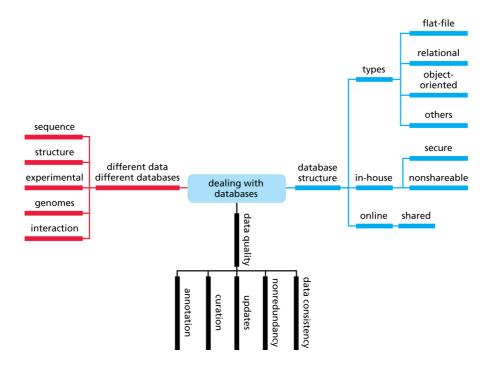
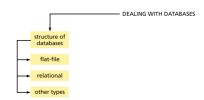
General aspects of databases



Structure of databases



Flat database: it is the simplest form of a database where collections of data (aminoacid sequence) are stored as a large txt file or more than one txt file.

Relational database: it stores the data within a number of tables, each consisting of records and fields. Each table will be linked to at least one other by a shared field called a KEY.

protab1					
Protein-code	Protein-name	Length	Species-origin		
P1001	Hemoglobin	145	Bovine		
P1002	Hemoglobin	136	Ovine		
P1003	Eye Lens Protein	234	Human		
protab2					
Protein-code	Protein-sequence Protein-sequence				
P1001	MDRTTHGFDLKLLSPRTVNQWLMLALFFGHS				
P1002	MDKTSHGFEIKLLTPKKLQQWLMIAIYFGHT				
P1003	SRTHEEEGKLMQWPPRPLYIALFTEPPYP				

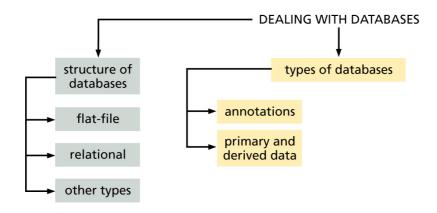
Type of databases

Data: it is the minimal content of a database including data's identity (for example protein name and source) and the author/submitter responsible for the entry.

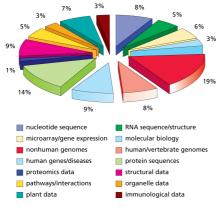
Annotation: provide more information to the data (published papers, lists of entries in other databases, gene structure)

Primary data: they include the raw experimental results.

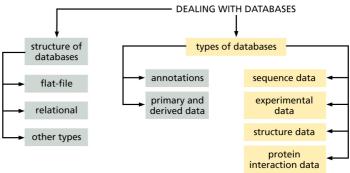
Derived data: based on the data existing at the time (example: conserved protein sequence motifs).



Looking for databases



Distribution of the type of databases as classified at the Nucleic Acid Research (NRA) Molecular Biology Database Collection Web site. In 2006 there were 858 databases listed, classified into 14 main catagories.



Sequence database

- 1. DNA sequences:
- Raw genomic sequence (chromosomal DNA)
- cDNA (from mRNA)
- Expressed sequence tags (ESTs). Partial cDNA sequence.
- 2. Protein sequences (UniProtKB, Swiss-Prot, NCBI Protein Database





Structural database



They contain information about the structure of small molecules, proteins, DNA and RNA sequences, carbohydrates.

Protein folds have also been classified according to the conservation of the fold. They include CATH and SCOP.

