

## Genomic DNA sequences of non GT-AG introns in human mRNA genes

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### Abstract

We searched human genome DNA sequences in the DDBJ/GenBank/EMBL for introns of mRNA genes which do not conform to the GT-AG rule, and collected 5791 fragments which do not form exon parts. Of these 159 are not of GT-AG form. Then we eliminated 19 because of non introns that were yielded by clerical error, frameshift, edition policy, and so on. Major part (94) of the 140 remaining sequences can be considered also to be GT-AG forms with alternative interpretation. There are several mRNAs carrying more than one intron where not GT-AG forms but non-GT-AG ones are chosen. This suggests easy usage of easy selection, even when there is more than one candidate, by easy computer software to infer an intron sequence as the logical difference between a gene and its corresponding cDNA.

### 1. Introduction

Intron is a portion of genomic DNA (and then RNA) sequence which is transcribed to an RNA but is to be finally eliminated by splicing. Many introns begin with the dinucleotide GT (or GU) and end with the dinucleotide AG, and therefore are called the GT-AG (or GU-AG) introns, which are described as those conforming with the GT-AG rule.<sup>1)</sup> A sequence of an intron is determined by direct sequencing or inferred as a logical difference between an original gene and its corresponding cDNA:

"intron" = "upstream exontron" In order to know how a genomic DNA is constructed, we examined non GT-AG introns. In the present paper, we inquired relationship between human mRNA introns and their distribution (the ratio of occurrences). But as peptides to support our annotations, also those from other than human are used.

### 2. Method

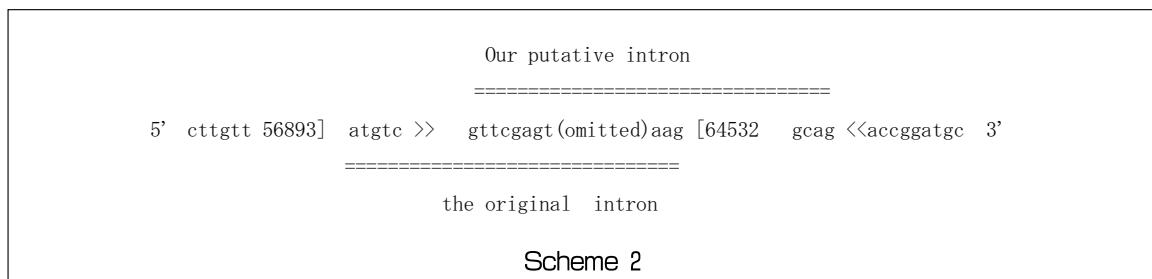
#### 2.1 Notation

An intron is flanked by two exons, and have 5'(or donor) and 3'-(or accepter) ends. The position of the 3'-end of the upstream exon is shown with a subsequence and a distance from the 5'-end of the DNA fragment, and a sign "[", and the position of the 5'-end of the downstream exon is shown with a sign "[" and a distance from the DNA fragment and subsequence of the downstream exon (Scheme 1)

|                   |                           |                  |                     |    |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----|
| 5' cttgag 56893]  | gtgttcgagt-----aagtctt ag | [64532           | gcaccggatgc         | 3' |
| =====             |                           |                  |                     |    |
| 3'-end site of    | a donor site              | an accepter site | 5'-end site of      |    |
| the upstream exon | of the original intron    |                  | the downstream exon |    |

Scheme 1

An intron with our alternative annotations is shown a pair of “>>”(for a donor) and “<<”(for an accepter) (for example, Scheme 2)



## 2.2 Procedure

We collect sequences of introns whose both ends (5'-/donor and 3'-/accepter) are described specifically, and eliminate those which are described to be putative/hypothetical ones. First of all sequences which may be not introns are eliminated. Then we try to interpret as many introns as GT-AG ones as possible.

