Amino Acid Properties

Proteomes Interactomes and Biological Networks

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Biomolecules
Folding and
Disease

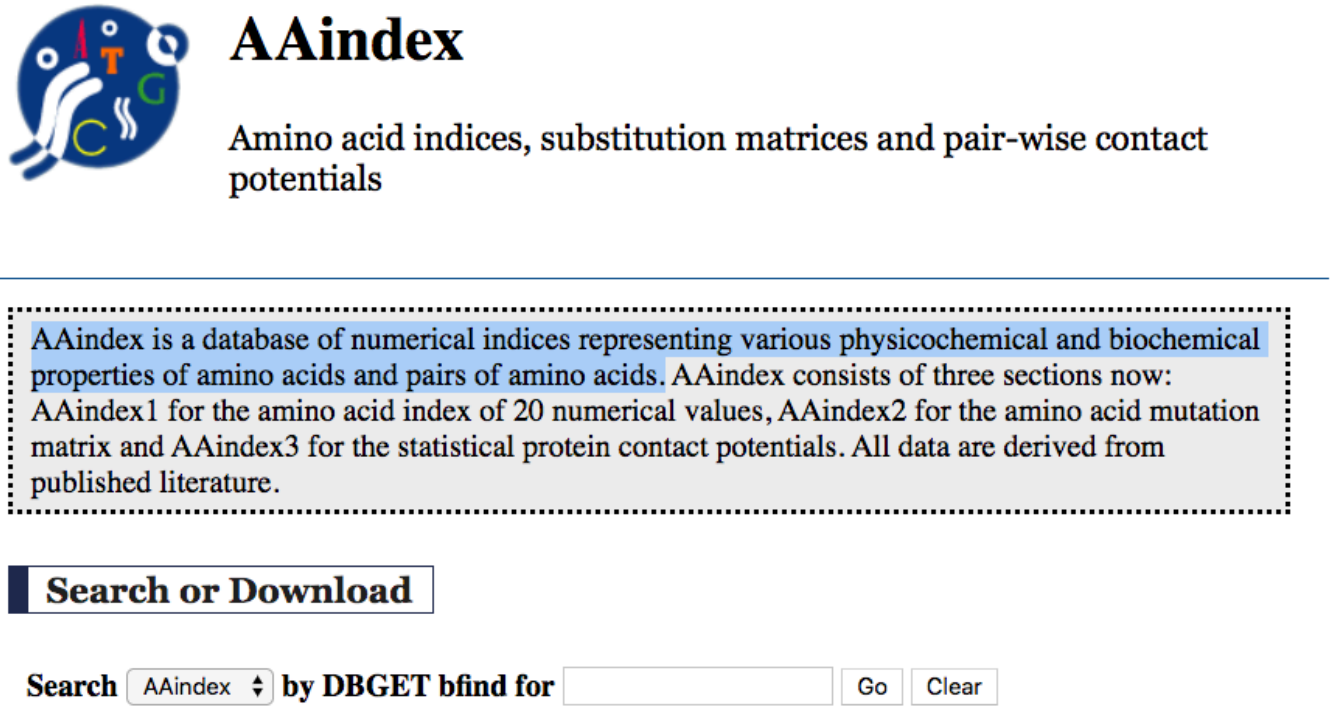
Amino Acid Properties

Physico-chemical and biochemical properties of amino acids are defined by indexes or propensity scales.

This properties can be used to perform simple protein structure predictions by associating each residue to different statistically evaluated features.

AAIndex Database

AAindex is a database of numerical indices representing various physicochemical and biochemical properties of amino acids and pairs of amino acids.



https://www.genome.jp/aaindex/

Amino Acid Volume

Some scales define the volume of the amino acids

```
H GRAR740103
D Volume (Grantham, 1974)
R PMID:4843792
A Grantham, R.
T Amino acid difference formula to help explain protein evolution
J Science 185, 862-864 (1974)
I     A/L      R/K      N/M      D/F      C/P      Q/S      E/T      G/W      H/Y      I/V
      31.     124.      56.      54.      55.      85.      83.       3.      96.     111.
     111.     119.     105.     132.     32.5      32.      61.     170.     136.      84.
//
```