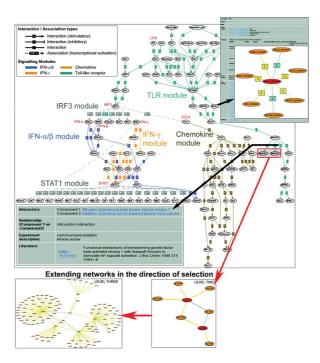


Authors. Alexey G. Murzin, John-Marc Chandonia, Antonina Andreeva, Dave Howorth, Loredana Lo Conte, Barrlett G. Alley, Steven E. Brenner, Tim J. P. Hubbarl, and Cyrus Chothia. Sog@mcm.elm.cama.en. Belubbard T., Chothia C., 1995). scor. a structural classification of proteins database for the investigation of sequences and structures. J. And. Biol. 247, 535-540. [EDE]
Recent changes are described in: Lo Conte L., Brenner S. E., Hubbard T.J.P., Chothia C., Murzin A. (2002). scor. database in 2002: refinements accommoder structural genomics. Natl. Acid. Res. 30(1), 264-267. [EDE].
Andreeva A., Howorth D., Brenner S. E., Hubbard T.J.P., Chothia C., Murzin A.G. (2004). scor. database in 2004: refinements integrate structure and sequence family data.
Natl. Acid. Res. 20(3), 2622-263. [EDE].
Andreeva A., Howorth D., Brenner S. E., Hubbard T.J.P., Chothia C., Murzin A.G. (2007). Data growth and its impact on the Scor. database: new developments. Natl. Acid. Res. 20(3), 265, 2611-2019. [Sci.] (10). (20). Shang/pump3 [EDE].

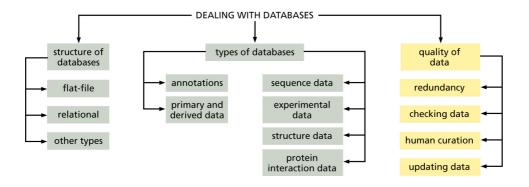
Protein interaction databases

They provide information about the interactions of proteins with other molecules, including other proteins.

They include: the Database of Interacting Proteins (DIP) and the Molecular INTeraction Database (MINT).



Quality of databases



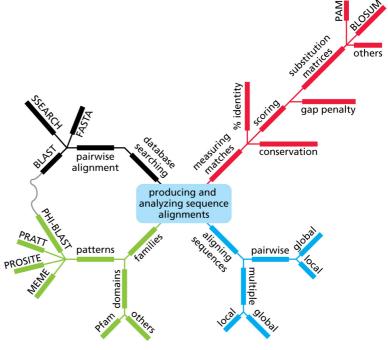
Non reduntant databases: they include all the experimental data (from different labs) in one entry.

Checking data: a DNA sequence must contain only A, C, G, T. A protein sequence must correspond to a certain molecular weight according to the amino acids present.

Sequence alignments

Useful for:

- -comparing an unknown sequence to all the sequences contained in a database;
- prediction of a protein structure
- construction of phylogenetic trees



Sequence alignments

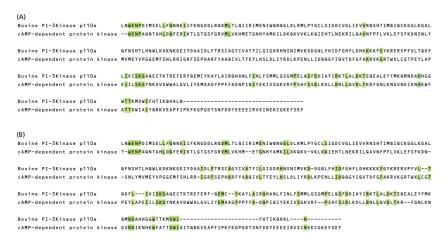
Alignment is the task of locating equivalent regions of two or more sequences to maximize their similarity.

T H I SSEQUENCE T HAT SEQUENCE

The differences in length between two or more sequences can be compensated by the introduction of GAPS.

THISISA-SEQUENCE TH----ATSEQUENCE

Gap penalty: each time a gap is introduced, the penalty is subtracted from the score, decreasing the overall score of the alignment.



- An alignment where the gap penalty has been set very high.
- B) An alignment with a very long gap penalty. Many more gaps have been introduced.

Sequence alignments

Similarity: the sequences show some degree of match.

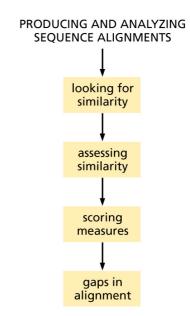
Homology: similarity in sequence or structure due to descent from a common ancestor.

Mutation and selection over millions of years can result in considerable divergence between present-day sequences derived from the same ancestral gene.

Bases at originally same position can change as a result of:

- Mutations
- Insertions
- Deletions
- Gene fusions

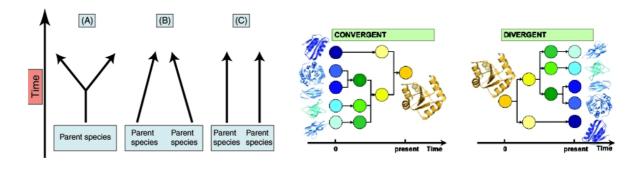
 $\mbox{Homology} \Rightarrow \mbox{common ancestor} \Rightarrow \mbox{common structure or function?}$ Not always......



