For written notes on this lecture, please read Chapters 4 and 7 of *The Practical Bioinformatician,* and Koh & Wong, "Recognition of Polyadenylation Sites from Arabidopsis Genomic Sequences",
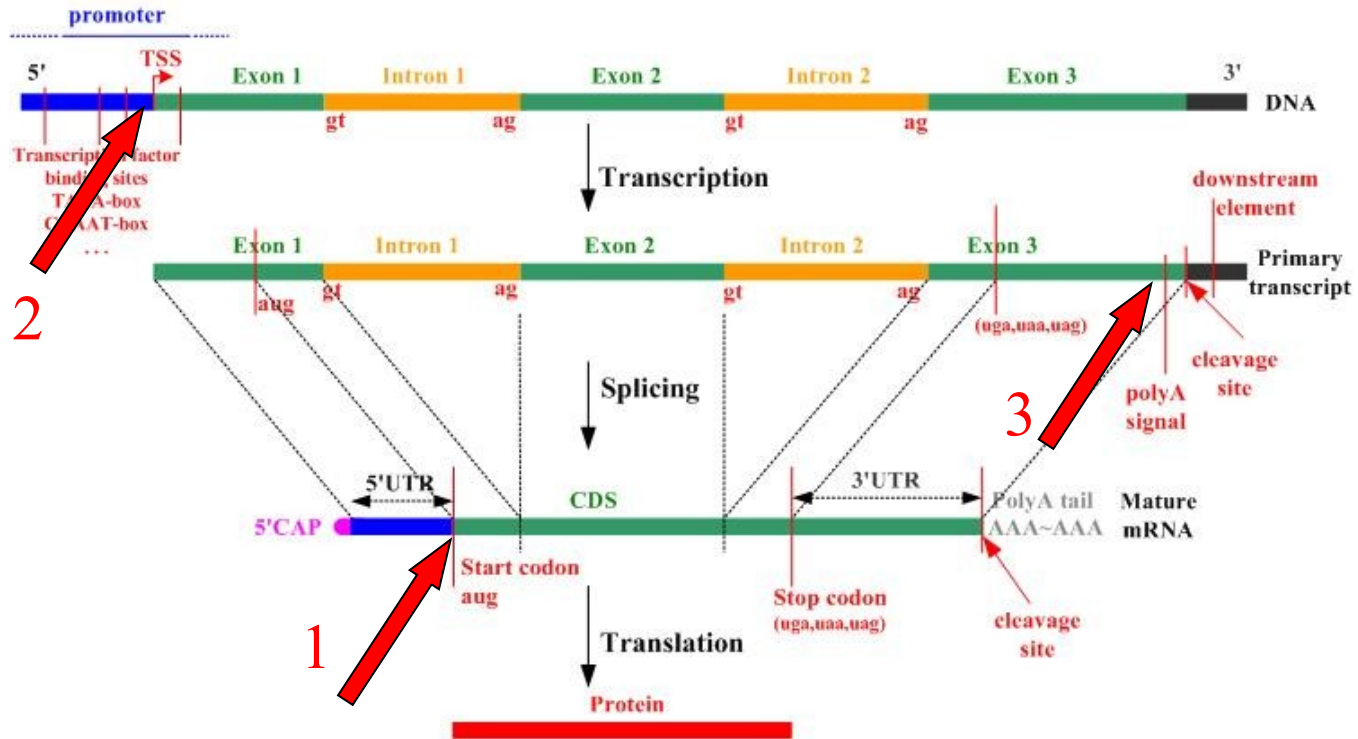 *Proc GIW 2007,* pages 73--82

CS2220: Introduction to Computational Biology
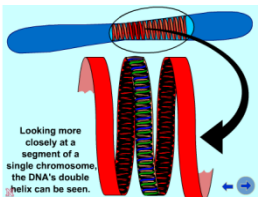# Unit 2: Gene Feature Recognition

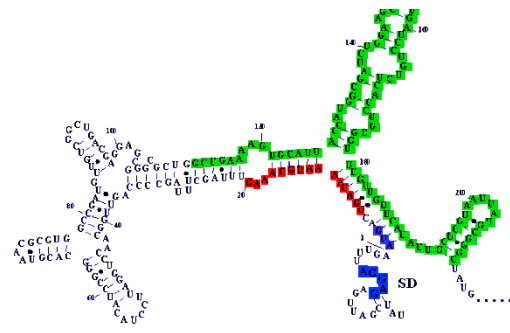## Wong Limsoon

NUS
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of Singapore

Plan

Central dogma

Replication

Transcription

Translation

DNA ➡ RNA ➡ Protein

...AATGGTACCGATGACCTG...
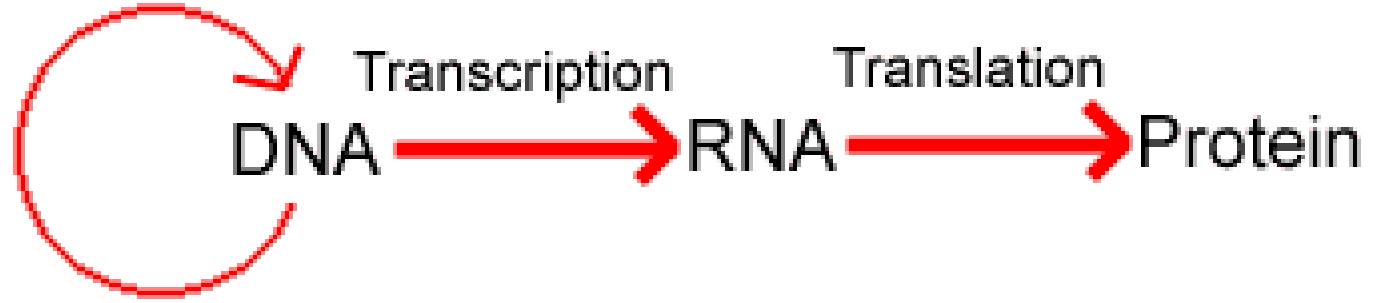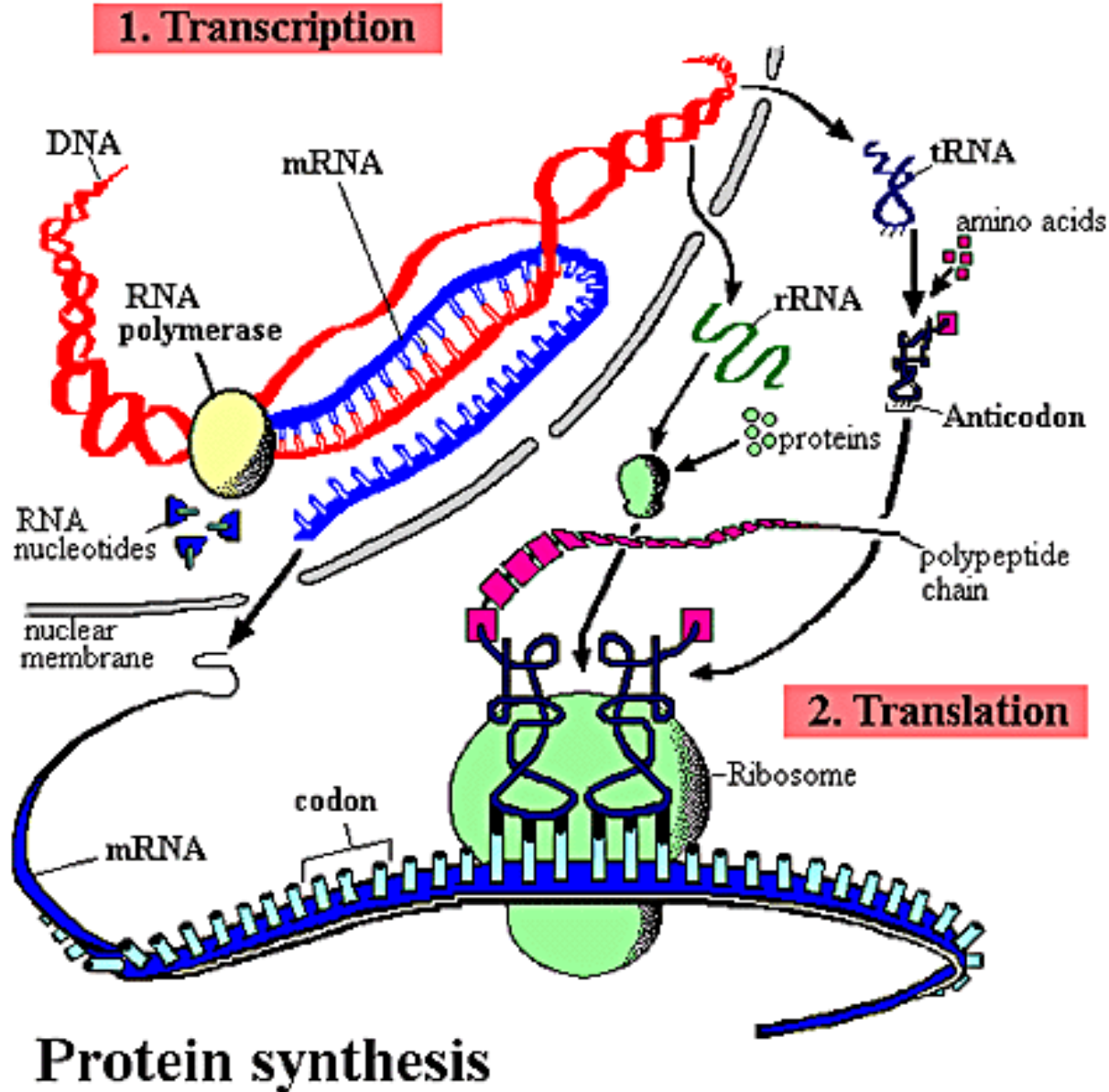
...AAUGGUACCGAUGACCUGGAGC...

...TRLRPLLALLALWP...

Players in protein synthesis
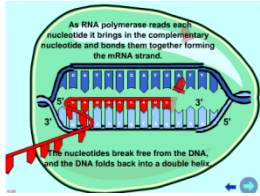
Transcription

- **Synthesize mRNA from one strand of DNA**
  - An enzyme RNA polymerase temporarily separates double-stranded DNA
  - It begins transcription at transcription start site
  - A → A, C→C, G→G, & T→U
  - Once RNA polymerase reaches transcription stop site, transcription stops

- **Additional "steps" for Eukaryotes**
  - Transcription produces pre-mRNA that contains both introns & exons
  - 5' cap & poly-A tail are added to pre-mRNA
  - RNA splicing removes introns & mRNA is made
  - mRNA are transported out of nucleus
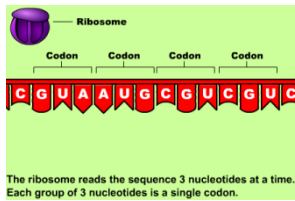
Translation

- **Synthesize protein from mRNA**

- **Each amino acid is encoded by consecutive seq of 3 nucleotides, called a codon**

- **The decoding table from codon to amino acid is called genetic code**

- **4^3=64 diff codons**

- $\Rightarrow$ **Codons are not 1-to-1 corr to 20 amino acids**

- **All organisms use the same decoding table (except some mitochrondrial genes)**

- **Amino acids can be classified into 4 groups. A single-base change in a codon is usu insufficient to cause a codon to code for an amino acid in diff group**

Genetic code

- **Start codon**
  - ATG (code for M)

- **Stop codon**
  - TAA
  - TAG
  - TGA

		Second Position of Codon				
		T	**C**	**A**	**G**	
First Position	**T**	TTT Phe [F] TTC Phe [F] TTA Leu [L] TTG Leu [L]	TCT Ser [S] TCC Ser [S] TCA Ser [S] TCG Ser [S]	TAT Tyr [Y] TAC Tyr [Y] TAA *Ter* [end] TAG *Ter* [end]	TGT Cys [C] TGC Cys [C] TGA *Ter* [end] TGG Trp [W]	T C A G
	C	CTT Leu [L] CTC Leu [L] CTA Leu [L] CTG Leu [L]	CCT Pro [P] CCC Pro [P] CCA Pro [P] CCG Pro [P]	CAT His [H] CAC His [H] CAA Gln [Q] CAG Gln [Q]	CGT Arg [R] CGC Arg [R] CGA Arg [R] CGG Arg [R]	T C A G
	A	ATT Ile [I] ATC Ile [I] ATA Ile [I] ATG Met [M]	ACT Thr [T] ACC Thr [T] ACA Thr [T] ACG Thr [T]	AAT Asn [N] AAC Asn [N] AAA Lys [K] AAG Lys [K]	AGT Ser [S] AGC Ser [S] AGA Arg [R] AGG Arg [R]	T C A G
	G	GTT Val [V] GTC Val [V] GTA Val [V] GTG Val [V]	GCT Ala [A] GCC Ala [A] GCA Ala [A] GCG Ala [A]	GAT Asp [D] GAC Asp [D] GAA Glu [E] GAG Glu [E]	GGT Gly [G] GGC Gly [G] GGA Gly [G] GGG Gly [G]	T C A G