Amino Acid Surface

Some scales define the surface of the amino acids

```
H JANJ780101
D Average accessible surface area (Janin et al., 1978)
R PMID:731698
A Janin, J., Wodak, S., Levitt, M. and Maigret, B.
T Conformation of amino acid side-chains in proteins
J J. Mol. Biol. 125, 357-386 (1978)

I    A/L     R/K     N/M     D/F     C/P     Q/S     E/T     G/W     H/Y     I/V
    27.8    94.7    60.1    60.6    15.5    68.7    68.2    24.5    50.7    22.8
    27.6   103.0    33.5    25.5    51.5    42.0    45.0    34.7    55.2    23.7
//
```

```
H CHOC760101
D Residue accessible surface area in tripeptide (Chothia, 1976)
R PMID:994183
A Chothia, C.
T The nature of the accessible and buried surfaces in proteins
J J. Mol. Biol. 105, 1-14 (1976)
I    A/L     R/K     N/M     D/F     C/P     Q/S     E/T     G/W     H/Y     I/V
    115.    225.    160.    150.    135.    180.    190.     75.    195.    175.
    170.    200.    185.    210.    145.    115.    140.    255.    230.    155.
//
```

Secondary Structure

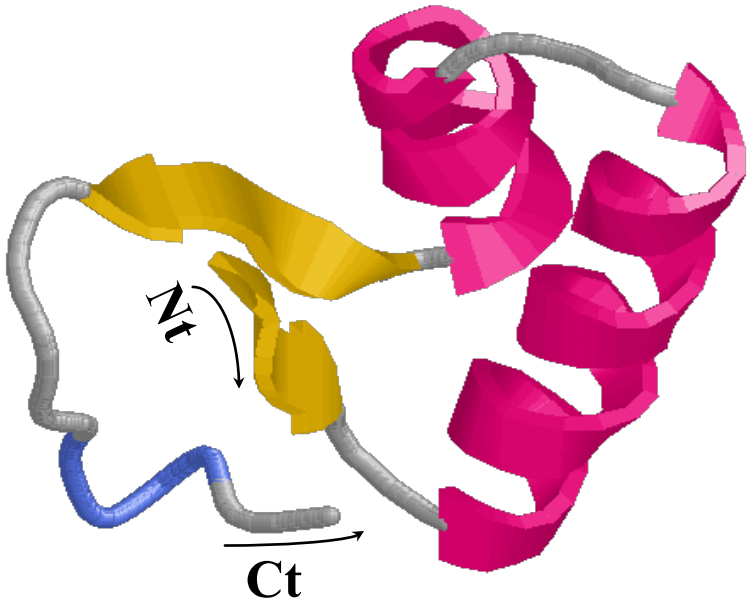
Covalent structure

TTCCPSIVARSNFNVCRLPGTPEAICATYTGCIIIPGATCPGDYAN

Secondary structure

EEEE..HHHHHHHHHHHH....HHHHHHHH.EEEE..........

3D structure



Chou-Fasman (I)

Given a set of known structures we can count how many times a residue is associated to a structure.

Example:

AL**A**KSL**A**KPSDTL**A**KSDFREKWEWLKLLK**A**L**A**CCKLS**AA**L
hh**h**hhhh**h**hcccccc**c**cccccchhhhhhhh**h**h**h**hhhhh**hh**h

N(A,h) = 7, N(A,c) =1, N= 40

P(A,h) = 7/40, P(A,c) = 1/40

Is that enough for estimating a propensity?

Chou-Fasman (II)

We need to estimate how much independent the residue-to-structure association is.

$$P(h) = 27/40,\ P(c) = 13/40,\ P(A) = 8/40$$

If the structure is independent of the residue:

$$P(A,h) = P(A)P(h)$$

The ratio $P(A,h)/P(A)P(h)$ is the propensity

The prediction method

The Chou-Fasman method was published in 1974 and the propensity scales were calculated on a set of 19 proteins.