Sequence alignments

<u>Divergent evolution</u>: mutation and selection can generate proteins with new functions but relatively little changes in sequence. Therefore, sequence similarity does not always imply a common function.

<u>Convergent evolution</u>: proteins with very little sequence similarity to each other but in which a common protein fold and function are preserved.



It is easier to compare to detect homology when comparing protein sequence than when comparing nucleic acid sequences.

- 1. There are only 4 letters to compare in the DNA alphabet compared to the 20 letters in the protein one
- 2. The genetic code is redundant
- 3. The 3D structure of a protein and hence its function, is determined by the amino acid sequence

Scoring alignments

The quality of an alignment is measured by giving it a quantitative score

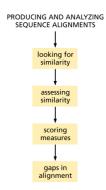


Percent identity: obtained by dividing the number of identical matches by the total length of the aligned region and multiplying by 100.

A good percentage of identity depends on the length of the sequence.



Substitution matrices: the score is assigned to each aligned pair of amino acids by a matrix that defines values for all possible pairs of residues.

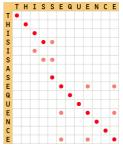


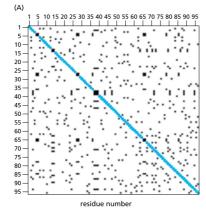
Scoring alignments: identity percentage and similarity percentage

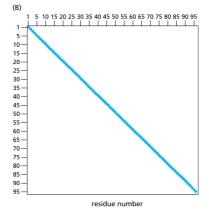
Dot-plots: it is the simplest way to compare sequence similarities.

Use of filters:

- Window size allows to overlap fixed-length windows
- Minimum identity score: it is the minimum identity score fixed for the window previously set.







Two views of dot-plot representations of an SH2 sequence compared to itself. A) Unfiltered dot-plot. The identity is shown by the unbroken diagonale. There is some background noise. B) Dot-plot of the same sequence comparison with a window of 10 residues and a minimum identity score within the window set to 3.

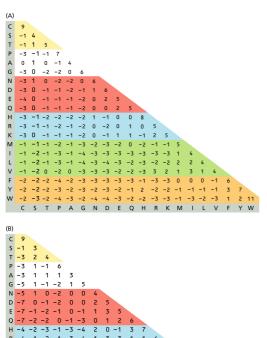
Scoring alignments: identity percentage and similarity percentage

Similarity percentage: it takes into account the so-called conservative substitution

THISISA- SEQUENCE
TH----ATSEQUENCE
THISISA- SEQUENCE
THAT--- SEQUENCE



Scoring alignments: substitution matrices



M - 6 - 2 - 1 - 3 - 2 - 4 - 3 - 3 - 4 - 4 - 1 - 4 - 1 0 6
L - 7 - 4 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 5 - 4 - 5 - 4 - 2 - 3 - 3 - 4 - 2 - 2 1 6
L - 7 - 4 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 5 - 4 - 5 - 4 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 4 3 1 5
V - 2 - 2 0 - 2 0 - 2 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 4 - 1 3 1 5
F - 6 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 4 - 5 - 4 - 7 - 6 - 6 - 2 - 4 - 6 - 1 0 0 - 3
Y - 1 - 3 - 3 - 6 - 4 - 6 - 2 - 5 - 4 - 5 - 1 - 6 - 6 - 4 - 2 - 3 - 3

<mark>-8 -2 -6 -7 -7 -8 -5 -8 -8 -6 -5 1 -5 -7 -7 -5 -8 -1</mark> C S T P A G N D E Q H R K M I L V F **Expectation value (E-value):** the probability of different alignments with scores equivalent to or better than S that are expected to occur in a database search by chance. The lower the E value, the more significant the score.

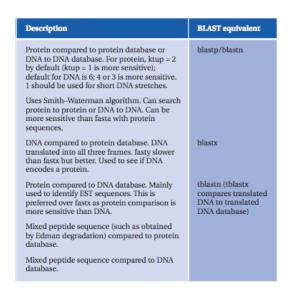
It indicates the number of sequences that would be expected to have that score (or more) if the query sequence were compared against a database containing no sequences related to the query sequence. Thus, a lower E-value indicates that the sequences are more likely to be related than if the comparison had a higher E-value. An E-value of 0.00001 or less (also sometimes written as 1e-5, which is shorthand for 1.0 * 10-5) is often used as good initial evidence that a query and database sequence are related, although further investigation should always be carried out to obtain additional support for such a hypothesis.

