

Amino Acid Properties

Proteomes Interactomes and Biological Networks

11 November, 2019

Emidio Capriotti

<http://biofold.org/>



**Biomolecules
Folding and
Disease**

Department of Pharmacy and
Biotechnology (FaBiT)
University of Bologna



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.



AAindex

Amino acid indices, substitution matrices and pair-wise contact potentials

AAindex is a database of numerical indices representing various physicochemical and biochemical properties of amino acids and pairs of amino acids. AAindex consists of three sections now: AAindex1 for the amino acid index of 20 numerical values, AAindex2 for the amino acid mutation matrix and AAindex3 for the statistical protein contact potentials. All data are derived from published literature.

Search or Download

Search by DBGET bfind for

<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.

//

Chou-Fasman (I)

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

Example:

ALAKSLAKPSDTLAKSDFREKWEWLKLLKALACCKLSAAL
hhhhhhhccccccccccccccccchhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

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

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

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	Val	1.65
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	Gln	1.23
Val	1.14	Leu	1.22
Phe	1.12	Thr	1.20
Lys ⁽⁺⁾	1.07	Trp	1.19
Ile	1.00	Ala	0.97
Asp ⁽⁻⁾	0.98	Arg ⁽⁺⁾	0.90
Thr	0.82	Gly	0.81
Ser	0.79	Asp ⁽⁻⁾	0.80
Arg ⁽⁺⁾	0.79	Lys ⁽⁺⁾	0.74
Cys	0.77	Ser	0.72
Asn	0.73	His ⁽⁺⁾	0.71
Tyr	0.61	Asn	0.65
Pro	0.59	Pro	0.62
Gly	0.53	Glu ⁽⁻⁾	0.26

^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).

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

//

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 %



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

  **ExPASy**
Bioinformatics Resource Portal

ProtScale

Home | **Contact**

ProtScale

ProtScale [[Reference](#) / [Documentation](#)] allows you to compute and represent the profile produced by any amino acid scale on a selected protein.

An **amino acid scale** is defined by a numerical value assigned to each type of amino acid. The most frequently used scales are the hydrophobicity or hydrophilicity scales and the secondary structure conformational parameters scales, but many other scales exist which are based on different chemical and physical properties of the amino acids. This program provides 57 predefined scales entered from the literature.

Enter a **UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot** or **UniProtKB/TrEMBL** accession number (AC) (e.g. **P05130**) or a sequence identifier (ID) (e.g. **KPC1_DROME**):

Or you can paste your own sequence in the box below:

AGFGHIKKLMNPRRFTKWTGGFGRNDEALLALAVRAIALK
PRA

Please choose an amino acid scale from the following list. To display information about a scale (author, reference, amino acid scale values) you can click on its name.

<input type="radio"/> Molecular weight	<input type="radio"/> Number of codon(s)
<input type="radio"/> Bulkiness	<input type="radio"/> Polarity / Zimmerman
<input type="radio"/> Polarity / Grantham	<input type="radio"/> Refractivity
<input type="radio"/> Recognition factors	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Eisenberg et al.
<input type="radio"/> Hphob. OMH / Sweet et al.	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Hopp & Woods
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Hphob. / Kyte & Doolittle	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Manavalan et al.
<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Abraham & Leo	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Black
<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Bull & Breese	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Fauchere et al.
<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Guy	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Janin
<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Miyazawa et al.	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Rao & Argos
<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Roseman	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Tanford
<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Wolfenden et al.	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. / Welling & al
<input type="radio"/> Hphob. HPLC / Wilson & al	<input type="radio"/> Hphob. HPLC / Parker & al

<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.