

**CSE 527**

**Markov Models and Hidden  
Markov Models**



[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/ba/Calico\\_cat](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/ba/Calico_cat)

# Dosage Compensation and X-Inactivation

2 copies (mom/dad) of each chromosome 1-23

Mostly, both copies of each gene are expressed

E.g., A B O blood group defined by 2 alleles of 1 gene

Women (XX) get double dose of X genes (vs XY)?

So, early in embryogenesis:

- One X randomly inactivated in each cell
  - Choice maintained in daughter cells
- } How?

Calico: major coat color gene is on X

# Reminder: Proteins “Read” DNA

E.g.:

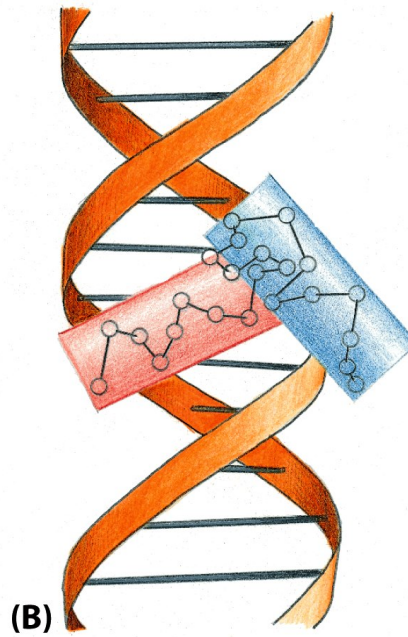
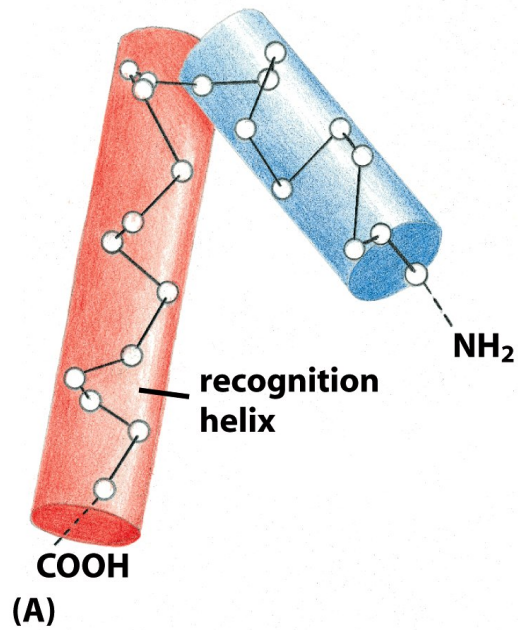


Figure 7-19 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)



Figure 7-10 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

# Down in the Groove

Different patterns of hydrophobic methyls, potential H bonds, etc. at edges of different base pairs. They're accessible, esp. in major groove

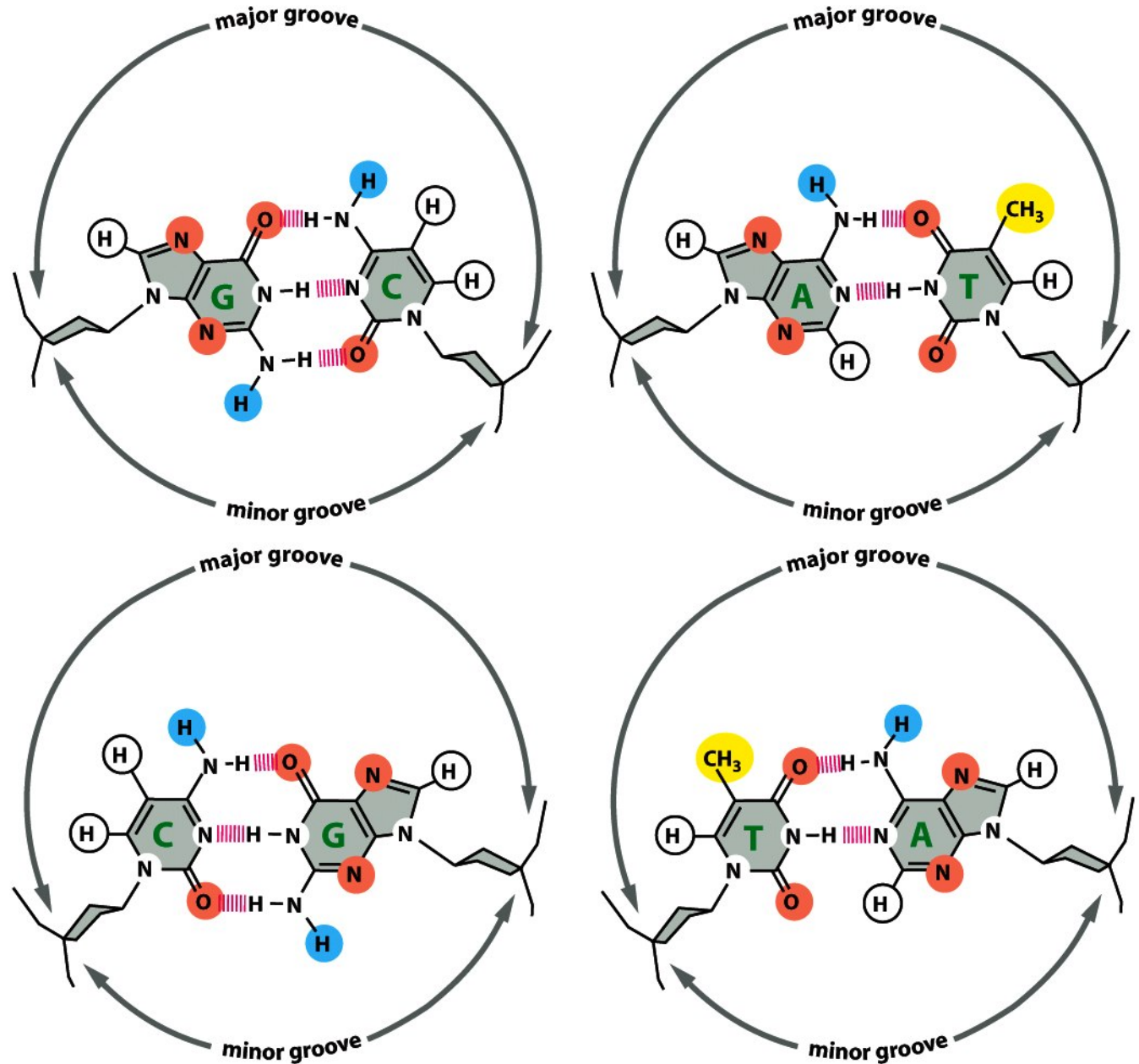
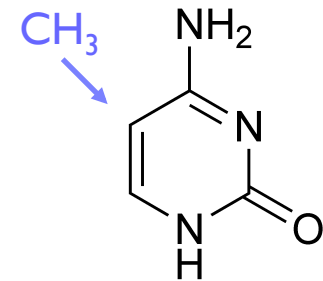


Figure 7-7 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

# DNA Methylation

CpG - 2 adjacent nts, same strand  
(not Watson-Crick pair; “p” mnemonic for the phosphodiester bond of the DNA backbone)

C of CpG is often (70-80%) methylated in mammals i.e., CH<sub>3</sub> group added (both strands)



cytosine



# Same Pairing

Methyl-C  
alters major  
groove  
profile (∴ TF  
binding), but  
not base-  
pairing,  
transcription  
or replication

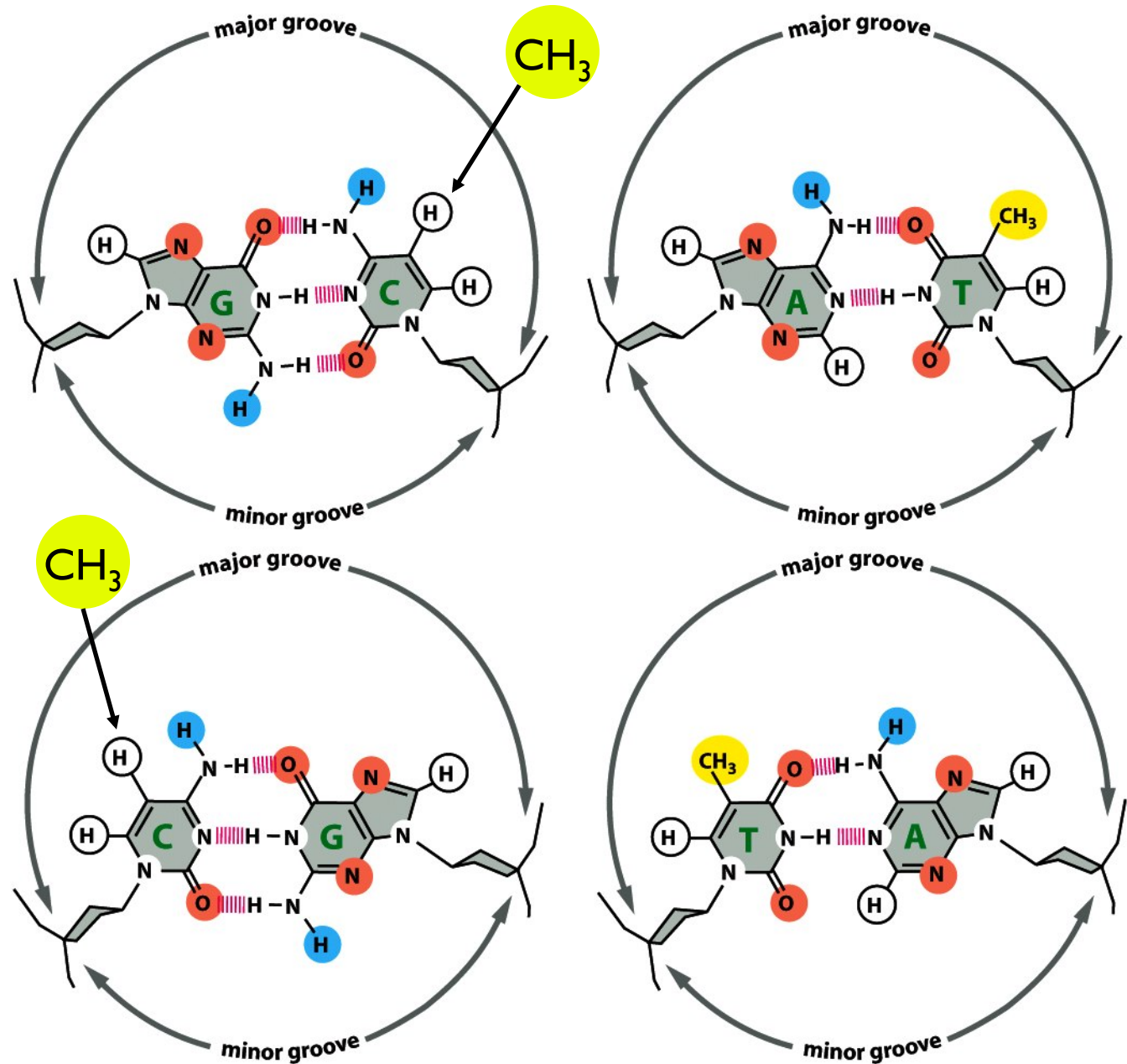


Figure 7-7 Molecular Biology of the Cell 5/e (© Garland Science 2008)

# DNA Methylation—Why

In vertebrates, it generally silences transcription  
(Epigenetics) X-inactivation, imprinting, repression of mobile elements, cancers, aging, and developmental differentiation

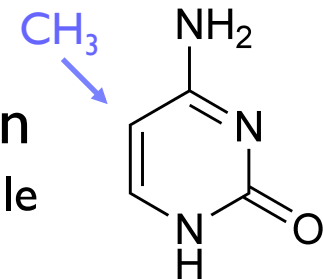
E.g., if a stem cell divides, one daughter fated to be liver, other kidney, need to

- (a) turn off liver genes in kidney & vice versa,
- (b) remember that through subsequent divisions

How?

