### Efficient pseudoknot partition functions: Results and (still some) open problems

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#### Non-crossing RNA partition functions

 $O(n^3)/O(n^2)$  $\min_{S} E(S)$ [Zuker] MFE prediction DISAMBIGUATION

 $\sum_{S} \exp(-E(S)/RT) \quad O(n^3)/O(n^2)$ [*McCaskill*] **Partition Function** 



Zuker, Stiegler 1981; Zuker, Sankoff 1984; McCaskill, Biopolymers 1990

• Simple pseudoknots





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  - ...+ also MFE computation—same decomposition with *algebra exchange*

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- Partition function: "McCaskill" for simple PK
  - ... + also MFE computation—same decomposition with algebra exchange
- Implementation in NUPACK

# Dirks&Pierce / Hotknots 2.0 energy model



- recursive PK
- Turner NN + additional parameters: external/internal pseudoknot base pairs, bases in pseudoloops...
- Improved by Andronescu et al., 2010  $\rightarrow$  Hotknots 2.0

Dirks, Pierce. A partition function algorithm [...] including pseudoknots. JCC 2003 Andronescu et al. Improved free energy parameters ..., RNA 2010.



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- general PK prediction in this energy model: NP-hard [Akutsu, 2000; Lyngsø&Pedersen, 2000]

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- bands: mutually nested base pairs, crossed by the other base pairs in the same way

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#### Beyond simple pseudoknots (overview)



- Partition function for CCJ pseudoknots (or Rivas/Eddy pseudoknots) Pseudoknot classes motivated by computational complexity; "gap grammars"
- Partition functions for Fatgraphs/Shadows Controlled pseudoknot classes defined by sets of band configurations
- Hierarchically constrained partition function (HFold → CParty) High efficiency due to hierarchical folding and structure class restriction

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• CCJ:  $O(n^5)$  KHPs and 4-Chains minimization of DP/Hotknots 2.0 energy



Chen, Condon, Jabbari. An  $O(n^5)$  algorithm for KHP and 4-chain. JCB 2009. Jabbari et al., Knotty: prediction of complex RNA pseudoknot structures. Bioinformatics, 2018.

ANISS PK PF

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- DP algo idea:  $W \rightarrow W$ 
  - Compose CCJ PKs from two "1 gap" TGB fragments
  - in TGB, alternate decomposition between Three Groups of Bands L,R,O/M

• Major challenge: **disambiguation** 



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 $A B C a c b \equiv A B C a c b$ 

 $\Rightarrow$  decomposition into restricted TGB



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## Automatically generated algos based on fatgraphs

Recursive PK of controlled "band" configurations / topology





- Gfold: mfe + partition function for 1-structures manual rewriting of grammar rules per fatgraph e.g.  $P_{KHP} \rightarrow A_1 I B_1 I A_2 I C_1 I B_2 I C_2$  " $O(n^{12})$ "
- AutoDP automates grammar rewriting by tree decomposition
- in progress: full energy function, disambiguation, algebra exchange

MIBIO PK PF

Reidys et al., Topology and prediction of RNA pseudoknots. Bionformatics, 2011.

Marchand et al., Automated design of DP schemes for RNA folding with pseudoknots. ALMOB, 2023.

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#### Hierarchically constrained partition function (CParty)



• HFold: Hotknots 2.0 MFE of bi-secondary "densitity-2" structures

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#### **CParty Empirical Results**



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# Conclusions

- Algorithm + Implementation of hierarchical partition function
  bioRxiv doi:10.1101/2023.05.16.541023 (a) github:HosnaJabbari/CParty
- CCJ partition function full energy model: in progress
  - $\bullet$  challenge: disambiguation (!)  $\rightarrow$  restrictions of parts of PK
- Automatically generated PF algos based on fatgraphs: in progress
  - less complex disambiguation compared to CCJ
  - $\bullet$  ongoing: implementation with ViennaRNA grammar extensions + full energy model

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