Third Position

Example

Example of computational translation - notice the indication of (alternative) start-codons:

```
VIRTUAL RIBOSOME
----
Translation table: Standard SGC0

>Seq1
Reading frame: 1

    M  V  L  S  A  A  D  K  G  N  V  K  A  A  W  G  K  V  G  G  H  A  A  E  Y  G  A  E  A  L
5' ATGGTGCTGTCTGCCGCCGACAAGGGCAATGTCAAGGCCGCCTGGGGCAAGGTTGGCGGCCACGCTGCAGAGTATGGCGCAGAGGCCCTG 90
   >>>...)))......................................................................>>>..............)))

    E  R  M  F  L  S  F  P  T  T  K  T  Y  F  P  H  F  D  L  S  H  G  S  A  Q  V  K  G  H  G
5' GAGAGGATGTTCCTGAGCTTCCCCACCACCAAGACCTACTTCCCCCACTTCGACCTGAGCCACGGCTCCGCGCAGGTCAAGGGCCACGGC 180
   ......>>>...)))...........................................)))..............................

    A  K  V  A  A  A  L  T  K  A  V  E  H  L  D  D  L  P  G  A  L  S  E  L  S  D  L  H  A  H
5' GCGAAGGTGGCCGCCGCGCTGACCAAAGCGGTGGAACACCTGGACGACCTGCCCGGTGCCCTGTCTGAACTGAGTGACCTGCACGCTCAC 270
   ...................)))..................)))......)))...........)))......)))......)))........

    K  L  R  V  D  P  V  N  F  K  L  L  S  H  S  L  L  V  T  L  A  S  H  L  P  S  D  F  T  P
5' AAGCTGCGTGTGGACCCGGTCAACTTCAAGCTTCTGAGCCACTCCCTGCTGGTGACCCTGGCCTCCCACCTCCCCAGTGATTTCACCCCC 360
   ...)))........................)))........))))))......)))..................................

    A  V  H  A  S  L  D  K  F  L  A  N  V  S  T  V  L  T  S  K  Y  R  *
5' GCGGTCCACGCCTCCCTGGACAAGTTCTTGGCCAACGTGAGCACCGTGCTGACCTCCAAATACCGTTAA 429
   ................)))...........)))...........................)))...............***

Annotation key:
>>> : START codon (strict)
))) : START codon (alternative)
*** : STOP
```
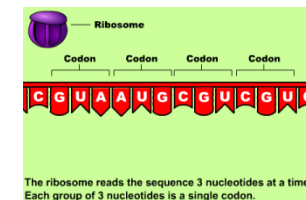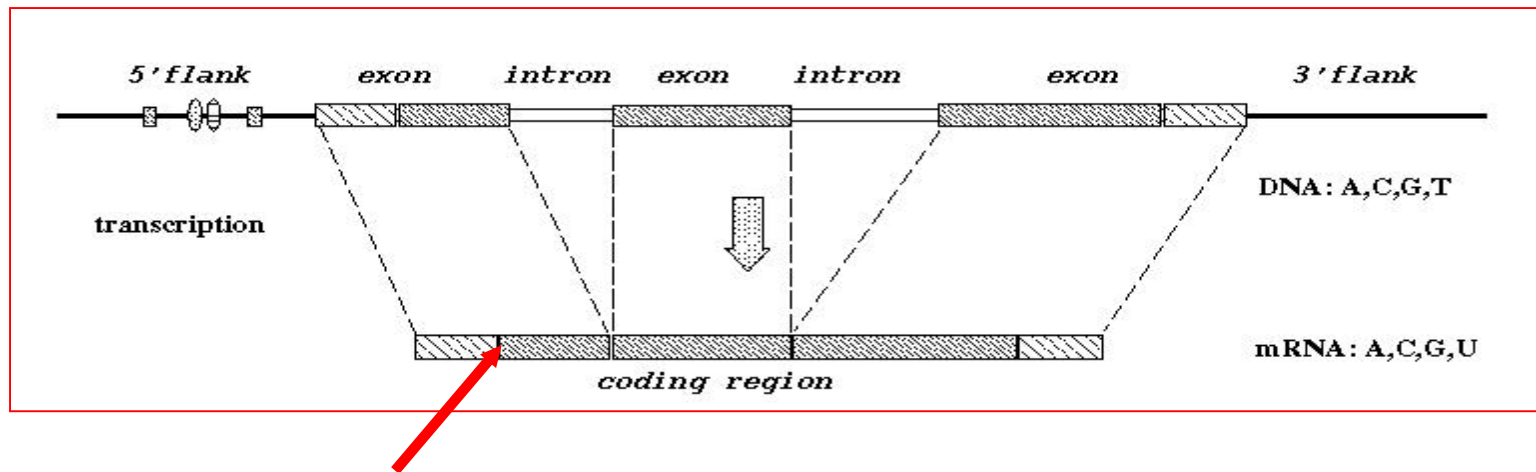
Translation initiation sites

An introduction to the World's simplest TIS recognition system

Translation initiation site

A sample cDNA

```
299 HSU27655.1 CAT U27655 Homo sapiens
CGTGTGTGCAGCAGCCTGCAGCTGCCCCAAGCCATGGCTGAACACTGACTCCCAGCTGTG        80
CCCAGGGCTTCAAAGACTTCTCAGCTTCGAGCATGGCTTTTGGCTGTCAGGGCAGCTGTA       160
GGAGGCAGATGAGAAGAGGGAGATGGCCTTGGAGGAAGGGAAGGGGCCTGGTGCCGAGGA       240
CCTCTCCTGGCCAGGAGCTTCCTCCAGGACAAGACCTTCCACCCAACAAGGACTCCCCT
..........................................................        80
...............................iEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE       160
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE       240
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
```

- **What makes the second ATG the TIS?**

Approach

- **Training data gathering**

- **Signal generation**
  - k-grams, distance, domain know-how, ...

- **Signal selection**
  - Entropy, $\chi2$, CFS, t-test, domain know-how...

- **Signal integration**
  - SVM, ANN, PCL, CART, C4.5, kNN, ...

Training & testing data

- **Vertebrate dataset of Pedersen & Nielsen [ISMB'97]**
- **3312 sequences**
- **13503 ATG sites**
- **3312 (24.5%) are TIS**
- **10191 (75.5%) are non-TIS**
- **Use for 3-fold x-validation expts**

Signal generation

- **K-grams (ie., k consecutive letters)**
  - K = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, …
  - Window size vs. fixed position
  - Up-stream, downstream vs. any where in window
  - In-frame vs. any frame
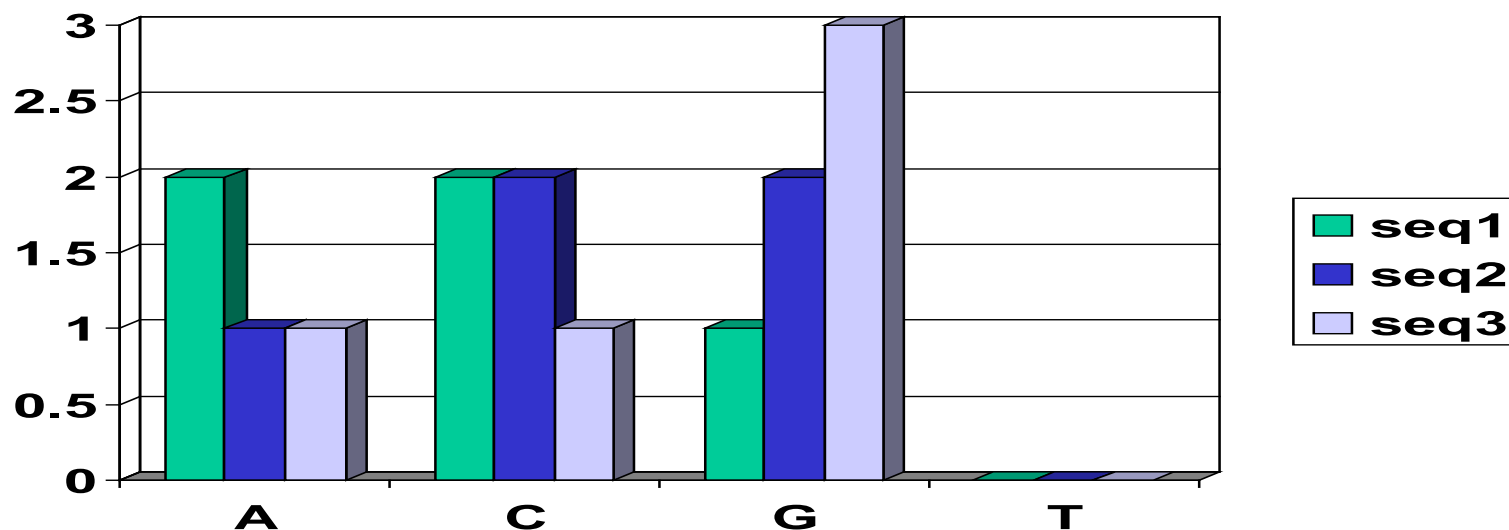
Signal generation: Example

```
299 HSU27655.1 CAT U27655 Homo sapiens
CGTGTGTGCAGCAGCCTGCAGCTGCCCCAAGCCATGGCTGAACACTGACTCCCAGCTGTG    80
CCCAGGGCTTCAAAGACTTCTCAGCTTCGAGCATGGCTTTTTGGCTGTCAGGGCAGCTGTA   160
GGAGGCAGATGAGAAGAGGGAGATGGCCTTGGAGGAAGGGAAGGGGCCTGGTGCCGAGGA   240
CCTCTCCTGGCCAGGAGCTTCCTCCAGGACAAGACCTTCCACCCAACAAGGACTCCCCT
```

- **Window = ±100 bases**

- **In-frame, downstream**
  - GCT = 1, TTT = 1, ATG = 1…

- **Any-frame, downstream**
  - GCT = 3, TTT = 2, ATG = 2…

- **In-frame, upstream**
  - GCT = 2, TTT = 0, ATG = 0, ...

