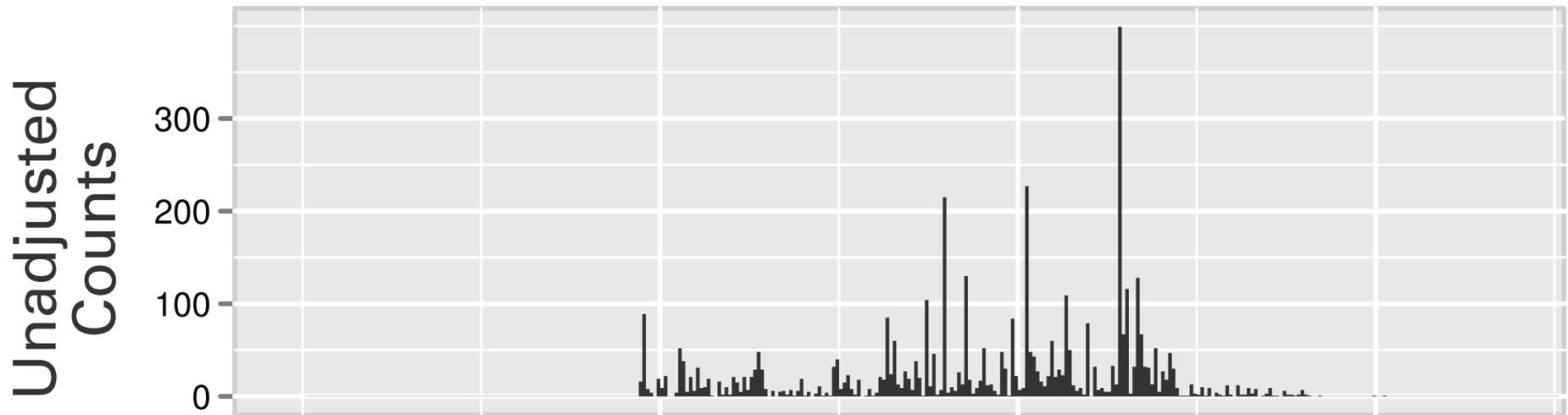


# What we expect: Uniform Sampling

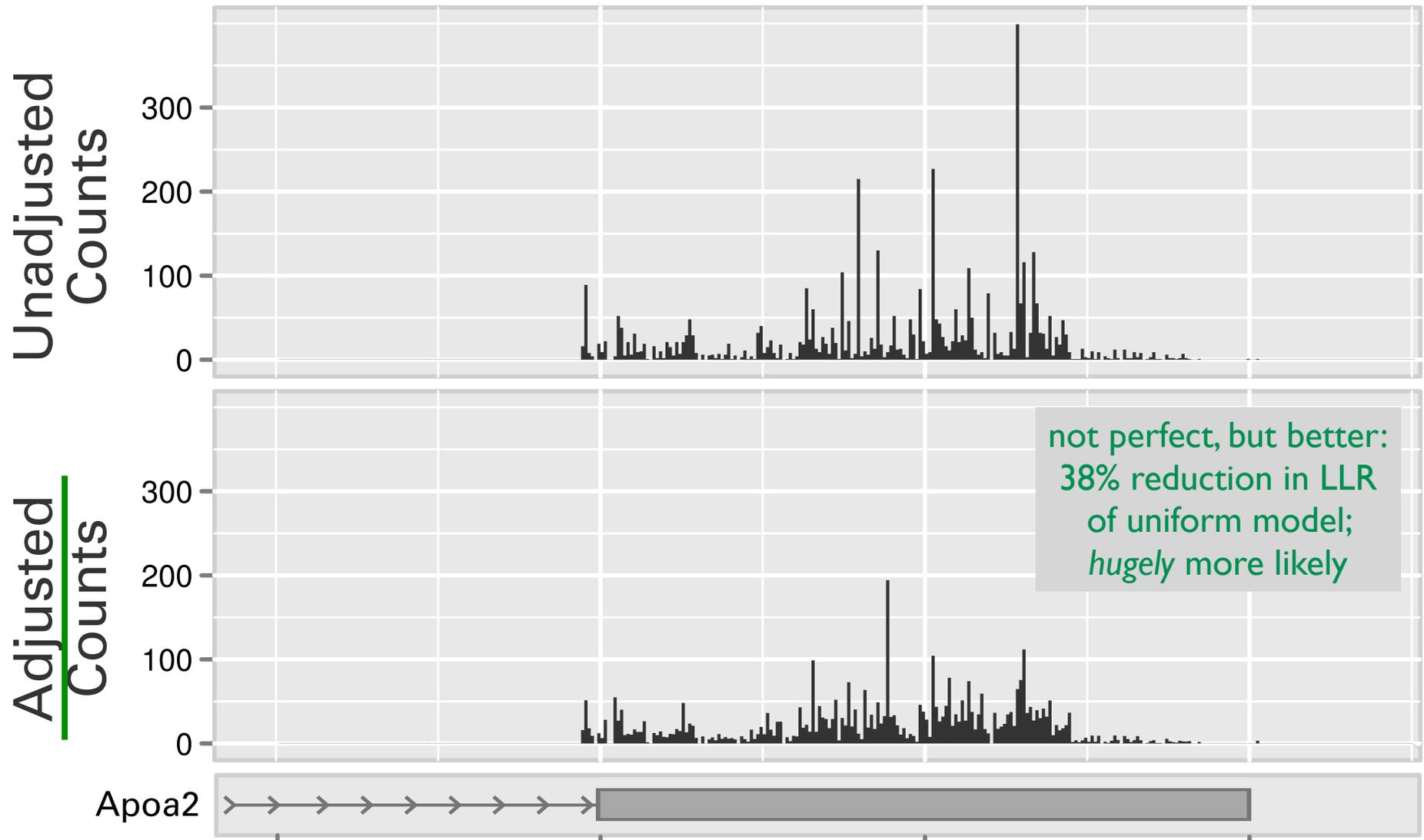


Uniform sampling of 4000 “reads” across a 200 bp “exon.”  
Average  $20 \pm 4.7$  per position, min  $\approx 9$ , max  $\approx 33$

