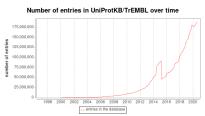
CS612 - Algorithms in Bioinformatics

Databases and Protein Structure Representation

September 29, 2020

Molecular Biology as Information Science

- > 16,000 genomes sequenced, mostly bacterial (2019)
- $> 5x10^6$ unique sequences available
- What do we do with them?
 - Compare them to find what is common and different among organisms (Comparative Genomics)
 - Find out how and which genes encode for which proteins
 - Identify changes that lead to disease
 - Associate structural and functional information with new gene sequences



source: http://www.33rdsquare.com

- NIH structural genomics project
- Protein Structure Initiative (PSI)
- GOLD (Genomes Online Database) http://www.genomesonline.org
- < 1% of sequences solved</p>
- Experiments lagging behind
- Way too much data for computer scientists to sit around doing nothing



What We Expect From a Biological Databases

- Sequence, functional, structural information, related bibliography
- Well Structured and Indexed
- Well cross-referenced (with other databases)
- Periodically updated and maintained
- Provides tools for analysis and visualization
- Or at least formatted in a compatible way with known tools

http://www.docfoc.com/biological-databases-pharmamatrix-workshop-2010-philip-winter-ishwar-v-hosamani

Sequence Databases

- International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC): http://www.insdc.org/
 - NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information): http://ncbi.nih.gov
 - EMBL-EBI (European Molecular Biology Laboratory, European Bioinformatics Institute): https://www.ebi.ac.uk/
 - DDBJ (DNA Data Bank of Japan): http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/

Contents of a Database

- Sequences/structures (depends on the database)
- Accession number
- References
- Taxonomic data
- Annotation/curation
- Keywords
- Cross-reference to relevant data in this or other databases.
- Documentation

Organization of a Database

- Hierarchical, where the data is organized at multiple levels.
- Examples: SCOP, CATH, the tree of life.
- Relational: An entry is a set of correspondences between different features of the database (tables).
- It makes it easy to answer queries using operations like union, intersection, difference etc.

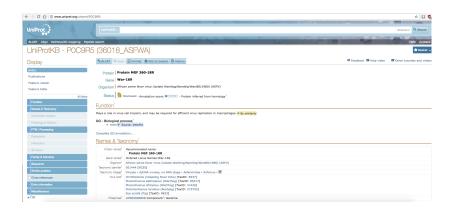
NCBI Nucleotide Sequence Databases

- NCBI GenBank (The nucleotide sequence database) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/
- Provides tools for submission (Banklt, Sequin), retrieval (Entrez) and analysis (BLAST, Genome workbench)
- Provides easy access to other NCBI resources

Protein Sequence Databases

- Uniprot http://www.uniprot.org/
- A universal resource, resulting from a merger of several databases.
- Tools: BLAST, align, Retrieve/IDmapping
- Pfam http://pfam.xfam.org/
- A database of protein families based on conserved regions.

Uniprot Entry



Uniprot Search



Protein Structure Databases

- PDB Protein Data Bank http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/
- SCOP2 Structural Classification of Proteins v.2 http://scop2.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/
- CATH Another structural classification database http://www.cathdb.info/
- EMDB Electron microscopy Database https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/emdb/ (Actually part of the PDB now)

PFam Entry

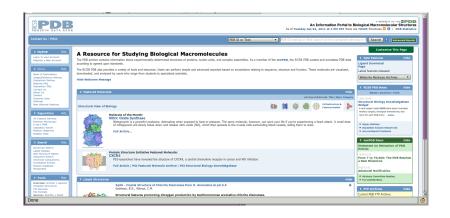
The Protein Databank (PDB)

- Most (all) of the protein structures discovered to date can be found in a large protein repository called the The RCSB Protein DataBank (PDB): http://www.rcsb.org.
- PDB is a public domain repository that contains experimentally determined structures of three-dimensional proteins.
- The majority of the proteins in the PDB have been determined by x-ray crystallography.
- The number of proteins determined using NMR methods has been increasing as efficient computational techniques to derive structures from NMR data have been developed.