Exercise: Find the in-frame downstream ATG

Exercise #1

Feature generation - Summary

Raw Data

```
    206   BBCALCB.1 CAT X71666 Eukaryotae; mitochondrial eukaryotes; Metazoa; Chordata;
CCGTCAGAGCGCCGACACTCTTCTCTGTGCGAGCGAGCCGCCGACCGCCAAGCAAATTGGGAAATGAGGCAAGTTATCCT
TTGGAAATGTGCTCACACTTTGATGCAGATGAAATTAAAAGGCTAGGAAAGAGATTTAAGAAGCTCGATTTGGACAATTC
TGGTTCTTTGAGTGTGGAAGAGTTCATGTCTCTACCTGAGTTACAA
..............................................................iEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
```

An ATG segment – positive sample

```
> 206 +1_Index(56)
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNCCGTCAGAGCGCCGACACTCTTCTCTGTGCGAGCGAG
CCGCCGACCGCCAAGCAAAATGGGAAATGAGGCAAGTTATCCTTTGGAAATGTGCTCACACTTTGATGCAGATGAAATTA
AAAGGCTAGGAAAGAGATTTAAGAAGCTCGATTTGGACAAT
```

A feature vector --- upstream/downstream inframe 3 grams

```
1,0,0,0,1,0,0,0,1,2,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,0,2,0,2,1,0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,2,0,
0,0,0,0,0,1,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0,1,0,0,1,0,3,2,0,0,0,0,1,0,1,1,0,0,1,1,
0,1,0,0,0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,1,1,0,0,2,1,1,3,2,0,0,0,2,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,1,0,0,0,
0,1,0,0,0,0,2,2,pos
```

Too many features

- **For each value of k, there are $4^k * 3 * 2$ k-grams**

- **If we use k = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, we have 24 + 96 + 384 + 1536 + 6144 = 8184 features!**

- **This is too many for most machine learning algorithms**

Signal selection: Basic idea

- **Choose a signal w/ low intra-class distance**
- **Choose a signal w/ high inter-class distance**
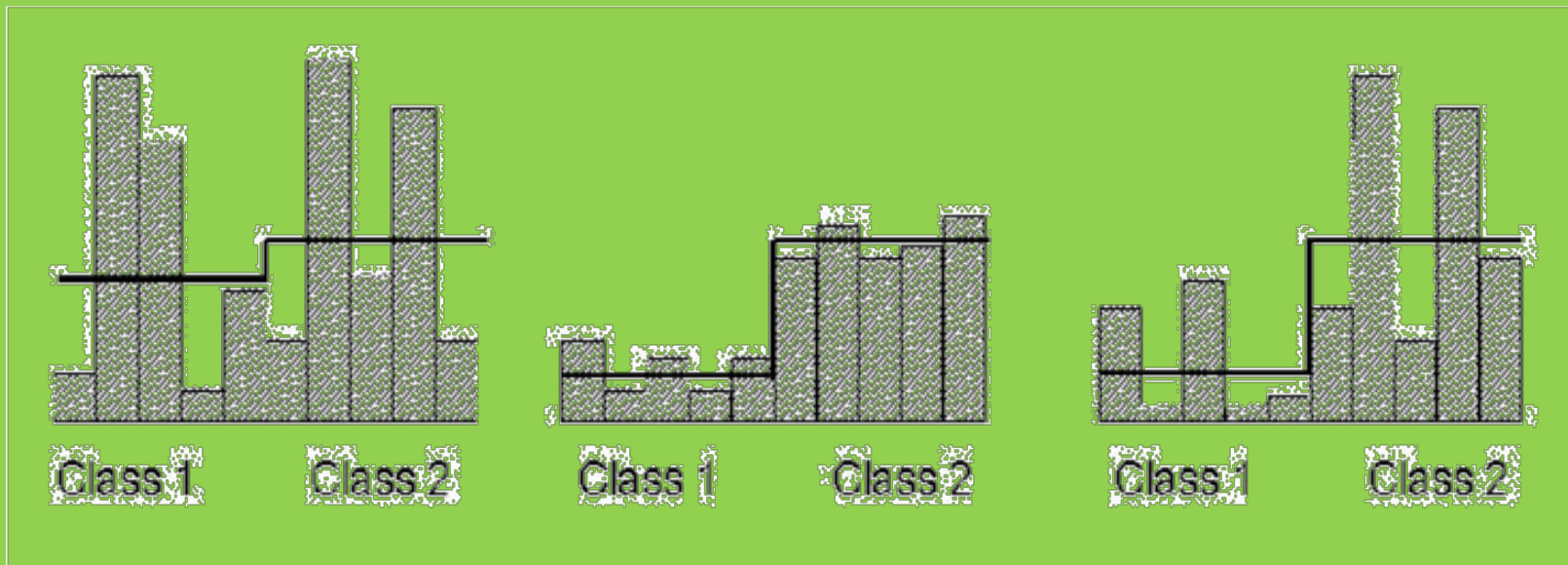
- **Which of these three features are best for distinguishing Class 1 from Class 2? Why?**

Exercise #2

Signal selection: t-statistics

The t-stats of a signal is defined as

$$t = \frac{|\mu_1 - \mu_2|}{\sqrt{(\sigma_1^2/n_1) + (\sigma_2^2/n_2)}}$$

where σ_i^2 is the variance of that signal in class i, μ_i is the mean of that signal in class i, and n_i is the size of class i.

Signal selection: χ2

The $\mathcal{X}^2$ value of a signal is defined as:

$$\mathcal{X}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \frac{(A_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}},$$

where m is the number of intervals, k the number of classes, A_{ij} the number of samples in the ith interval, jth class, R_i the number of samples in the ith interval, C_j the number of samples in the jth class, N the total number of samples, and E_{ij} the expected frequency of A_{ij} ($E_{ij} = R_i * C_j / N$).

Example

- **Suppose you have a sample of 50 men and 50 women and the following weight distribution is observed:**

	obs	exp	(obs – exp)^2/exp
HM	40	60*50/100=30	3.3
HW	20	60*50/100=30	3.3
LM	10	40*50/100=20	5.0
LW	30	40*50/100=20	5.0

$\chi 2=16.6$
P = 0.00004,
df = 1
So weight and
sex are not indep

- **Is weight a good attribute for distinguishing men from women?**

Exercise #3

Signal selection: CFS

- **Instead of scoring individual signals, how about scoring a group of signals as a whole?**

- **CFS**
  - Correlation-based Feature Selection
  - A good group contains signals that are highly correlated with the class, and yet uncorrelated with each other

- **What is the main challenge in implementing CFS?**

Distributions of two 3-grams

| Name: INFRAME_UPSTREAM_ATG | | Type: Numeric |
| Missing: 0 (0%) | Distinct: 11 | Unique: 1 (0%) |

Statistic	Value
Minimum	0
Maximum	10
Mean	0.585
StdDev	0.874

Class: Class (Nom)   Visualize All

$$\chi 2 = 1672.97447$$

| Name: INFRAME_UPSTREAM_CTT | | Type: Numeric |
| Missing: 0 (0%) | Distinct: 7 | Unique: 1 (0%) |

Statistic	Value
Minimum	0
Maximum	6
Mean	0.419
StdDev	0.695

Class: Class (Nom)   Visualize All

$$\chi 2 = 0$$
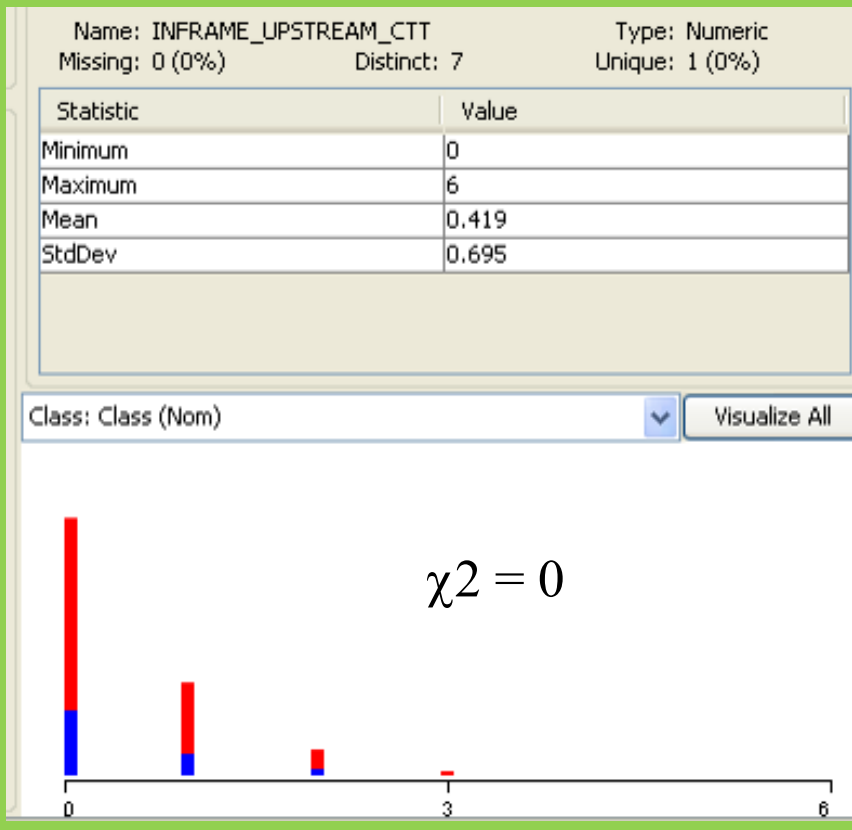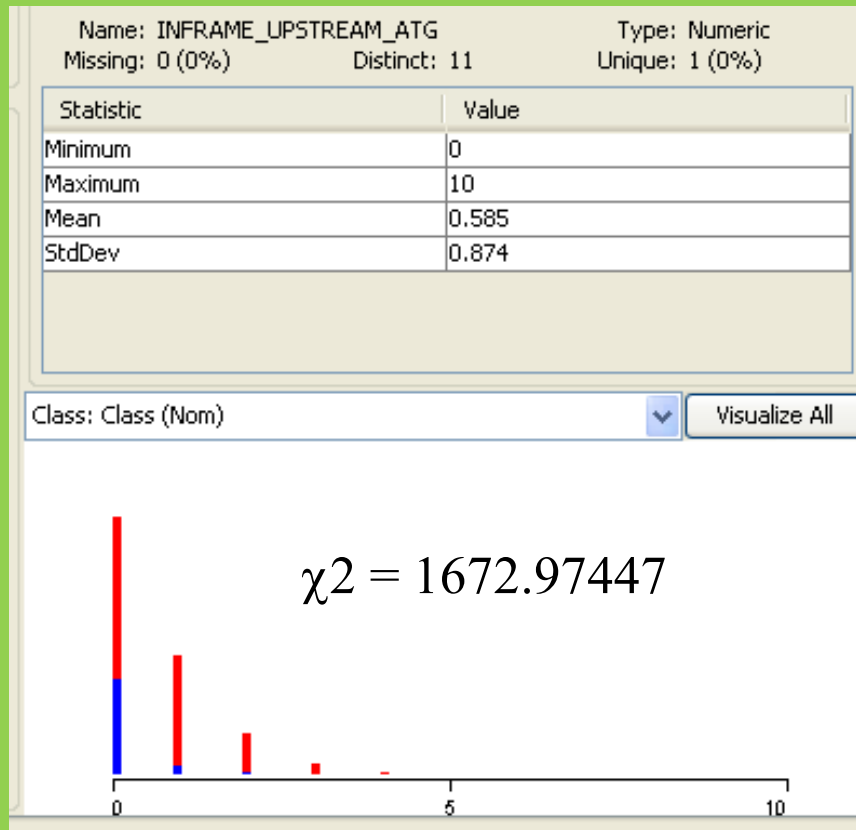
- **Which is the better one? Why?**

Exercise #4

Sample k-grams selected by CFS for recognizing TIS

Leaky scanning

Kozak consensus

Stop codon

- **Position –3**
- **in-frame upstream ATG**
- **in-frame downstream**
  – TAA, TAG, TGA,
  – CTG, GAC, GAG, and GCC

Codon bias?
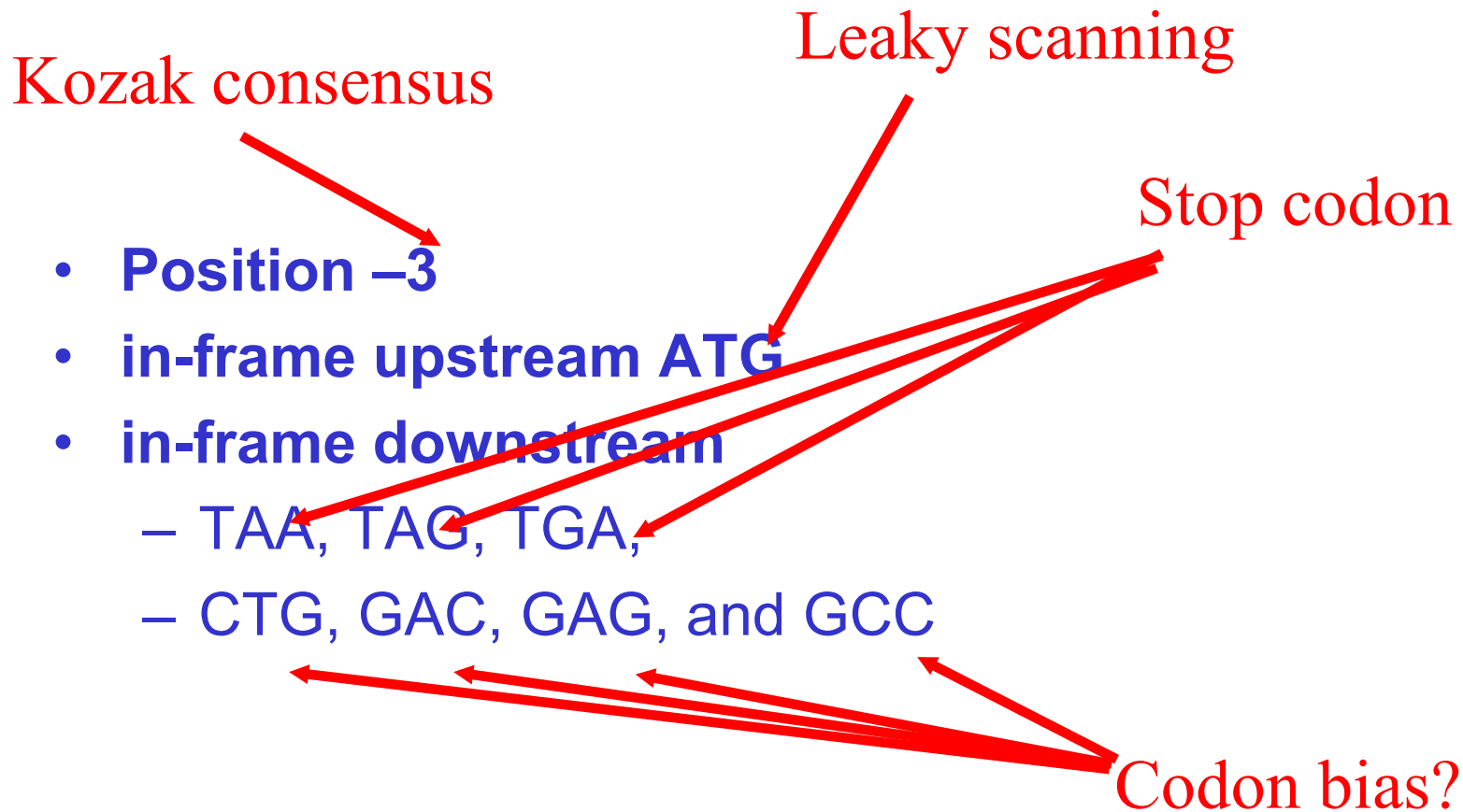
Signal integration

- **kNN**
  - Given a test sample, find the k training samples that are most similar to it. Let the majority class win