# What we get: *highly non-uniform coverage*

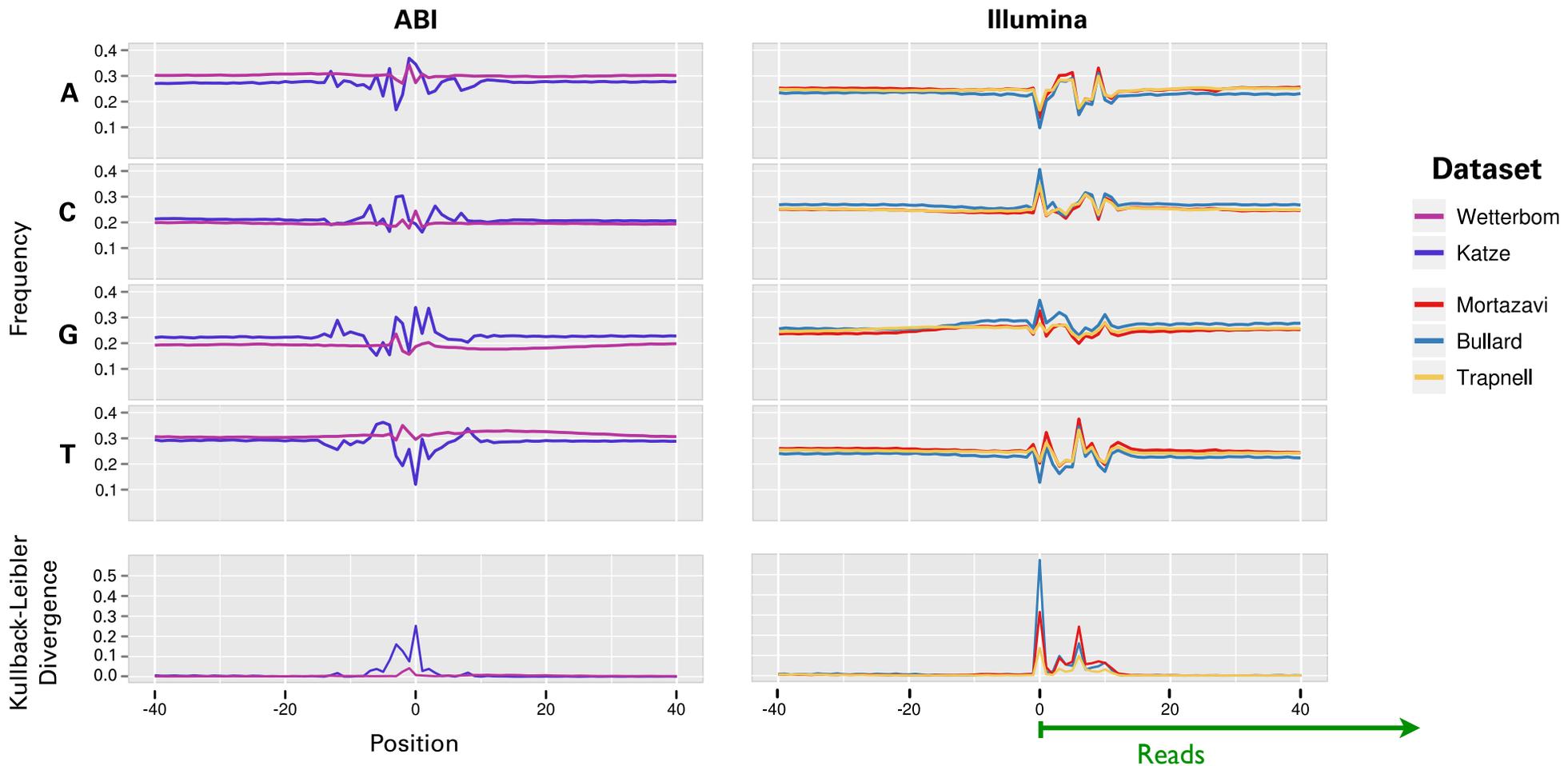


# What we get: *highly non-uniform coverage*



**The Good News:** we can (partially) correct the bias

# Bias is sequence-dependent

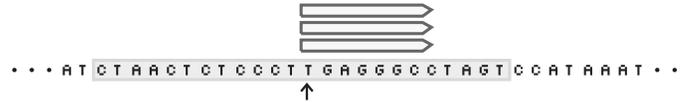


and platform/sample-dependent