- (a) Methylate genes, esp. promoters, to silence them
- (b) after ÷, DNA methyltransferases convert hemi- to fully-methylated (& deletion of methyltransferase is embryonic-lethal in mice)

Major exception: promoters of housekeeping genes



cytosine



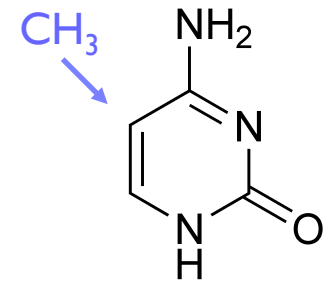
# “CpG Islands”

Methyl-C mutates to T relatively easily

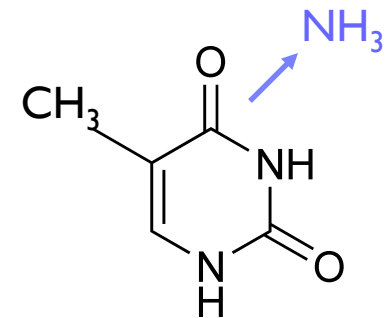
Net: CpG is less common than  
expected genome-wide:

$$f(\text{CpG}) < f(\text{C}) * f(\text{G})$$

BUT in some regions (e.g. active promoters), CpG remain unmethylated, so CpG  $\rightarrow$  TpG less likely there: makes “CpG Islands”; often mark gene-rich regions



cytosine



thymine

# CpG Islands

## CpG Islands

More CpG than elsewhere (say,  $CpG/GpC > 50\%$ )

More C & G than elsewhere, too (say,  $C+G > 50\%$ )

Typical length: few 100 to few 1000 bp

## Questions

Is a short sequence (say, 200 bp) a CpG island or not?

Given long sequence (say, 10-100kb), find CpG islands?

# Markov & Hidden Markov Models

References (see also online reading page):

Eddy, "What is a hidden Markov model?" *Nature Biotechnology*, 22, #10 (2004) 1315-6.

Durbin, Eddy, Krogh and Mitchison, "Biological Sequence Analysis", Cambridge, 1998 (esp. chs 3, 5)

Rabiner, "A Tutorial on Hidden Markov Models and Selected Application in Speech Recognition," *Proceedings of the IEEE*, v 77 #2, Feb 1989, 257-286

# Independence

A key issue: Previous models we've talked about assume *independence* of nucleotides in different positions - definitely unrealistic.

# Markov Chains

A sequence  $x_1, x_2, \dots$  of random variables is a *k-th order Markov chain* if, for all  $i$ ,  $i^{\text{th}}$  value is independent of all but the previous  $k$  values:

$$P(x_i \mid x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{i-1}) = P(x_i \mid x_{i-k}, x_{i-k+1}, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

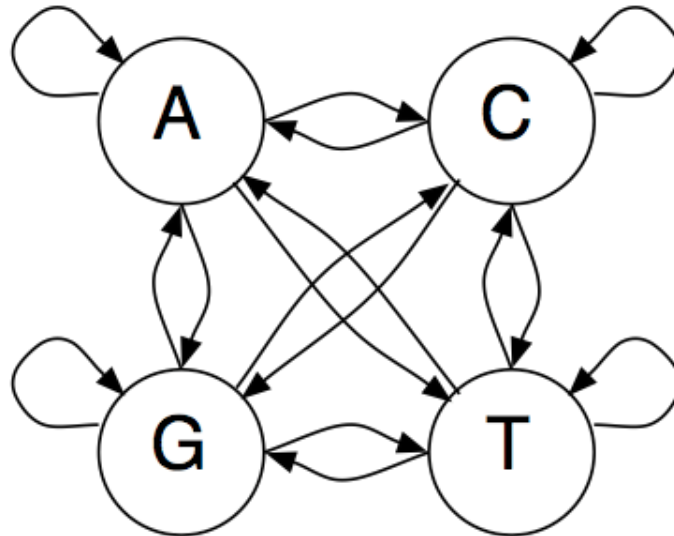
Example 1: Uniform random ACGT

Example 2: Weight matrix model

Example 3: ACGT, but  $\downarrow$  Pr(G following C)

} 0th  
order  
}  
1st  
order

# A Markov Model (1st order)



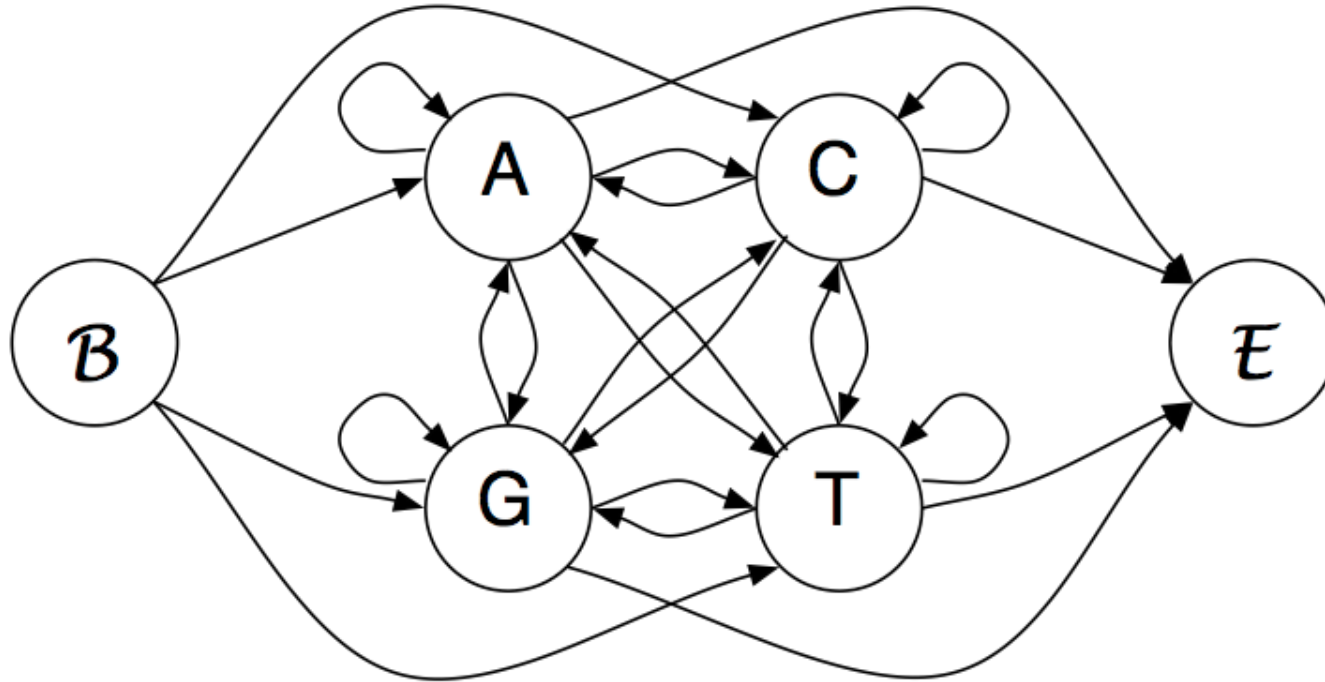
States: A,C,G,T

Emissions: corresponding letter

Transitions:  $a_{st} = P(x_i = t \mid x_{i-1} = s)$  ← 1st order



# A Markov Model (1st order)



States: A,C,G,T

Emissions: corresponding letter

Transitions:  $a_{st} = P(x_i = t \mid x_{i-1} = s)$

Begin/End states

# Pr of emitting sequence $x$

$$x = x_1 x_2 \dots x_n$$

$$P(x) = P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

laws of probability

$$= P(x_1) \cdot P(x_2 | x_1) \cdots P(x_n | x_{n-1}, \dots, x_1)$$

$$= P(x_1) \cdot P(x_2 | x_1) \cdots P(x_n | x_{n-1})$$

if 1st order MC

$$= P(x_1) \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_{x_i, x_{i+1}}$$

$$= \prod_{i=0}^{n-1} a_{x_i, x_{i+1}} \quad (\text{with Begin state})$$

# Training

Max likelihood estimates for transition probabilities are just the frequencies of transitions when emitting the training sequences

E.g., from 48 CpG islands in 60k bp:

+	A	C	G	T	-	A	C	G	T
A	0.180	0.274	0.426	0.120	A	0.300	0.205	0.285	0.210
C	0.171	0.368	<u>0.274</u>	0.188	C	0.322	0.298	<u>0.078</u>	0.302
G	0.161	0.339	0.375	0.125	G	0.248	0.246	0.298	0.208
T	0.079	0.355	0.384	0.182	T	0.177	0.239	0.292	0.292

From DEKM

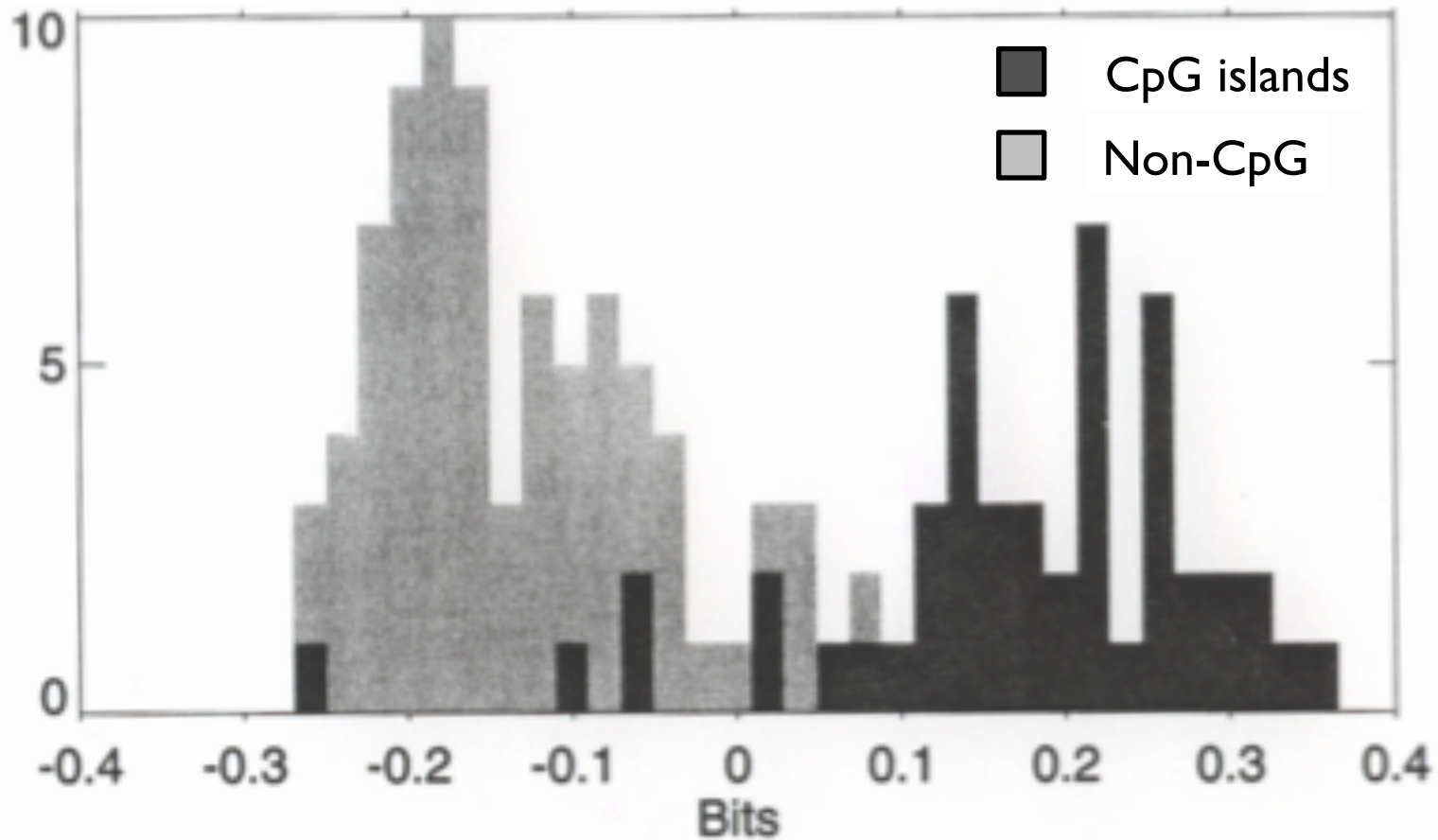
# Discrimination/Classification

Log likelihood ratio of CpG model vs background model

$$S(x) = \log \frac{P(x|\text{model } +)}{P(x|\text{model } -)} = \sum_{i=1}^L \log \frac{a_{x_{i-1}x_i}^+}{a_{x_{i-1}x_i}^-} = \sum_{i=1}^L \beta_{x_{i-1}x_i}$$

$\beta$	A	C	G	T
A	-0.740	0.419	0.580	-0.803
C	-0.913	0.302	1.812	-0.685
G	-0.624	0.461	0.331	-0.730
T	-1.169	0.573	0.393	-0.679

# CpG Island Scores



**Figure 3.2** *Histogram of length-normalized scores.*

What does a 2nd order  
Markov Model look like?

