

TAPE

NIPS

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Property prediction

Benchmark

- 5 semi-supervised tasks
- 1. Secondary structure: helix, strand, other
- 2. Structure: each pair is in contact or not
- 3. Remote homology detection
- 4. Flourescence
- 5. Stability
- Transformer > LSTM > ResNet > UniRep

Transformer

mLSTM

Evaluating Protein Transfer Learning with Tasks Assessing Protein Embeddings (TAPE)

Protein modeling is an increasingly popular area of machine learning research. Semi-supervised learning has emerged as an important paradigm in protein modeling due to the high cost of acquiring supervised protein labels, but the current literature is fragmented when it comes to datasets and standardized evaluation techniques. To facilitate progress in this field, we introduce the Tasks Assessing Protein Embeddings (TAPE), a set of five biologically relevant semisupervised learning tasks spread across different domains of protein biology. We curate tasks into specific training, validation, and test splits to ensure that each task tests biologically relevant generalization that transfers to real-life scenarios. We benchmark a range of approaches to semi-supervised protein representation learning, which span recent work as well as canonical sequence learning techniques. We find that self-supervised pretraining is helpful for almost all models on all tasks, more than doubling performance in some cases. Despite this increase, in several cases features learned by self-supervised pretraining still lag behind features extracted by state-of-the-art non-neural techniques. This gap in performance suggests a huge opportunity for innovative architecture design and improved modeling paradigms that better capture the signal in biological sequences. TAPE will help the machine learning community focus effort on scientifically relevant problems.



CARP

bioRxiv

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Representation

- Convolutional masked language model
- ByteNet encoder
- Dilated convolution

Autoencoder

CNN

Convolutions are competitive with transformers for protein sequence pretraining

Protein design aims to build new proteins from scratch thereby holding the potential to tackle many environmental and biomedical problems. Recent progress in the field of natural language processing (NLP) has enabled the implementation of ever-growing language models capable of understanding and generating text with human-like capabilities. Given the many similarities between human languages and protein sequences, the use of NLP models offers itself for predictive tasks in protein research. Motivated by the evident success of generative Transformer-based language models such as the GPT-x series, we developed ProtGPT2, a language model trained on protein space that generates de novo protein sequences that follow the principles of natural ones. In particular, the generated proteins display amino acid propensities which resemble natural proteins. Disorder and secondary structure prediction indicate that 88% of ProtGPT2-generated proteins are globular, in line with natural sequences. Sensitive sequence searches in protein databases show that ProtGPT2 sequences are distantly related to natural ones, and similarity networks further demonstrate that ProtGPT2 is sampling unexplored regions of protein space. AlphaFold prediction of ProtGPT2-sequences yielded well-folded non-idealized structures with embodiments as well as large loops and revealed new topologies not captured in current structure databases. ProtGPT2 has learned to speak the protein language. It has the potential to generate de novo proteins in a high throughput fashion in a matter of seconds. The model is easy-to-use and freely available.