Fitting a model of the sequence surrounding read starts lets us predict which positions have more reads.

# Method Outline

(a) sample foreground sequences



(b) sample background sequences

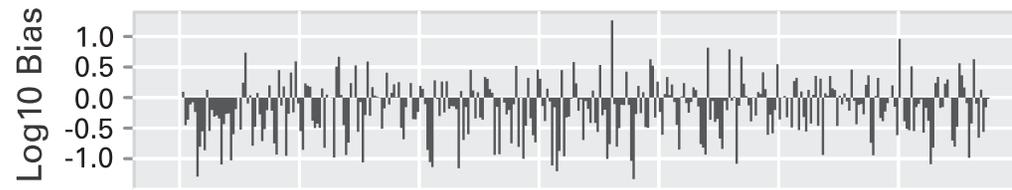


(c) train Bayesian network



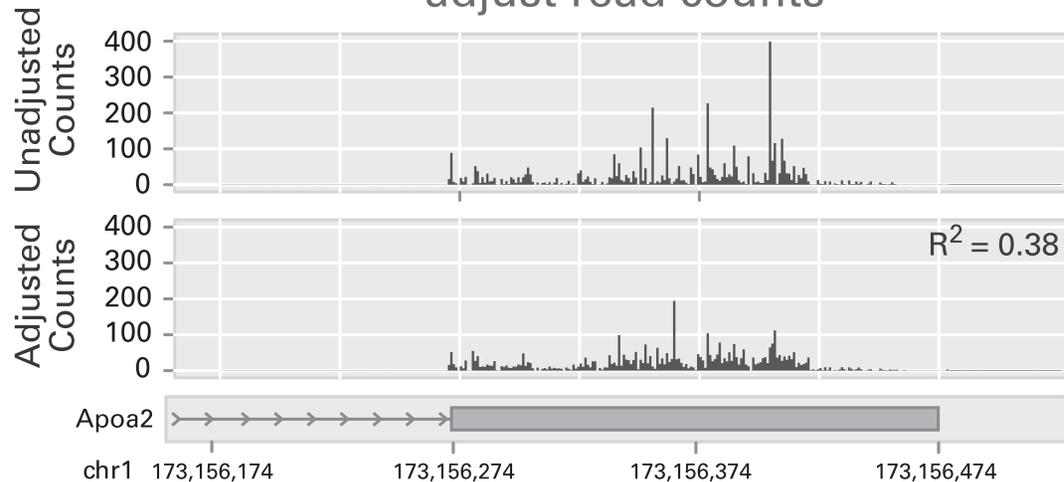
(d)