- **SVM**
  - Given a group of training samples from two classes, determine a separating plane that maximises the margin of error

- **Naïve Bayes, ANN, C4.5, ...**

Results: 3-fold x-validation

	predicted as positive	predicted as negative
positive	TP	FN
negative	FP	TN

Exercise:
What is TP/(TP+FP)?

	TP/(TP + FN)	TN/(TN + FP)	TP/(TP + FP)	Accuracy
Naïve Bayes	84.3%	86.1%	66.3%	85.7%
SVM	73.9%	93.2%	77.9%	88.5%
Neural Network	77.6%	93.2%	78.8%	89.4%
Decision Tree	74.0%	94.4%	81.1%	89.4%

Improvement by voting

- **Apply any 3 of Naïve Bayes, SVM, Neural Network, & Decision Tree. Decide by majority**

	TP/(TP + FN)	TN/(TN + FP)	TP/(TP + FP)	Accuracy
NB+SVM+NN	**79.2%**	**92.1%**	**76.5%**	**88.9%**
NB+SVM+Tree	**78.8%**	**92.0%**	**76.2%**	**88.8%**
NB+NN+Tree	**77.6%**	**94.5%**	**82.1%**	**90.4%**
SVM+NN+Tree	**75.9%**	**94.3%**	**81.2%**	**89.8%**
Best of 4	**84.3%**	**94.4%**	**81.1%**	**89.4%**
Worst of 4	**73.9%**	**86.1%**	**66.3%**	**85.7%**

Improvement by scanning

- **Apply Naïve Bayes or SVM left-to-right until first ATG predicted as positive. That's the TIS**
- **Naïve Bayes & SVM models were trained using TIS vs. Up-stream ATG**

	TP/(TP + FN)	TN/(TN + FP)	TP/(TP + FP)	Accuracy
NB	**84.3%**	**86.1%**	**66.3%**	**85.7%**
SVM	**73.9%**	**93.2%**	**77.9%**	**88.5%**
NB+Scanning	**87.3%**	**96.1%**	**87.9%**	**93.9%**
SVM+Scanning	**88.5%**	**96.3%**	**88.6%**	**94.4%**

Performance comparison

	TP/(TP + FN)	TN/(TN + FP)	TP/(TP + FP)	Accuracy
NB	84.3%	86.1%	66.3%	85.7%
Decision Tree	74.0%	94.4%	81.1%	89.4%
NB+NN+Tree	77.6%	94.5%	82.1%	90.4%
SVM+Scanning	88.5%	96.3%	88.6%	94.4%*
Pedersen&Nielsen	78%	87%	-	85%
Zien	69.9%	94.1%	-	88.1%
Hatzigeorgiou	-	-	-	94%*

* result not directly comparable

Technique comparison

- **Pedersen&Nielsen [ISMB'97]**
  - Neural network
  - No explicit features

- **Zien [Bioinformatics'00]**
  - SVM+kernel engineering
  - No explicit features

- **Hatzigeorgiou [Bioinformatics'02]**
  - Multiple neural networks
  - Scanning rule
  - No explicit features

- **Our approach**
  - Explicit feature generation
  - Explicit feature selection
  - Use any machine learning method w/o any form of complicated tuning
 - Scanning rule is optional

mRNA→protein

RNA

Ribonucleic acid

A
T
E
L
R
S
stop

Codon 1
Codon 2
Codon 3
Codon 4
Codon 5
Codon 6
Codon 7
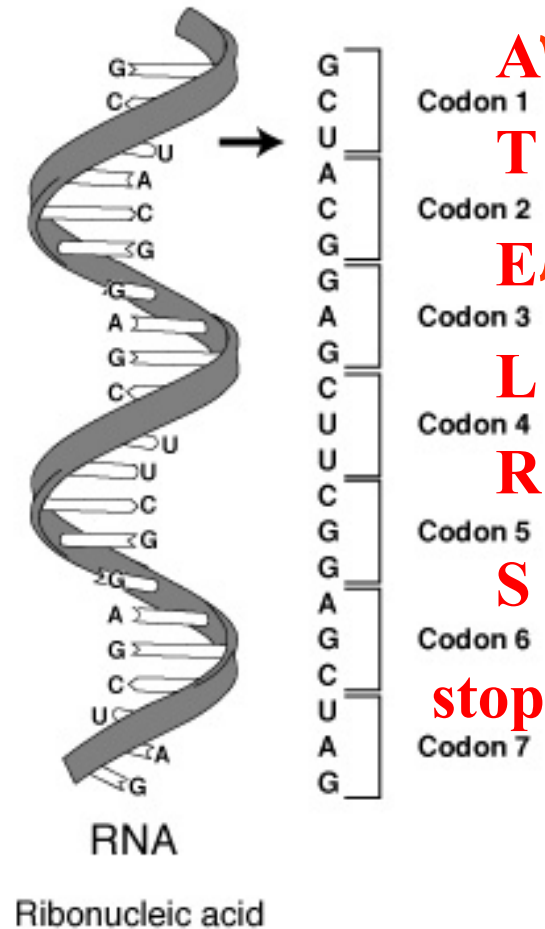
How about using k-grams from the translation?

First	U	C	A	G	Last
U	Phe **F**	Ser **S**	Tyr **Y**	Cys **C**	U
	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	C
	Leu **L**	Ser	**Stop** (Ochre)	**Stop** (Umber) **W**	A
	Leu	Ser	**Stop** (Amber)	Trp	G
C	Leu	Pro **P**	His **H**	Arg **R**	U
	Leu	Pro	His	Arg	C
	Leu	Pro	Gln **Q**	Arg	A
	Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg	G
A	Ile **I**	Thr **T**	Asn **N**	Ser	U
	Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser	C
	Ile	Thr	Lys **K**	Arg	A
	Met **M**	Thr	Lys	Arg	G
G	Val **V**	Ala **A**	Asp **D**	Gly **G**	U
	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly	C
	Val	Ala	Glu **E**	Gly	A
	Val	Ala	Glu	Gly	G

Exercise: List the first 10 amino acid in our example sequence

Amino-acid features
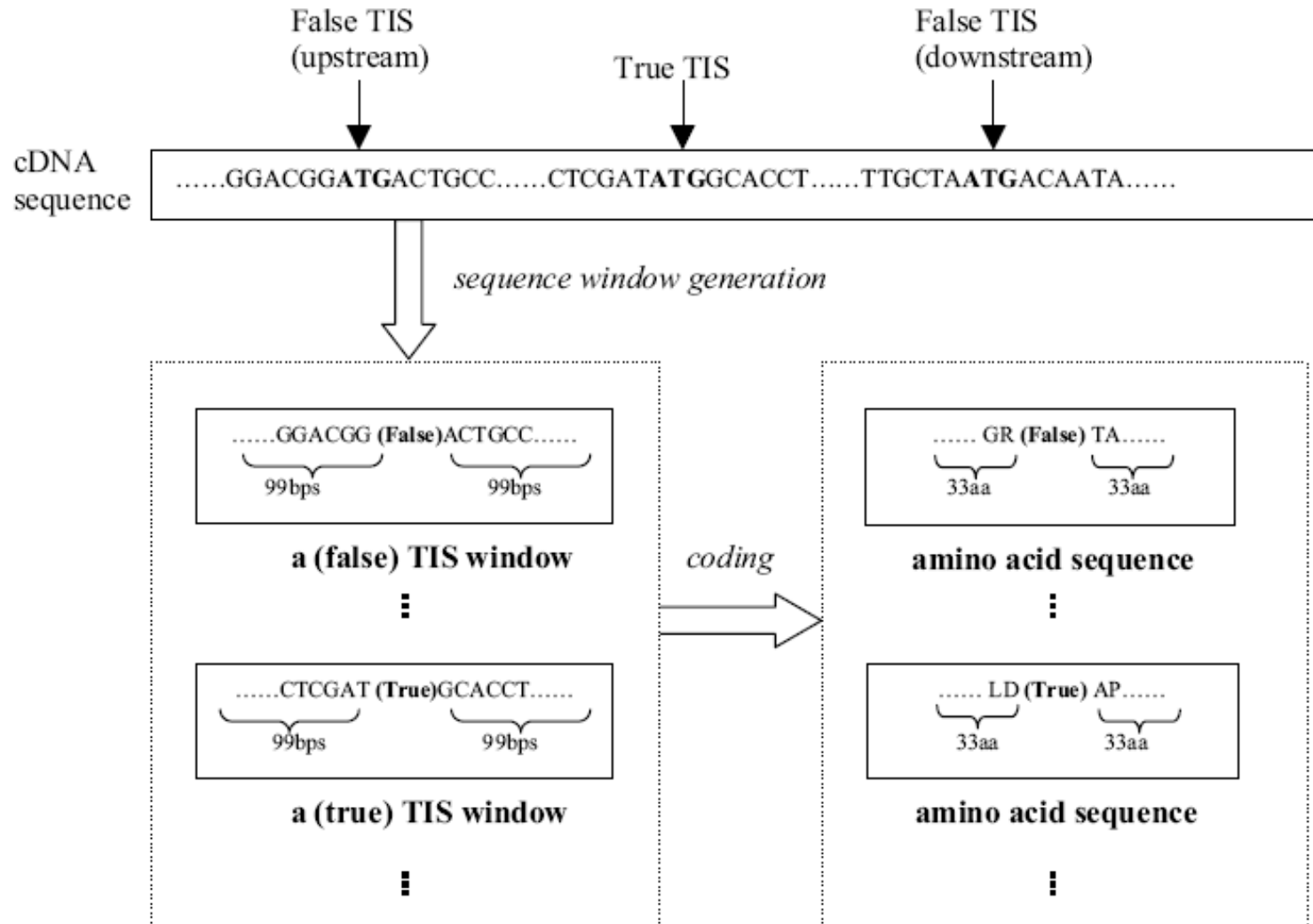
Amino-acid features
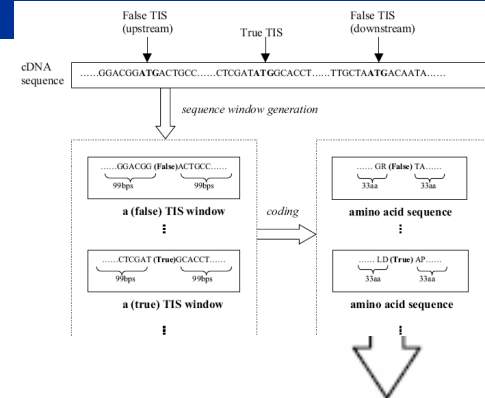
New feature space (total of 927 features + class label)			
42 1-gram amino acid patterns	882 2-gram amino acid patterns	3 bio-know-ledge patterns	class label
UP-A, UP-R, ….,UP-N, DOWN-A, DOWN-R, …., DOWN-N (numeric type)	UP-AA, UP-AR, …., UP-NN, DOWN-AA, DOWN-AR , …., DOWN-NN (numeric type)	DOWN4-G UP3-AorG, UP-ATG (boolean type, Y or N)	True, False
Frequency as values			
1, 3, 5, 0, 4, … ⋮ 6, 5, 7, 9, 0, … ⋮	6, 2, 7, 0, 5, … ⋮ 2, 0, 3, 10, 0, … ⋮	N, N, N, ⋮ Y, Y, Y, ⋮	False ⋮ True ⋮

