Hyperbolic statistics and entropy loss in the description of gene distributions

K. Lukierska-Walasek
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Dewajtis 5, 01-815 Warsaw, Poland

K. Topolski
Institute of Mathematics, Wroclaw University, Pl. Grunwaldzki 2/4, 50-384 Wroclaw, Poland

K. Trojanowski
Institute of Computer Science, Polish Academy of Science, ul. Jana Kazmierza 5, 01-248 Warszawa, Poland

Zipf’s law implies the statistical distributions of hyperbolic type, which can describe the properties of stability and entropy loss in linguistics. We present the information theory from which follows that if the system is described by distributions of hyperbolic type it leads to the possibility of entropy loss. We present the number of repetitions of genes in the genomes for some bacteria, as *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *Escherichia coli*. Distributions of repetitions of genes in genome appears to be represented by distributions of hyperbolic type.

**Keywords:** gene length, hyperbolic distributions, entropy

1. Introduction. In last years appeared the possibility to provide some knowledge of the genome sequence data in many organisms. The genome have been studied intensively by number of different methods [1]-[10]. The statistical analysis of DNA is complicated because of its complex structure; it consists of coding and non coding regions, repetitive elements, etc., which have an influence on the local sequence decomposition. The long range correlations in sequence compositions of DNA is much more complex than simple power law; moreover effective exponents of scale regions are varying considerably between different species [2], [11]. In papers [5], [6] the Zipf approach to analyzing linguistic texts has been extended to statistical study of DNA base pair sequences.

In our paper we take into account some linguistic features of genomes to study the statistics of gene lengths. We present the information theory from which follows that if the system is described by special distribution of hyperbolic type it implies a possibility of entropy loss. Distributions of hyperbolic type describe also property of stability and flexibility which explain that the language considered in the paper [11] can develop without changing its basic structure. Similar situation can occur in a genome sequence data which carries the genetic information.

We can expect above features in gene strings as in language strings (words, sentences) because of presence of redundancy in both cases.

In Sect.2 we shall present some common features of linguistics and genetics. In Sect.3 we describe Code Length Game, Maximal Entropy Principle and the theorem about hyperbolic type distributions and entropy lost. Final Sect.4 contains some applications to genetics and final remarks. The distributions appear to be hyperbolic distributions distributions in sense of theorem.

2. Some common features of linguistics and genetics. A language is characterized by some alphabet with letters: a, b, c, ..., which form words as sequence of *n* letters. In quantum physics the analogy to letters can be attached to pure states, and texts correspond to mixed general states. Languages have very different alphabets: computers 0,1 (two bits), English language 27 letters with space and DNA four nitric bases: G(*guanine*), A(*adenine*), C(*cytosine*), T(*thymine*). The collection of letters can be ordered or disordered. To quantify the disorder of different collections of the letters we use an entropy.

\[
H = - \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \log_2 p_i, \tag{1}
\]

where *p*ᵢ denotes probability of occurrence *i*-th letter. If we take base of logarithm 2 this will lead to the entropy measured in bits. When all letters have the same probability in all states obviously the entropy has maximum value *H*ₘₐₓ.

A real entropy has lower value *H*ₑₒᵤ, because in a real languages the letters have not the same probability of appearance. Redundancy *R* of language is defined [11] as follows

\[
R = \frac{H_{\text{max}} - H_{\text{eff}}}{H_{\text{max}}} \tag{2}
\]

The quantity *H*ₘₐₓ - *H*ₑₒᵤ is called an information. Information depend on difference between the maximum entropy and the actual entropy. The bigger actual entropy means the smaller redundancy. Redundancy can be measured by values of the frequencies with which different letters occur in one or more texts. Redundancy *R* denotes the number that if we remove the part *R* of the letters determined by redundancy, the meaning of the text will be still understood. In English some letters occur more frequently than other and similarly in DNA of vertebrates the frequency of nitric bases C and G pairs is usually less frequent than A and T pairs. The low value

\[
H = - \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \log_2 p_i,
\]
of redundancy allows in easier way to fight transcription errors in gene code. The papers [3, 4] it is demonstrated that non coding regions of eukaryotes display a smaller entropy and larger redundancy than coding regions.

3. Maximal Entropy Principle and Code Length Game. In this section we shall provide some mathematics from the information theory which will be helpful in the quantitative formulation of our approach, for details see [11].

