

HELM Line Notation Extension - Ambiguity

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Introduction

The HELM string is extended to host all structurally relevant information within the line notation. Besides direct annotations of structurally important parts (formed by “”) all extended annotations reside in the annotation section.

Section 4 of HELM notation is intended to capture additional annotations for the macromolecule structure, but these annotations are not considered structurally important. There is a proposal to standardize the annotations on JSON format, and any structure elements can be referenced from JSON. However, from an ambiguity support point of view, this is considered optional.

HELM Notation – new elements

The following new elements are used within this document:

- Unknown Monomers:
 - Unknown monomers “*”: represents 0..n monomers, monomer count = 0..n
 - Unknown single monomer “X”/”N”: “X” represents single amino acid monomer in PEPTIDE, “N” represents single base monomer in RNA, count =1
 - Single deleted/missing monomer is marked using an underscore “_”: monomer count =0

- List elements:
 - Both monomers and simple polymers can be put into a list
 - List elements are grouped using parentheses ()
 - Comma “,” represents OR relationship, only one single element of the list is possible i.e no mixture but undetermined identity of a element. Probabilities of occurrence can be assigned to the element of the list. These probabilities are separated by colons.
 - Plus “+” represents AND relationship, all elements in the list are possible and thus form a mixture. Ratio of each element can be specified after colon, and default is 1 when omitting.

- List of Monomers
 - List of Monomers are handled in the simple polymer notation using above syntax
 - (K,R,H), at the given monomer position, only one of the three monomers in the list is possible. The default probability is 1/3
 - (,K), at the given position, we could either have monomer K or nothing. The probability of either one is 50%

- (K:45, C:55), at the given monomer position, we could have either K or C, and the probability for K is 45%, and the probability for C is 55%
- List of Simple Polymers
 - Simple polymer grouping info will be handled in section three of HELM notation, which was used to handle hydrogen bonding info in HELM 1. Groups are separated by vertical pipe |, which is the same as in simple polymer list and connection list.
 - Hydrogen bonding connections will be moved to the connection section (Section 2) in HELM 2, as it is just a special kind of connection.
 - Each simple polymer group can contain two or more simple polymers, and will be assigned a group ID such as G1, G2..., which can be referenced in HELM2 notation. Grouping description follows the same syntax as for monomer list
 - G1(PEPTIDE1+PEPTIDE2+PEPTIDE3+PEPTIDE3), in G1, we have a mixture of four PEPTIDE polymers. The default ratio for the mixture is 1:1:1:1
 - G2(PEPTIDE1:2+PEPTIDE2:2+CHEM3), in G2, we have a mixture of two PEPTIDE polymers and one CHEM polymer. The ratio is 2:2:1
 - G1(PEPTIDE1+CHEM1)|G2(RNA1+CHEM2)|G3(G1:2.5+G2) we have three groups here. In G1, we have a mixture of PEPTIDE1 and CHEM1, 1:1 ratio. In G2, we have a mixture of RNA1 and CHEM2, 1:1 ratio. In G3, which is a super group, we have a mixture of G1 and G2, with a ratio of 2.5:1.
 - Simple polymer grouping will be used to represent nanoparticle formulations.
- Inline Annotations
 - Inline annotations are marked with quotation marks "". They are always located after the element, i.e. before the separator of the next element or section
 - Inline annotations can be applied to monomers, simple polymers and connections
 - Extended annotations are using a JSON format as described in a separate document
- Unknown simple polymer types
 - Use BLOB as unknown polymer type
 - Specify polymer type inside curly braces
 - Specify polymer name with inline annotation
 - BLOB1{Bead}”Aminated Polystyrene”\$\$\$\$ represents animated polystyrene bead. Simple polymer type is “Bead”, and simple polymer name is “Animated Polystyrene”
- Simple polymer with unknown structure/sequence
 - Put * inside curly braces