predict bias



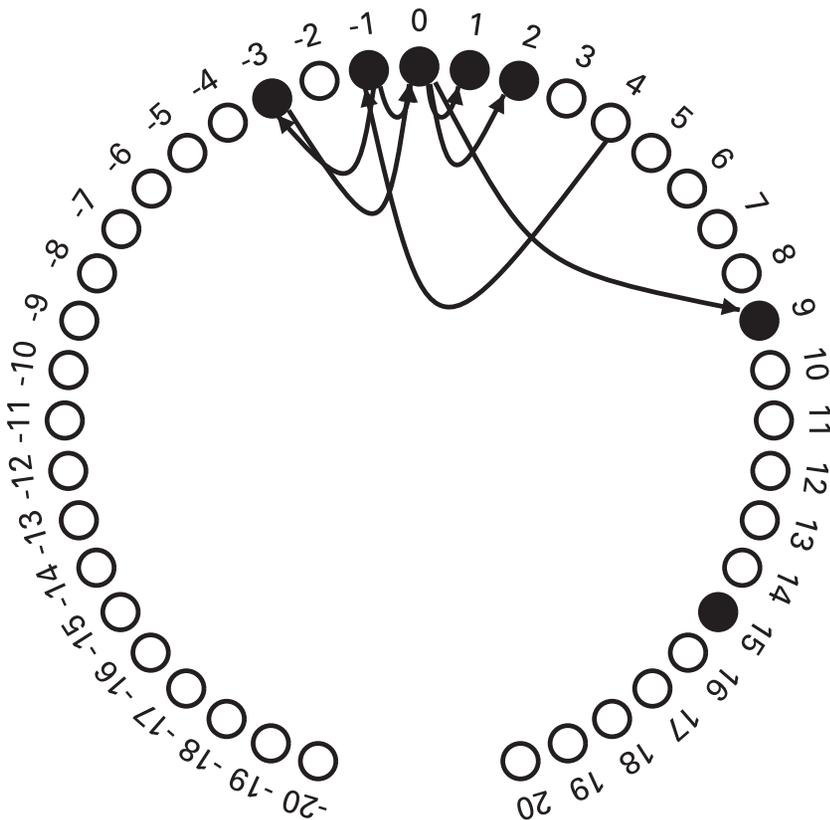
(e)

adjust read counts



# Form of the models:

## Directed Bayes nets



**Wetterbom  
(282 parameters)**

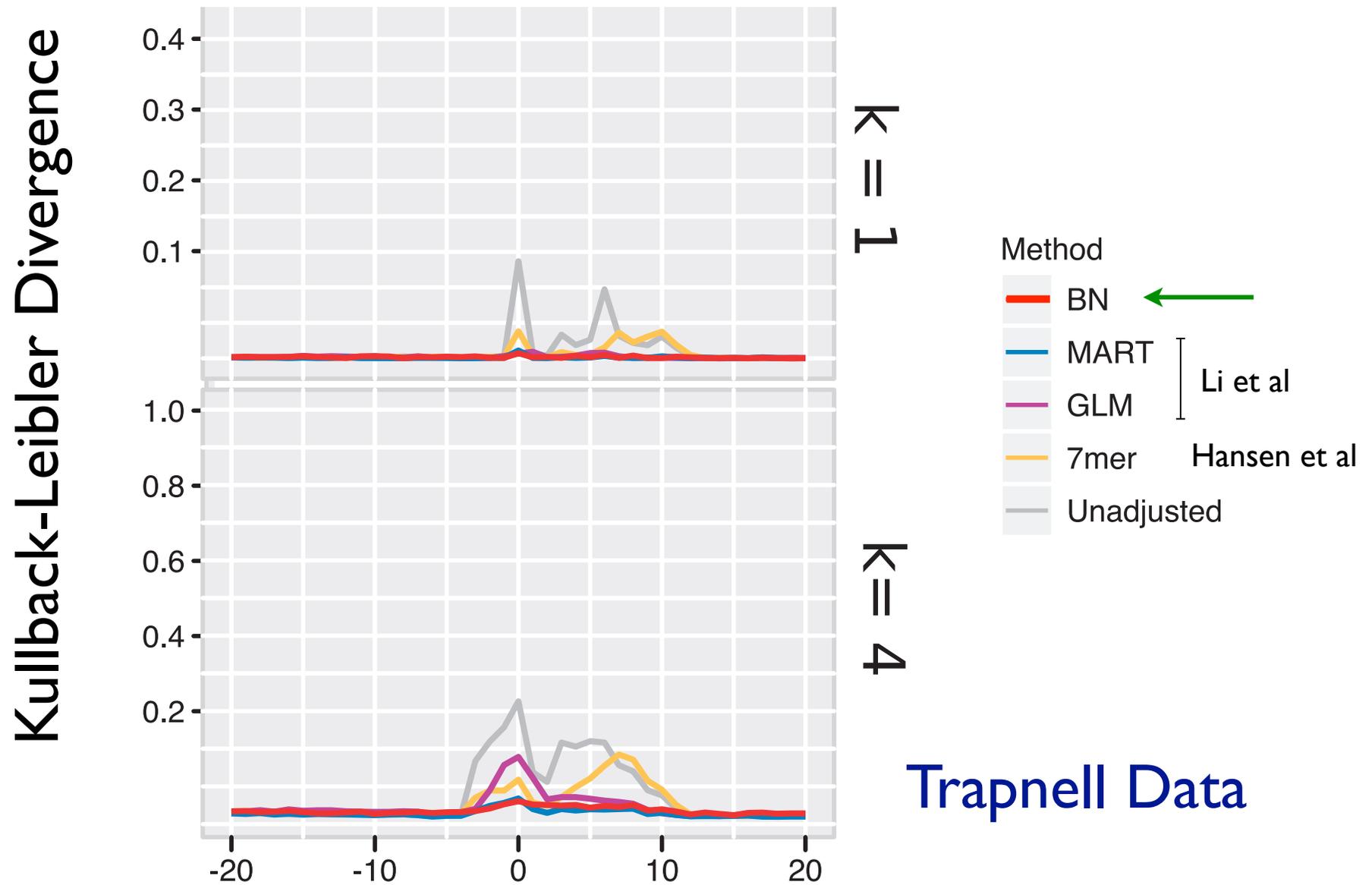
One “node” per nucleotide,  
 $\pm 20$  bp of read start