3rd order?



# Questions

Q1: Given a *short* sequence, is it more likely from feature model or background model? **Above**

Q2: Given a *long* sequence, where are the features in it (if any)

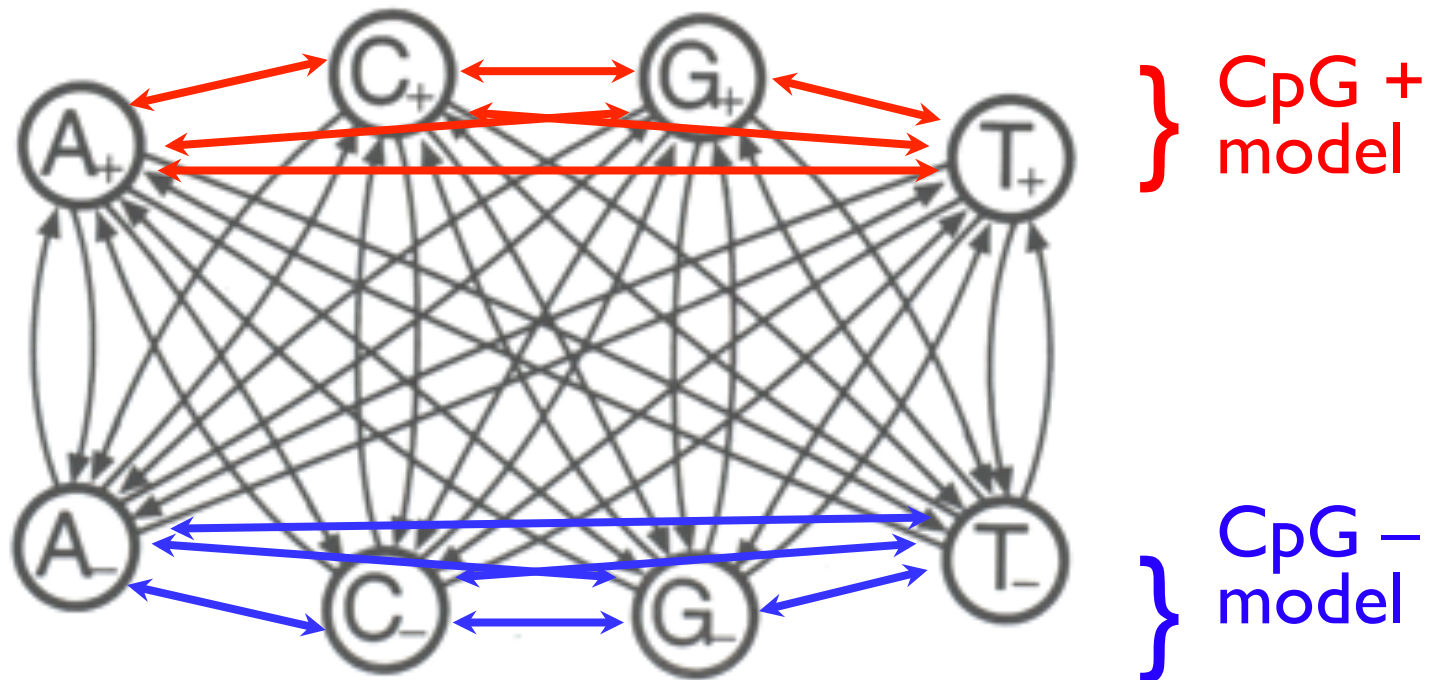
**Approach 1:** score 100 bp (e.g.) windows

Pro: simple

Con: arbitrary, fixed length, inflexible

**Approach 2:** *combine +/- models.*

# Combined Model



Emphasis is “Which (hidden) state?” not “Which model?”

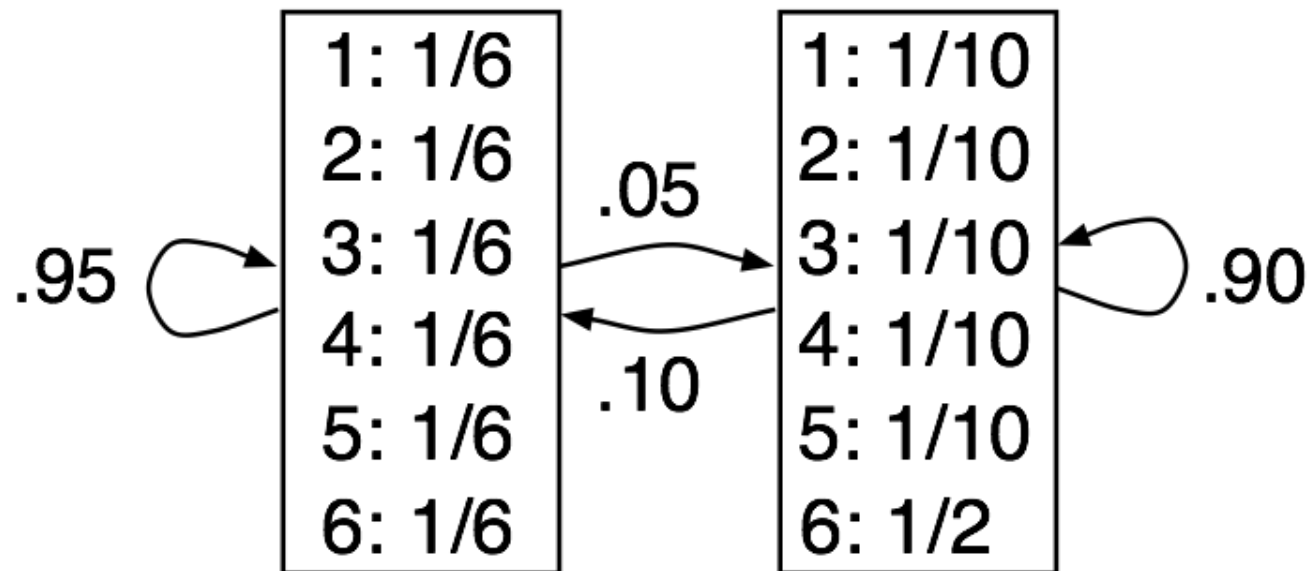
# Hidden Markov Models

(HMMs; Claude Shannon, 1948)

States:	$1, 2, 3, \dots$
Paths:	sequences of states $\pi = (\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots)$
Transitions:	$a_{k,l} = P(\pi_i = l \mid \pi_{i-1} = k)$
Emissions:	$e_k(b) = P(x_i = b \mid \pi_i = k)$
Observed data:	emission sequence
Hidden data:	state/transition sequence

# The Occasionally Dishonest Casino

1 fair die, 1 “loaded” die, occasionally swapped



Rolls	315116246446644245311321631164152133625144543631656626566666
Die	FFLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL
Viterbi	FFLLLLLLLLLLLLL
Rolls	651166453132651245636664631636663162326455236266666625151631
Die	LLLLLLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLFFLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL
Viterbi	LLLLLLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL
Rolls	222555441666566563564324364131513465146353411126414626253356
Die	FFFFFFFFLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL
Viterbi	FFL
Rolls	366163666466232534413661661163252562462255265252266435353336
Die	LLLLLLLLLFF
Viterbi	LLLLLLLLLLLLLFF
Rolls	233121625364414432335163243633665562466662632666612355245242
Die	FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF
Viterbi	FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

### Figure 3.5

*Rolls: Visible data—300 rolls of a die as described above.*

*Die: Hidden data—which die was actually used for that roll (F = fair, L = loaded).*

*Viterbi: the prediction by the Viterbi algorithm is shown.*

# Inferring hidden stuff

Joint probability of a given path  $\pi$  & emission sequence  $x$ :

$$P(x, \pi) = a_{0, \pi_1} \prod_{i=1}^n e_{\pi_i}(x_i) \cdot a_{\pi_i, \pi_{i+1}}$$

*But  $\pi$  is hidden*; what to do? Some alternatives:

Most probable single path

$$\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} P(x, \pi)$$

Sequence of most probable states

$$\hat{\pi}_i = \arg \max_k P(\pi_i = k \mid x)$$



# The Viterbi Algorithm: The most probable path

Viterbi finds:  $\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} P(x, \pi)$

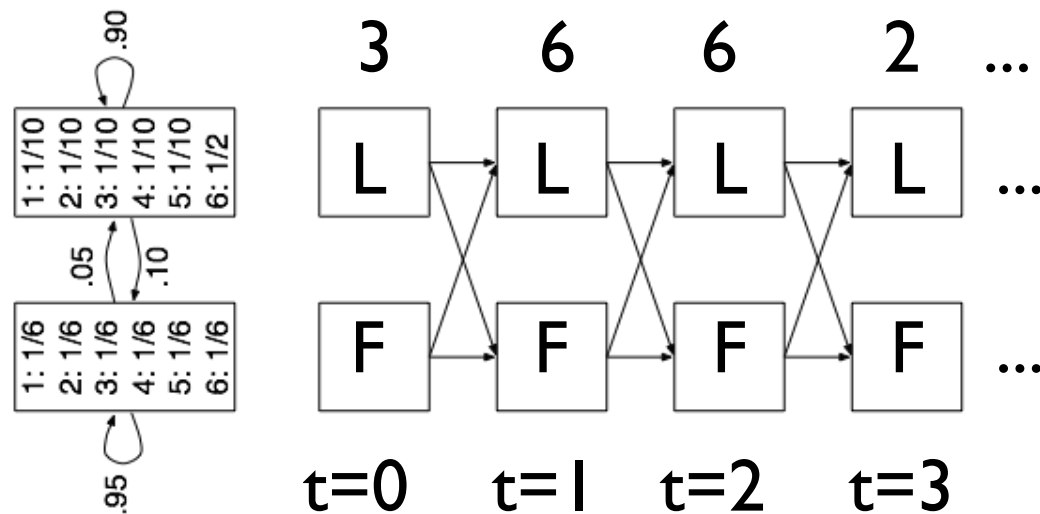
Possibly there are  $10^{99}$  paths of prob  $10^{-99}$

More commonly, one path (+ slight variants) dominate others.

(If not, other approaches may be preferable.)