- Specify polymer name with inline annotation
 - PEPTIDE1{*}"IL6"\$\$\$ represents a peptide chain with the name IL6.
- Monomer repeating units
 - In single polymer, a monomer or a fragment can repeat itself, and sometimes the repeating units could be a range
 - We can add the repeat unit count immediately after the monomer or fragment and enclosed it with single quote ''
 - A'4', we have 4 monomer A in the chain, equivalent to A.A.A.A
 - A'23-35', we have 23-35 repeating As in the chain, exact number unknown.
 - (R(A)P.R(G)P)'15', there are 15 repeating fragments of R(A)P .R(G)P
- Connection Ambiguity
 - Source and target polymers, instead of just one simple polymer from the simple polymer list in HELM 1, can be simple polymer groups as specified in HELM notation section 3
 - Monomer position can be text to describe monomer type, such as K for lysine, or * for unknown
 - R group can be * for unknown
- Extended Annotation
 - In HELM 2, section 4 of HELM string has to be in valid JSON format
 - Compare the difference between HELM 1 and 2 in annotation section:
 HELM 1: PEPTIDE1{hc}|PEPTIDE2{lc}
 HELM 2: {"PEPTIDE1":{"ChainType":"hc"},"PEPTIDE2":{"ChainType":"lc"}}
- Version Number
 - Add V2.0 to the end of HELM notation for easy parsing.
 - Missing version indicates V1.x
 - PEPTIDE1{}\$\$\$\$V2.0

Nanoparticles

A nanoparticle contains RNA1 and RNA2 as payload, PEPTIDE1 as surface ligand, and uses Lipid A for nanoparticle formation. Component ratios are specified in section 3: Simple Polymer Groups

```
RNA1{R(A)P.R(G)P}|RNA2{R(A)P.R(G)P}||PEPTIDE1{A.G.C.H.E}|CHEM1{*}"Lipid A"$G1(RNA1+RNA2:2)|G2(G1+PEPTIDE1:5.0)${"Name": "lipid nanoparticle with RNA payload and peptide ligand"}$V2.0
```

Component and connection and composition ambiguity

In the example below, we provide an example where ambiguity is everywhere. First, we have a component ambiguity where CHEM1 is a payload without structure, and BLOB1 is a HER2 antibody without sequence info. Second, we have connection ambiguity where CHEM1 and BLOB1 is connected, but the connecting monomer and/or R group is unknown. Third, we have composition ambiguity that the ratio between CHEM1 and BLOB1 is 4.5 as shown in G1. Finally, this ADC is connected with PEPTIDE1. The connection information from the ADC (G1) is unknown (*:*), but connection info from PEPTIDE is partially known (K:R3)

```
PEPTIDE1{A.G.C}|CHEM1{*}"Payload"|BLOB1{Antibody}"Her2"$BLOB1,CHEM1,*:*-1:*|G1,PEPTIDE1,*:*-K:R3$G1{BLOB1+CHEM1:4.5}$V2.0
```