Retrieving Protein Structures from the PDB

- Starting with 7 structures in 1971, the number has been growing exponentially since then.
- There are over 100,000 structures as of today (early 2016).
- All PDB entries are 4-letter words! 1CRZ, 2BHL . . .
- Sometimes the chain number is added: 1CRZA, 1CRZB . . .
- You can download the coordinates and display the structure
- The BLAST server and other databases contain links to PDB entries if the sequence has a known structure.

The PDB



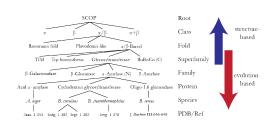
The wwPDB

- In recent years, the major database for macromolecular structures is the worldwide PDB (wwPDB) at http://www.wwpdb.org/.
- It is a joint effort of the RCSB, the Protein Data Bank Europe (at the European Bioinformatics Institute, EBI), the Protein Databank Japan (based at Osaka University), and the Biological Magnetic Resonance Data Bank (BMRB).

The PDB File Format

```
Chain name
    Amino Acid
                               Sequence Number
     Element
                                        -Coordinates-
                                                             (etc.)
MOTA
                  ASP L
                                   4.060
                                            7.307
                                                     5.186
                  ASP L
MOTA
              CA
                                   4.042
                                            7.776
                                                     6.553
ATOM
                  ASP L
                                   2.668
                                            8.426
                                                     6.644
MOTA
              0
                  ASP L
                                                     5.606
                                   1.987
                                            8.438
                  ASP L
ATOM
              CB
                                   5.090
                                            8.827
                                                     6.797
                                                             . . .
MOTA
          6
              CG
                  ASP L
                                   6.338
                                            8.761
                                                     5.929
              OD1 ASP L
ATOM
                                   6.576
                                            9.758
                                                     5.241
                                                             . . .
MOTA
              OD2 ASP L
                                   7.065
                                            7.759
                                                     5.948
                 Element position within amino acid
```

Classification of Protein Structures - The SCOP Database

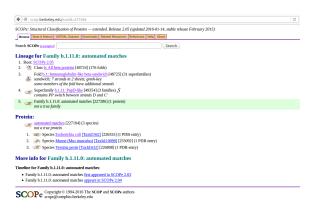


Chothia, Murzin (Cambridge)

Hand-curated hierarchical taxonomy of proteins based on their structural and evolutionary relationships.

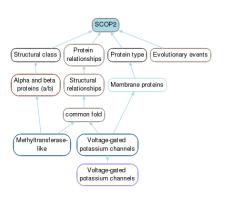
- Classes
- Fold Level
- Super Family
- Family
- Domain

The SCOPe Database



- The successor of SCOP (which is no longer maintained/updated).
- Rather similar, combination of hand-curated and automated methods.

The SCOP2 Database Prototype



- Similar to SCOP(e), but different.
- Adding evolutionary events and protein types among others.
- Several new hierarchical categories.
- The evolutionary relationships induce a graph-like structure rather than rigid hierarchy.

The CATH Database

- Another database which classifies protein structures downloaded from the Protein Data Bank.
- It is a semi-automatic, hierarchical classification of protein domains initially published in 1997.
- CATH is an acronym of the four main levels in the classification.

#	Level	Description
1	Class	Overall secondary-structure content of the domain.
		(Equivalent to SCOP class)
2	A rchitecture	High structural similarity but no evidence of homology.
		(Equivalent to SCOP fold)
3	Topology	A large-scale grouping of topologies which share
		particular structural features
4	Homologous superfamily	Indicative of a demonstrable evolutionary relationship.
		(Equivalent to SCOP superfamily)

The CATH Database

- Much of the work is done by automatic methods, however there are important manual elements to the classification.
- First separate the proteins into domains. It is difficult to produce an unequivocal definition of a domain and this is one area in which CATH and SCOP differ.
- The domains are automatically sorted into classes and clustered on the basis of sequence similarities.
- These groups form the H levels of the classification. The topology level is formed by structural comparisons of the homologous groups.
- Finally, the Architecture level is assigned manually.

The CATH Database

Class Level classification is done on the basis of 4 criteria:

- Secondary structure content;
- Secondary structure contacts;
- Secondary structure alternation score; and
- Percentage of parallel strands.

CATH defines four classes: mostly- α , mostly- β , α and β , few secondary structures.