Key problem: exponentially many paths  $\pi$

# Unrolling an HMM



Conceptually, sometimes convenient

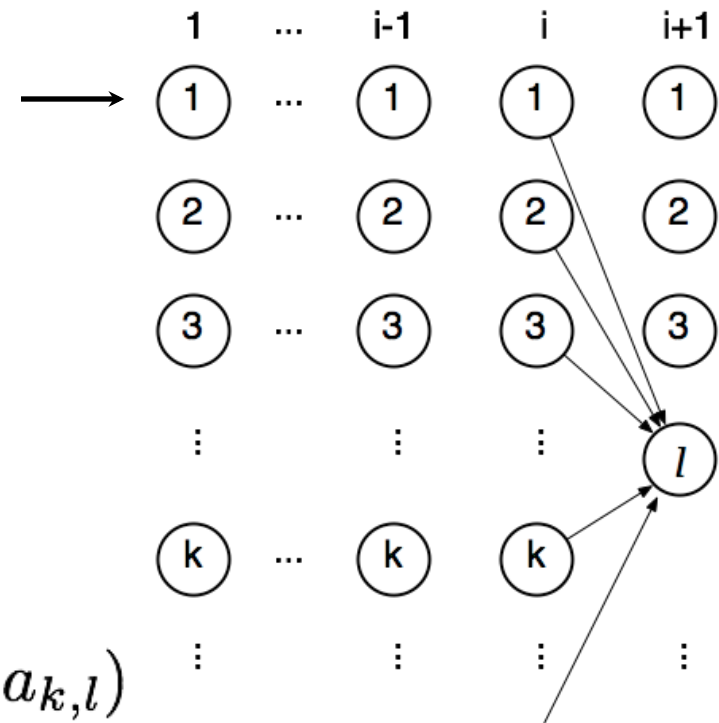
Note exponentially many paths

# Viterbi

$v_l(i)$  = probability of the most probable path emitting  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i$  and ending in state  $l$

Initialize:

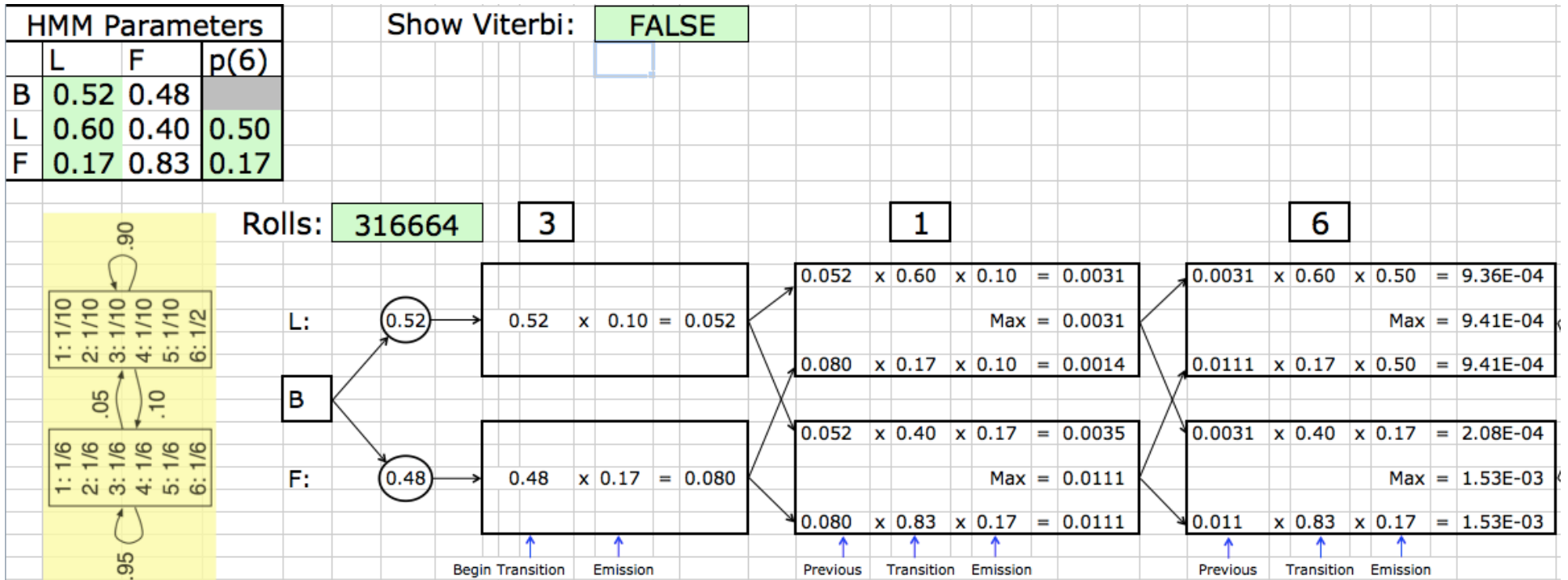
$$v_l(0) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } l = \text{Begin state} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



General case:

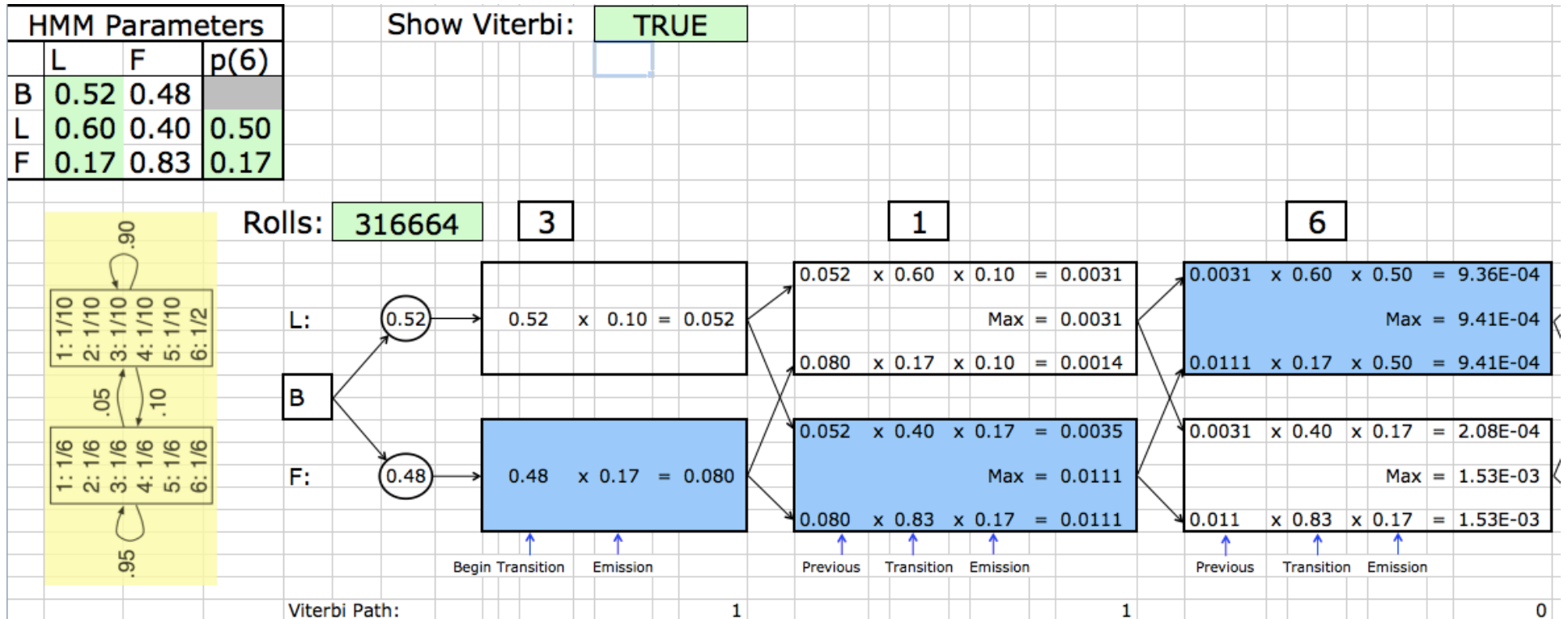
$$v_l(i+1) = e_l(x_{i+1}) \cdot \max_k (v_k(i) a_{k,l})$$

# HMM Casino Example



(Excel spreadsheet on web; download & play...)

# HMM Casino Example

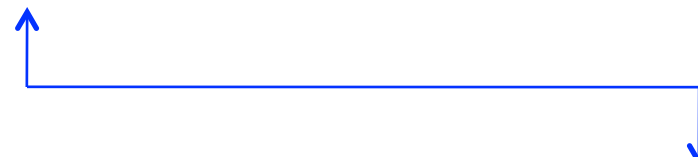


(Excel spreadsheet on web; download & play...)

# Viterbi Traceback

Above finds *probability* of best path

To find the path itself, trace *backward* to the state  $k$  attaining the max at each stage


$$v_l(i + 1) = e_l(x_{i+1}) \cdot \max_k (v_k(i) a_{k,l})$$

Rolls	315116246446644245311321631164152133625144543631656626566666
Die	FFL
Viterbi	FFL
Rolls	651166453132651245636664631636663162326455236266666625151631
Die	LLLLLLFFL
Viterbi	LLLLLLFFL
Rolls	222555441666566563564324364131513465146353411126414626253356
Die	FFFFFFFFLLL
Viterbi	FFL
Rolls	366163666466232534413661661163252562462255265252266435353336
Die	LLLLLLLLLFFL
Viterbi	LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLFFL
Rolls	233121625364414432335163243633665562466662632666612355245242
Die	FFL
Viterbi	FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL

### Figure 3.5

*Rolls: Visible data—300 rolls of a die as described above.*

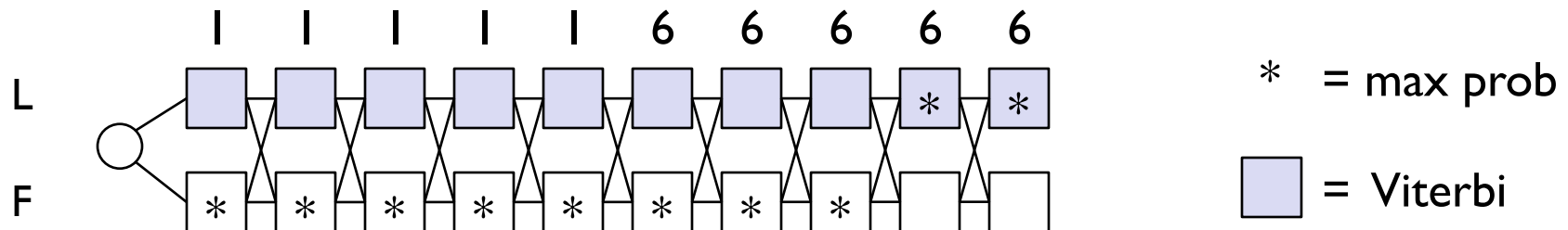
*Die: Hidden data—which die was actually used for that roll (F = fair, L = loaded).*

*Viterbi: the prediction by the Viterbi algorithm is shown.*

# Most probable path $\neq$ Sequence of most probable states

Another example, based on casino dice again

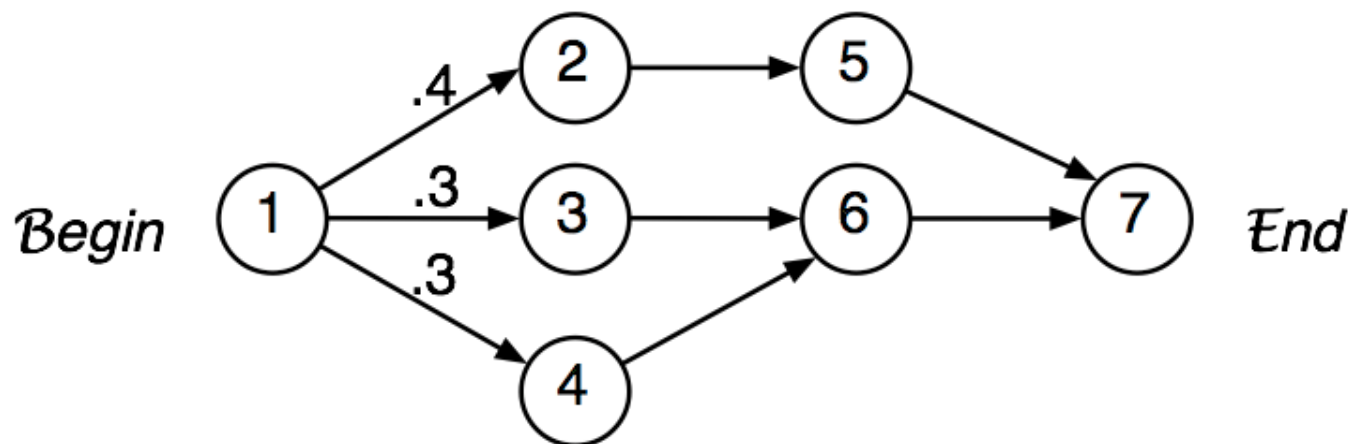
Suppose  $p(\text{fair} \leftrightarrow \text{loaded})$  transitions are  $10^{-99}$  and roll sequence is  $11111\dots 66666$ ; then fair state is more likely all through 1's & well into the run of 6's, but eventually loaded wins, and the improbable  $F \rightarrow L$  transitions make Viterbi = *all L*.





