



Instituto Politécnico Nacional

Escuela Superior de Cómputo

Bioinformatics

Practice 8 - Protein Structure Prediction

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1 Theoretical Framework

1.1 Critical Assessment of protein Structure Prediction - CASP

Critical Assessment of protein Structure Prediction is a community-wide, worldwide experiment for protein structure prediction taking place every two years since 1994. CASP provides research groups with an opportunity to objectively test their structure prediction methods and delivers an independent assessment of the state of the art in protein structure modeling to the research community and software users [1].

If a given unknown sequence is found to be related by common descent to a protein sequence of known structure (called a *template*), comparative protein modeling may be used to predict the tertiary structure. Templates can be found using sequence alignment methods (e.g. **BLAST** or HHsearch) or **protein threading methods**, which are better in finding distantly related templates. Otherwise, **de novo protein structure prediction** must be applied (e.g. Rosetta), which is much less reliable but can sometimes yield models with the correct fold [1].

Evaluation of the results is carried out in the following prediction categories [1]:

- Tertiary structure prediction (all CASPs)
- Secondary structure prediction (dropped after CASP5)
- Prediction of structure complexes (CASP2 only; a separate experiment — CAPRI — carries on this subject)
- Residue-residue contact prediction (starting CASP4)
- Disordered regions prediction (starting CASP5)
- Model quality assessment (starting CASP7)
- Model refinement (starting CASP7)
- High-accuracy template-based prediction (starting CASP7)

Tertiary structure prediction category was further subdivided into [1]:

1. **Homology modeling.**
2. **Fold recognition:** Also called protein **threading**; Note, this is incorrect as threading is a method.
3. **De novo structure prediction:** Now referred to as 'New Fold' as many methods apply evaluation functions that are biased by knowledge of native protein structures, such as an artificial neural network.

2 Material and Equipment

- UniProt web page [2].
- Swiss-Model web page [3].
- RaptorX web page [4].
- VMD - Visual Molecular Dynamics Software [5].
- CLT75_5425: Uncharacterized protein YukE sequence [6].

3 Practice Development

The objective of this practice is to search for an uncharacterized or unknown protein sequence and apply it the following analyses:

1. **BLAST:** To identify similar well known proteins according to their sequence comparisons, in order to determine in what they might looklike.
2. **Homology:** To predict the protein structure through their sequence.
3. **Threading:** If the homology process doesn't seem to get satisfactory results (incomplete structure due to incomprehensible parts of its structure), threading is applied to get the full protein structure.

The protein selected for this is the **Uncharacterized protein YukE** with 428 amino acids, located in the CLT75_5425 gene from the **Micromonospora sp. CNZ285** organism [6].

The sequence of this uncharacterized protein in FASTA (canonical) format is obtained from the UniProt web page [2], and is the following:

```

1 >tr|A0A4Y9VKH6|A0A4Y9VKH6_9ACTN Uncharacterized protein YukE
  ↳ OS=Micromonospora sp. CNZ285 OX=2035250 GN=CLT75_5425 PE=4 SV=1
2 MSEYTRRYEHVSHEELYQGVNAGDPKQIEALSAQWTSKGTLDLGRDLTADLEALAKTW
3 TGDAAREFHRLDMVVRYSNLSGMTGIRQGLDMMSELRAAQSKAESPEKTDNDKLL
4 SGAGKGFLIGGAPGAVIGGIVGHQQDKAEQEKAHQRMVQVAKLAEGYDFSAYGRIVVPD
5 PPETELPGHTSNGDPTLQNGPSVKTPSSGPSLGSFGPGANATATTSGVHHTAPTGGTPGE
6 GTPGAGTPGGQPGAGAPGSVPTSGTVDPGGTSLAGAAPLTSTVGGPTVGGPGFGTGAG
7 PTTMSAGGPGGGLYGAPGVLSTGSLAGTGTNAASSARFGGMSGAENRSAAGTGRLTSGRG
8 LVVDAGSKPAERAGGATGRPAMAGRSGVLGGRGGHGDDESDGRLTWLTEDEMVWSDGDAA
9 PPPVLGGN

```

3.1 BLAST

In the BLAST analysis tool on UniProt [7], enter the **Uncharacterized protein YukE** sequence in the text area (see Figure 1), run the process by clicking the *Run BLAST* button and wait until it ends.