Amino acid K-grams discovered by entropy

NUS
National University
of Singapore

Leaky scanning

Kozak consensus

- Position −3
- in-frame upstream ATG
- in-frame downstream
    - **TAA, TAG, TGA**,
    - CTG, GAC, GAG, and GCC

Stop codon

Codon bias

Fold	UP-ATG	DOWN-STOP	UP3-AorG	DOWN-A	DOWN-V	UP-A	DOWN-L	DOWN-D	DOWN-E	UP-G
1	1	2	4	3	6	5	8	9	7	10
2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	7	10

Independent validation sets

- **A. Hatzigeorgiou:**
  - 480 fully sequenced human cDNAs
  - 188 left after eliminating sequences similar to training set (Pedersen & Nielsen's)
  - 3.42% of ATGs are TIS

- **Our own:**
  - Well-characterized human gene sequences from chromosome X (565 TIS) and chromosome 21 (180 TIS)
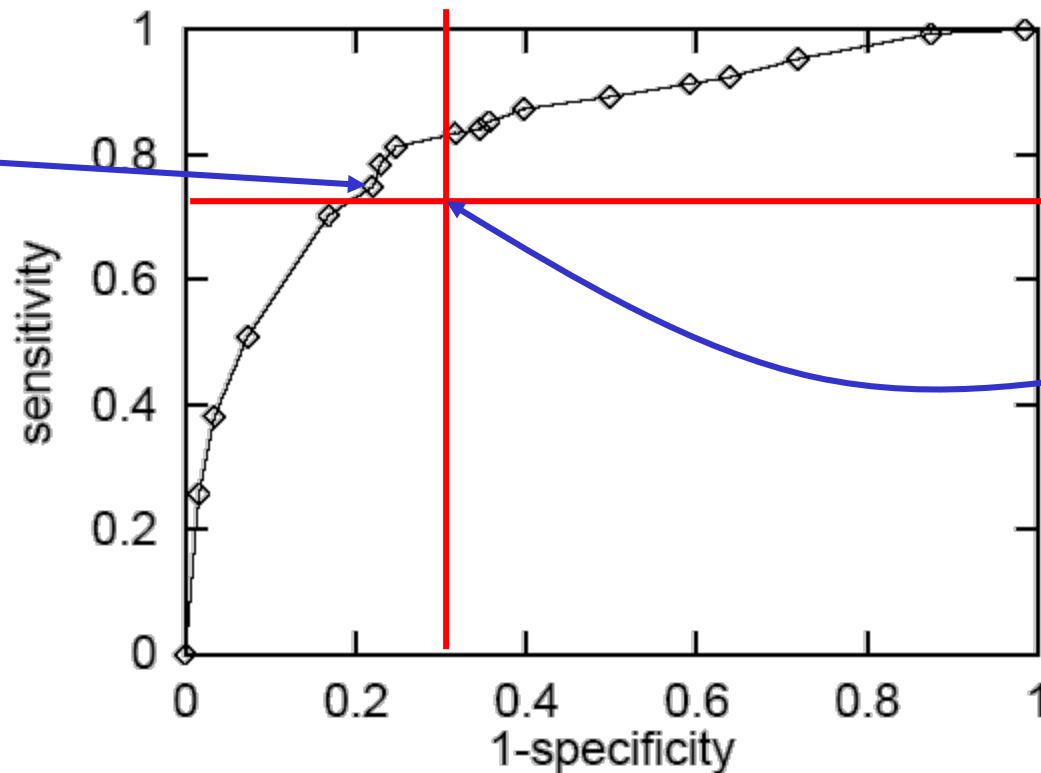
Validation results, on Hatzigeorgiou's

Algorithm	Sensitivity	Specificity	Precision	Accuracy
SVMs(linear)	96.28%	89.15%	25.31%	89.42%
SVMs(quad)	94.14%	90.13%	26.70%	90.28%
Ensemble Trees	92.02%	92.71%	32.52%	92.68%

– Using top 100 features selected by entropy and trained on Pedersen & Nielsen's dataset

Validation results, on Chr X & 21

Our method

ATGpr

- **Using top 100 features selected by entropy and trained on Pedersen & Nielsen's**

About the inventor: Huiqing Liu

- **Huiqing Liu**
  - PhD, NUS, 2004
  - Currently PI at Incyte
  - Asian Innovation Gold Award 2003
  - New Jersey Cancer Research Award for Scientific Excellence 2008
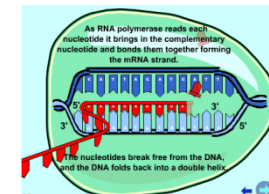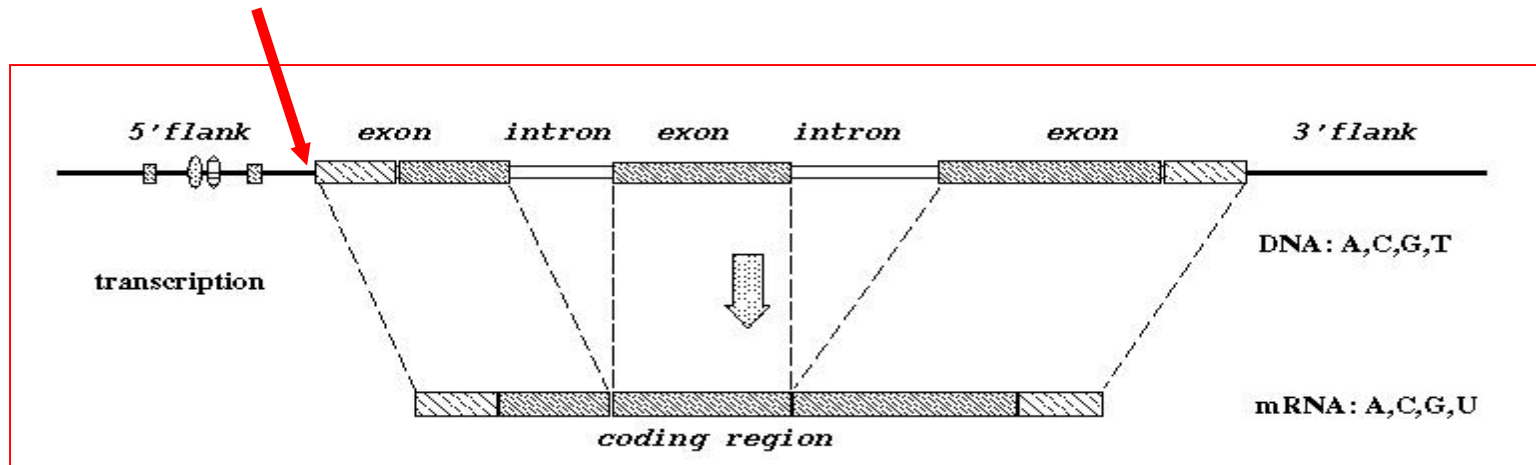 - Gallo Prize 2008

Recognition of Transcription Start Sites

An introduction to the World's best TSS recognition system of its time:

A heavy tuning approach

NUS
National University
of Singapore

Transcription start site

Structure of Dragon Promoter Finder

-200 to +50 window size

Model selected based on desired sensitivity
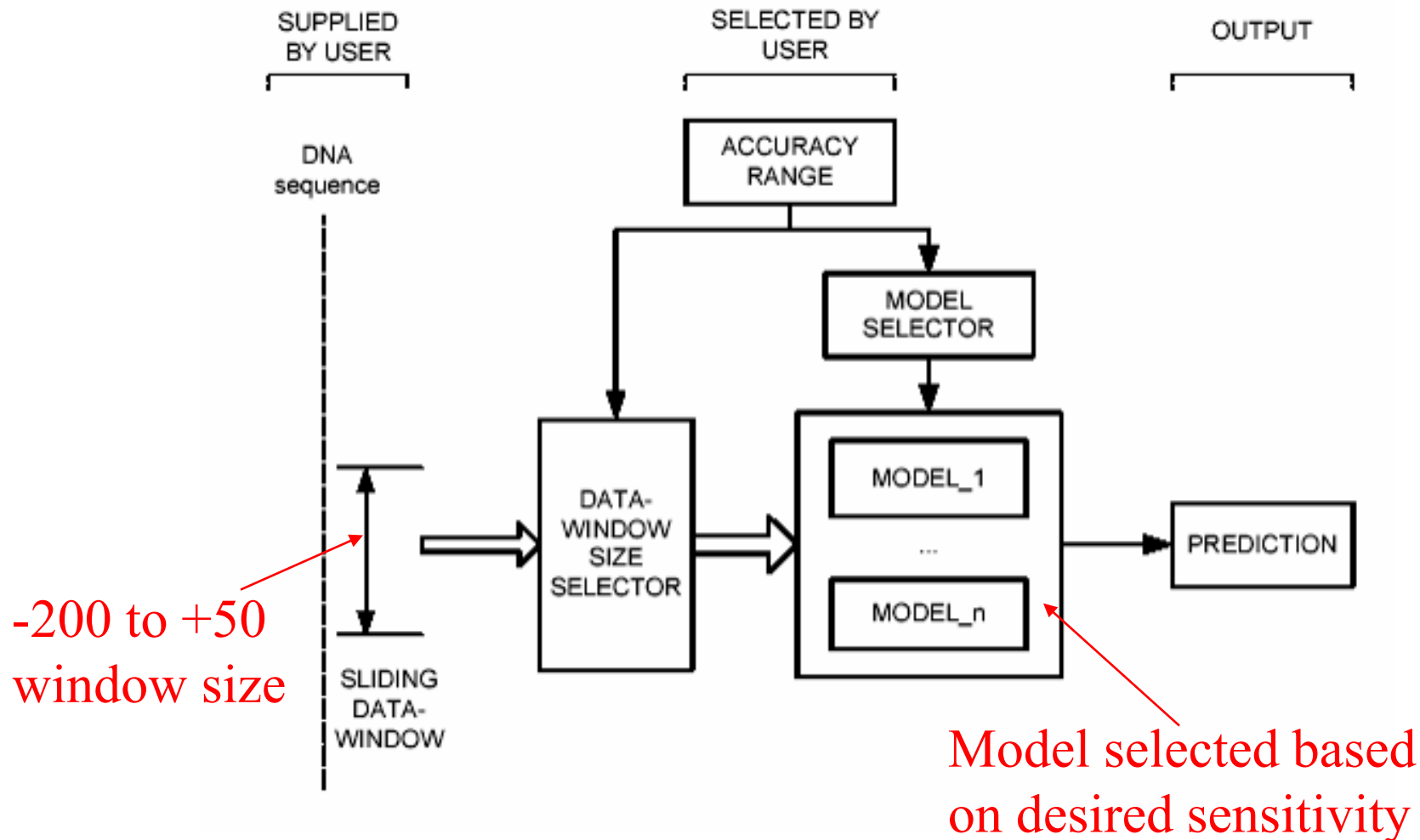
Each model has two submodels based on GC content