Helical Residues[b]	P_α		β-Sheet Residues[c]	P_β	
$Glu^{(-)}$	1.53		Met	1.67	
Ala	1.45	H_α	Val	1.65	H_β
Leu	1.34		Ile	1.60	
$His^{(+)}$	1.24		Cys	1.30	
Met	1.20		Tyr	1.29	
Gln	1.17		Phe	1.28	
Trp	1.14	h_α	Gln	1.23	h_β
Val	1.14		Leu	1.22	
Phe	1.12		Thr	1.20	
$Lys^{(+)}$	1.07		Trp	1.19	
Ile	1.00	I_α	Ala	0.97	I_β
$Asp^{(-)}$	0.98		$Arg^{(+)}$	0.90	
Thr	0.82		Gly	0.81	i_β
Ser	0.79	i_α	$Asp^{(-)}$	0.80	
$Arg^{(+)}$	0.79		$Lys^{(+)}$	0.74	
Cys	0.77		Ser	0.72	
Asn	0.73		$His^{(+)}$	0.71	b_β
Tyr	0.61	b_α	Asn	0.65	
Pro	0.59		Pro	0.62	
Gly	0.53	B_α	$Glu^{(-)}$	0.26	B_β

[a] Chou and Fasman (1974). [b] Helical assignments: H_α, strong α former; h_α, α former; I_α, weak α former; i_α, α indifferent; b_α, α breaker; B_α, strong α breaker. I_α assignments are also given to Pro and Asp (near the N-terminal helix) as well as Arg (near the C-terminal helix). [c] β-sheet assignments: H_β, strong β former; h_β, β former; I_β, weak β former; i_β, β indifferent; b_β, β breaker; B_β, strong β breaker. b_β assignment is also given to Trp (near the C-terminal β region).

Chou and Fasman Biochemistry 1974

Updated Chou-Fasman

An update version of the Chou-Fasman propensity scales are available at the AAIndex database.

```
H CHOP780201
D Normalized frequency of alpha-helix (Chou-Fasman, 1978b)
R PMID:364941
A Chou, P.Y. and Fasman, G.D.
T Prediction of the secondary structure of proteins from their amino acid
  sequence
J Adv. Enzymol. 47, 45-148 (1978)
I     A/L     R/K     N/M     D/F     C/P     Q/S     E/T     G/W     H/Y     I/V
     1.42    0.98    0.67    1.01    0.70    1.11    1.51    0.57    1.00    1.08
     1.21    1.16    1.45    1.13    0.57    0.77    0.83    1.08    0.69    1.06
//

H CHOP780202
D Normalized frequency of beta-sheet (Chou-Fasman, 1978b)
R PMID:364941
A Chou, P.Y. and Fasman, G.D.
T Prediction of the secondary structure of proteins from their amino acid
  sequence
J Adv. Enzymol. 47, 45-148 (1978)
I     A/L     R/K     N/M     D/F     C/P     Q/S     E/T     G/W     H/Y     I/V
     0.83    0.93    0.89    0.54    1.19    1.10    0.37    0.75    0.87    1.60
     1.30    0.74    1.05    1.38    0.55    0.75    1.19    1.37    1.47    1.70
//
```

http://www.genome.jp/aaindex/

Secondary Structure

Given a new sequence a secondary structure prediction can be obtained by plotting the propensity values for each structure, residue by residue