UniProt BLAST

How to use this tool

The Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) finds regions of local similarity between sequences, which can be used to infer functional and evolutionary relationships between sequences as well as help identify members of gene families.

1. Enter either a protein or nucleotide sequence or a UniProt identifier (e.g. P00750 or A4_HUMAN or UPI000000001) into the form field.
2. Optionally, change the program parameters with the dropdown menus under the form.
3. Click the **Run BLAST** button.

Target database: UniProtKB reference proteomes plus Swiss-Prot

E-Threshold: 10

Matrix: Auto

Filtering: None

Gapped: yes

Hits: 250

Run BLAST

Figure 1: BLAST tool interface on UniProt [7].

Figures 2 and 3 shows the result of the BLAST analysis, where some of the principal proteins inferred by homology that could be related to the uncharacterized one based on their matching sequences are:

- PPE domain-containing protein - *Actinokineospora bangkokensis* **30.2%**
- PPE domain-containing protein - *Kitasatospora sp. Root187* **26.9%**
- PPE domain-containing protein - *Alloactinosynnema sp. L-07* **28.2%**
- PPE domain-containing protein - *Actinokineospora spheciospongiae* **27.2%**

Overview

[Collapse table](#)

Entry	Protein names	Match hit	Identity
		100 80 60	
D9T7U1	Uncharacterized protein (Micromonospora aurantiaca (s...))		97.2%
A0A1Q4ZKR3	Uncharacterized protein (Micromonospora sp. CB01531)		67.8%
A0A1A9ADL0	Uncharacterized conserved protein Yuke (Micromonospora narathiwatensis)		67.6%
A0A1C5HGX5	Uncharacterized conserved protein Yuke (Micromonospora inositol)		62.0%
A0A317DSC3	Uncharacterized protein (Micromonospora sp. 4G51)		61.6%
A0A1C5J101	Proteins of 100 residues with WXX (Micromonospora coxensis)		55.7%
A0A0D0V1I7	Uncharacterized protein (Micromonospora haikouensis)		53.2%
A0A1C5GF8	Proteins of 100 residues with WXX (Micromonospora echinofusca)		51.7%
A0A562IAP0	Type VII secretion system (Wss) protein ESAT-6 (Micromonospora olivasterospora)		52.4%
A0A1C5KC33	Uncharacterized conserved protein Yuke (Micromonospora echinaurantiaca)		52.1%
A0A3E2YPK9	WXX domain containing protein (Micromonospora sp. MW-13)		49.9%
A0A4Q7ZXK8	Uncharacterized protein (Micromonospora sp. CNZ295)		48.9%
A0A1C5H689	Uncharacterized protein (Micromonospora siamensis)		48.3%
A0A0M8XGF6	Uncharacterized protein (Micromonospora sp. NRRL B-16...)		50.4%
A0A3A9YYI7	WXX100 family type VII secretion target (Micromonospora endolithica)		43.5%

Figure 2: BLAST results for the **Uncharacterized protein Yuke** - *Micromonospora sp. CNZ285*.





