SUPPLIED BY USER

OUTPUT

DNA sequence

GC-rich submodel

SUBMODEL_A

YES

(C+G) >=50%

PREDICTION

SLIDING DATA-WINDOW

NO

SUBMODEL_B

GC-poor submodel

$$(C+G) = \frac{\#C + \#G}{Window\ Size}$$
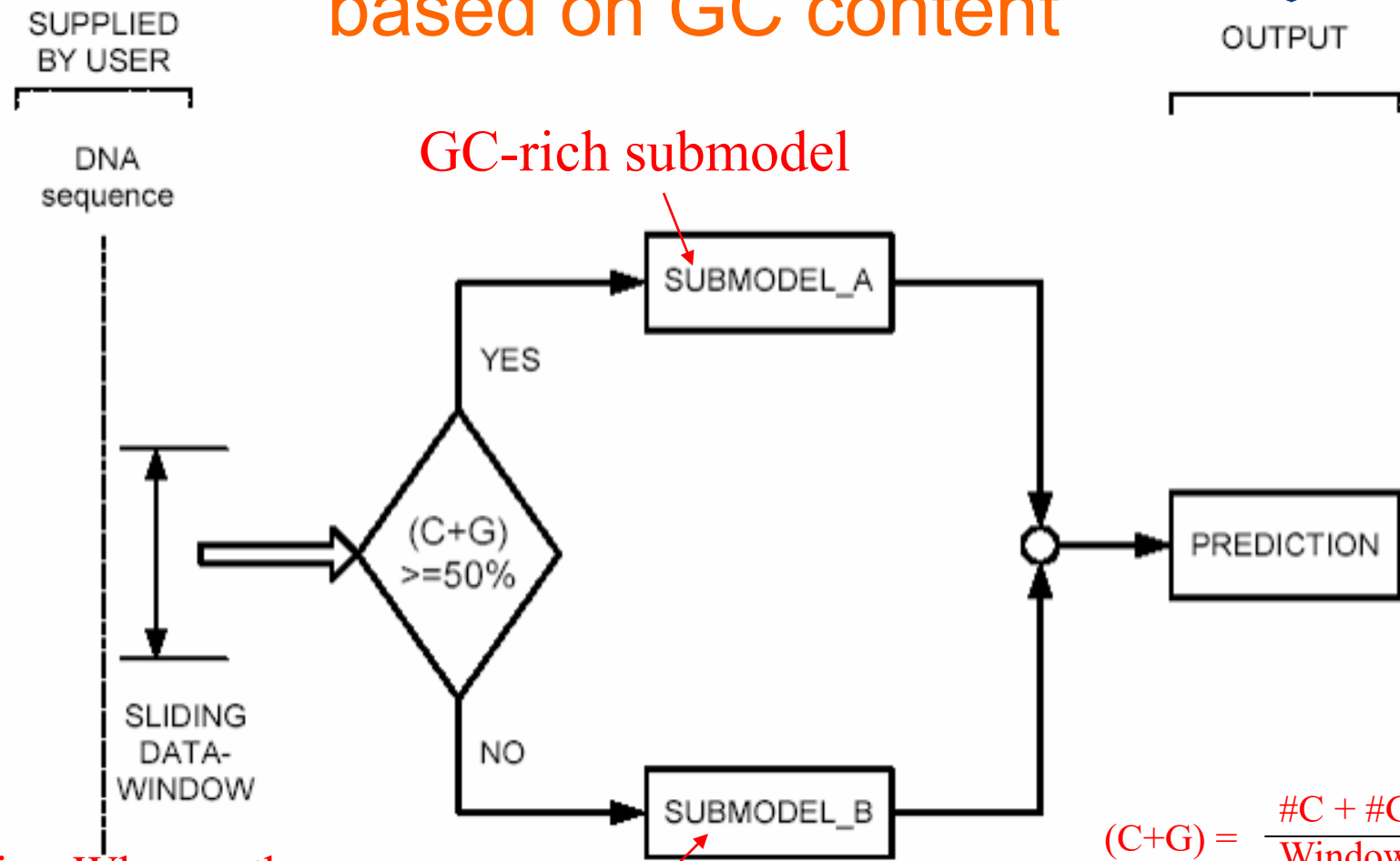
Exercise: Why are the submodels based on GC content?

Data analysis within submodel

BASIC PREDICTOR MODEL

DNA SEQUENCE
SUPPLIED
BY USER

PREDICTOR
OUTPUT

Promoter Sensor σ_p

Exon Sensor σ_e

content of
a sliding
data-
window

Intron Sensor σ_i

data
pre-processing
and ANN

PREDICTION

K-gram (k = 5) positional weight matrix
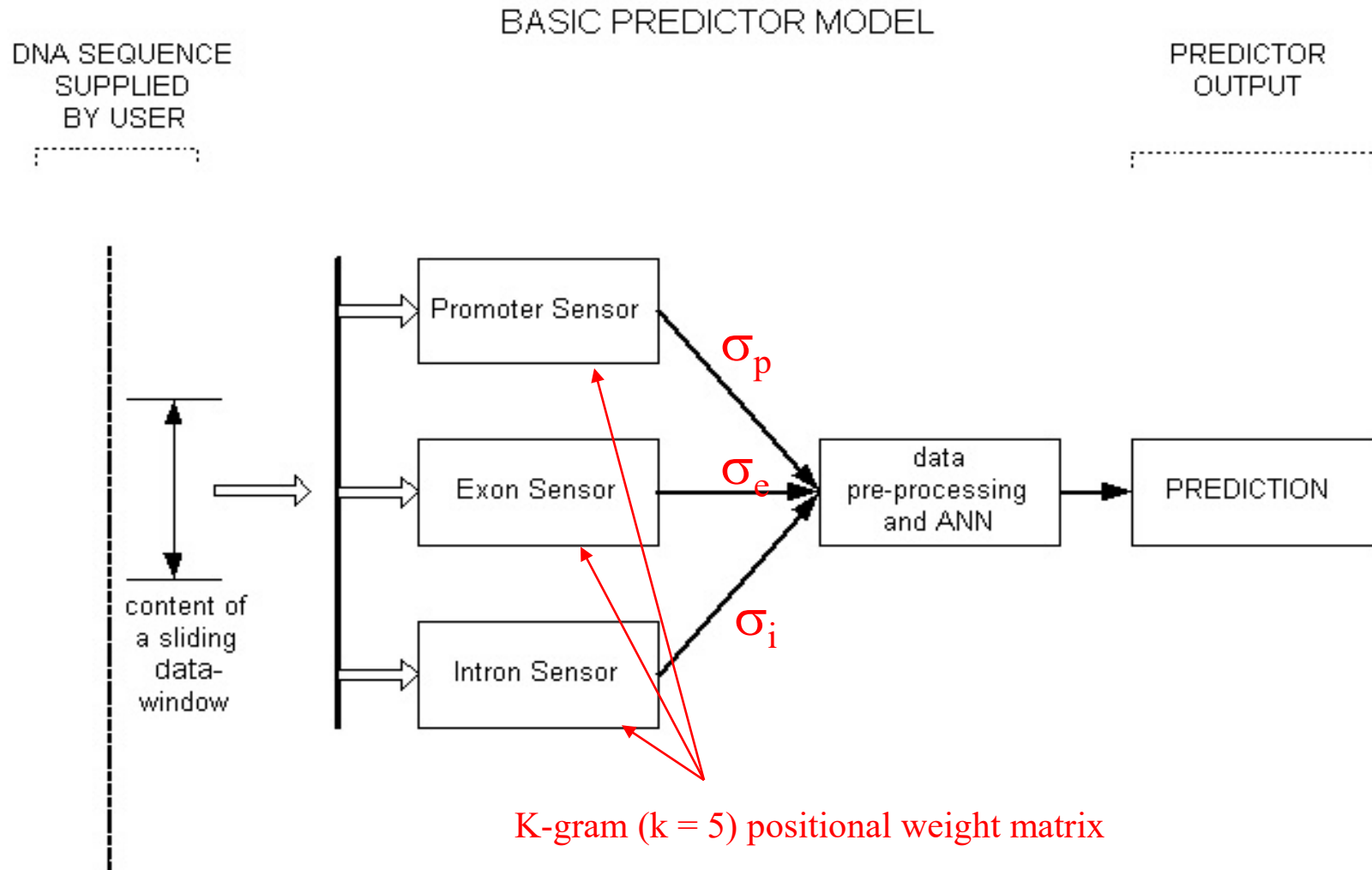
Promoter, exon, intron sensors

- **These sensors are positional weight matrices of k-grams, k = 5 (aka pentamers)**
- **They are calculated as below using promoter, exon, intron data respectively**

Window size

Frequency of jth pentamer at ith position in training window

Pentamer at i^{th} position in input

j^{th} pentamer at i^{th} position in training window

$$\sigma = \frac{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{L-4} p_j^i \otimes f_{j,i}\right)}{\left(\sum_{i=1}^{L-4} \max_j f_{j,i}\right)}, \qquad p_j^i \otimes f_{j,i} = \begin{cases} f_{j,i}, & \text{if } p_i = p_j^i \\ 0, & \text{if } p_i \neq p_j^i \end{cases},$$

Just to make sure you know what I mean ...

- **Given 3 DNA seq of length 10:**
  - Seq_1 = ACCGAGTTCT
  - Seq_2 = AGTGTACCTG
  - Seq_3 = AGTTCGTATG
- **Then**

1-mer	pos1	pos2	pos3	pos4	pos5	pos6	pos7	pos8	pos9	pos10
A	3/3	0/3	0/3							
C	0/3	1/3	1/3		Exercise: Fill in the rest of the table					
G	0/3	2/3	0/3							
T	0/3	0/3	2/3							

Exercise #5

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Just to make sure you know what I mean ...

- **Given 3 DNA seq of length 10:**
  - Seq_1 = ACCGAGTTCT
  - Seq_2 = AGTGTACCTG
  - Seq_3 = AGTTCGTATG
- **Then**

Exercise: How many rows should this 2-mer table have? How many rows should the pentamer table have?

2-mer	pos1	pos2	pos3	pos4	pos5	pos6	pos7	pos8	pos9
AA	0/3	0/3	0/3						
AC	1/3	0/3	0/3						
…	…	…	…						
TT	0/3	0/3	1/3				1/3		

Exercise: Fill in the rest of the table

Exercise #6

Data preprocessing & ANN

Tuning parameters

Simple feedforward ANN trained by the Bayesian regularisation method

$$s_E = sat(\sigma_p - \sigma_e, a_e, b_e),$$
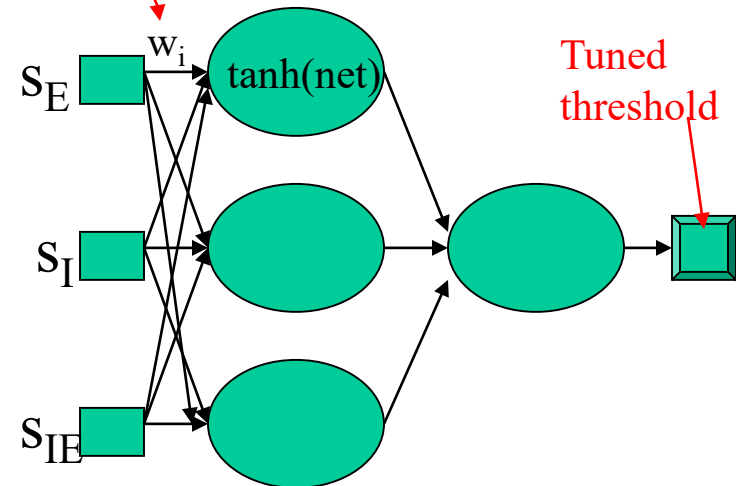
$$s_I = sat(\sigma_p - \sigma_i, a_i, b_i),$$

$$s_{EI} = sat(\sigma_e - \sigma_i, a_{ei}, b_{ei}),$$

where the function sat is defined by

$$sat(x, a, b) = \begin{cases} a, & if \quad x > a \\ x, & if \quad b \le x \le a. \\ b, & if \quad b > x \end{cases}$$

s_E

w_i

tanh(net)

