# PROTEIN DOMAINS, HMMS & MOTIFS

# CLASSIFYING PROTEINS BY FUNCTION

- Important to be able to classify proteins as to what functions they perform
- This information is taken from experimental studies
- Genes have function determined from mutant



https://science.sciencemag.org/content/355/6322/294



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverse\_genetics

### GENETICS TO FUNCTION

By seeing which mutations break a protein can determine what functional role the protein plays

### PROTEIN CLASSIFICATION

- Many many (!) proteins if consider all the types found in all organisms
- Proteins can be classified into
   Families
- Families can be classified into
   Domains
  - This can be discrete (eg DNA binding) or part of an enzyme
- Sequence can have Features



Protein sequence

#### Protein Structure and Folds



### PROTEIN CLASSIFICATION

Classification of domains requires recognition of regions in protein which are evolutionary conserved and function as a unit



### GPCR SUPERFAMILY

Sub-types of a family - top to bottom this is a classification that is general to specific

### PROTEIN DOMAINS

- Distinct functional or structural units of proteins
- SH3 structure shows the 3D folds of the protein when modeled
- Multiple domains can be found within a protein





Multidomain protein schematic



### PROTEIN DOMAINS

These domains can have specific functions based



#### SIGNATURES OF DOMAINS CAN BE CHARACTERISTIC

the order and domain content of a protein can be a signature of the type of function



## SEQUENCE FEATURES

Sequence features are groups of amino acids which confer certain characteristics

- Could be active site with particular function in enzyme
- binding site for protein-DNA, protein-RNA, proteinprotein interactions
- post translational modification site
- repeats within a protein (eg short motifs that repeat)



### PROTEINS CLASSIFIED BY FEATURES

Sequence features like the type of iron- and sulfur-binding residues are used to classify a protein - this is a 2Fe-2S <u>ferredoxin</u>

#### Protein family/domain



### CLASSIFYING PROTEINS

Start with known proteins which are similar and determined to be homologous (BLASTP)