A0A495JLR1	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Micromonospora pisi</i>)	43.8%
A0A1C4V9M8	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Micromonospora echinospora</i>)	46.0%
A0A2W2C6J1	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Micromonospora deserti</i>)	50.5%
A0A561WB94	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Actinoplanes teichomyceticus</i>)	41.2%
A0A101JMN7	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Actinoplanes awajinensis</i> sub...)	41.1%
A0A239MSQ4	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Asanoa hainanensis</i>)	38.6%
A0A1I2GWK6	 Proteins of 100 residues with WXG (<i>Actinoplanes philippinensis</i>)	31.1%
A0A1Q9LFS1	 PPE domain-containing protein (<i>Actinokineospora bangkokensis</i>)	30.2%
A0A1I5A6W8	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Saccharopolyspora antimicrob...</i>)	31.2%
A0A5C4M583	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Amycolatopsis alkalitolerans</i>)	29.0%
A0A1C5J163	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Micromonospora coxensis</i>)	30.2%
A0A6H9YTZ5	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Actinomadura rudentiformis</i>)	30.4%
A0A1C4VAN9	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Micromonospora echinospora</i>)	31.0%
A0A0Q8PSS7	 PPE domain-containing protein (<i>Kitasatospora</i> sp. Root187)	26.9%
A0A1G9JU71	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Glycomyces sambucus</i>)	30.1%
A0A4R4SW15	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Actinomadura</i> sp. GC306)	30.3%
W5WB87	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Kutzneria albida</i> DSM 43870)	28.3%
A0A132MYS6	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Streptomyces thermoautotroph...</i>)	29.3%
A0A132MTD6	 Uncharacterized protein (<i>Streptomyces thermoautotroph...</i>)	28.9%

Figure 3: BLAST results for the **Uncharacterized protein YukE** - *Micromonospora* sp. CNZ285 (cont.).

3.2 Homology

Go to the Swiss-Model web page [3] and enter the **Uncharacterized protein YukeE** sequence in the *Target Sequence(s)* field (see Figure 4), then click the *Build Model* button to perform the homology process. The results should be ready in a few minutes.


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SWISS-MODEL

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Start a New Modelling Project

Target Sequence(s): (Format must be FASTA, Clustal, plain string, or a valid UniProtKB A/C)

Target:

Target:

Target:

Target:

Project Title:

Email:

By using the SWISS-MODEL server, you agree to comply with the following [terms of use](#) and to cite the corresponding [articles](#).

Supported Inputs

- Sequence(s)
- Target-Template Alignment
- User Template
- DeepView Project

Figure 4: Swiss-Model interface [3]

When the homology process is done, a page that is shown in Figure 5 is displayed with the generated models of this sequence. Also, a lot of templates are generated too, Figure 6 shows some of them.



Figure 5: Homology result for the **Uncharacterized protein Yuke** - *Micromonospora sp. CNZ285*.