## 3. Results

We searched the DDBJ/GenBank/EMBL, Release 34 for DNA sequences of human mRNA introns, and those of other mRNA introns to support our alternative annotations, excluding putative and/or hypothetical ones. Then we searched three databases: SWISS-PROT (SW), PIR, and PRF for the same peptide sequences as those of peptides to be finally produced if the alternative annotations be true. We accessed all of the databases also through GenomeNet managed by Kyoto University (<http://www.genome.jp/>). Among the 5791 sequences examined there were 159 of non GT-AG form as shown in Tables 1 to 9.

A pair of a donor and an accepter subsequence of each intron is separated by its Accetion number assigned by the DDBJ/GenBank/EMBL and displayed with subsequences of the upstream and downstream exons, and its identification number (of the SWISS PROT, PRF or PIR database) of one of the peptides to support our alternative annotations is attached (with six exceptions [a GT-AG and four GT-TG introns in Table 6, and the D63805 intron in Table 9]).

Table 1 lists sequences that are clearly not and/or maybe not introns.

Table 2 shows thirty five cases where our alternative annotations lead to the GT-AG forms without changing sequences to be matured mRNAs.

Table 3 shows eight cases that our alternative annotations change introns to the GT-AG forms without changing peptides to be produced because of synonymous codons.

Table 4 enumerates forty six cases that our alternative annotations to be GT-AG introns lead to different peptides from those of the original annotations.

Table 5 is a group that conversions to GT-AG introns need reinforcement by insertion of one or more nucleotides.

Table 6 collects eleven GT-GG, four GT-TG, and three GT-CG introns. The three GT-CG introns have no support to date.

Table 7 shows nineteen GC-AG introns.

Table 8 is a list of one GA-AG and two GG-TG introns.

Table 9 shows two other introns. One of them has no support.

Table 1. Sequences that may be GT-AG introns or that may be not introns (19)

Table 2. Introns that can be converted to GT-AG ones without change resulting exons (35)

Table 3. Introns that can be converted to GT-AG ones without change of peptides after translation.(8)

Table 4. Introns that can be converted to GT-AG ones affording different peptides from the original annotations (47)

(Table 4)

(Table 4)

|   |        |                                     |                        |   |   |       |           |            |
|---|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|-------|-----------|------------|
| tggatttatgt5264]>>gtaaatatgttaactataaaatt | Z96810 | c t g g a a g a a a a t t a t t a g | <<caagact              | [5521                                       | caatgtactt                                |       | SW:P48067 |            |
| tgg2237]>>                                | gtaag  | Z97370                              | c c c a g              | <<agccatctccaggccaccgtccatgtggcatatgtggcttg | c t g t c t c t t g                       | [2400 | gagctgt   |            |
| tttcatg>>                                 | gta    | 1353]                               | aggatitaacattgaataatgt | X07963                                      | c t t t t a a t t a t t a g g t c t c a g | <<gt  | [1483     | gacatccatg |

Table 5. Introns that can be converted in to GT-AG forms with reinforcement with nucleotides

|  |                                      |   |                       |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| A capital letter is a nucleotide to be inserted. |                                      |   |                       |
| tggaaaatt 1440]>> gtaagtttt AB010084             | actaaattaaacaattt                    | CTAAATCATTTCTATAG <<[1569                               | cttttactaaa SW:Q31241 |
| catccaaag3291]>> gtaaatgtaaag AF026029           | agagataacaatctttca G                 | <<[3772 ggtttgcgtat PRF:2201493A                        | SW:01028              |
| aggGttacag>> g 9909]                             | tggggatggcccttgtttcc                 | U24578 cttccacccttcctcccatgtag <<[10045                 | PIR:G02277            |
| ctgtctacag 658]>> G taagcacgtcg U41163           | ggcccttccaccctccatcg                 | <<[749 gacccatcat                                       | PIR:G02277            |
| cgacaaccag 1303]>> Gtttgatggcgttggacag           | U41163 tggccctgagcttagccgttgcacag    | <<[11414tttttagtgt                                      |                       |
| atcttcgttca9452]>>                               | gtggccctgtggggacgggtgg               | U70065 cactggccatgtcccccacccacga G <<[10839actatggatctc | SW:P52333             |
| ggacacacatt 5063]>> CGccaa>> gtaacaaaaaaaaatccaa | U181031 ctcattactccccccttcccccattaca | [2] 547 oag <<actonat                                   | SW:Q99490             |