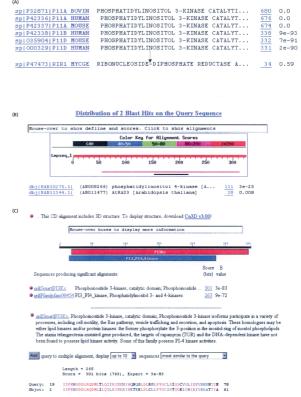
Amino acids substitution scoring matrices. A) The BLOSUM-62 matrix and B) the PAM120 matrix. The colored shading indicates different physicochemical properties of the residues.

Sequence alignments: BLAST

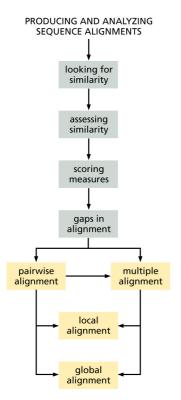








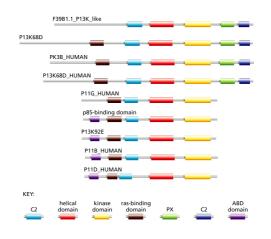
Types of alignments



Global alignment: it is used to find or compare closely related sequences that are similar over their whole sequence.

Local alignment: can reveal that parts of sequences are related.

It is useful in multidomain proteins.



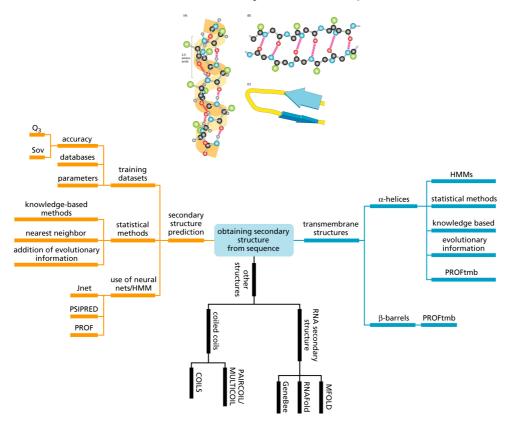
PI3-kinase is a multidomain protein. Output from Pfam.

Multiple alignments

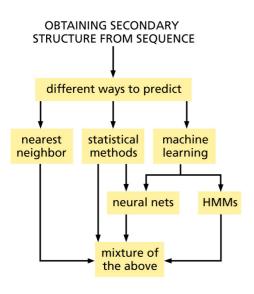
They can be constructued by different techniques.

Structural alignments: if the structure of one of the proteins is known, then the gap penalty can be increased for regions of known secondary structure such as helices and strands, as these regions are less likely to suffer insertions or deletions. This will mean that few or no gaps are introduced into these regions.

Protein secondary structure prediction



Types of secondary structure prediction



<u>Statistical methods</u> are based on rules that give the probability that a residue will form part of a particular secondary structure.

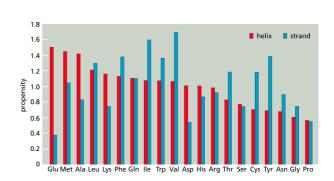
The probabilities are derived from analysing structure and sequence data from large sets of proteins of known structure.

Nearest neighbor methods are statistical methods that incorporate additional information about protein structure (shapes, sizes and physicochemical properties of the different amino acid residues).

<u>Machine learning</u> approaches train a neural net or other learning alghoritms to aquire structure-sequence relationships which can then be applied to predict structure from a protein sequence.