Let $A$ be the alphabet which is a discrete set finite or countable infinite. Let $M^+_1$ and $\sim M^+_1(A)$ are respectively, the set of probability measures on $A$ and the set of non-negative measures $P$, such that $P(A) \leq 1$. The elements in $A$ can be thought as letters. By $K(A)$ we denote the set of mappings, compact codes, $k : A \to [0, \infty]$, which satisfy Kraft’s equality [13]:

$$\sum_{i \in A} \exp(-k_i) = 1. \quad (3)$$

By $\sim K(A)$ we denote the set of all mappings, general codes, $k : A \to [0, \infty]$, which satisfy Kraft’s inequality [13]:

$$\sum_{i \in A} \exp(-k_i) \leq 1. \quad (4)$$

For $k \in \sim K(A)$ and $i \in A$, $k_i$ is the code length, for example the length of the word. For $k \in \sim K(A)$ and $P \in M^+_1(A)$ the average code length is defined as

$$\langle k, P \rangle = \sum_{i \in A} k_i p_i. \quad (5)$$

There is bijective correspondence between $p_i$ and $k_i$:

$$k_i = -\ln p_i \quad \text{and} \quad p_i = \exp(-k_i).$$

For $P \in M^+_1(A)$ we also introduce the entropy

$$H(p) = -\sum_{i \in A} p_i \ln p_i. \quad (6)$$

The entropy can be represented as minimal average code length, (see [11]):

$$H(P) = \min_{k \in \sim K(A)} \langle k, P \rangle.$$ 

Let $P \subseteq M^+_1(A)$ then

$$H_{\max}(P) = \sup_{P \subseteq P} \inf_{k \in \sim K(A)} \langle k, P \rangle$$

$$= \sup_{P \subseteq P} H(P)$$

$$\leq \inf_{k \in \sim K(A)} \sup_{P \subseteq P} \langle k, P \rangle$$

$$= R_{\min}(P). \quad (7)$$

The formula 7 present the Nash optimal strategies. $R_{\min}$ denotes minimum risk, $k$ denotes the Nash equilibrium code, $P$ denotes probability. For example, in a linguistics the listener is a minimizer, speaker is a maximizer. We have words with distributions $p_i$ and their codes $k_i$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots$. The listener chooses codes $k_i$, the speaker chooses probability distributions $p_i$.

We can notice that Zipf argued [14] that in the development of a language vocabulary balance is reached as a result of two opposing forces: unification which tends to reduce the vocabulary and corresponds to a principle of least effort, seen from point of view of speaker and diversification connected with the listeners wish to know meaning of speech.

This principle (7) is so basic as Maximum Entropy Principle has a sense that search for one type of optimal strategy called as Code Length Game translates directly into a search for distributions with maximum entropy. It is a given a code $k \in \sim K(A)$ and distribution $P \in M^+_1(A)$. Optimal strategy according $H(P) = \inf_{k \in \sim K} \langle k, P \rangle$ is represented by entropy $H(P)$, where actual strategy is represented by $\langle k, P \rangle$.

Zipf’s law is an empirical observation which relates rank of life one is able to communicate at reasonably height.
rate about $H(P^*)$ and improve language by introduction of specialized words, which occur seldom in a language as a whole. This process can be continued during the rest of life. One is able to express complicated ideas develop language without changing a basic structure of the language. Similar situation we can expect in gene strings, which carry an information.

4. Application to genetics. The gene data which we shall use were obtained from GeneBank (ftp://ftp.ncbi.nih.gov).

![FIG. 1: Graph of the number of repetition of genes in genome of the *Escherichia coli*. Genom consists of 5874 genes](image1)

![FIG. 2: Graph of the number of repetition of genes in genome of the *Escherichia coli*. Genom consists of 4892 genes](image2)

![FIG. 3: Graph of the number of repetition of genes in genome of the *Borrelia burgdorferi*. The genom consists of 1239 genes](image3)

Figures 1, 2 and 3 show how often the same genes are repeated in genome. For example, Figure 2 shows that mostly repeated gene has number 1 and it appears 5 times, the second one also appears 5 times, third gene 4 times etc. The probability of apperence of genes present hyperbolic type distributions [11].

5. Final remarks. Zipf’s law relates the rank $k$ and the frequency of words $f$ in natural languages by exact hyperbolic formula $k \times f = \text{const}$. However the probability values $1/n$ for all natural numbers $n$ do not satisfy the normalizability condition. This problem is not occurring if we introduce distributions of hyperbolic type. In the paper we follow the statistical description of the structure natural languages and we present the informational considerations providing as conclusion the stability property and the possibility of entropy loss. We apply similar reasoning to description of genomes with the genes corresponding to words in languages. We test three examples of genomes and describe the gene statistics dealing with the number of repetitions in genome. It appears that the description of genes is represented by distributions of hyperbolic type.

One of the authors (K. L-W) would like to thank prof. Franco Ferrari for discussions.

* Electronic address: k.lukierska@uksw.edu.pl
1 Electronic address: topolski@math.uni.wroc.pl
‡ Electronic address: k.trojanowski@uksw.edu.pl

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