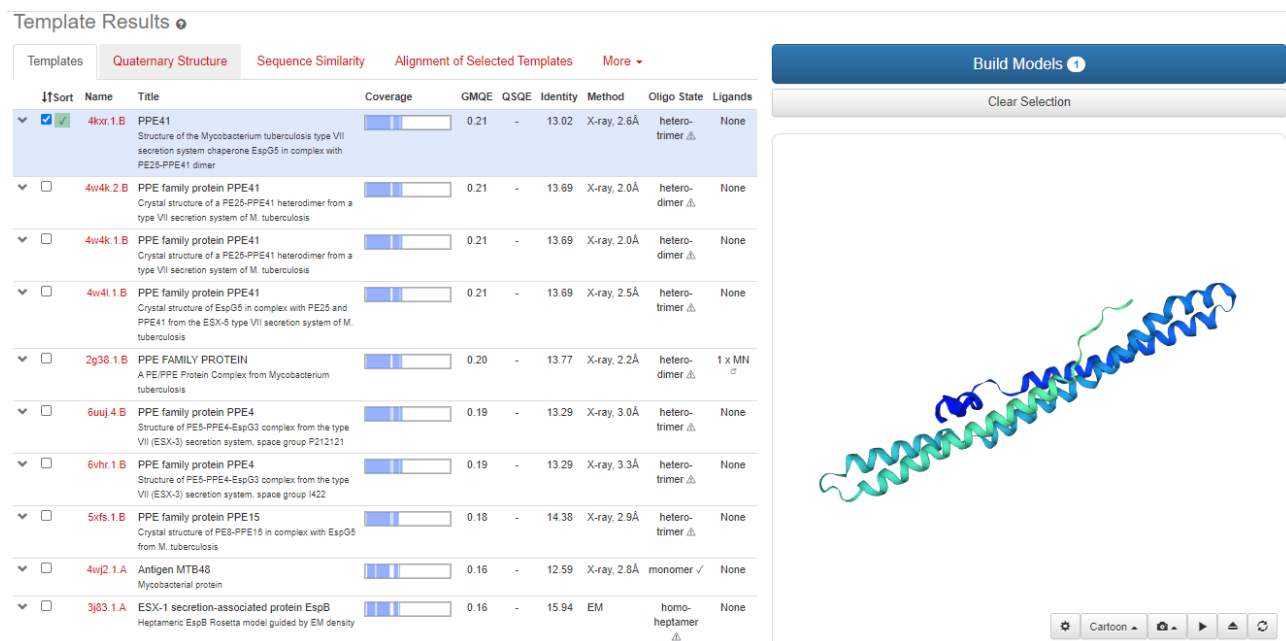
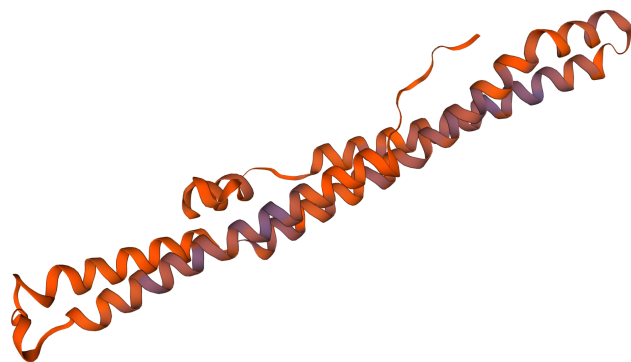
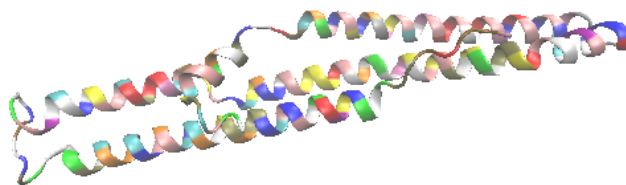


Figure 6: Generated templates for the **Uncharacterized protein Yuke** - *Micromonospora sp. CNZ285*.

The resulted model from the homology for the **Uncharacterized protein Yuke** can be seen in Figure 7, where its corresponding PDB file is visualized with the same Swiss-Model web page [3] and with the VMD software [5].



(a) Homology Model in Swiss-Model [3].



(b) Homology Model in VMD [5].

Figure 7: PDB file for the **Uncharacterized protein Yuke** - *Micromonospora* sp. CNZ285 by the Homology process.

3.3 Threading

Go to the RaptorX web page [4] and enter the **Uncharacterized protein Yuke** sequence in the Sequences for Prediction field (see Figure 8), then click the *Submit* button to perform the threading process. Due the high demand and plenty of pending jobs in queue (RaptorX [4] is open free for anyone who wants to perform their sequence analyses, from biology scientists to students and even common people), this process may take hours or even days to complete.

RaptorX New Job | Job Status | My Jobs | Inquiry & Bug Report | Docs | About | Xu Group

Submit New Job

Fill out the form to submit *up to 20* protein sequences in a batch for prediction. Sequences should be in **FASTA format** and can be submitted as a text-file or by copy-and-pasting into the text-field below. Please **SAVE** the JobID provided after submission for retrieval of job results, especially when you do not provide an email address in submission.