# Is Viterbi “best”?

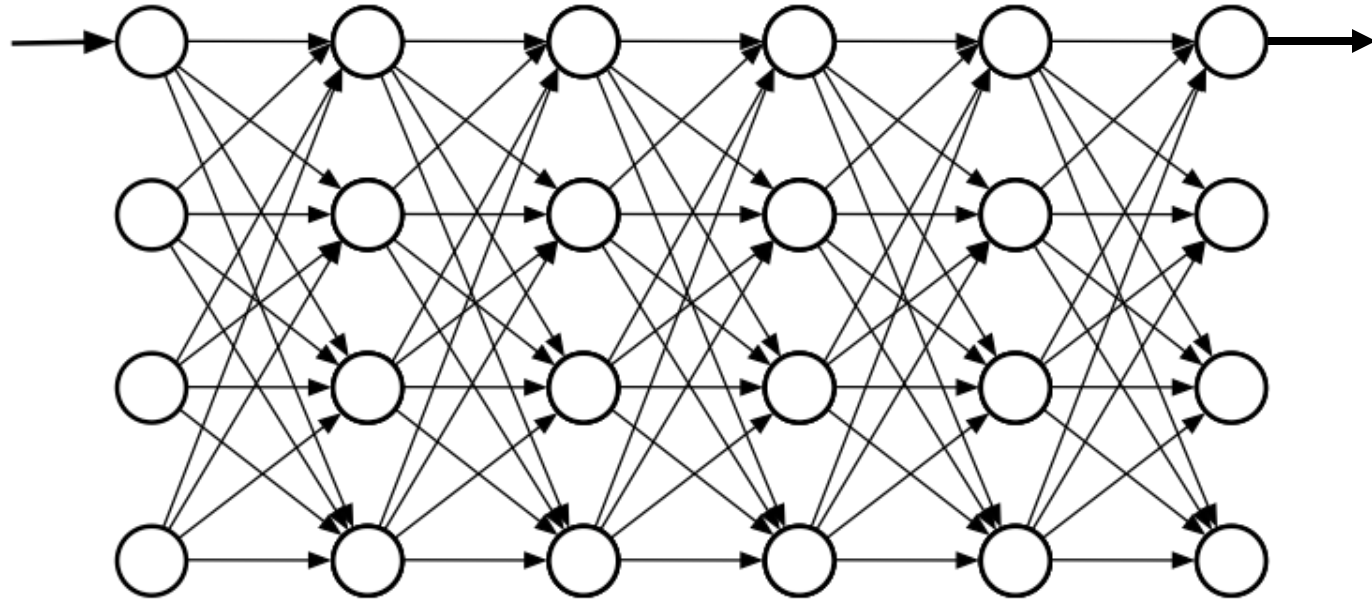
Viterbi finds  $\pi^* = \arg \max_{\pi} P(x, \pi)$



Most probable (Viterbi) *path* goes through 5, but most probable *state* at 2nd step is 6 (I.e., Viterbi is not the only interesting answer.)

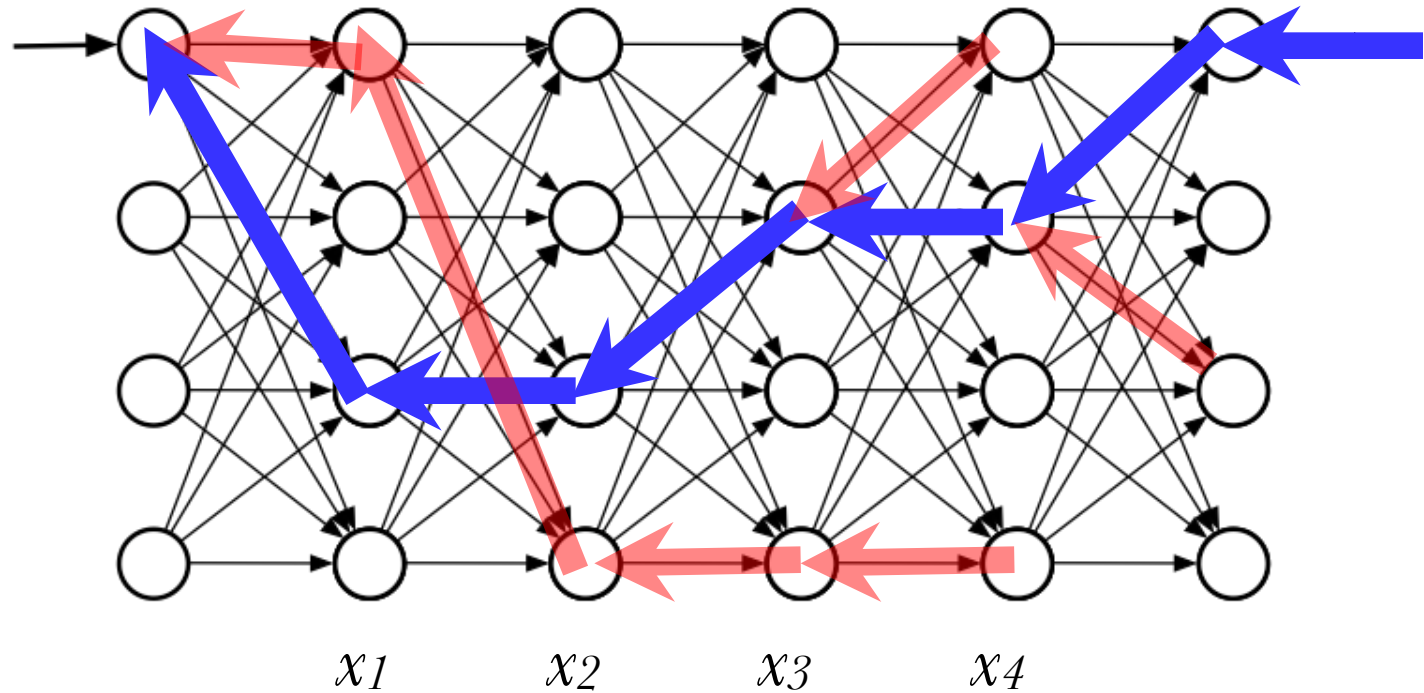
# An HMM (unrolled)

States



Emissions/sequence positions  $\longrightarrow$

# Viterbi: best path to each state

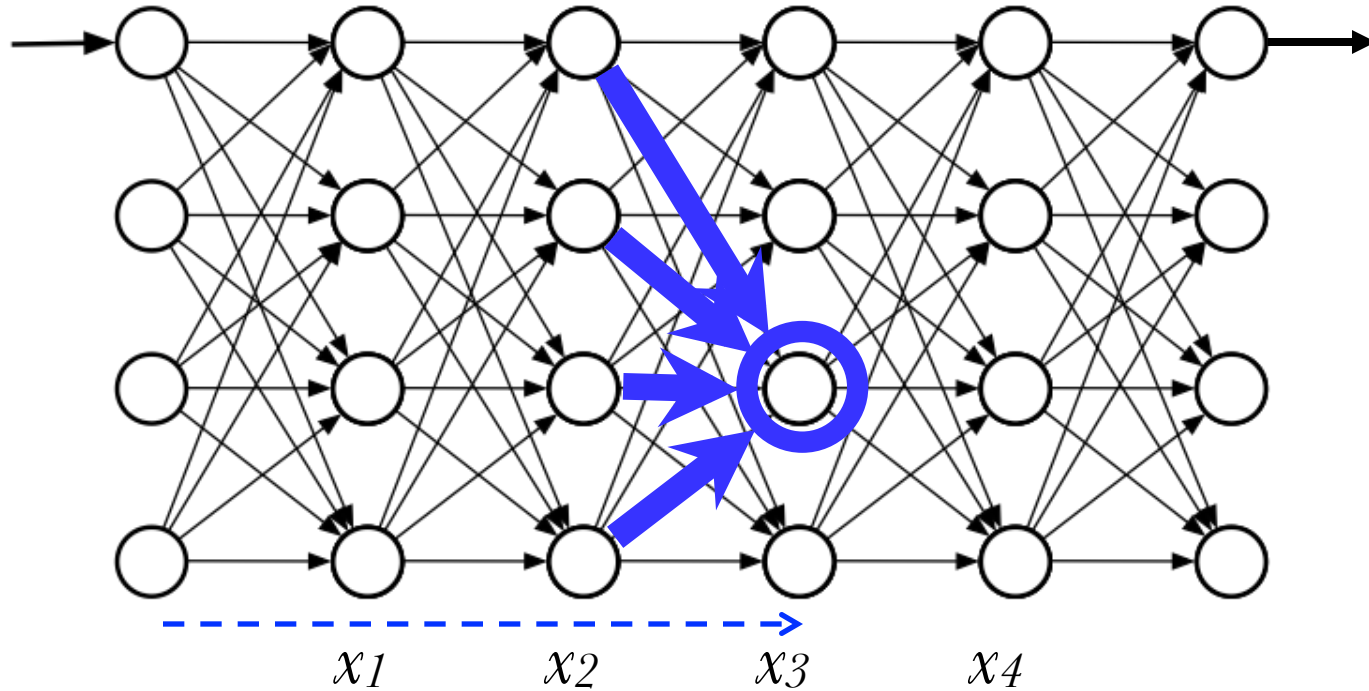


Viterbi score: 
$$v_l(i + 1) = e_l(x_{i+1}) \cdot \max_k (v_k(i) a_{k,l})$$

Viterbi path<sup>R</sup>: 
$$back_l(i + 1) = \arg \max_k (v_k(i) a_{k,l})$$

# The Forward Algorithm

For each state/time, want *total* probability of all paths leading to it, with given emissions