Table 6 GT-XG introns (4 GT-GG 11 GT-GG and 4 GT-TG ones)

|                       |        |                         |       |      |            |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------|------|------------|
| PRF:2108377A          | U18671 | ttttcacaccccttcctcg     | <<[   | 9716 | aggcttgtgg |
| SW:P26927             | U28054 | ccggactatctcggttcatctcg | <<[   | 4389 | ggtccggcca |
| SW:P26927             | U28054 | cgttttgctccgcgtccgcctcg | <<[   | 5134 | gttacgttta |
| SW:Q08345             | U48705 | tcccttcgttgcgccttc      | [384] | cg   | <<gactcgat |
|                       |        |                         |       |      |            |
| gtcttagggccaggcggaaac |        |                         |       |      |            |
| gttagggggggggacca     |        |                         |       |      |            |
| gttagccctgtgtccgg     |        |                         |       |      |            |
| gtttagaaaaggccctgtcg  |        |                         |       |      |            |
| ataccgtgg 3309]       | gg>>   |                         |       |      |            |

(Table 6)

|                    |                       |                           |                       |                          |      |             |             |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| aagtcttaaca9291]>> | gtatctatgtccctggct    | L24038                    | ccttagtgtgcctgacccgg  | <<[                      | 9797 | acatcttcta  | SW:P10398   |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48213                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48214                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48215                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48216                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48217                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48220                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48221                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48931                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| ccctggccag308]>>   | gttgtatacaaggttacaaga | L48932                    | ggactgtactctctgcattgg | <<[                      | 420  | tctattttccc | PRF:070522A |
| aagtcttaaca9291]>> | gtatctatgtccctggct    | U01337                    | ccttagtgtgcctgacccgg  | <<[                      | 9797 | acatcttcta  | SW:P10398   |
| aggcttag>>         | gt668]                | aaatgtatgtcccccagg        | AF039597              | tcttttttttccttcctcgt     | [186 | ctctgt      | <<gtatgt    |
| ctctcteag>>        | gt63]                 | ggccctcacaaactctcc        | U42588                | tctggcatgttttcacaaatgtac | [414 | aactg       | <<gttcca    |
| ctctcteag>>        | gt63]                 | ggccctcacaaactctcc        | U42589                | cctggcatgttttcacaaatgtac | [414 | aactg       | << gttcca   |
| ctctcteag>>        | gt63]                 | ggatgtccatgttgcacaaatgtac | U42591                | cctggcatgttgcacaaatgtac  | [414 | aactg       | << gttcca   |

Table 7. GC-AG introns (20)

Table 8. GG and GA introns

|  |   |  |                  |        |                              |                        |
|--|---|--|------------------|--------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| GG-TG (2)<br>tgagaatttc357]<br>ttcatttgg 1448] | c>><br>ggtaagaagaaaataatg<br>g>><br>ggtaattttatctttaggc | X91233 catttgtctaaatttttttca<br>X91233 gtttgtctaaatggtttttttca | [ 1351<br>[ 2807 | g<br>g | <<aaaccacatt<br><<ctgtttcagt | SW:P40933<br>SW:P40933 |
| G A-AG (1)<br>gaccccccagg5397]>>               | gataggagtggcccgatU28054                                 | tcatccaggccacccatctacag  | <<[              | 5486   | accaggcag                    | SW:P26927              |

Table 9. Other introns

Others (2)  
cgatcc>> aat [1076] aatgtccctccattaaatcc AF010258  
agactg atg [1573]>> agttaaaataga D63808  
ccatgtttcttccccccag <<aat[2094] aaccaggcgc  
tacctccctccctctgtatgtatgc << [1721] tcaataggag  
PIR:JC6553