Job Identification

Jobname: Email:

Sequences for Prediction

Sequences:

```
>trjA0A4Y9VKH6IA0A4Y9VKH6_9ACTN Uncharacterized protein Yuke OS=Micromonospora sp. CNZ285
OX=2035250 GN=CLT75_5425 PE=4 SV=1
MSEVTRRYEHVSHEELYQGVNAGDPKQIEALSAQWTSKGTLDLGRDLTADLEALAKTW
TGDAAREFHRRLDMMVRYSGNLSEGMTGIRQGLDMMSSSLRAAQSKEPEKTDNDKLL
SGAGKGLIGGAPGAVIGGIVGHQDDKAEQEKAKHQRMVQVAKLAEGYDFSAYGRIVPD
PPETELPGHTSNGDPTLQNGPSVKTPSSGSLGSGFGANATATTSGVHTAPTGGTGE
GTPGAGTPGGQPGAGAPGSVPTSGTVDPGTSLAGAAPLTSTVGGPTVGGGPGFTGGAG
PTTMSAGGPGGLYGAPVLSTGSLAGTGTNAASSARFGGMSGAENRSAAGTGRLTSGRG
LVDAGSKPAGERAGATGRPAMAGRSGLVGGRGHGDDESDGRLTWLTEDMNVWSDGDA
PPPVLGGN
```

Sequence file: No se eligió archivo

Current server load

532 jobs pending
122 jobs done in the last 24 hours
6874 jobs done in the last 30 days

#server users: 70002
#processed jobs: 561610

Job policy

To maximize the utility of the server to the community at large the following limits on job submission for each user are enforced

- Each user can have no more than 500 sequences pending prediction at any point in time.
- One submission can contain at most 20 sequences.
- Should you have a special project that requires more resources, please [contact us](#) to inquire further.

RaptorX main page | Citing RaptorX | My Jobs | RaptorX Storage for Publication

Figure 8: RaptorX interface [4]

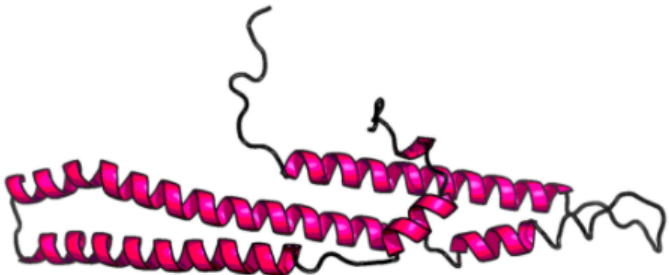
When the homology process is done, a page that is shown in Figure 5 is displayed with the generated model of this sequence.

Section I. Input Sequence and Domain Partition ([help](#))

1	11	21	31	41	51	61	71	81	91
MSEYTRRYEH	VSHEELYQGV	NAGDPKQIEA	LSAQWISLKG	TLDDIGRDLT	ADLEALAKTW	TGDAAREFHR	RLDMVVRYS	NLSEGMTGIR	QGLDMMSEL
1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111
101	111	121	131	141	151	161	171	181	191
RAAQSKAESP	EKTDDNDKLL	SGAGKGFLLG	GAPGAVIGGI	VGHQQDKAEQ	EKAHQRMVQV	VAKLAEGYDF	SAYGRIVVDP	PPETELPGHT	SNGDPTLQNG
1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1111111111	1110000000	0000000000	0000000000
201	211	221	231	241	251	261	271	281	291
PSVKTPSSGP	SLGSFGPGAN	ATATTSGVHH	TAPTGGTPGE	GTPGAGTPGG	QPGAGAPGSV	PTSGTVDPGG	TSLAGAAPLT	STVGGPTVGG	GPGFGTGGAG
0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000
301	311	321	331	341	351	361	371	381	391
PSVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS	SAVGLGSGS

Section II. Summary Prediction Results

The predicted model for the whole sequence. Left click for an image of higher quality; right click to save.



Summary ([help](#))

- The input predicted as **1** domain(s)
- Best template: **2g38B**, p-value **1.57e-03**
- Overall uGDT (GDT): **90 (21)**
- 173(40%)** residues are modeled
- 265(61%)** positions predicted as disordered
- Secondary struct: **28%*H***, **0%*E***, **71%*C***
- Solvent access: **78%*E***, **11%*M***, **9%*B***

Download

[Download](#) the predicted model as PDB file.

