

Class 11 Alpha Fold

Eric Wang A17678188

Background

In this hands-on session we will utilize AlphaFold to predict protein structure from sequences. Without the aid of such approaches, it can take years of expensive laboratory work to determine the structure of one protein. With AlphaFold we can now accurately compute a typical protein structure in as little as ten minutes.

The PDB database (the main repository of experimental structures) Only has ~**250 thousand** sequences! only 0.125 % of known sequences have a known structure - Only 0.125% of known sequences have a known structure- this is called the “structure knowledge gap.”

```
250000/200000000*100
```

```
[1] 0.125
```

Structures are much harder to determine than sequences. They are expensive on average ~ 1 million each. They take on average 3-5 years to solve.

EBI AlphaFold Database

The EBI has a database of pre-computed AlphaFold (AF) models called AFDB. ## Running AlphaFold

We can download and run locally (on our own computers) but we need a GPU. Or we can use “cloud” computing to run this on someone else’s computers :-)

We will use ColabFold < <https://github.com/sokrypton/ColabFold>>

We previously found there was no AFDB entry for our HIV sequence:

>HIV-Pr-Dimer
PQITLWQRPLVTIKIGGQLKEALLDTGADDTVLEEMSLPGRWPKMIGGIGGF^IKVRQYD
QILIEICGHKAIGTVLVGPTPVNIIGRNLLTQIGCTLNFPQITLWQRPLVTIKIGGQLK
EALLDTGADDTVLEEMSLPGRWPKMIGGIGGF^IKVRQYDQILIEICGHKAIGTVLVGPT
PVNIIGRNLLTQIGCTLNF