#### 4. Consideration

In order to make our alternative annotations reasonable and reliable, we used peptide sequences retrieved from the peptide databases as much as possible. However, there are many cases where one peptide is not always given only one sequence as described in some databases e.g. in terms of not only "VARIATION" but also "CONFLICT". By the way , a serious situation is that sometimes a peptide sequence is literally translated from a DNA sequence though there may be genetic complicated aspects, such as editing, frameshifts, and alternative splicing. Very short sequences may be not introns but may show frameshifts in translation to peptides. PIR I52571 (human glycophorin MiI; part) was translated from M81826 of "GB/EMBL/DDBJ" on the basis of the paper by Huang, C. [Blood (1992) 80,257], which was created on 20-JUL-1992 (Rel.32), and updated three times (Last updated, Version 4, Rel 60). Its sequence was revised on 02-JUL 1996. Three references are recorded: [1] Huang, C.-H, Spruell P., Moulds J.J., Blumenfeld O.O, Blood (1992) 80, 257, [2] Blumenfeld O.O, Submitted (20-JUL-1992) to the Database, and [3] Blumenfeld O.O, Submitted (27-JUL-1998). Update for Version 3 was done on (28-JUL-1998). [3] of the EMBL Version informs "Amino acid sequence updated by submitter" (its corresponding GenBank Version does not). In the peptide sequences, the first 26-common amino acid-subsequence "(1) LSTTEVAMHT STSSSVTKSY ISSQTN (26)" is followed by "(27) ICTN GTHMQPLLEL----" in PIR I52571 and "(27) DMHKRDTYAATPRAH----" in EMBL M81826. The current DNA sequence, containing an GT-AG intron from 80-785, is corresponding to the amino acid sequence of EMBL81826 (Scheme 3).

|   |     |    |      |       |          |       |     |     |     |    |     |
|---|-----|----|------|-------|----------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| aat78   | g79 | 80 | gttt | ----- | tgcag785 | 786at | atg | cac | aaa | cg | --- |
| 26 N(aat78)D(g79/ 80 gttt---intron-- tgcag785/786at) M(atg)H K R ---. |     |    |      |       |          |       |     |     |     |    |     |

Scheme 3

On the other hand the ICTN--- of PIR I52571 means that the gene using a non GT-AG intron (gg-ag) expresses (Scheme 4).

|  |             |     |          |         |     |     |     |       |
|--|-------------|-----|----------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| aat 78   | 79ggttttttt | --- | tgcag785 | 786 ata | tgc | aca | aac | gg--- |
| 26 N(aat78) /79ggtt--- intron --ag785/ I(786ata) C T N G---. |             |     |          |         |     |     |     |       |

Scheme 4

Sequences shown in Tables 2 to 5 can be considered also to conform to the GT-AG rule.

The intron of X73637 is a GT-CC one (Scheme 5),

|  |           |         |
|--|-----------|---------|
| --ggcgacc1330]   | 1331gt--- | cag2423 |
| 2424gtgagttgtcacagtggctggagagacgacatctgtccatggctggtgccgacagtaatctcacgctggacctggcctgcagcccc2513 |           |         |
| [2514 tgccccagacc----  |           |         |
| (While the original intron is 1331gt to cc2513, our putative intron is 1331gt to ag2423)       |           |         |

Scheme 5

which is to lead to a subsequence of a peptide GDR (c 1330/intron/2514 tg) PQT. On the other hand, the peptide shown in Reference No. 1 of X73637 has a subsequence (Scheme 6),

|                                   |                       |         |         |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| GDR(c1330                         | /1331gt---(intron)--- | ag2423/ | 2424gt) |
| ELLQWELLQWLERRHLLHGLVADSNLTLGPLQP |                       |         |         |
| L(c2513 2514tg)PQT---..           |                       |         |         |

Scheme 6

which comes from the same alternative annotation as ours to result in the GT-AG intron (See Scheme 5).