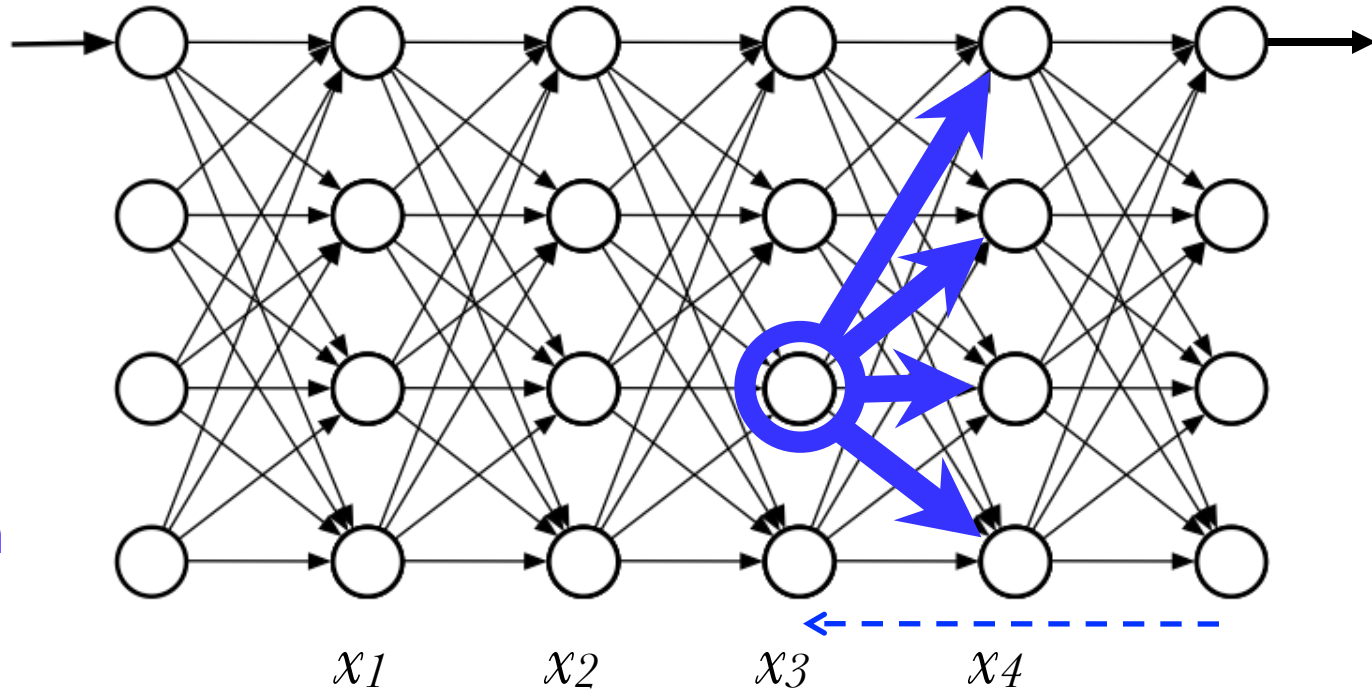
$$f_k(i) \triangleq P(x_1 \dots x_i, \pi_i = k)$$

$$f_l(i+1) = e_l(x_{i+1}) \sum_k f_k(i) a_{k,l}$$

$$P(x) = \sum_{\pi} P(x, \pi) = \sum_k f_k(n) a_{k,0}$$

# The Backward Algorithm

Similar:  
for each  
state/time,  
want total  
probability  
of all paths  
from it, with  
given  
emissions,  
conditional  
on that  
state.



$$b_k(i) \triangleq P(x_{i+1} \cdots x_n \mid \pi_i = k)$$

$$b_k(i) = \sum_l a_{k,l} e_l(x_{i+1}) b_l(i+1)$$

$$b_k(n) = a_{k,0}$$

# In state $k$ at step $i$ ?

$$P(x, \pi_i = k)$$

$$= P(x_1, \dots, x_i, \pi_i = k) \cdot P(x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n \mid x_1, \dots, x_i, \pi_i = k)$$

$$= P(x_1, \dots, x_i, \pi_i = k) \cdot P(x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n \mid \pi_i = k)$$

$$= f_k(i) \cdot b_k(i)$$

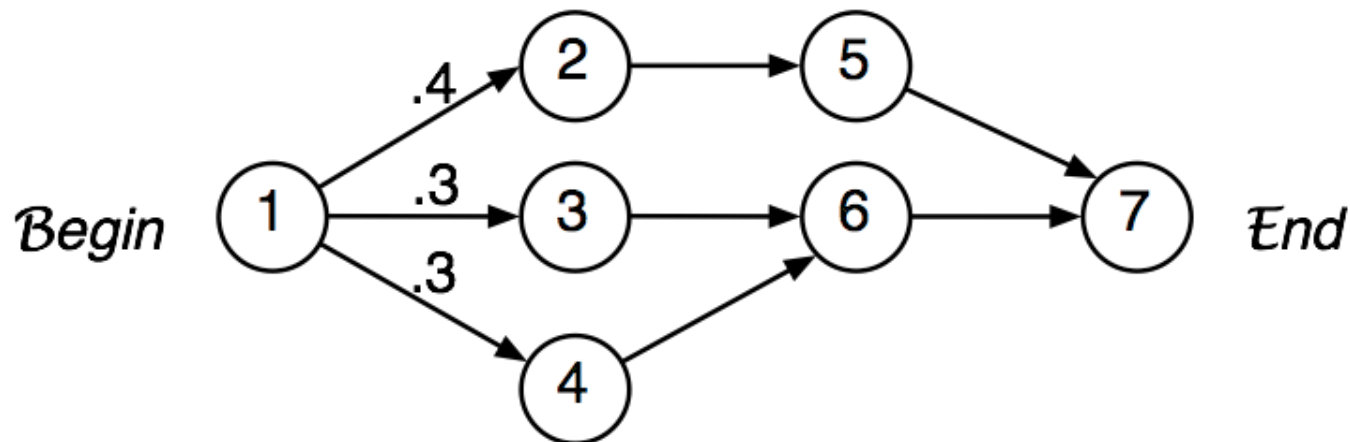
$$P(\pi_i = k \mid x) = \frac{P(x, \pi_i = k)}{P(x)} = \frac{f_k(i) \cdot b_k(i)}{P(x)}$$

# Posterior Decoding, I

Alternative 1: what's the most likely state at step  $i$ ?

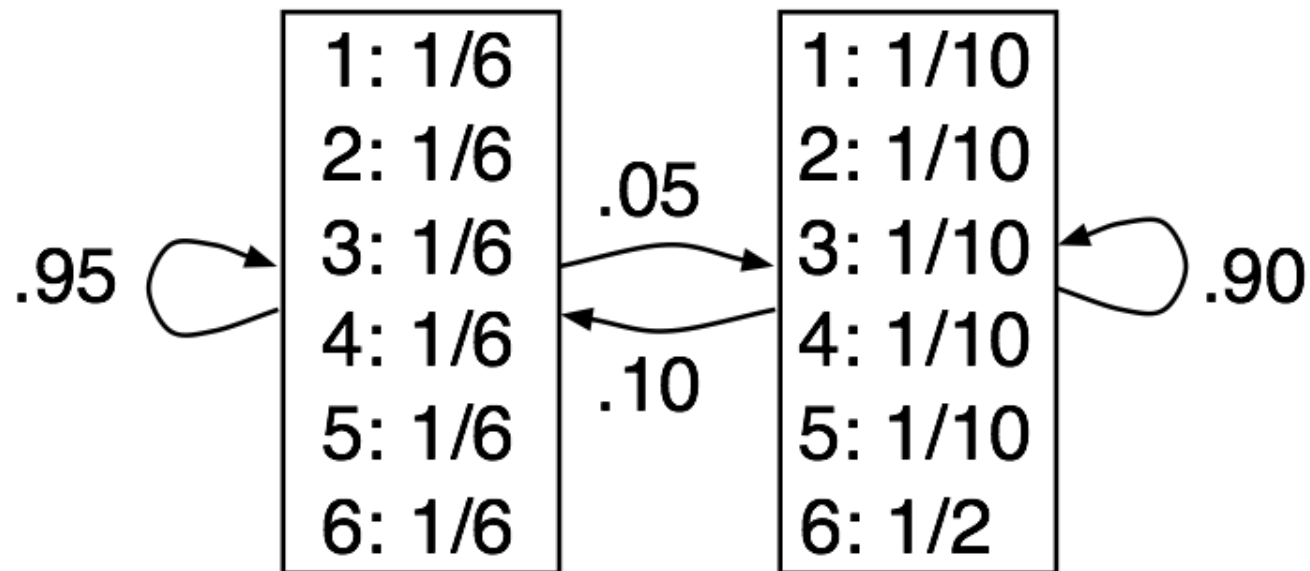
$$\hat{\pi}_i = \arg \max_k P(\pi_i = k \mid x)$$

Note: the sequence of most likely states  $\neq$  the most likely sequence of states. May not even be legal!



# The Occasionally Dishonest Casino

1 fair die, 1 “loaded” die, occasionally swapped





```

Rolls      315116246446644245311321631164152133625144543631656626566666
Die        FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL
Viterbi    FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL

Rolls      651166453132651245636664631636663162326455236266666625151631
Die        LLLLLLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL
Viterbi    LLLLLLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL

Rolls      222555441666566563564324364131513465146353411126414626253356
Die        FFFFFFFFFLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF
Viterbi    FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL

Rolls      366163666466232534413661661163252562462255265252266435353336
Die        LLLLLLLLLLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF
Viterbi    LLLLLLLLLLLLLLFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

Rolls      233121625364414432335163243633665562466662632666612355245242
Die        FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL
Viterbi    FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFL

```

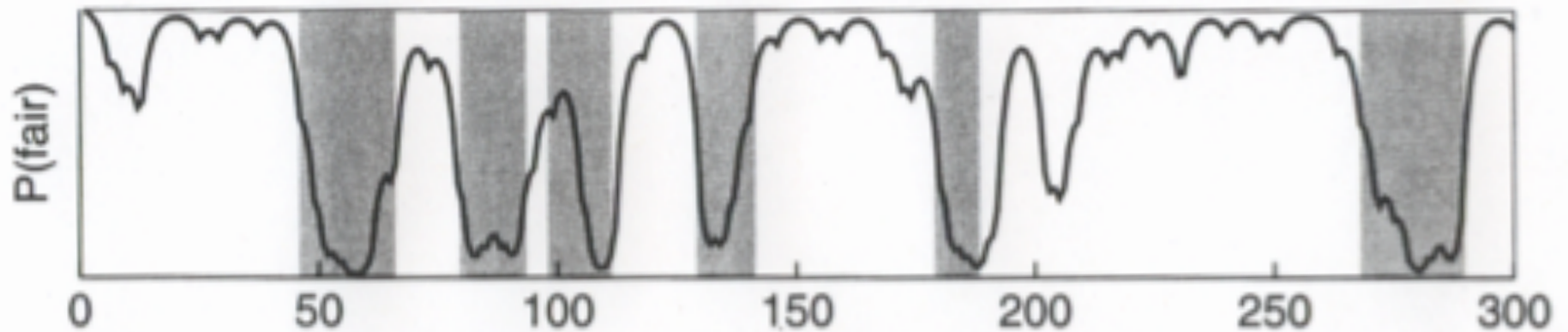
**Figure 3.5**

*Rolls: Visible data—300 rolls of a die as described above.*

*Die: Hidden data—which die was actually used for that roll (F = fair, L = loaded).*

*Viterbi: the prediction by the Viterbi algorithm is shown.*

# Posterior Decoding



**Figure 3.6** *The posterior probability of being in the state corresponding to the fair die in the casino example. The x axis shows the number of the roll. The shaded areas show when the roll was generated by the loaded die.*

# Posterior Decoding, II

Alternative 1: what's most likely state at step  $i$ ?

$$\hat{\pi}_i = \arg \max_k P(\pi_i = k \mid x)$$

Alternative 2: given some function  $g(k)$  on states, what's its expectation. E.g., what's probability of “+” model in CpG HMM ( $g(k)=1$  iff  $k$  is “+” state)?

$$G(i \mid x) = \sum_k P(\pi_i = k \mid x) \cdot g(k)$$

# CpG Islands again

Data: 41 human sequences, totaling 60kbp,  
including 48 CpG islands of about 1kbp each

Viterbi:

Found 46 of 48  
plus 121 “false positives”

Post-process:

46/48  
67 false pos

Posterior Decoding:

same 2 false negatives  
plus 236 false positives

46/48  
83 false pos

Post-process: merge within  
500; discard < 500

# Training

Given model topology & training sequences,  
learn transition and emission probabilities

If  $\pi$  known, then MLE is just frequency observed  
in training data

$$a_{k,l} = \frac{\text{count of } k \rightarrow l \text{ transitions}}{\text{count of } k \rightarrow \text{anywhere transitions}}$$
$$e_k(b) = \dots$$

← + pseudocounts?

If  $\pi$  hidden, then use EM:

given  $\pi$ , estimate  $\theta$ ; given  $\theta$  estimate  $\pi$ .

} 2 ways

# Viterbi Training

given  $\pi$ , estimate  $\theta$ ; given  $\theta$  estimate  $\pi$

Make initial estimates of parameters  $\theta$

Find Viterbi path  $\pi$  for each training sequence

Count transitions/emissions on those paths,  
getting new  $\theta$

Repeat

*Not* rigorously optimizing desired likelihood, but  
still useful & commonly used.

(Arguably good if you're doing Viterbi decoding.)