- Filled node means that position is biased
- Arrow  $i \rightarrow j$  means letter at position  $i$  modifies bias at  $j$
- For both, numeric parameters say how much

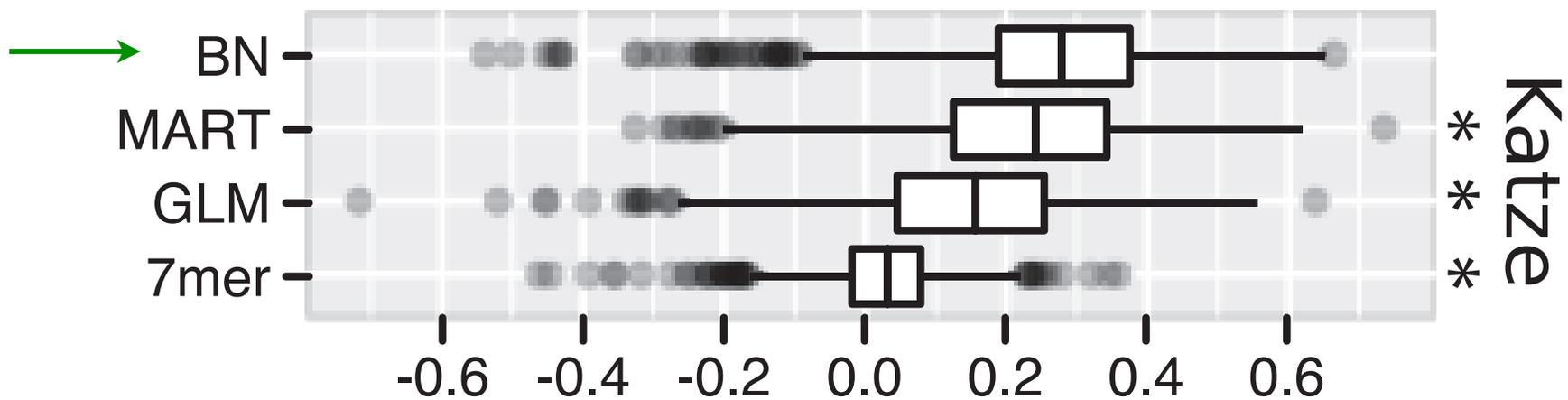
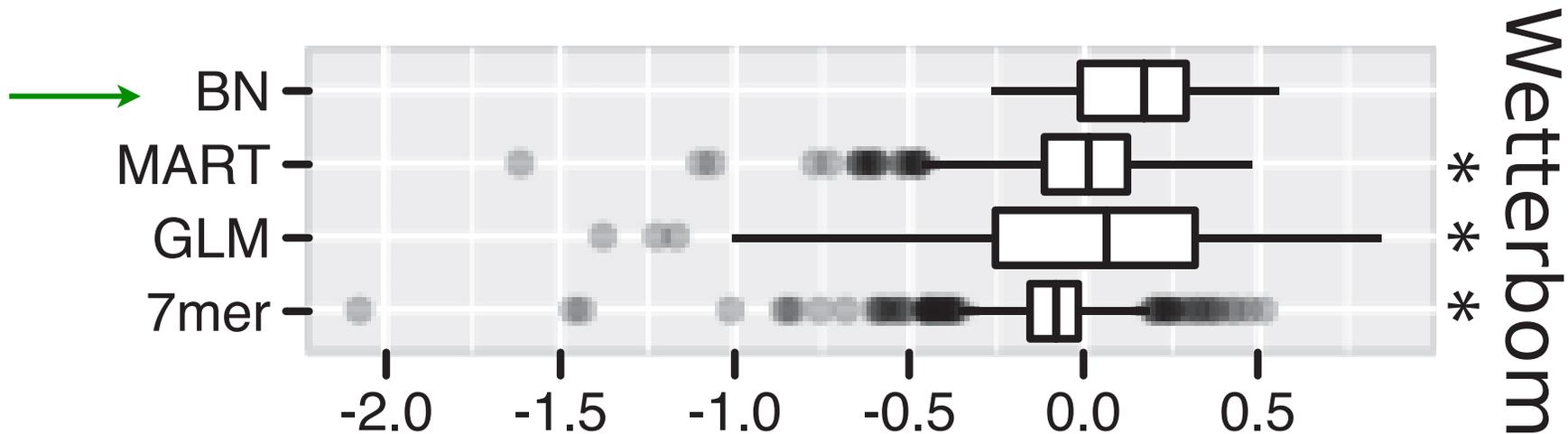
How—optimize:

$$\ell = \sum_{i=1}^n \log \Pr[x_i | s_i] = \sum_{i=1}^n \log \frac{\Pr[s_i | x_i] \Pr[x_i]}{\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}} \Pr[s_i | x] \Pr[x]}$$

# Result – Increased Uniformity



# Result – Increased Uniformity



Fractional improvement  
in log-likelihood under  
uniform model across  
1000 exons ( $R^2 = 1 - L'/L$ )

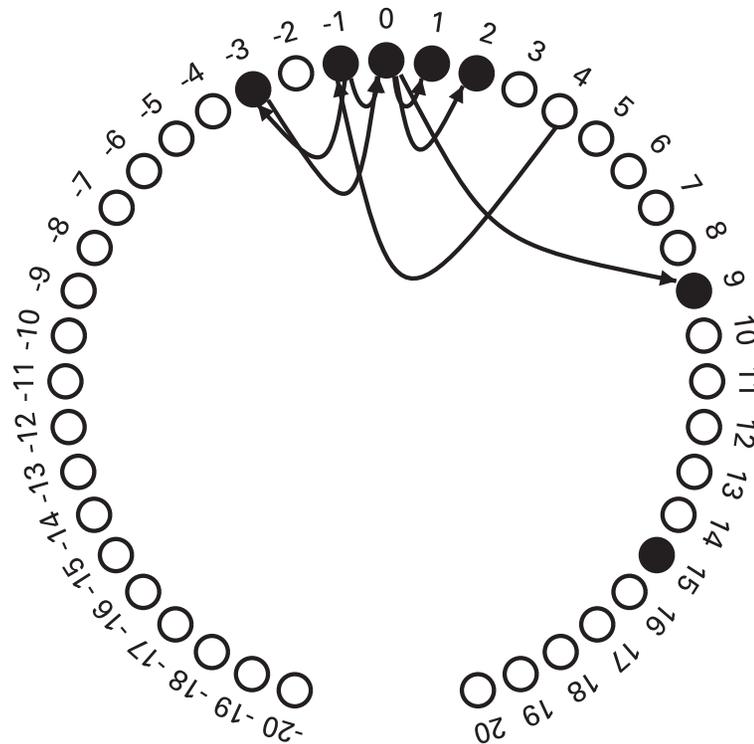
→  $R^2$

\* = p-value <  $10^{-23}$

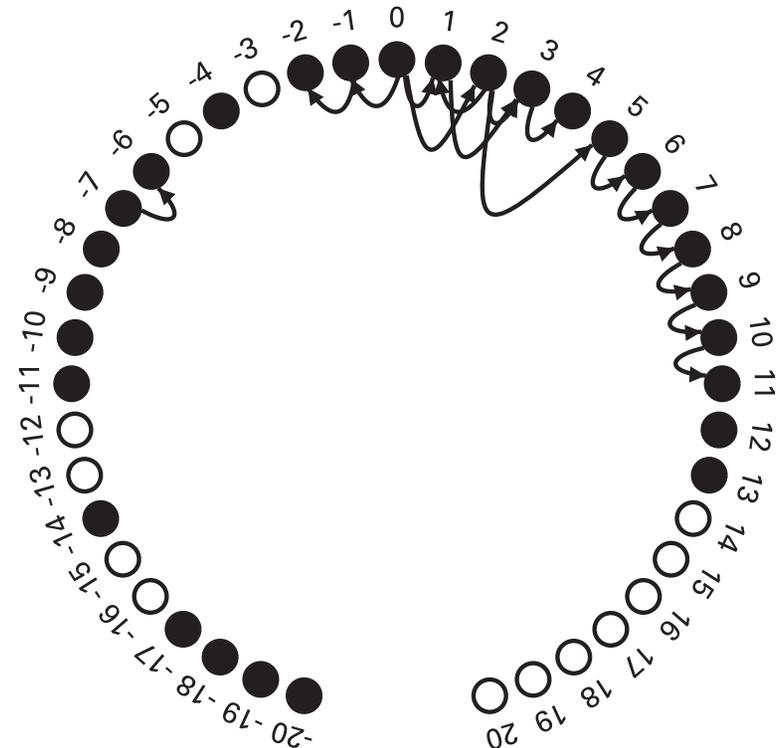
hypothesis test "Is  
BN better than X?"