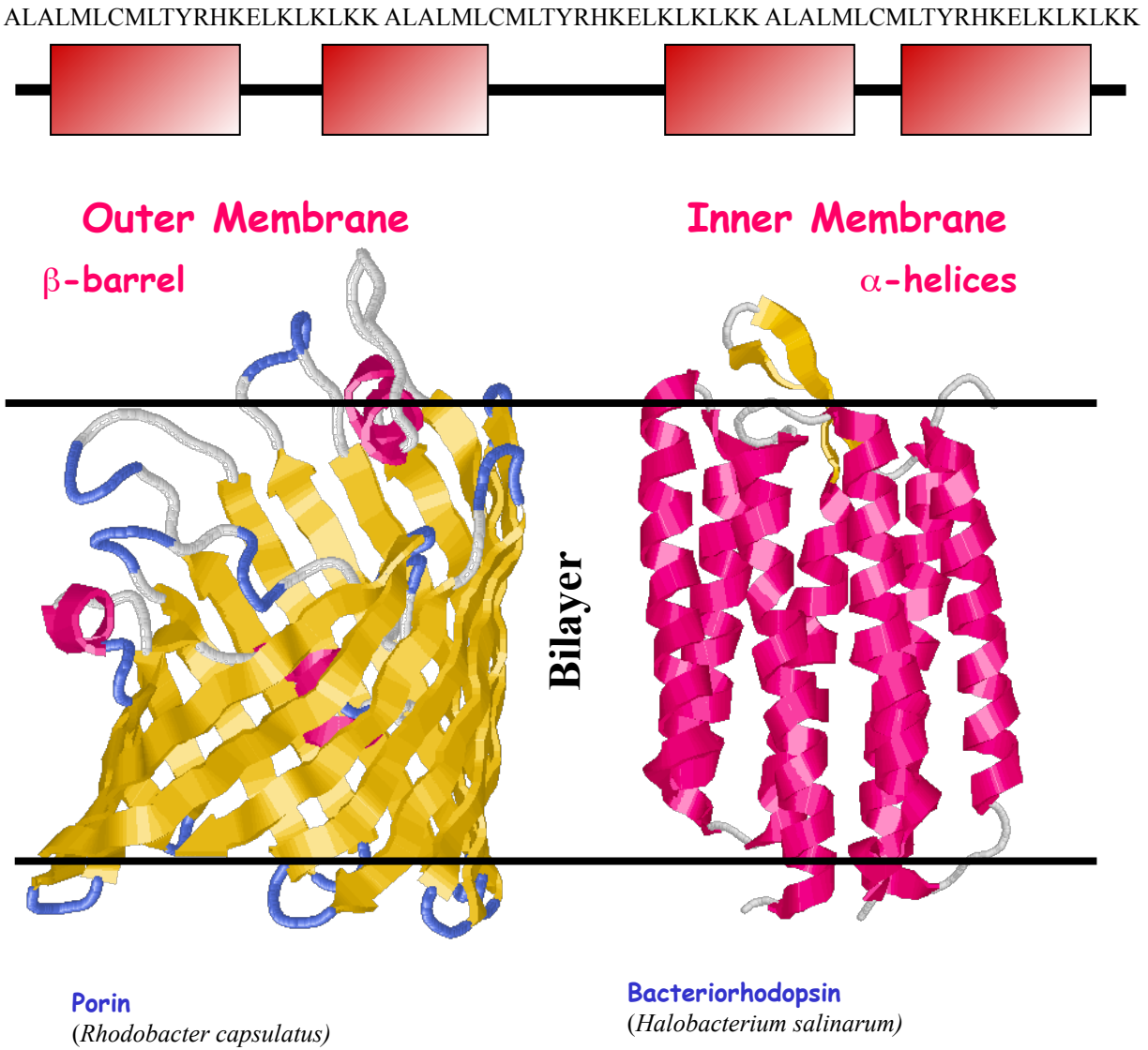
	Y	S	P	Y	A	E	L	M	R	S	Y	G
P(H)	69	77	57	69	142	151	121	145	98	77	69	57
P(E)	147	75	55	147	83	37	130	105	93	75	147	75

Considering three secondary structures (H,E,C), the overall accuracy, as evaluated on an uncorrelated set of sequences with known structure, is very low