# Baum-Welch Training

EM: given  $\theta$ , estimate  $\pi$  ensemble; then re-estimate  $\theta$

$$\begin{aligned} P(\pi_i = k, \pi_{i+1} = l \mid x, \theta) \\ = \frac{f_k(i \mid \theta) a_{k,l} e_l(x_{i+1}) b_l(i+1 \mid \theta)}{P(x \mid \theta)} \end{aligned}$$

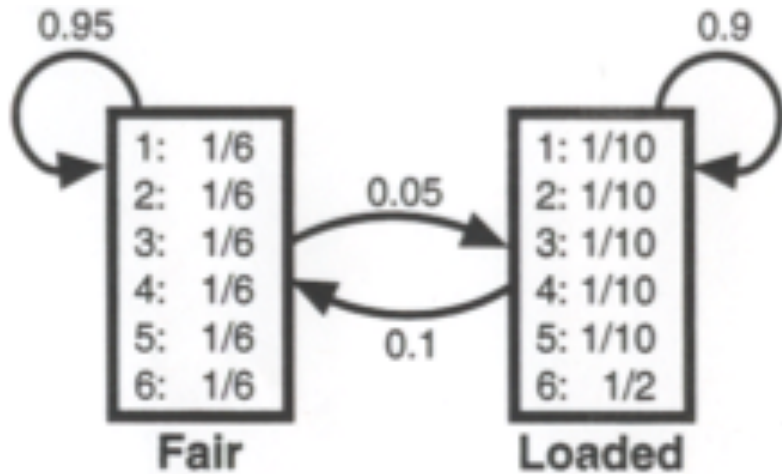
Estimated # of  $k \rightarrow l$  transitions  $\hat{A}_{k,l}$

$$= \sum_{\text{training seqs } x^j} \sum_i P(\pi_i = k, \pi_{i+1} = l \mid x^j, \theta)$$

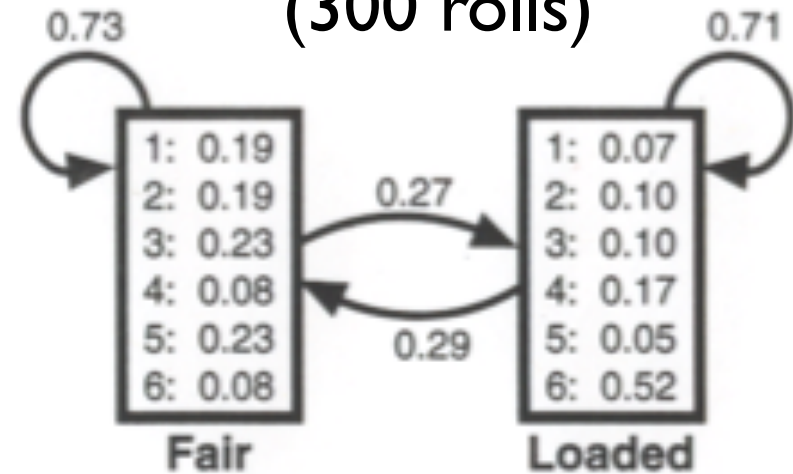
$$\text{New estimate } \hat{a}_{k,l} = \frac{\hat{A}_{k,l}}{\sum_l \hat{A}_{k,l}}$$

Emissions: similar

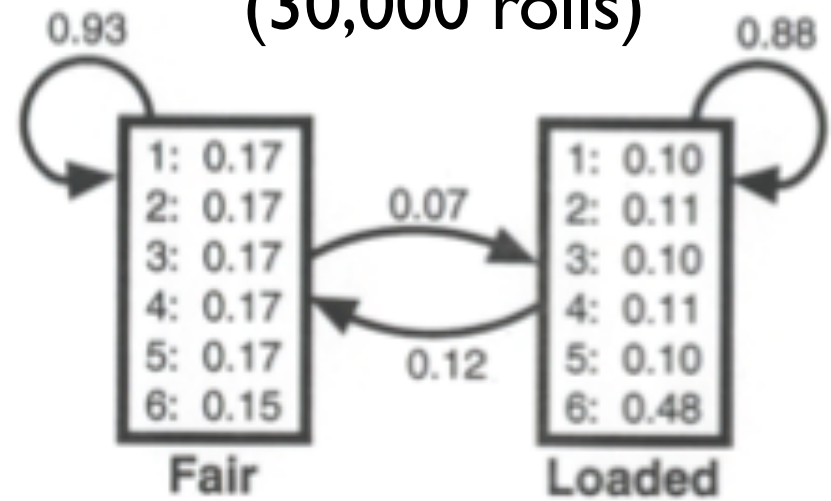
## True Model



## B-W Learned Model (300 rolls)



## B-W Learned Model (30,000 rolls)



Log-odds (vs all F) per roll

True model 0.101 bits

300-roll est. 0.097 bits

30k-roll est. 0.100 bits

(NB: overestimated)



# HMMs in Action: Pfam

<http://pfam.sanger.ac.uk/>

Proteins fall into families, both across & within species

Ex: Globins, GPCRs, Zinc fingers, Leucine zippers,...

Identifying family very useful: suggests function, etc.

So, search & alignment are both important

One very successful approach: profile HMMs

```

Helix          AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA  BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBCCCCCCCCCCC
HBA_HUMAN     -----VLSPADKTNVKAAWGKVG--HAGEYGAEALERMFLSFPTTKTYFPHF
HBB_HUMAN     -----VHLTPEEKSAVTALWGKV---NVDEVGGEALGRLLVVYPWTQRFFESF
MYG_PHYCA     -----VLSEGEWQLVLHVWAKVEA--DVAGHGQDILIRLFKSHPETLEKFDRF
GLB3_CHITP    -----LSADQISTVQASFDKVKG-----DPVGILYAVFKADPSIMAKFTQF
GLB5_PETMA    PIVDTGSVAPLSAAEKTIRSAWAPVYS--TYETSGVDILVKFFTSTPAAQEFFPKF
LGB2_LUPLU    -----GALTESQAALVKSSWEEFNA--NIPKHTHRFFILVLEIAPAAKDLFS-F
GLB1_GLYDI    -----GLSAAQRQVIAATWKDIAGADNGAGVGKDCLIKFLSAHPQMAAVFG-F
Consensus     Ls...  v a W kv . .   g . L.. f . P .   F F

```

```

Helix          DDDDDDDDEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE   FFFFFFFFFFFFFF
HBA_HUMAN     -DLS-----HGSAQVKGHGKKVADALTNVAHV---D--DMPNALSALSDDLHAHKL-
HBB_HUMAN     GDLSTPDAVMGNPKVKAHGKKVLGAFSDGLAHL---D--NLKGTfATLSELHCDKL-
MYG_PHYCA     KHLKTEAEMKASEDLKKGVTVLTALGAILKK---K-GHHEAELKPLAQSHATKH-
GLB3_CHITP    AG-KDLESIKGTAPFETHANRIVGFFSKIIGEL--P---NIEADVNTFVASHKPRG-
GLB5_PETMA    KGLTTADQLKKSADVRWHAERIINAVNDAVASM--DDTEKMSMKLRDLSGKHAKSF-
LGB2_LUPLU    LK-GTSEVPQNNPELQAHAGKVFKLVEAAIQLVQVTGVVVTDATLKNLGSVHVSkg-
GLB1_GLYDI    SG----AS---DPGVAALGAKVLAQIGVAVSHL--GDEGKMVAQMKAvgVRHKGyGN
Consensus     .  t    .. . v..Hg kv. a   a...l   d   . a l. l   H .

```

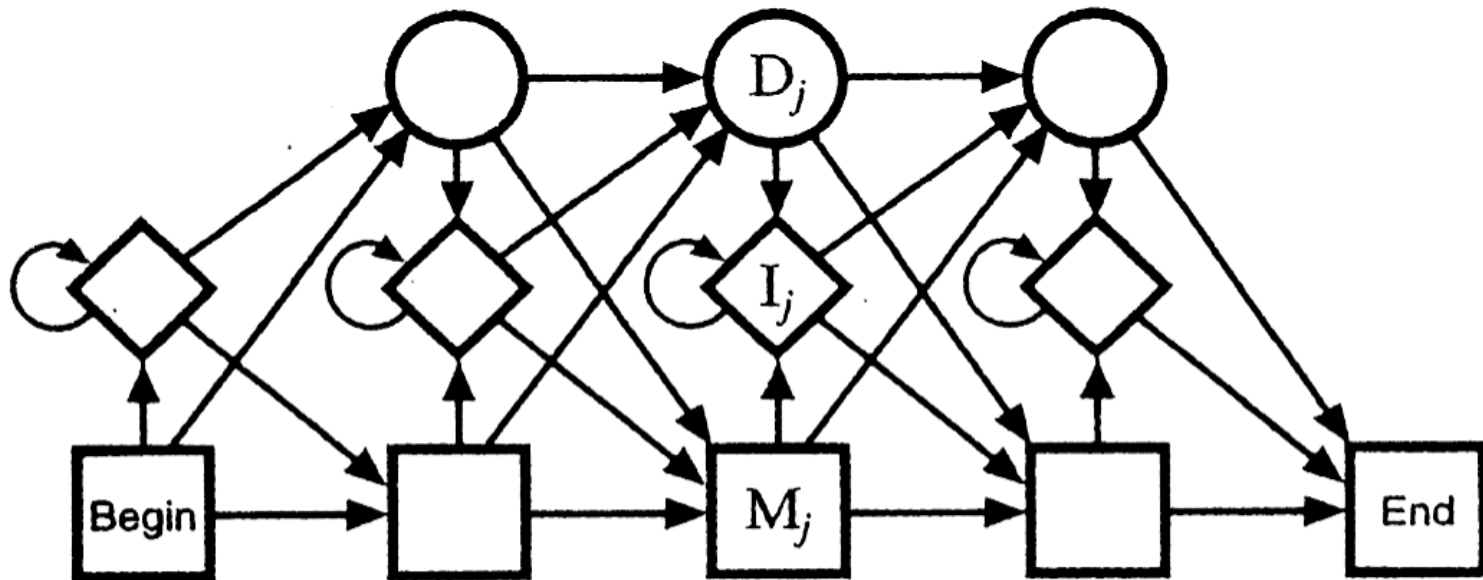
```

Helix          FGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG   HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
HBA_HUMAN     -RVDPVNFKLLSHCLLVTLAAHLPAEFTPAVHASLDKFLASVSTVLTskYR-----
HBB_HUMAN     -HVDPENFRLLGNVLVLCVLAHHFGKEFTPPVQAAyQkvVAGVANALAHKYH-----
MYG_PHYCA     -KIPIKYLEFISEAI IHVLHSRHPGDFGADAQgAMNKALELFRKDIAAKYKELGYQg
GLB3_CHITP    --VTHDQLNNFRAGFVSyMKAHT--DFA-GAEAAWGATLDTFFGMIFSKM-----
GLB5_PETMA    -QVDPQYFKVLAAVIADTVAAG-----DAGFEKLMSMICILLRSAY-----
LGB2_LUPLU    --VADAHFPVVKEAILKTIKEVVGAKWSEELNSAWTIAYDELAIVIKKEMNDAA---
GLB1_GLYDI    KHKAQYFEPLGASLLSMEHRIGGKMNAaAKDAWAAAYADISGALISGLQs-----
Consensus     v.   f l . . . . .   f . aa. k. .   l sky

```

Alignment of 7 globins. A-H mark 8 alpha helices.  
 Consensus line: upper case = 6/7, lower = 4/7, dot=3/7.  
 Could we have a profile (aka weight matrix) w/ indels?