Statistical and knowledge-based methods: Chou and Fasman

A.A.	P(a)	P(b)	P(turn)	f(i)	f(i+1)	f(i+2)	f(i+3)
Alanine	142	83	66	0.060	0.076	0.035	0.058
Arginine	98	93	95	0.070	0.106	0.099	0.085
Asparagine	67	89	156	0.161	0.083	0.191	0.091
Aspartic acid	101	54	146	0.147	0.110	0.179	0.081
Cysteine	70	119	119	0.149	0.050	0.117	0.128
Glutamic acid	151	37	74	0.056	0.060	0.077	0.064
Glutamine	111	110	98	0.074	0.098	0.037	0.098
Glycine	57	75	156	0.102	0.085	0.190	0.152
Histidine	100	87	95	0.140	0.047	0.093	0.054
Isoleucine	108	160	47	0.043	0.034	0.013	0.056
Leucine	121	130	59	0.061	0.025	0.036	0.070
Lysine	114	74	101	0.055	0.115	0.072	0.095
Methionine	145	105	60	0.068	0.082	0.014	0.055
Phenylalanine	113	138	60	0.059	0.041	0.065	0.065
Proline	57	55	152	0.102	0.301	0.034	0.068
Serine	77	75	143	0.120	0.139	0.125	0.106
Threonine	83	119	96	0.086	0.108	0.065	0.079
Tryptophan	108	137	96	0.077	0.013	0.064	0.167
Tyrosine	69	147	114	0.082	0.065	0.114	0.125
Valine	106	170	50	0.062	0.048	0.028	0.053



Chou-Fasman is one of most commonly used algorithms

- measured frequencies at which each amino acid appeared in particular types of secondary sequences in a set of proteins of known structure
- assigns the amino acids three conformational parameters based on the frequency at which they were
 observed in alpha helices, beta sheets and beta turns
 - 1. P(a) = propensity to form alpha helices
 - 2. P(b) = propensity to form beta sheets
 - 3. P(turn) = propensity to form beta turns
- also assigns 4 turn parameters based on frequency at which they were observed in the first, second, third or fourth position of a beta turn
 - 1. f(i) = probability of being in position 1
 - 2. f(i+1) = probability of being in position 2
 - 3. f(i+2) = probability of being in position 3
 - 4. f(i+3) = probability of being in position 4

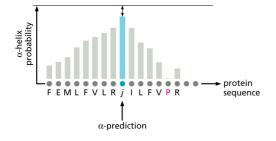
Statistical and knowledge-based methods: Chou and Fasman

identifies helix and sheet"nuclei", then applies a set of heuristic rules to determine if these clusters of amino acids are sufficient to nucleate a region of alpha-helix or beta-sheet.

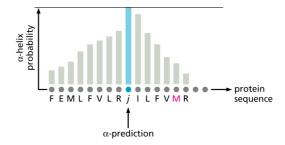
- helix: 4 out of 6 amino acids with P(a) >100
 - o extends the nucleus in each direction until reach four amino acids in a row with P(a) <100
 - o for each of these regions, add up all the P(a) and all the P(b) values.
 - If the total P(a) is larger than the total of P(b) and the run is more than 5 amino acids long, then it is predicted to be alpha helix
- sheet: 4 out of 6 amino acids with P(b)>100 (some people use 3 out of 5).
 - o extends the nucleus in each direction until reach four amino acids in a row with P(b) <100
 - o for each of these regions, add up all the P(a) and all the P(b) values.
 - If the total P(b) is larger than the total of P(a), the run is more than 5 amino acids long, and the average P(b) > 100 then it is predicted to be beta sheet.
- If helices and sheets overlap then compare the total P(a) and total P(b) for the overlapping region. If the total P(a) is larger than the total of P(b) then it is predicted to be alpha helix (and vice-versa)
- heta turn
 - \circ calculate the likelihood of a turn P(t)for amino acid at position i as the sum of f(i) + the f(i+1) value for the following amino acid + the f(i+2) value for the next amino acid+ the f(i+3) value for the amino acid at the plus three position.
 - o Predict a beta- turn at position i if the following criteria are met:
 - the calculated P(t) is >0.5
 - the average P(turn) for amino acids i to i+3 is > 100
 - the sum of the P(turn) values for amino acids i to i+3 is larger than the sum of the P(a) and P(b)values
- Accuracy = 50-85%, depending on the protein

Statistical and knowledge-based methods: GOR

It incorporates the effects of local interactions between amino acids residues by taking successive windows of 17 residues and considering the effect of residues from position j-8 to j+8 on the conformation of the residue at position j.

