

HIERARCHY OF CERTAIN TYPES OF DNA SPLICING SYSTEMS

YUHANI YUSOF and NOR HANIZA SARMIN

*Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia,
81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor Darul Takzim, Malaysia
yuhani@ump.edu.my, nhs@utm.my*

T. ELIZABETH GOODE

*Department of Mathematics, Towson University,
7800 York Road, Towson, Maryland, United State of America
egoode@towson.edu*

MAZRI MAHMUD

*Emergency Department, Hospital Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Jalan Tanah Putih,
25100 Kuantan, Pahang Darul Makmur, Malaysia
ppp.mazri@yahoo.com*

FONG WAN HENG

*Ibnu Sina Institute for Fundamental Sciences Studies, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia,
81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor Darul Takzim, Malaysia
fwh@ibnusina.utm.my*

A Head splicing system (H -system) consists of a finite set of strings (words) written over a finite alphabet, along with a finite set of rules that acts on the strings by iterated cutting and pasting to create a splicing language. Any interpretation that is aligned with Tom Head's original idea is one in which the strings represent double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid (dsDNA) and the rules represent the cutting and pasting action of restriction enzymes and ligase, respectively. A new way of writing the rule sets is adopted so as to make the biological interpretation transparent. This approach is used in a formal language-theoretic analysis of the hierarchy of certain classes of splicing systems, namely simple, semi-simple and semi-null splicing systems. The relations between such systems and their associated languages are given as theorems, corollaries and counterexamples.

Keywords: DNA Splicing Systems; formal language theory; DNA computing.