[Download](#) detailed prediction results.

To open .zip files, you may use [7-zip](#) for Windows or unzip for Linux/Unix/MacOS.

Status

Current status:	Complete
Submitted on:	2020-12-02 17:57
Scheduled on:	2020-12-02 18:25
Finished on:	2020-12-02 19:34

Figure 9: Threading result for the **Uncharacterized protein Yuke** - *Micromonospora* sp. CNZ285.

The resulted model from the threading for the **Uncharacterized protein Yuke** can be seen in Figure 10, where its corresponding PDB file is visualized with the same RaptorX web page [4] and with the VMD software [5].

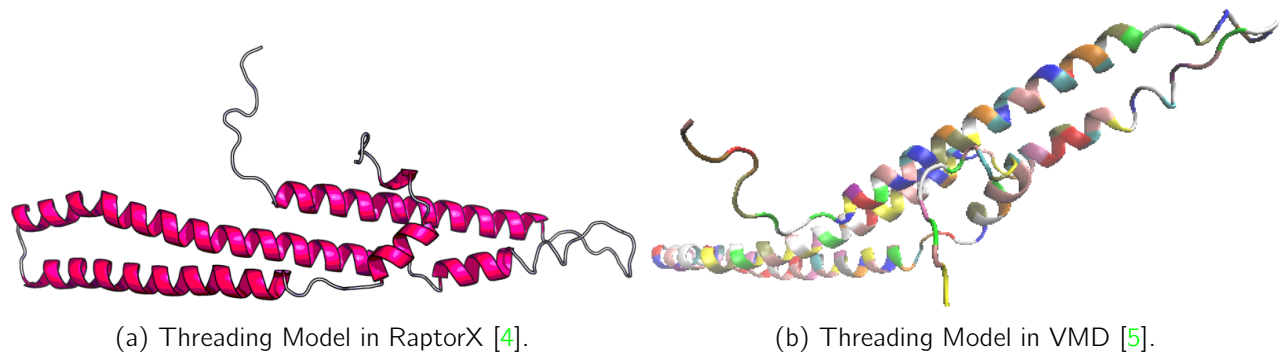


Figure 10: PDB file for the **Uncharacterized protein YukE** - *Micromonospora* sp. CNZ285 by the Threading process.

4 Conclusions and recommendations

Protein structure prediction is one of the most challenging problems to solve. Fortunately there are several prediction methods that make use of the computational power provided by the computers hardware. The most accurate prediction process performed in this practice was threading; however, the most accurate one of all is the de novo structure prediction, because it's starting to use relative new technologies, such as artificial neuronal networks (deep learning).

5 References

- [1] Wikipedia, "CASP," <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CASP>, [Online; last access December 7, 2020].
- [2] T. U. Consortium, "UniProt: a worldwide hub of protein knowledge," <https://www.uniprot.org/>, [Online; last access November 21, 2020].
- [3] B. U. of Basel, "SWISS-MODEL Interactive Workspace," <https://swissmodel.expasy.org/interactive>, [Online; last access December 4, 2020].
- [4] U. of Chicago, "RaptorX: a protein structure and function prediction server," <http://raptorx.uchicago.edu/StructurePrediction/predict/>, [Online; last access December 4, 2020].
- [5] "Download VMD," <https://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Development/Download/download.cgi?PackageName=VMD>, [Online; last access October 13, 2020].
- [6] T. U. Consortium, "CLT75_5425 - Uncharacterized protein YukE - *Micromonospora* sp. CNZ285 - CLT75_5425 gene protein," <https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/A0A4Y9VKH6>, [Online; last access December 4, 2020].
- [7] —, "BLAST," <https://www.uniprot.org/blast/>, [Online; last access November 21, 2020].