Accuracy = 50/60 %

Trans Membrane Regions

Predicting the position of Trans Membrane Segments along the sequence



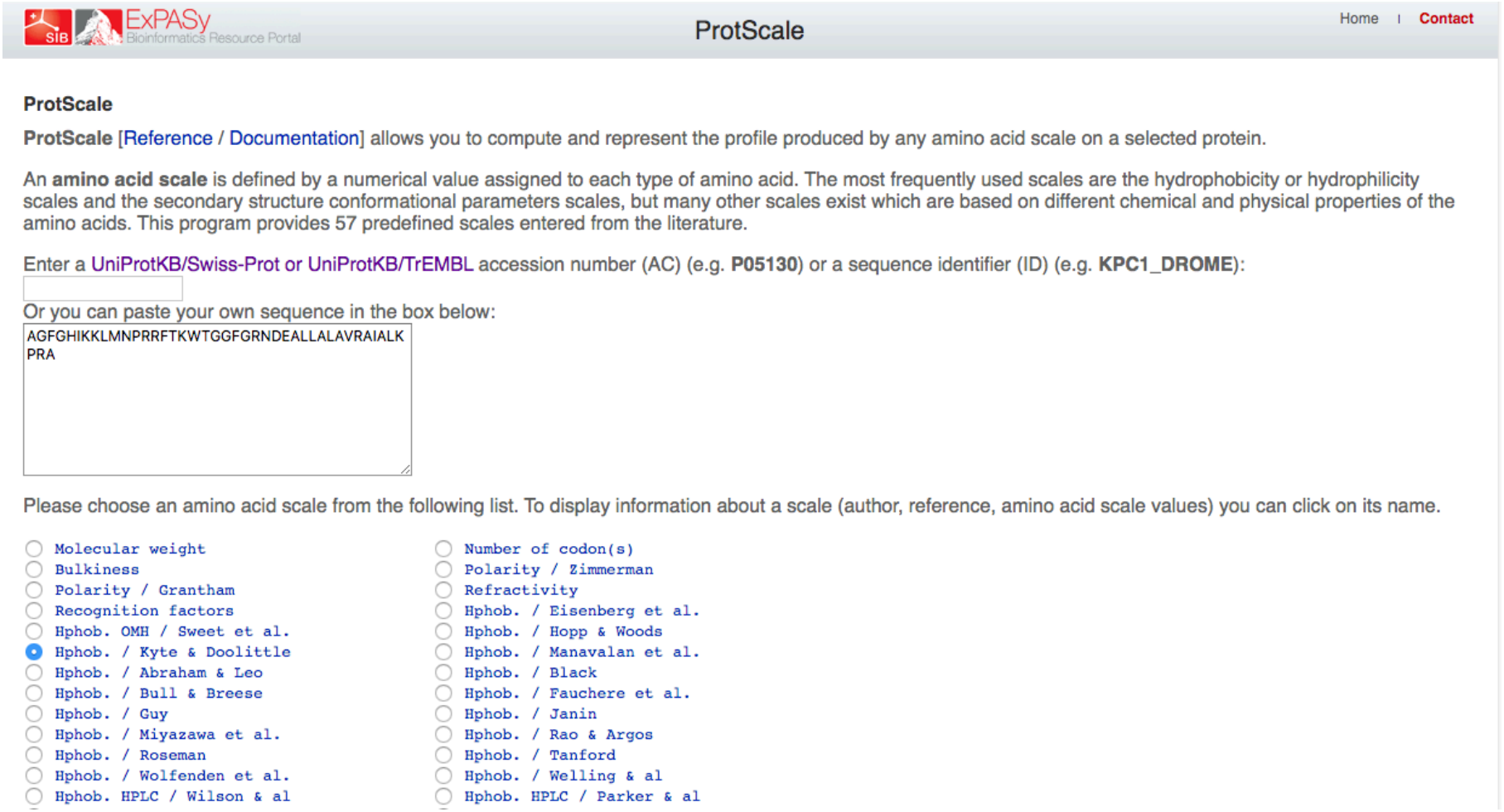
Kyte-Doolittle scale

It is computed taking into consideration the octanol-water partition coefficient, combined with the propensity of the residues to be found in known transmembrane helices

```
H KYTJ820101
D Hydropathy index (Kyte-Doolittle, 1982)
R PMID:7108955
A Kyte, J. and Doolittle, R.F.
T A simple method for displaying the hydropathic character of a protein
J J. Mol. Biol. 157, 105-132 (1982)
I    A/L     R/K     N/M     D/F     C/P     Q/S     E/T     G/W     H/Y     I/V
     1.8    -4.5    -3.5    -3.5     2.5    -3.5    -3.5    -0.4    -3.2     4.5
     3.8    -3.9     1.9     2.8    -1.6    -0.8    -0.7    -0.9    -1.3     4.2
//
```

ProtScale at ExPASy

ExPASy webserver plots protein plots based on different scales



https://web.expasy.org/protscale/

Exercise

Develop your own alpha helix propensity scale based on the non redundant PDB structures with resolution below 2 Å and with more than 50 residues with redundancy lower than 30%.

Compare your scale with the AAindex Chou-Fasman scale

Write a script that given a sequence and propensity scale calculates the smoothed score on a window sequence.