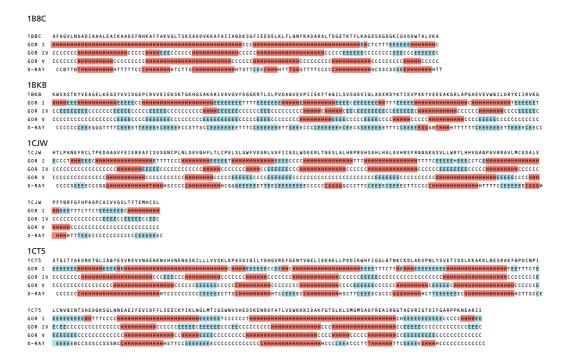


The effect of an helix breaker (Pro) at position j +5. The proline diminishes the overall additive propensity of residue j to form helix



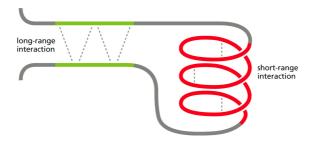
The effect of a non helix breaker (Met) at position j+5. The methionine improves the overall additive propensity of residue j to form helix

Statistical methods improvements: GOR I to V



Nearest neighbor methods

The formation of secondary structure in proteins does not only depend on local interactions (beta-sheets are made up of beta-strands that are separated from some distance in the poypeptide chain).

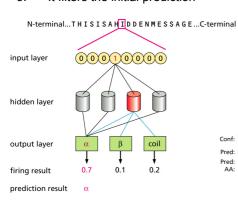


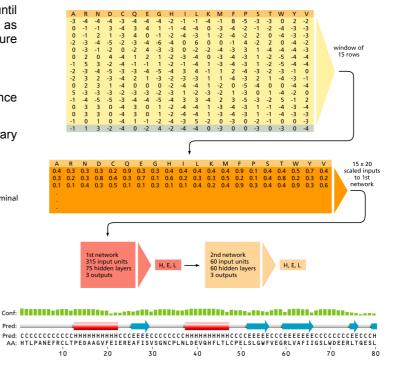
Neural networks methods

The algorithm will learn by iterative changes to its parameters until the predicted structure is as similar to the observed structure as possible.

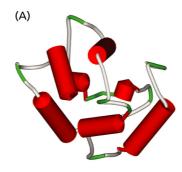
PSIPRED is a three stage method:

- It generates a multiple sequence alignment
- 2. It generates an initial secondary structure
- 3. It filters the initial prediction

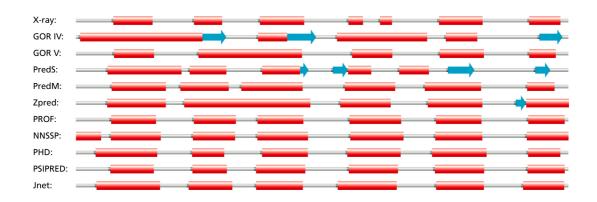




Secondary structure prediction methods

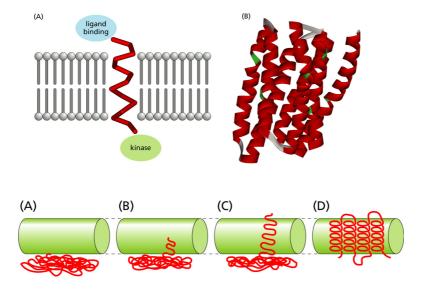


1B8C



Transmembrane proteins

Membrane proteins are functionally important. For example, the receptors are formed by 1 or more helices spanning the mebrane

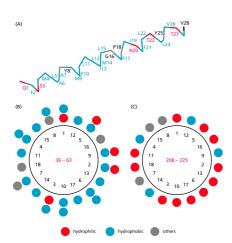


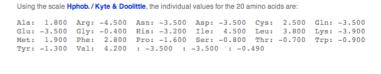
The four main ways in which proteins may be attached to a membrane. A) Attachment by interactions between the protein and the cytosolic face of the lipid bilayer. B) Attachment via an anchor (lipidic or terminals of the protein) that are added post-translationally. C) Transmembrane proteins have part of the protein chain embadded in the lipid bilayer. D) Transmembrane proteins where the protein chain threads back and forth across the mebrane multiple times.