## some questions

What is the chance that we will learn an incorrect model? E.g., learn a biased model from unbiased input?



**Wetterbom**  
(282 parameters)



**Bullard**  
(696 parameters)

How does the amount of training data effect accuracy of the resulting model?

Probability of falsely inferring “bias” from an unbiased sample declines rapidly with size of training set (provably) ...

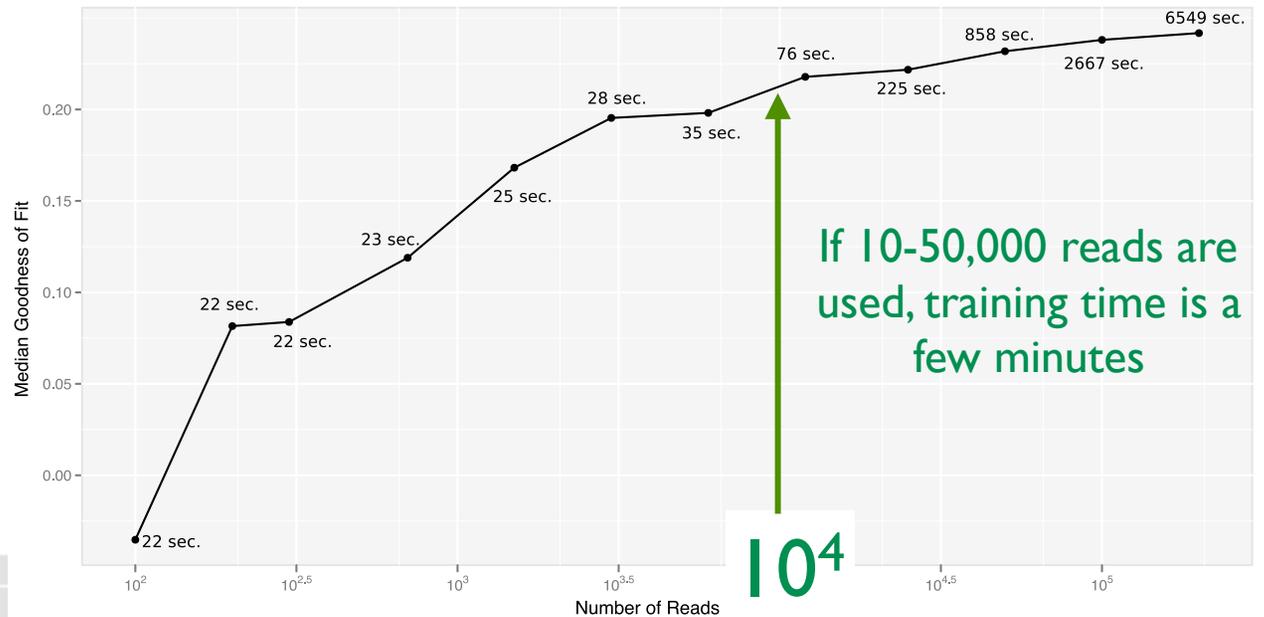
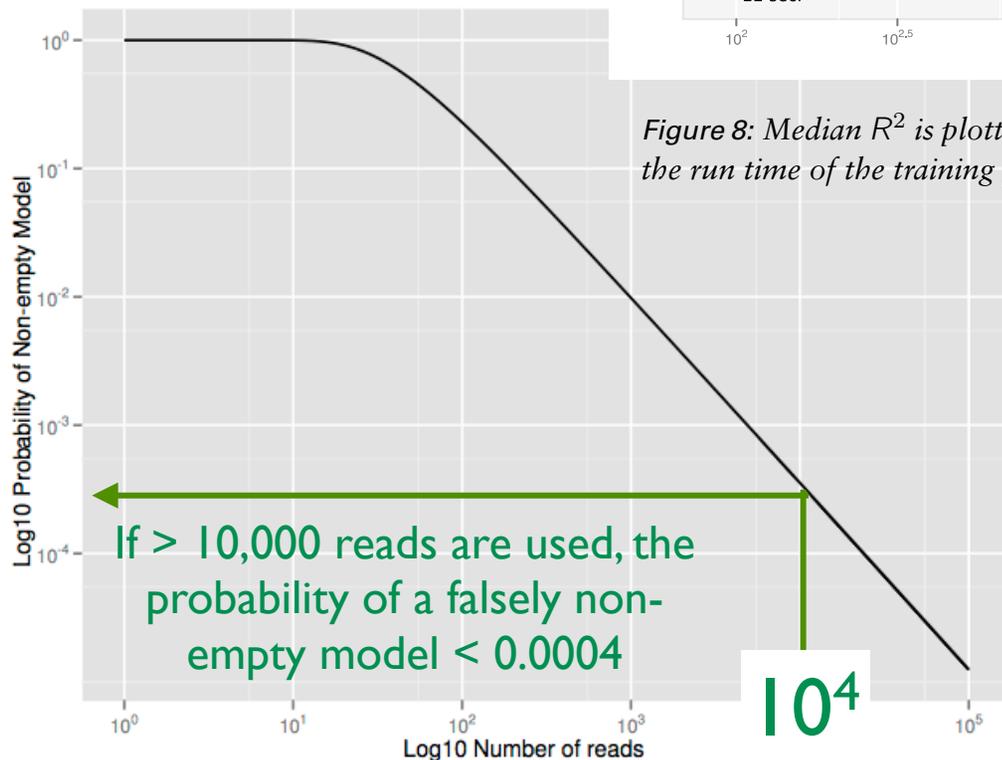
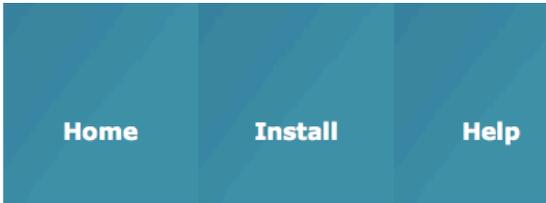