Q5E940 BOVIN	MPREDRA	TWKSNYFLKIIQLLDDYP	CFIVGADNVGSKOMOQIRMSLRGK-	AVVLMGENTMMREAIRGHLENNPALE
RLAO HUMAN	MPREDRA	TWKSNYFLKIIQLLDDYP	CFIVGADNVGSK <mark>OMO</mark> QIRMSLRGK-	- AVVLMGENTMMREAIRGHLENNPALE
RLA0 MOUSE	MPREDRA	TWKSNYFLKIIQLLDDYP)	CFIVGADNVGSKOMOQIRMSLRGK-	AVVLMGENTMMREAIRGHLENNPALE
RLÃO RAT	MPREDRA	TWKSNYFLKIIQLLDDYP)	CFIVGADNVGSKOMOQIRMSLRGK-	AVVLMGENTMMREAIRGHLENNPALE
RLAO CHICK	MPREDRA	TWKSNYFMKIIQLLDDYP)	CFVVGADNVGSKOMOQIRMSLRGK-	AVVLMGENTMMREAIRGHLENNPALE
RLAO RANSY	MPREDRA	TWKSNYFLKIIQLLDDYP)	CFIVGADNVGSKOMOQIRMSLRGK-	AVVLMGENTMMREAIRGHLENNSALE
Q7ZUG3 BRARE	MPREDRA	TWKSNYFLKIIQLLDDYP)	CFIVGADNVGSKOMOTIRLSLRGK-	AVVLMGENTMMEKAIRGHLENNPALE
RLA0 ICTPU	MPREDRA	TWKSNYFLKIIQLLNDYP)	CFIVGADNVGSKOMOTIRLSLRGK-	AIVLMGENTMMREAIRGHLENNPALE
RLA0 DROME	MVRENKA	AWKAQYFIKVVELFDEFP)	CFIVGADNVGSKOMONIRTSLRGL-	AVVLMGENTMMEKAIRGHLENNPOLE
RLA0 DICDI	MSGAG-S	KRKKLFIEKATKLFTTYD	MIVAEADFVGSSQLOKIRKSIRGI-	GAY LMCKKTMIRKYIRDLADSKPELD
Q54LP0 DICDI	MSGAG-S	KRKNVFIEKATKLFTTYD	MIVAEADFVGSSQLQKIRKSIRGI-	GAVLMGKKTMIRKVIRDLADSKPELD
RLA0 PLAF8	MAKLSKQ	QKKQMYIEKLSSLIQQYS	(ILIVHVDNVGSNOMASVRKSLRGK-	ATILMGENTRIRTALEENLOAVPOIE
RLA0 SULAC	MIGLAVTTTKKIA	KWKVDEVAELTEKLKTHK1	IIIANIEGFPADKLHEIRKKLRGK-	ADIKVTENNLEN IALENAGYDTE
RLA0 SULTO	MRIMAVITQERKIA	KWKIEEVKELEOKLREYH1	TIIIANIEGFPADKLHDIRKKMRGM-	AEIKVTENTLEGIAAKNAGLDVS
RLA0 SULSO	MKRLALALKQRKVA	SWKLEEVKELTELIKNSN1	ILIGNLEGFPADKLHEIRKKLRGK-	ATIKVTENTLFKIAAKNAGIDIE
RLA0 AERPE	MSVVSLVGQMYKREKPIP	EWKTLMLRELEELFSKHRV	VIFADLTGTPTFVVQRVEKKLWKK-	YPMMVAKKRIILRAMKAAGLELDDN
RLAO PYRAE	-MMLAIGKRRYVRTRQYP	ARKVKIVSEATELLQKYP)	<b>WFLFDLHGLSSRILHEYRYRL</b> RRY-	GVIKIIKPTLFKIAFTKVYGGIPAE
RLA0 METAC	MAEERHHTEHIP	QWKKDE IEN IKEL IQSHKI	FGMVGIEGILATKMOKIRRDLKDV-	AVLEVERNTLTERALNOLGETIP
RLAO METMA	MAEERHHTEHIP	QWKKDE IEN IKEL IQS <mark>H</mark> KI	FGMVRIEGILATKIQKIRRDLKDV-	AVLKVSRNTLTERALNQLGESIP
RLA0 ARCFU	PP	EYKVRAVEE IKRMISSKP	VAIVSFRNVPAGOMOKIRREFRGK-	AEIKVVKNTLLERALDALGGDYL
RLA0_METKA	MAVKAKGOPPSGYEPKVA	EWKRREVKELKELMDEYE	WGLVDLEGIPAPOLOEIRAKLRERI	TIIRMSENTLMRIALEEKLDERPELE
RLAO METTH	MAHVA	EWKKKEVQELHDLIKGYEV	<b>VGIANLADIPAROLOKMROTLR</b> DS-	ALIRMSKKTLISLALEKAGRELENVD
RLAO METTL	<mark>M</mark> ITAESEHK <mark>IA</mark>	PWKIEEVNKLKELLKNGQ	IVALVDMMEVPAROLOEIRDKIR-GI	MTLEMSRNTLIERAIKEVAEETGNPEFA
RLAO METVA	<mark>M</mark> IDAKSEHK <mark>IA</mark>	PWKIEEVNALKELLKSAN	IALIDMMEVPAVOLOEIRDKIR-DO	MTLKMSRNTLIKRAVEEVAEETGNPEFA
RLAO METJA	METKVKAHVA	PWKIEEVKTLKGLIKSKP	VAIVDMMDVPAPOLOEIRDKIR-DK	WKLEMSENTLIIEALKEAAEELNNPKLA
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### PROTEIN ALIGNMENT

Considering multiple sequences in the alignment so is more sensitive than BLAST. Only some residues are informative to classify the sequence This is revealed through the multiple alignment.

### HOW TO CLASSIFY

- Motif pattern
- Multiple Motifs interspersed
  - Profile
  - Fingerprint
- Full alignment method with Hidden Markov Models





### MOTIF DEFINED BY A PATTERN

Can write down the pattern with a series of letters and then logic called a <u>Regular Expression</u>



### PROFILE

Created by converting a multiple alignment into a <u>Position Specific Scoring Matrix</u> - PSSM Amino acids at each position in the alignment are scored according to the frequency with which they occur

### SCORING A PROFILE

	2	3
0.01	0.04	0.02
0.02	0.02	0.03
0.02	0.93	0.93
0.95	0.01	0.02
	<b>0.01</b> 0.02 0.02 0.95	0.01       0.04         0.02       0.02         0.02       0.93         0.95       0.01

Probability Matrix

log2(0.01/0.25) = -4.6

	I	2	3
А	-4.6	-2.6	-3.6
G	-3.6	-3.6	-3.0
С	-3.6	8.1	8.1
Т	1.9	-4.6	-3.6

Position Weight Matrix

### SCORING A PROFILE

		2	3
А	0.01	0.04	0.02
G	0.02	0.02	0.03
С	0.02	0.93	0.93
Т	0.95	0.01	0.02

log2(0.01/0.25) = -4.6

Let's score the sequence AGATCCTGCTCG



Position Weight Matrix

$$(A,1) (G,2) (A,3)$$
AGATCCTGCTCG Score = -4.6 + -3.6 + -3.6 = -11.8  

$$(G,1) (A,2) (T,3)$$
AGATCCTGCTCG Score = -3.6 + -2.6 + -3.6 = -9.8  

$$(T,1) (C,2) (C,3)$$
AGATCCTGCTCG Score = 1.9 + 1.8 + 1.8 = 5.5  
Score above 0 is a good score!