# Profile HMM Structure



**Figure 5.2** *The transition structure of a profile HMM.*

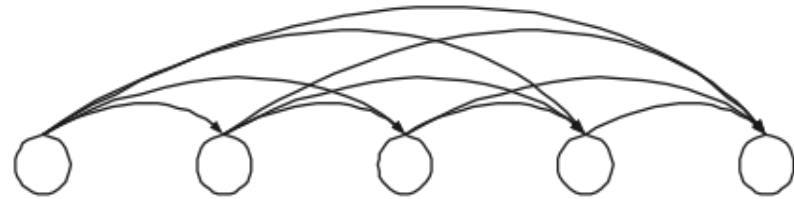
M<sub>j</sub>: Match states (20 emission probabilities)

I<sub>j</sub>: Insert states (Background emission probabilities)

D<sub>j</sub>: Delete states (silent - no emission)

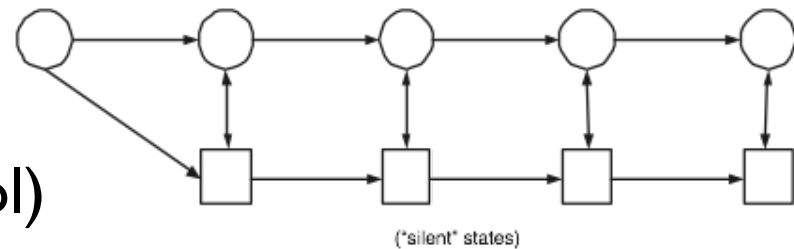
# Silent States

Example: chain of states, can skip some



Problem: many parameters.

A solution: chain of “silent” states; fewer parameters (but less detailed control)



Algorithms: basically the same.

# Using Profile HMM's

## Search

Forward or Viterbi

## Scoring

Log likelihood (length adjusted)

Log odds vs background

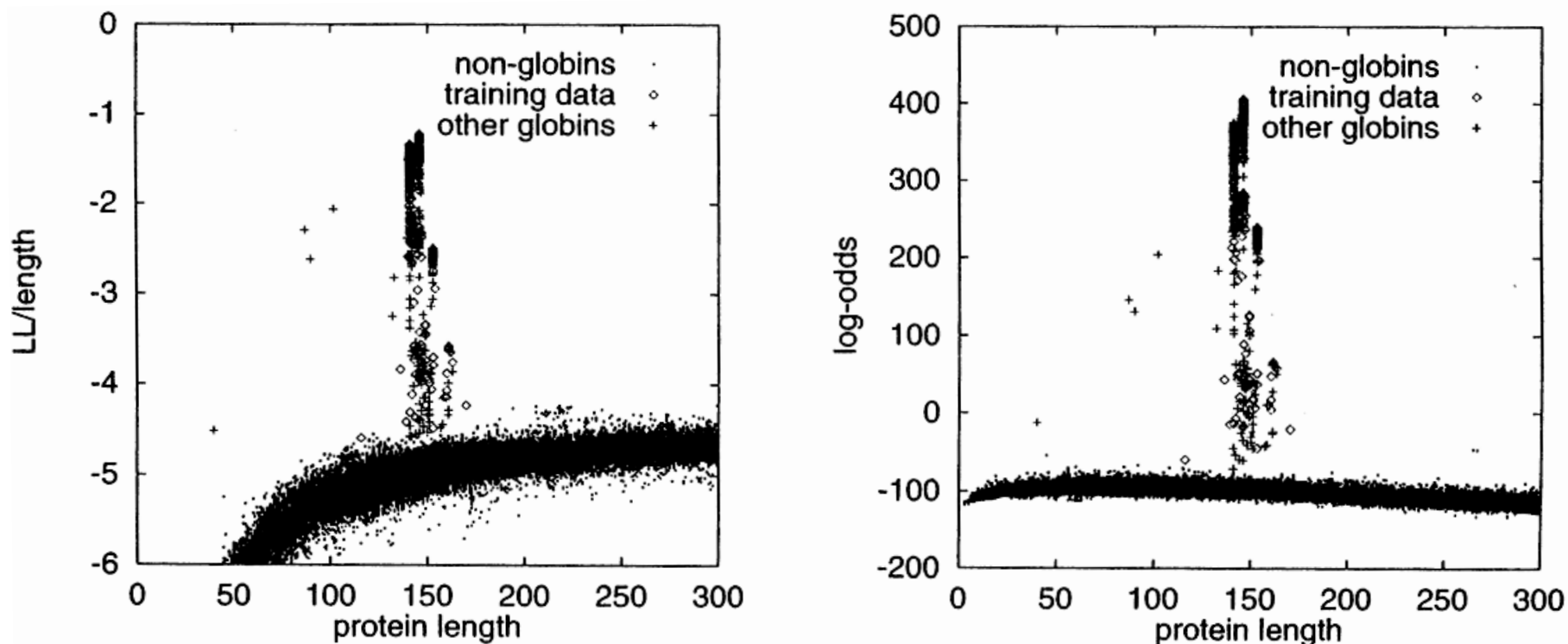
Z scores from either

} next slides

## Alignment

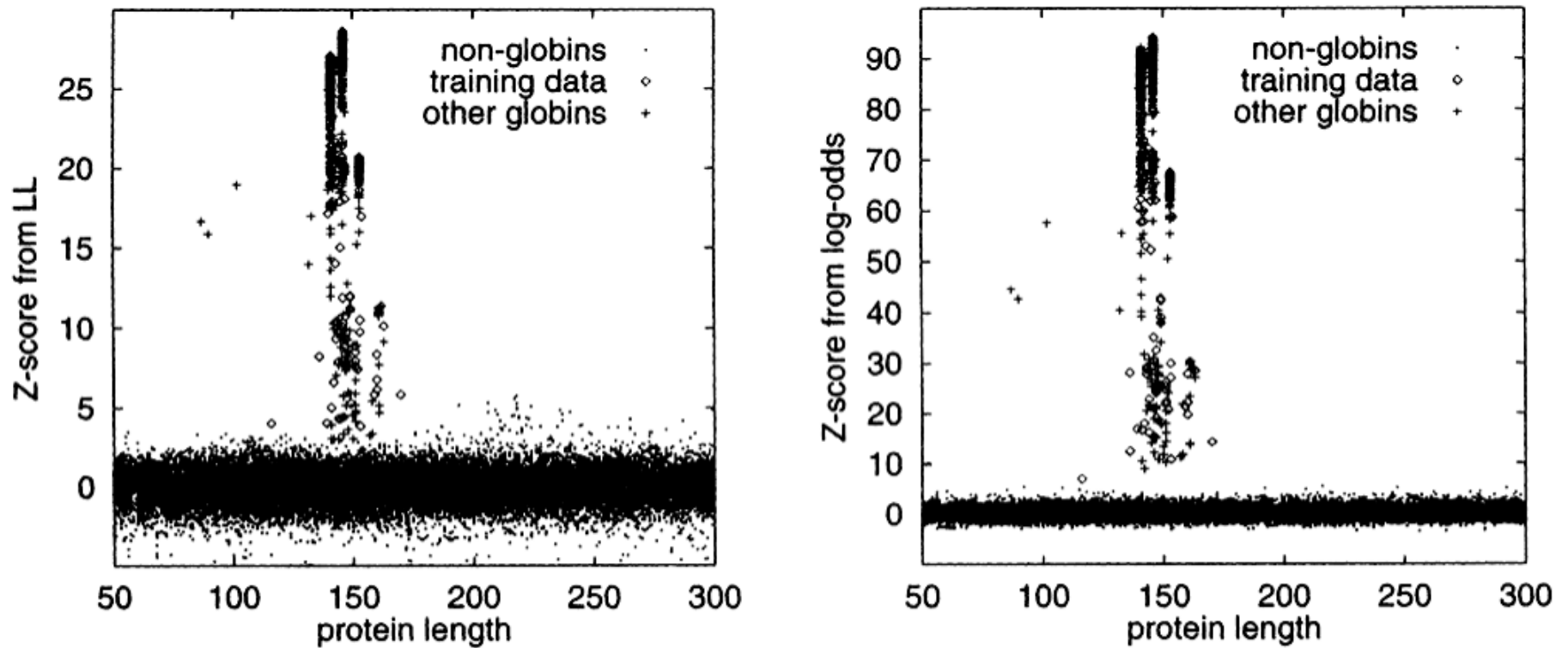
Viterbi

# Likelihood vs Odds Scores



**Figure 5.5** To the left the length-normalized LL score is shown as a function of sequence length. The right plot shows the same for the log-odds score.

# Z-Scores



**Figure 5.6** *The Z-score calculated from the LL scores (left) and the log-odds (right).*

# Pfam Model Building

Hand-curated “seed” multiple alignments

Train profile HMM from seed alignment

Hand-chosen score threshold(s)

Automatic classification/alignment of all other  
protein sequences

11912 families in Rfam 24.0, 10/200

(covers ~75% of proteins)



# Model-building refinements

Pseudocounts (count = 0 common when training with 20 aa's)

$$e_i(a) = \frac{C_{i,a} + A \cdot q_a}{\sum_a C_{i,a} + A}, \quad A \sim 20, \quad q_a = \text{background}$$

(~50 training sequences)

Pseudocount “mixtures”, e.g. separate pseudocount vectors for various contexts (hydrophobic regions, buried regions,...)

(~10-20 training sequences)

# More refinements

Weighting: may need to down weight highly similar sequences to reflect phylogenetic or sampling biases, etc.

Match/insert assignment: Simple threshold, e.g. “> 50% gap  $\Rightarrow$  insert”, may be suboptimal. Can use forward-algorithm-like dynamic programming to compute max *a posteriori* assignment.

# Numerical Issues

Products of many probabilities  $\rightarrow 0$

For Viterbi: just add logs

For forward/backward: also work with logs, but you need sums of products, so need “log-of-sum-of-product-of-exp-of-logs”, e.g., by table/interpolation

Keep high precision and perhaps scale factor

Working with log-odds also helps.

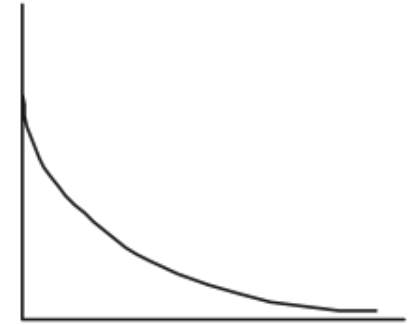
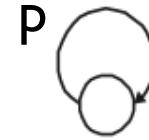
# Model structure

Define it as well as you can.

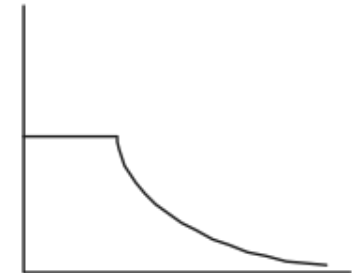
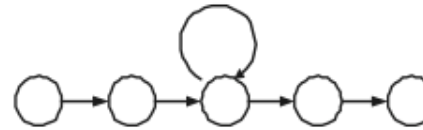
In principle, you can allow all transitions and hope to learn their probabilities from data, but it usually works poorly – too many local optima

# Duration Modeling

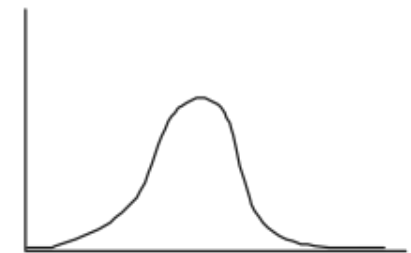
Self-loop duration:  
geometric  $p^n(1-p)$



min, then geometric



“negative binomial”



More general: possible (but slower)

# HMM Summary

joint vs  
conditional probs

## Inference

Viterbi – best single path (max of products)

Forward – sum over all paths (sum of products)

Backward – similar

Posterior decoding

## Model building

Semi-supervised – typically fix architecture (e.g. profile HMM), then learn parameters

Baum-Welch – training via EM and forward/backward (aka the forward/backward algorithm)

Viterbi training – also “EM”, but Viterbi-based

# HMM Summary (cont.)

Search:

Viterbi or forward

Scoring:

Odds ratio to background

Z-score

E-values, etc., too

Excellent tools available (SAM, HMMer, Pfam, ...)

*A very widely used tool for biosequence analysis*