Figure 8: Median  $R^2$  is plotted against training set size. Each point is additionally labeled with the run time of the training procedure.



... while accuracy and runtime rise (empirically)



Home » [Bioconductor 2.12](#) » [Software Packages](#) » seqbias

## seqbias

### Estimation of per-position bias in high-throughput sequencing data

Bioconductor version: Release (2.12)

This package implements a model of per-position sequencing bias in high-throughput sequencing data using a simple Bayesian network, the structure and parameters of which are reads and a reference genome sequence.

Author: Daniel Jones <dcjones at cs.washington.edu>

Maintainer: Daniel Jones <dcjones at cs.washington.edu>

To install this package, start R and enter:

```
source("http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/seqbias")
biocLite("seqbias")
```

To cite this package in a publication, enter:

```
citation("http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/seqbias")
```

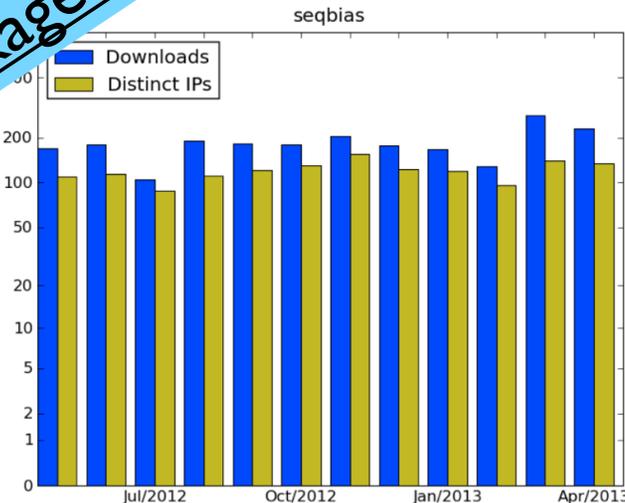
#### Documentation

- Assessing and Adjusting for Technical Bias in High Throughput Sequencing
- Reference Manual

#### Download stats for Software package seqbias

This page was generated on 2013-04-23 10:28:43 -0700 (Tue, 23 Apr 2013).

seqbias home page: [release version](#), [devel version](#).



Month	Downloads	Distinct IPs
May/2012	170	110
Jun/2012	179	114
Jul/2012	105	88
Aug/2012	189	112
Sep/2012	181	121
Oct/2012	180	131
Nov/2012	204	156
Dec/2012	176	123
Jan/2013	168	119
Feb/2013	129	96
Mar/2013	282	140
Apr/2013	228	135
All months	2191	1167

<http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/seqbias.html>

## Isolator

Soon to be the world's best isoform quantitation tool