s_I

s_{IE}

Tuned threshold

$$\tanh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$$

$$net = \Sigma \, s_i * w_i$$

Accuracy comparison

Accuracy of Dragon Promoter Finder Ver. 1.2 & 1.3

with C+G submodels

without C+G submodels
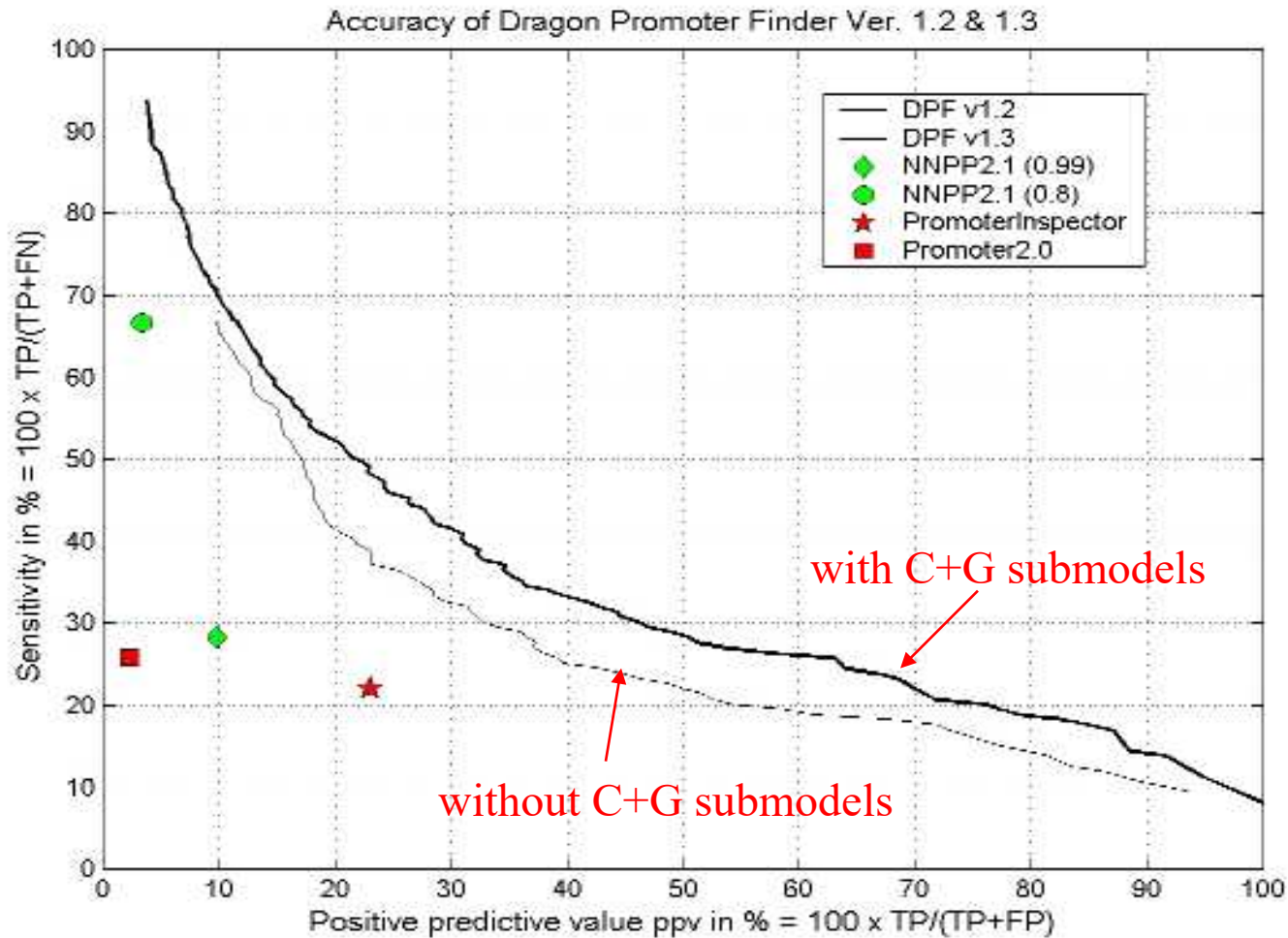
Training data criteria & preparation

- **Contain both positive and negative sequences**

- **Sufficient diversity, resembling different transcription start mechanisms**

- **Sufficient diversity, resembling different non-promoters**

- **Sanitized as much as possible**

- **TSS taken from**
  - 793 vertebrate promoters from EPD
  - -200 to +50 bp of TSS

- **non-TSS taken from**
  - GenBank,
  - 800 exons
  - 4000 introns,
  - 250 bp,
  - non-overlapping,
  - <50% identities

Tuning data preparation

- **To tune adjustable system parameters in Dragon, we need a separate tuning data set**

- **TSS taken from**
  - 20 full-length gene seqs with known TSS
  - -200 to +50 bp of TSS
  - no overlap with EPD

- **Non-TSS taken from**
  - 1600 human 3'UTR seqs
  - 500 human exons
  - 500 human introns
  - 250 bp
  - no overlap

Testing data criteria & preparation

- Seqs should be from the training or evaluation of other systems (no bias!)

- Seqs should be disjoint from training and tuning data sets

- Seqs should have TSS

- Seqs should be cleaned to remove redundancy, <50% identities

- 159 TSS from 147 human and human virus seqs

- cummulative length of more than 1.15Mbp

- Taken from GENESCAN, GeneId, Genie, etc.

About the inventor: Vlad Bajic

- **Vladimir B. Bajic**
  - Principal Scientist, I^2R, 2001-2006
  - Director & Professor, Computational Bioscience Research Center, KAUST
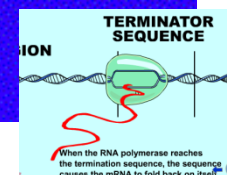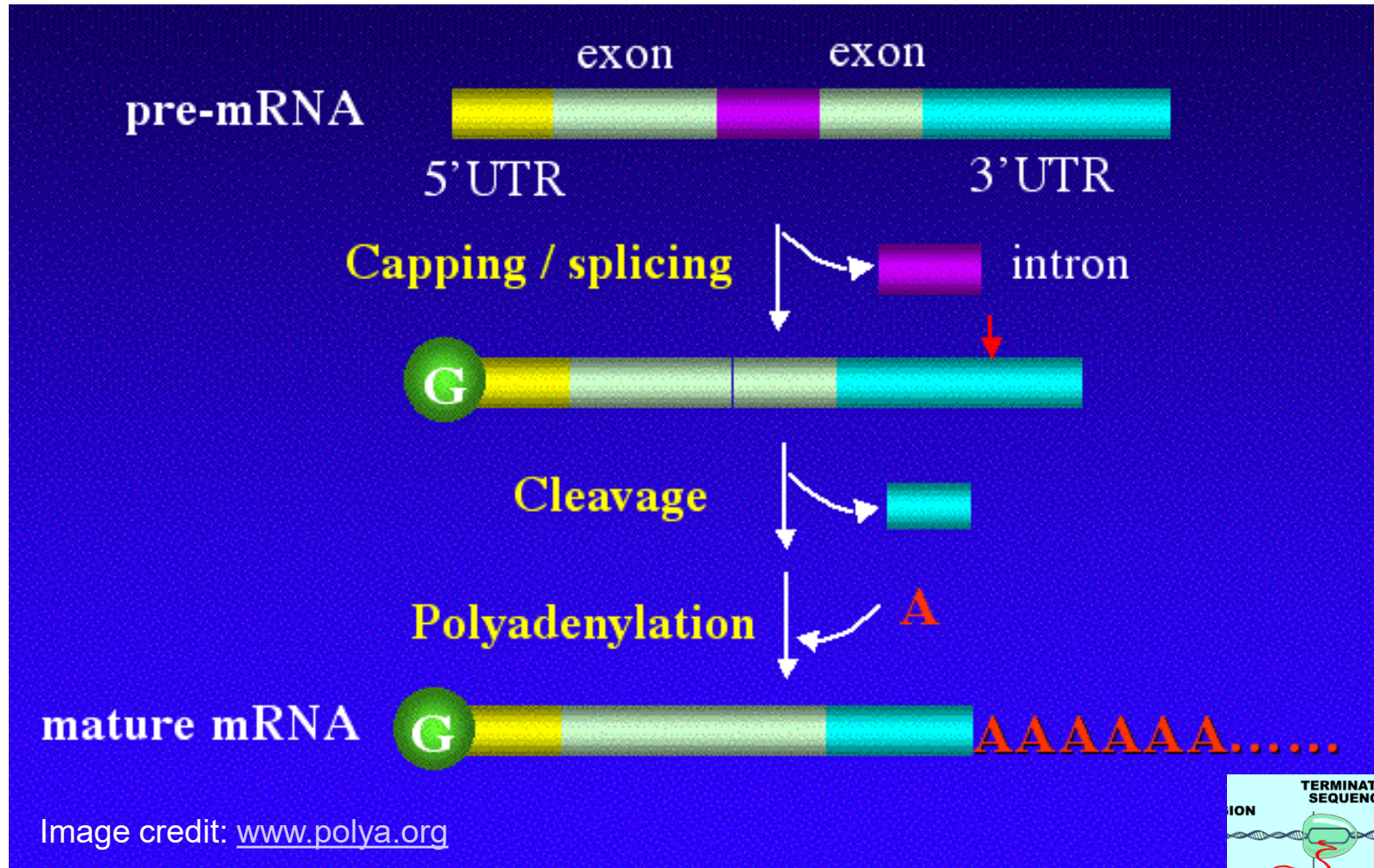 - Passed away in 2019

Recognition of Poly-A signal sites

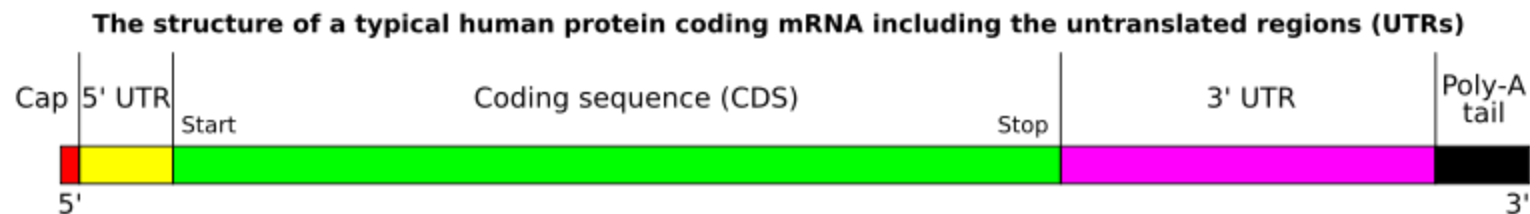**A twist to the "feature generation, feature selection, feature integration" approach**

NUS
National University
of Singapore

Eukaryotic pre-mRNA processing

Image credit: www.polya.org

Polyadenylation in eukaryotes

- **Addition of poly(A) tail to RNA**
  - Begins as transcription finishes
  - 3'-most segment of newly-made RNA is cleaved off
  - Poly(A) tail is then synthesized at 3' end

- **Poly(A) tail is impt for nuclear export, translation & stability of mRNA**

- **Tail is shortened over time. When short enough, the mRNA is degraded**

The structure of a typical human protein coding mRNA including the untranslated regions (UTRs)

Cap | 5' UTR | Start | Coding sequence (CDS) | Stop | 3' UTR | Poly-A tail

5'   3'

Source: Wikipedia

Poly-A signals in human (Gautheret et al., 2000)

Table 2. Most Significant Hexamers in 3' Fragments: Clustered Hexamers

| Hexamer	Observed (expected)[a]	% sites	p[b]	Position average ± SD	Location[c]
AAUAAA	3286 (317)	58.2	0	−16 ± 4.7	
AUUAAA	843 (112)	14.9	0	−17 ± 5.3	
AGUAAA	156 (32)	2.7	6×10^{-57}	−16 ± 5.9	
UAUAAA	180 (53)	3.2	4×10^{-45}	−18 ± 7.8	
CAUAAA	76 (23)	1.3	1×10^{-18}	−17 ± 5.9	
GAUAAA	72 (21)	1.3	2×10^{-18}	−18 ± 6.9	
AAUAUA	96 (33)	1.7	2×10^{-19}	−18 ± 6.9	
AAUACA	70 (16)	1.2	5×10^{-23}	−18 ± 8.7	
AAUAGA	43 (14)	0.7	1×10^{-9}	−18 ± 6.3	
AAAAAG	49 (11)	0.8	5×10^{-17}	−18 ± 8.9	
ACUAAA	36 (11)	0.6	1×10^{-8}	−17 ± 8.1	
AAGAAA	62 (10)	1.1	9×10^{-28}	−19 ± 11	
AAUGAA	49 (10)	0.8	4×10^{-18}	−20 ± 10	
UUUAAA	69 (20)	1.2	3×10^{-18}	−17 ± 12	
AAAACA	29 (5)	0.5	8×10^{-12}	−20 ± 10	
GGGGCU	22 (3)	0.3	9×10^{-12}	−24 ± 13	

Poly-A signals in Arabidopsis

Table 2. Most Significant Hexamers in 3′ Fragments: Clustered Hexamers

Hexamer	Observed (expected)[a]	% sites	p[b]	Position average ± SD	Location[c]
AAUAAA	3286 (317)	58.2	0	-16 ± 4.7	
AUUAAA	843 (112)	14.9	0	-17 ± 5.3	
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GAUAAA	72				
AAUAUA	96				
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ACUAAA	36 (11)	0.6	1×10^{-8}	-17 ± 8.1	
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UUUAAA	69 (20)	1.2	3×10^{-18}	-17 ± 12	
AAAACA	29 (5)	0.5	8×10^{-12}	-20 ± 10	
GGGGCU	22 (3)	0.3	9×10^{-12}	-24 ± 13	

In contrast to human, PAS in Arab is highly degenerate. E.g., only 10% of Arab PAS is AAUAAA!