Table 2 is sequences with simple right or left shift of one (g), two (gt), or three (gta;U90269) nucleotides to make the GT-AG introns without any effects on exon portions.

Table 3 is a kind of silent shifts where changes of introns do not give effects on peptides to be produced.

Table 4 shows shifts to change peptides to be produced, but the original annotations themselves do not show peptide sequences. The code numbers of newly expected peptides are shown in Remark.

Sequences in Table 5 are a little modified to be changed to the GT-AG ones.

The first entry of Table 5, the AB010084, is repaired with "CTAACATTTCTTATAG" by comparing with the sequences Y14287 and Y14289 which yielded an identical peptide SW:Q31241.

Table 6 collects the GT-XG introns other than the GT-AG ones. Although GT-TG introns have no supports, their figures may be reasonable.

Today, most of introns are inferred not only by direct sequencing but also by logical subtraction of cDNAs from DNAs or in black boxes called computer programs. As a result, when there is more than one possibility, more than one intron can be inferred. For example, a combination of a DNA XggYaggZ and cDNA XggZ is to afford a set of three answers: tYagg, gtYag, and ggtYa. Among them, only gtYag conforms to the GT-AG rule. Easy computer programs may get and show only the first candidate (in this case, unfortunately a non GT-AG one), and stop. Easy users, taking account of only peptide sequences, may accept it without any discussion. For example, the AL022069 sequence contains seven introns, and the annotations of them adopted only the non-GT-AG forms (Scheme 7) (See also Tables.)

|                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ① a 6625] g >>gt-----ca [8620, g<<;   | Simple shift                         |
| ② g 12369] aa>>gta---tt[15977 ag<< c; | Change from Ser(agc) to Asn(aac)     |
| ③ a 16015]g>> gt—ta[18252 g<<;        | Simple shift                         |
| ④ aa>> g 26233 ] tg---cag<< a[27983;  | Silent change of K(aaa) to K(aak)    |
| ⑤ g>> gt 28072] aa—ca [46997 g<<gt;   | Change of GlyGly(ggtggt) to Gly(ggt) |
| ⑥ a 57453 ] g >>gt—ca[65669 g <<;     | Simple shift                         |
| ⑦ gg>>g 97022] ta---cag << a [98562   | Silent change of G(ggg) to G(gga)    |

Scheme 7

The four introns of X63863 are similar to them. The annotation of X17093 that a computer software produced was adopted, though the user abandoned it<sup>4)</sup> because of nonconformity to the GT-AG rule. In our opinion the user of this case, is not always reasonable. In general who should decide such a bold choice of a particular one of the alternative annotations? The international and useful databases in their early stage collected data obtained directly from real peptides, but recently at least one of them get in silico peptide sequences translated from the DNA sequences of the DDBJ/GenBank/EMBL frequently without any explanatory notes<sup>3)</sup>.

Since human always makes mistakes, we cannot avoid that wrong data slip among a huge amount of good data in our useful databases. It is necessary to establish better procedures for prevention of mistakes, easy detection of wrong data, effective watching of the databases and so on. Because in this field many new kinds of data continue to occur, frequently we meet suspicious pieces of information. However sometimes we cannot judge a reason why a data appears to be suspicious because of our ignorance or wrong data. Individually we try to ask the original authors as much as possible, and get good solutions. The first mail was sent to DDBJ in 1996, and the answer of one of them came from an EMBL person in London. However such nice pairs of questions and solutions do not become international and common knowledge among people who want them. So we need a cooperative system to inform each other whether unfamiliar data suggest new genetic aspects or only reflect any kinds of error.

Although our present cases themselves may have been corrected already or will be revised near future, worth of suggestions issued by the present paper would not decrease. The present paper tried to regard as many introns as possible as GT-AG ones. But conversely all of the apparent GT-AG introns are not always true GT-AG ones.

## 5. References

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