Glycosylation

No ambiguity

Glycosylation fully defined. This is HELM 1.x.

```
CHEM1{BMA}|CHEM2{MAN}|CHEM3{MAN}|CHEM4{NAG}|CHEM5{FUL}|CHEM6{NAG}|CHEM7{NAG}|CHEM8{NAG}|CHEM9{FUL}|CHEM10{BMA}|CHEM11{BMA}|CHEM12{NAG}|CHEM13{NAG}|CHEM14{FUL}|CHEM15{NAG}|CHEM16{FUL}|CHEM17{NAG}|CHEM18{MAN}|CHEM19{BMA}|CHEM20{MAN}|CHEM21{MAN}|CHEM22{NAG}|CHEM23{NAG}|CHEM24{FUL}|CHEM25{MAN}|CHEM26{BMA}|CHEM27{NAG}|CHEM28{NAG}|PEPTIDE1{H.M.E.L.A.L.[Ngly].V.T.E.S.F.D.A.W.E.N.T.V.T.E.Q.A.I.E.D.V.W.Q.L.F.E.T.S.I.K.P.C.V.K.L.S.P.L.C.I.G.A.G.H.C.[Ngly].T.S.I.I.Q.E.S.C.D.K.H.Y.W.D.T.I.R.F.R.Y.C.A.P.P.G.Y.A.L.L.R.C.[Ngly].D.T.[Ngly].Y.S.G.F.M.P.K.C.S.K.V.V.V.S.S.C.T.R.M.M.E.T.Q.T.S.T.W.F.G.F.[Ngly].G.T.R.A.E.[Ngly].R.T.Y.I.Y.W.H.G.R.D.[Ngly].R.T.I.I.S.L.N.K.Y.Y.[Ngly].L.T.M.K.C.R.G.A.G.W.C.W.F.G.G.N.W.K.D.A.I.K.E.M.K.Q.T.I.V.K.H.P.R.Y.T.G.T.[Ngly].N.T.D.K.I.[Ngly].L.T.A.P.R.G.G.D.P.E.V.T.F.M.W.T.N.C.R.G.E.F.L.Y.C.K.M.N.W.F.L.N.W.V.E.D.R.D.V.T.N.Q.R.P.K.E.R.H.R.R.N.Y.V.P.C.H.I.R.Q.I.I.N.T.W.H.K.V.G.K.N.V.Y.L.P.P.R.E.G.D.L.T.C.[Ngly].S.T.V.T.S.L.I.A.N.I.D.W.T.D.G.[Ngly].Q.T.[Ngly].I.T.M.S.A.E.V.A.E.L.Y.R.L.E.L.G.D.Y.K.L.V.E.I.T}|CHEM29{NAG}|CHEM30{NAG}|CHEM31{BMA}|CHEM32{MAN}|CHEM33{MAN}|CHEM34{MAN}|CHEM35{NAG}|CHEM36{NAG}|CHEM37{BMA}|CHEM38{MAN}|CHEM39{BMA}|CHEM40{BMA}|CHEM41{MAN}|CHEM42{NAG}|CHEM43{NAG}|CHEM44{BMA}|CHEM45{NAG}|CHEM46{NAG}|CHEM47{FUL}|CHEM48{NDG}|CHEM49{NAG}|CHEM50{MAN}|CHEM51{BMA}|CHEM52{BMA}|CHEM53{NAG}|CHEM54{NDG}|CHEM55{FUL}$CHEM1,CHEM2,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM5,CHEM6,1:R1-1:R3|CHEM16,CHEM15,1:R1-1:R3|PEPTIDE1,CHEM30,52:R3-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM8,87:R3-1:R3|CHEM19,CHEM21,1:R3-1:R1|CHEM8,CHEM7,1:R1-1:R2|CHEM22,CHEM23,1:R1-1:R2|PEPTIDE1,CHEM28,292:R3-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM43,273:R3-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM46,146:R3-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM15,135:R3-1:R1|CHEM10,CHEM8,1:R1-1:R2|PEPTIDE1,CHEM36,289:R3-1:R1|CHEM51,CHEM50,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM39,CHEM41,1:R3-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM12,124:R3-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM29,7:R3-1:R1|CHEM39,CHEM38,1:R1-1:R2|CHEM20,CHEM19,1:R1-1:R2|CHEM17,CHEM15,1:R1-1:R2|CHEM12,CHEM13,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM46,CHEM47,1:R3-1:R1|CHEM32,CHEM31,1:R1-1:R3|CHEM52,CHEM51,1:R3-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM23,84:R3-1:R1|CHEM28,CHEM27,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM4,CHEM1,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM31,CHEM33,1:R2-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM54,190:R3-1:R1|CHEM34,CHEM33,1:R1-1:R2|CHEM18,CHEM17,1:R1-1:R2|CHEM31,CHEM35,1:R1-
```

1:R2|CHEM9,CHEM7,1:R1-1:R3|CHEM26,CHEM27,1:R1-1:R2|CHEM54,CHEM53,1:R2-
1:R1|CHEM6,CHEM4,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM1,CHEM3,1:R3-1:R1|CHEM25,CHEM26,1:R1-
1:R2|CHEM54,CHEM55,1:R3-1:R1|CHEM43,CHEM42,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM40,CHEM37,1:R2-
1:R1|CHEM46,CHEM45,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM12,CHEM14,1:R3-1:R1|CHEM42,CHEM40,1:R2-
1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM6,118:R3-1:R1|CHEM24,CHEM23,1:R1-1:R3|CHEM22,CHEM19,1:R2-
1:R1|CHEM53,CHEM52,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM48,CHEM49,1:R2-1:R1|PEPTIDE1,CHEM48,184:R3-
1:R1|CHEM45,CHEM44,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM37,CHEM38,1:R2-1:R1|CHEM11,CHEM10,1:R1-
1:R2|CHEM36,CHEM35,1:R2-1:R1\$\$\$

In annotation a group containing the sugar moieties should be defined. That group can have further attributes, such as name, composition, symbol etc. This will fit into the concept of extended annotations.

Component ambiguity - Glycosylation not fully defined.

The glycosylation group could be replaced by a CHEM1{*}"Glycosylation" component, if glycosylation is unknown. But be aware, that the group itself is just an annotation facilitating the addition of metadata to a predefined part of the macromolecule and facilitates replacement of a particular molecule part; other example could be group referencing the peptide chains of an antibody.