### SCORING A PROFILE

	1	2	3
А	-4.6	-2.6	-3.6
G	-3.6	-3.6	-3.0
С	-3.6	8.1	8.1
Т	1.9	-4.6	-3.6

Consider the distribution of scores across the whole sequence to evaluate if there is a significance as well.

AGATCTTGCTCG

-11.8, -9.8, 5.5, etc





### FINGERPRINT

Combination of motif or profile into a signature

CLCN1_HUMAN	F	Ρ	L	۷	Ĺ	. 1	L	. 1	F S	S /	1	L	F (	CI	ł	L	I	S	Ρ	Q	А	۷	G	5	G	IF	ľ	E N	I K	T	Π	L	R	G	۷	۷	L	Κ	E	Y	L	Т	М	Κ	Α	F	۷	Α	Κ
CLCN1_RAT	F	Ρ	L	I	L	. 1	L	. 1	F	s /	1	L	F	С	2	L	I	S	P	Q	А	۷	G	S	G	I F	P 8	EN	I K	Т	1	L	R	G	۷	۷	L	κ	Ε	Y	L	Т	L	Κ	Α	F	۷	А	Κ
CLCN2_HUMAN	Y	Ρ	۷	۷	L	. 1	Т	F	F	s /	4	G	F	г	2		L	A	P	Q	А	۷	G	S	G	I F	P	EN	1 K	Т	1	L	R	G	۷	۷	L	Κ	Ε	Y	L	т	L	Κ	Т	F	L	Α	Κ
CLCN2_MOUSE	Y	Ρ	۷	۷	L	. 1	Т	F	F S	s /	4	G	F	г	Q		L	A	P	Q	А	۷	G	S	G	I F	P	EN	I K	Т	1	L	R	G	۷	۷	L	κ	Ε	Y	L	т	L	Κ	Т	F	۷	А	Κ
CLCN3_RAT	W	Α	L	S	F	A	F	1	L	A١	V	S	L١	V	<	۷I	F	Ą	Ρ	Y	Α	С	G	S	G	I F	P	E I	K	Т	1	L	S	G	F	Т	L	R	G	Y	L	G	Κ	W	Т	L	М	Г	ĸ
CLCN3_PONAB	W	Α	L	S	F	A	F	1	L	A 1	1	S	L١	V	(	۷I	F	Ą	Ρ	Y	Α	С	G	S	G	I F	P	E I	K	Т	1	L	S	G	F	Т	L	R	G	Y	L	G	κ	W	т	L	М	Т	ĸ
CLCN3_RABIT	W	А	L	S	F	A	F	1	. /	A \	/	S	L	V	<	V	F	Ą	P	Y	A	С	G	S	G	IF	P	E I	K	Т	I	L	S	G	F	Т	I	R	G	Y	L	G	Κ	W	Т	L	М	Т	ĸ

Amino acids relatively well conserved across all chloride channel protein family members

Amino acids uniquely conserved in chloride channel protein 3 subfamily members

### WHY ARE FINGERPRINTS USEFUL?

Can capture and model small differences between subfamilies can capture the individual differences.

In this example of a chloride channel protein family identified by blue box a subset can be further classified into channel 3 - subfamily

#### Multiple sequence alignment





### HIDDEN MARKOV MODELS

Can model the alignment by capturing insertion and deletions and probabilistically score sequence similarity.

## DATABASES OF PROTEIN DOMAINS

- Pfam Protein <u>https://pfam.xfam.org/;</u> Panther <u>http://</u> <u>www.pantherdb.org/;</u> SMART - <u>http://smart.embl-heidelberg.de/</u>
  - databases of HMMs of domains
- Prosite <u>https://prosite.expasy.org/</u> motifs
- Interpro <u>https://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/</u>
  - HMMs + Profiles + fingerprints

### PROTEINS TO FUNCTION

- Together these domains and classifications can provide ways to link an unknown sequence to function
- If domains that makeup the protein are known can make guess about the protein function even if a homolog does not have a known function in other species
- Domains can be shared among many types of proteins
- Shuffling of domains and motifs can provide new function

### SOME PROTEIN DOMAINS

- Zinc-finger <u>https://</u> <u>en.wikipedia.org/wiki/</u> <u>Zinc\_finger</u>
- Typically bind DNA, protein, RNA
- Often part of transcription factors





mobidb-lite (Polyam...)

mobidb-lite (Polar)

#### Residue annotation

### TAKE HOME POINTS

- Proteins can be classified by their similarity
- Parts of proteins can further be found to be conserved and functional
- Motifs, Profiles, Fingerprints, HMMs
- Domains discovery can be used to assign function