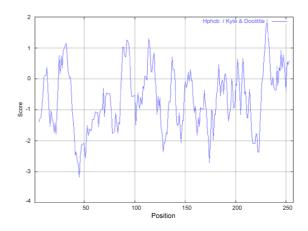
Transmembrane proteins

Helix wheel

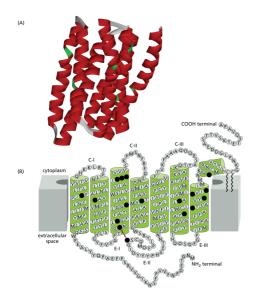
Hydrophobicity diagram

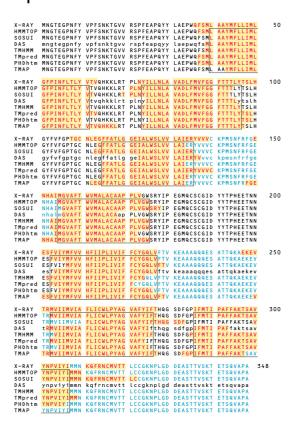






Transmembrane proteins





Protein Sequence Motifs or Patterns

What is required is a method of searching for the occurrence of short sequence patterns, or motifs.

A motif, in general, is any conserved element of a sequence alignment (CONSENSUS), whether composed of a short sequence of contiguous residues or a more distributed pattern. Functionally related sequences will share similar distribution patterns of critical functional residues that are not necessarily contiguous.

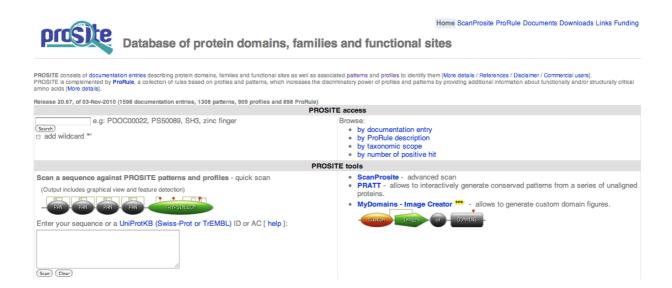


Figure 4.15 Residues that contribute to one of

the blocks returned by the BLOCKS database after submission of the PI3-kinase p100α sequence. (A) A block for four homologous sequences, and (B) for 31 homologous sequences. These representations are called logos, and are computed using a positionspecific scoring matrix. This block contains the active-site amino acids and the DFG kinase motif. The size of the letters indicates the level of conservation and the colors indicate physicochemical properties of the residues: acidic, red; basic, blue; small and polar, white; asparagine and glutamine, green; sulfurcontaining amino acids, yellow; hydrophobic, black; proline, purple; glycine, gray; aromatic, orange.

Protein Sequence Motifs or Patterns

The PROSITE database is a compilation of motifs and patterns extracted from protein sequences and compiled by inspection of protein families. This database can be searched with an unknown protein sequence to obtain a list of hits to possible patterns or protein signatures.



Protein Sequence Motifs or Patterns

Common covalent modifications of protein activity

Modification	Donor molecule	Example of modified protein	Protein function	
Phosphorylation	ATP	Glycogen phosphorylase	Glucose homeostasis; energy transduction	
Acetylation	Acetyl CoA	Histones	DNA packing; transcription	
Myristoylation	Myristoyl CoA	Src	Signal transduction	
ADP- ribosylation	NAD	RNA polymerase	Transcription	
Farnesylation	Farnesyl pyrophosphate	Ras	Signal transduction	
γ-Carboxylation	HCO3 ⁻	Thrombin	Blood clotting	
Sulfation	3'-Phosphoadenosine-5'- phosphosulfate	Fibrinogen	Blood-clot formation	
Ubiquitination	Ubiquitin	Cyclin	Control of cell cycle	



The consensus sequence recognized by protein kinase A is Arg-Arg-X-Ser-Z or Arg-Arg-X-Thr-Z, in which X is a small residue, Z is a large hydrophobic one, and Ser or Thr is the site of phosphorylation. It should be noted that this sequence is not absolutely required.

Protein Sequence Motifs or Patterns

NetPhos predicts phosphorylation sites in a protein sequence due to kinase acting post-translationally.

