9. Intrinsically disordered proteins and protein binding regions

IDPs

- Intrinsically disordered proteins/regions (IDPs/IDRs)
- Do not adopt a well-defined structure in isolation under native-like conditions
- Highly flexible ensembles
- Functional proteins
- Involved in various diseases

Protein Structure/Function Paradigm



Dominant view: 3D structure is a prerequisite for protein function

p53 tumor suppressor



Wells et al. PNAS 2008; 105: 5762

Funnels



Flock et al Curr Opin Struct Biol. 2014; 26:62

Experimental detection of disorder

In the literature

Failed attempts to crystallize Lack of NMR signals Heat stability Protease sensitivity Increased molecular volume "Freaky" sequences ...

Where can we find disordered proteins?

In the PDB



Missing electron density regions from the PDB



NMR structures with large structural variations



It classifies intrinsic disorder based on **experimental methods** and three ontologies for **molecular function, transition and binding partner**.

Sequence properties of disordered proteins

- Amino acid compositional bias
- High proportion of polar and charged amino acids (Gln, Ser, Pro, Glu, Lys)
- Low proportion of bulky, hydrophobhic amino acids (Val, Leu, Ile, Met, Phe, Trp, Tyr)
- Low sequence complexity
- Signature sequences identifying disordered proteins

Protein disorder is encoded in the amino acid sequence

Prediction of protein disorder

Can we discriminate ordered and disordered regions ?

Training sets:

Ordered structures come from the PDB

Short and Long disorder

- PDB (L<30)
- DisProt (L>=30)

The two types of datasets differ not just in their lengths

Training sets are small

Unbalanced datasets

Prediction methods for protein disorder

Over 50 methods ...

- Based on amino acid propensity scales or on simplified biophysical models
 - **GlobPlot**, FoldIndex, FoldUnfold, **IUPred**, UCON, **TOP-IDP**
- Machine learning approaches
 - PONDR VL-XT, VL3, VSL2, FIT; Disopred; POODLE S and L;
 DisEMBL; DisPSSMP; PrDOS, DisPro, OnD-CRF, POODLE-W, RONN, ...

Machine learning approaches

INPUT

OUTPUT



IUPred

Globular proteins form many favorable interactions to ensure the stability of the structure

Disordered protein cannot form enough favourable interactions

Energy estimation method

Based on globular proteins

No training on disordered proteins

Dosztanyi (2005) JMB 347, 827

Predicting protein disorder The algorithm: IUPred

...PSVEPPLSQETFSDLWKLLPENNVLSPLPSQAMDDLMLSPDDIEQWFTEDPGPDEAPRMPEAAPRVA PAPAAPTPAA...

Based only on the composition of environment of D's we try to predict if it is in a disordered region or not:



IUPred: http://iupred.enzim.hu/



Prediction of protein disorder

- Disordered is encoded in the amino acid sequence
- Can be predicted from the sequence
- ~80% accuracy
- Large-scale studies
 - Evolution
 - Function
- Binary classification

Time versus performance plot for different predictors.



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Bioinformatics

Genome level annotations

- Bridging over the large number of sequences and the small number of experimentally verified cases
- Combining experiments and predictions
 - MobiDB: http://mobidb.bio.unipd.it
 - D2P2: http://d2p2.pro
 - IDEAL: http://www.ideal.force.cs.is.nagoya-u.ac.jp/IDEAL/
- Multiple predictors
- How to resolve contradicting experiments/ predictions?
 - Majority rules

MobiDB



Construct optimization

A Disorder Prediction

Estimat

and s

5143





How common is protein disorder?

Disorder content increases with evolutionary complexity



Disorder is heterogeneous



For example, NCBD (no ACTR)

For example, zinc fingers (no DNA)

Structural ensemble PEDB database

The following 2 entries have been returned for your query:

			Select a		
∎ Er	semble des	cription o	f K18 do techni		f Tau protein using NMR
Accesion ID	Correspondent	Release date	SAXS data	NMR data	
6AAC	Martin Blackledge	2013-06-10	No	Yes	
 ● D ● D 	ownload com ownload struc ownload sequ ownload expe	ture archiviences (.fa	ve (.pdb) sta)		Section ?
Authors: Markus Zweckstetter; Martin Blackledge; Valery Ozenne; Robert Schneider; Mingxi Yao; Jie-rong Huang; Loic Salmon; Malene Ringkjobing Jensen;					Keywords: asteroids; flexible-meccano intrinsically disordered; NMR; single residue resolution;



How IDPs carry out their functions?

Entropic chains

Function directly results from disordered state

Molecular recognition Coupled folding and binding

"Assemblages"

Functional sites formed by phase separation

Protein interactions of IDPs



Coupled folding and binding

- Entropic penalty
- Functional advantages
 - Weak transient, yet specific interactions
 - Post-translational modifications
 - Flexible binding regions that can overlap
 - Evolutionary plasticity





Interactions of IDPs

- Complexes of IDPs in the PDB: ~ 200
- Known instances: ~ 2 000
- Estimated number of such interactions in the human proteome: ~ 1 000 000

- Experimental characterization is very difficult
 - Low expression level
 - Sensitive to proteolysis
 - Experimental methods are tailored for globular proteins

Computational methods

Prediction of binding sites located within IDPs



- Interaction sites are usually linear (consist of only 1 part)
- enrichment of interaction prone amino acids
- can be predicted from sequence without predicting the structure

Heterogeneity

- adopted secondary structure elements
- size of the binding regions
- flexibility in the bound form



Disordered protein complexes



• Interaction sites are usually *linear* (consist of only 1 part)

 enrichment of interaction prone amino acids

Sequence



No need for structure, binding sites can be predicted from sequence alone

Complex between p53 and MDM2

Binding sites

Prediction of disordered binding regions – ANCHOR

What discriminates disordered binding regions?

- A cannot form enough favorable interactions with their sequential environment
- It is favorable for them to interact with a globular protein

Based on simplified physical model

- Based on an energy estimation method using statistical potentials
- Captures sequential context

Prediction of disordered binding regions - ANCHOR