Approach on Arab PAS sites (I)
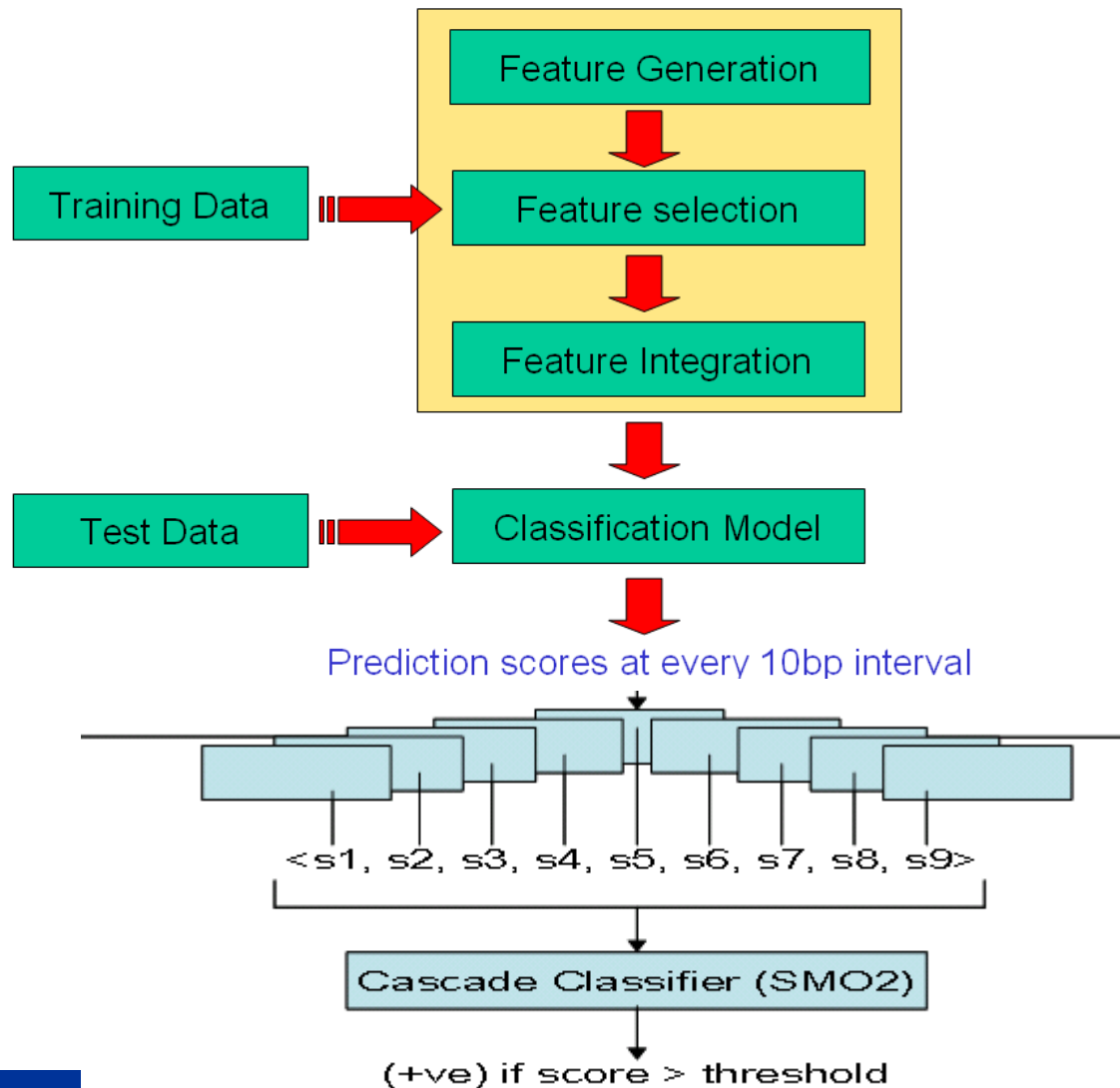
Approach on Arab PAS sites (II)

- **Data collection**
  - #1 from Hao Han, 811 +ve seq (-200/+200)

  - #2 from Hao Han, 9742 –ve seq (-200/+200)

  - #3 from Qingshun Li,
    - **6209 (+ve) seq (-300/+100)**
    - **1581 (-ve) intron (-300/+100)**
    - **1501 (-ve) coding (-300/+100)**
    - **864 (-ve) 5'utr (-300/+100)**

- **Feature generation**
  - 3-grams, compositional features (4U/1N. G/U*7, etc)
  - Freq of features above in 3 diff windows: (-110/+5), (-35/+15), (-50/+30)

- **Feature selection**
  - $\chi 2$

- **Feature integration & Cascade**
  - SVM

Score profile relative to candidate sites
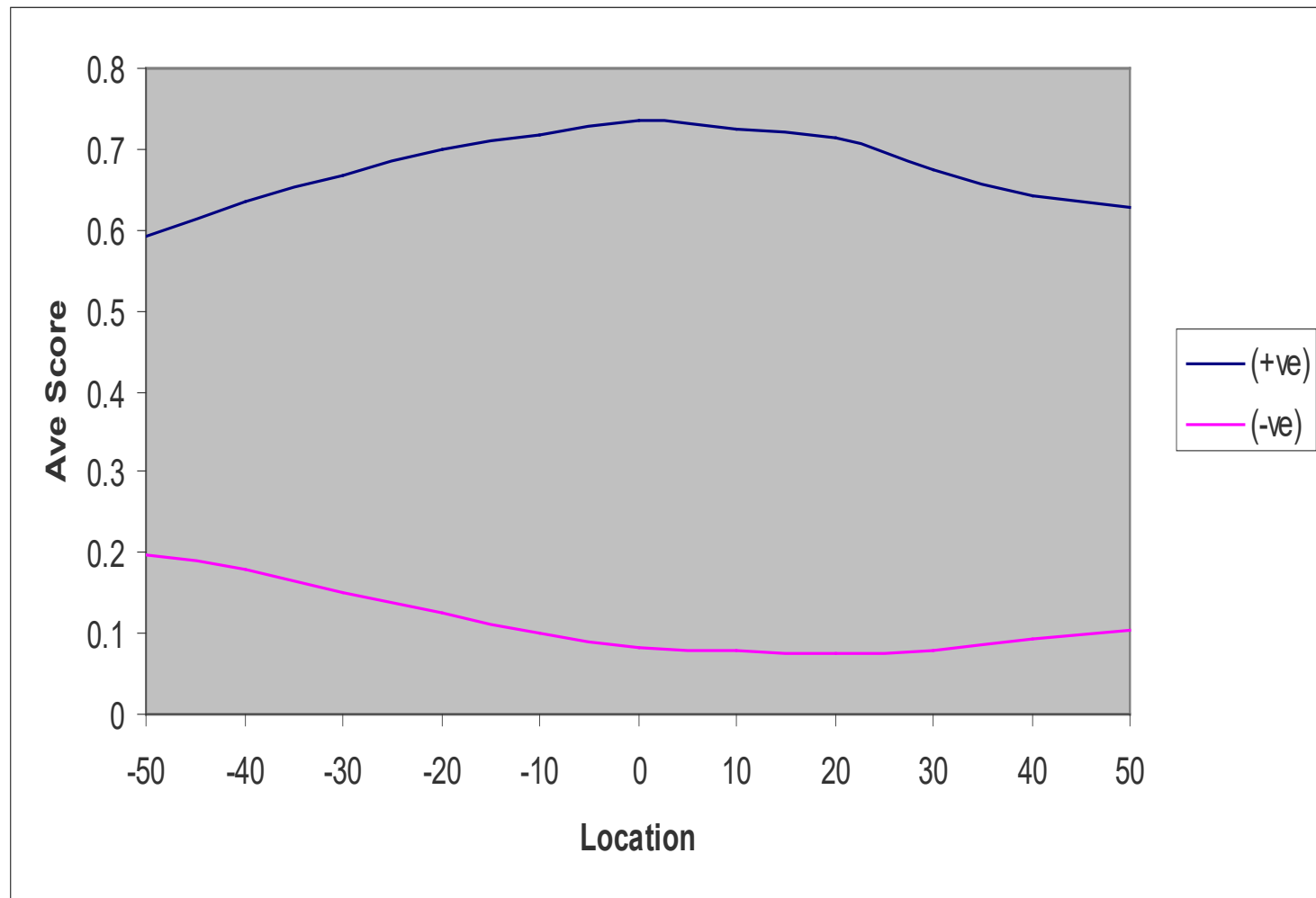
Validation results

SN_0	SMO 1		SMO 2		PASS 1.0	
Control Sequences	SN & SP	Threshold	SN & SP	Threshold	SN & SP	Threshold
CDS	90%	0.26	94%	0.24	95%	3.7
5'UTR	79%	0.42	85%	0.49	78%	5.5
Intron	64%	0.59	71%	0.67	63%	6.3

Table 2. Equal-error-rate points of SMO1, SMO2, and PASS 1.0 for SN_10.

SN_10	SMO 1		SMO 2		PASS 1.0	
Control Sequences	SN & SP	Threshold	SN & SP	Threshold	SN & SP	Threshold
CDS	94%	0.36	96%	0.31	96%	4
5'UTR	86%	0.53	89%	0.6	81%	5.7
Intron	73%	0.68	77%	0.77	67%	6.6

Table 3. Equal-error-rate points of SMO1, SMO2, and PASS 1.0 for SN_30.

SN_30	SMO 1		SMO 2		PASS 1.0	
Control Sequences	SN & SP	Threshold	SN & SP	Threshold	SN & SP	Threshold
CDS	97%	0.44	97%	0.37	97%	4.3
5'UTR	90%	0.62	92%	0.67	84%	6.2
Intron	79%	0.75	83%	0.81	72%	6.8

About the inventor: Koh Chuan Hock

- **Koh Chuan Hock**
  - BComp (CB), NUS, 2008
  - PhD, NUS, 2012
  - Currently Data Science Mgr at Indeed Inc, Japan
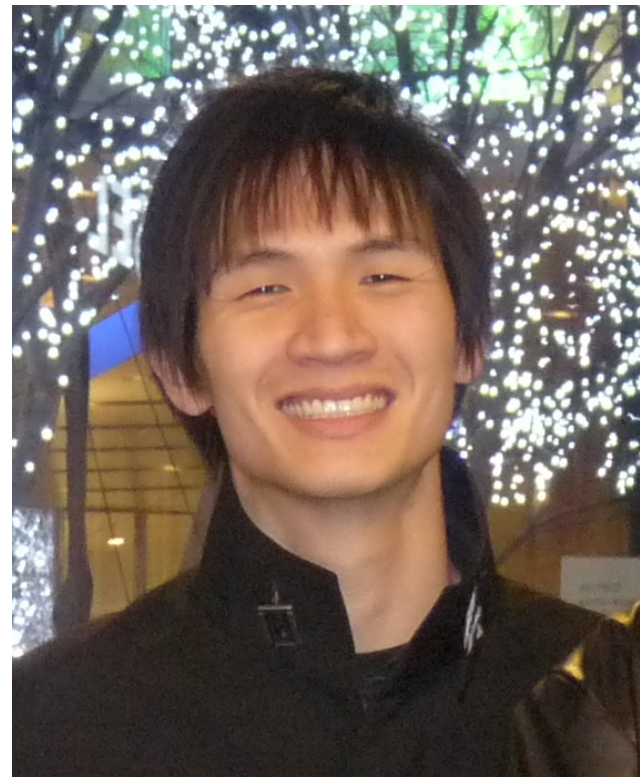
Concluding remarks…

What have we learned?

- **Gene feature recognition applications**
  - TIS, TSS, PAS

- **General methodology**
  - "Feature generation, feature selection, feature integration"

- **Important tactics**
  - Multiple models to optimize overall performance
  - Feature transformation (DNA → amino acid)
  - Classifier cascades

Any question?

Acknowledgements

- **The slides for PAS site prediction are adapted from slides given to me by Koh Chuan Hock**

References (TIS recognition)

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