

Splice Site Algorithms for Clinical Genomics





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Thanks to NIH & Stakeholders

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- Dr. Val Hyland (Pathology Queensland, Australia).



Q & A



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Genetic Testing Process







VSClinical



- Implements a guided workflow for following the ACMG guideline scoring and classifying
- Place criteria into conceptually related groups, paired with their opposites, and formatted as answerable question.

Aggregate and Automate:

- Questions have supporting evidence presented with rich and interactive visuals
- Automatically computed recommendations for questions that have explicit bioinformatic evidence, with supporting reasons for each answer.

Expert and Beginner Friendly:

- Start with descriptive summaries and recommendations for a variant
- Deep dive into Population Catalogs, Gene Impact, Published Studies and Clinical tabs
- Integrated documentation, readings on scoring criteria and citations



Scored Criteria by Strength: хO Very Strong Strong хO Pathogenic ×0 ×0 BP4, BP5 x2 Supporting Benign BS1 ×1 Stand Alone ×0

ACMG Classification:

Likely Benign

ACMG Classification

The classification of Likely Benign applies with scored critera of 1 very strong pathogenic along with 2 or more moderate pathogenic and no benign.

Recommended Criteria

- Perform functional assay to determine the effect of the variant in the gene.
- Establish the precense of the variant in the parents



Introns have distinct nucleotide pairs at each end

- GT at the 5' end (Donor Site)
- AG at the 3' end (Acceptor Site)
- Sequences around splice sites are highly variable
- Machine learning and probabilistic methods are used to identify sites







Algorithms



VSClinical supports four splice site prediction algorithms

- PWM: Uses position weight matrix similar to SpliceSiteFinder and Human Splice Finder
- MaxEntScan: Approximates sequence motifs using Maximum Entropy Distribution
- NNSplice: Identifies splice sites using neural networks
- GeneSplicer: Uses Markov models combined with maximal dependence decomposition

Experiments

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Algorithms were compared in terms of

- Accuracy
- Sensitivity
- Specificity
- Precision

The test data set was generated as follows:

- 20,000 Known splice sites were extracted from the 1000 Genomes GRCh38 reference sequence using exon boundaries specified by NCBI RefSeq Genes
- This was combined with 20,000 false splice sites from the HS3D splice site dataset



	Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity	Precision
PWM	79.7	82.4	79.5	28.0
MaxEntScan	87.0	72.9	94.9	88.9
NNSplice	87.1	83.6	94.4	96.9
GeneSplicer	88.2	85.4	93.8	96.6



	Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity	Precision
PWM	82.7	81.8	84.4	91.3
MaxEntScan	89.5	89.0	90.3	95.1
NNSplice	81.5	77.4	90.0	94.2
GeneSplicer	92.0	92.9	90.1	95.1

Discussion



- GeneSplicer has exceptional performance for all metrics
- MaxEntScan has high accuracy and is competitive with GeneSplicer in terms of specificity
- NNSplice also performs well and is competitive with MaxEntScan on donor data
- PWM has a high false positive rate and performs poorly on donor data



[Demo in VarSeq]

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