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2007

Exploring the viability of protein structure prediction using sequence entropy

Shalini Potluri *San Jose State University*

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EXPLORING THE VIABILITY OF PROTEIN STRUCTURE PREDICTION USING SEQUENCE ENTROPY

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A Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering

San Jose State University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Science

by

Shalini Potluri

December 2007

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Shalini Potluri

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ABSTRACT

EXPLORING THE VIABILITY OF PROTEIN STRUCTURE PREDICTION **USING SEQUENCE ENTROPY**

by Shalini Potluri

Determination of the structure of a protein from the sequence of amino acids has been a major goal in computational biology and bioinformatics. A strong correlation between sequence entropy, and inverse packing density has been shown in recent studies indicated by the occurrence of two major regions, but with a lot of noise in the relationship data. One hundred and thirty query proteins and their sequence alignments are used to test modifications to sequence entropy calculations that significantly reduce the noise in the data. Gapped entropy, Gerstein-Altman entropy, and window average entropy offer improvement in terms of linear correlation but no significant improvement in the data noise is observed due to the introduction of $21st$ gap term, or Gerstein-Altman random entropy term. Averaging the sequence entropy that includes the 21st gap term within three neighbors resulted into smoothening of the entropy curve with no significant reduction in the data noise.

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William Yeh

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Haihong Liao

My family and friends

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Proteins are linear unbranched polymers of amino acids. Proteins form the very basis of life. As enzymes, they are the critical catalysts behind all of the biochemical reactions, which make biology work. As structural elements, they are the main constituents of our bones, muscles, hair, skin and blood vessels. As antibodies, they recognize invading elements and allow the immune system to get rid of the unwanted invaders. Proteins are composed of varying amounts of the 20 common amino acids, which in the intact protein are united through covalent chemical linkages called peptide bonds. The amino acids, linked together, form linear unbranched polymeric structures called polypeptide chains; such chains may contain hundreds of amino-acid residues, and the amino acids are arranged in a specific order for a given species of protein [1].

The physiological activity of most proteins is closely linked to their threedimensional architecture. A protein has four distinct levels of structure as shown in Figure 1. Primary structure denotes the precise linear sequence of amino acids that constitutes the polypeptide chain of the protein molecule. The physical interaction of sequential amino-acid subunits results in a so-called secondary structure, which often can either be a twisting of the polypeptide chain approximating a linear helix $(\alpha$ configuration), or a zigzag pattern (β -configuration). The secondary structures are held together by hydrogen bonds. Most globular proteins also undergo extensive folding of the chain into a complex three-dimensional geometry designated as tertiary structure. The tertiary structure is held together primarily by hydrophobic interactions but hydrogen bonds, ionic interactions, and disulfide bonds are usually involved too. All protein molecules are simple unbranched chains of amino acids, but it is by coiling into a specific three-dimensional shape that they are able to perform their biological function. The tertiary structure that a protein assumes to carry out its physiological role inside a cell is known as the native state or sometimes the native conformation. A protein assumes tertiary structure by "folding". Two or more polypeptide chains that behave in many ways as a single structural and functional entity are said to exhibit quaternary structure. The separate chains are not linked through covalent chemical bonds but by weak forces of association [2].

Figure 1. Schematic of protein structures [3].

The Protein Data Bank contains about 42,752 proteins of known structure, as of April 2007 [4]. Experimental methods to determine detailed protein structure, such as X-ray diffraction studies and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) analyses, are highly labor intensive. For some protein classes such as transmembrane proteins, the experimental methods to determine three-dimensional structure are not feasible. This creates interest in computational methods for protein structure prediction. Protein structure prediction is one of the most significant tasks tackled in computational structural biology. It has the aim of determining the three-dimensional structure of proteins from their amino acid sequences. In more formal terms, this is the prediction of protein tertiary structure from primary structure. Theoretical understanding of how proteins fold will allow scientists to predict the structure of a protein from its amino acid sequence. The structure of a protein determines its function. This in turn enables them to probe the function of the protein, understand substrate and ligand binding, devise intelligent mutagenesis and biochemical protein engineering experiments that improve specificity and stability, perform rational drug design, and design novel proteins. Given the usefulness of known protein structures in such valuable tasks as rational drug design, this is a highly active field of research.

The necessary information for predicting the structure of a protein is coded in the amino acid sequence of the protein, plus its native solution environment. Although sequence must determine structure, it is not yet possible to predict accurately the entire structure from sequence alone. There are many factors that come into play in the structure formation from sequence such as hydrophobic property of amino acids, packing

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of the amino acids and sequence entropy of amino acid sequences. Prediction of a protein structure from the amino acid sequence must take in to account all the above mentioned factors. Hydrophobicity is the measure of miscibility of an amino acid with respect to water solvent. The hydrophobicity of the amino acids determines where the amino acid will be located in the final structure of the protein as shown in Figure 2. This is similar to the formation of the micelle from amphiphilic species.

Figure 2. Hydrophobic nature of amino acids in a protein [4].

Unique protein secondary structures can be identified from variability patterns in amino acid sequence using information theory. Applying the Shannon entropy expression to nucleic acid sequence variability has been proven useful in identifying DNA control regions. This method was further extended to measure amino acid conservation in proteins. To understand protein stability and function, we have to understand the interplay between entropy, structure and sequence.

CHAPTER TWO

BACKGROUND

Some terms and concepts that are essential to this research work are introduced in the following paragraphs of this chapter.

2.1 Bioinformatics

Bioinformatics is the use of techniques from mathematics, informatics, statistics and computer science to solve biological problems. The terms bioinformatics and computational biology are often used interchangeably, although the former is, strictly speaking, a subset of the latter. A common thread in projects in bioinformatics and computational biology is the use of mathematical tools to extract useful information from noisy data produced by high-throughput biological techniques [6].

Identity is the extent to which two (nucleotide or amino acid) sequences are invariant. Conservation is the preservation of the physico-chemical properties of the original residue due to the changes at a specific position of an amino acid or (less commonly, DNA) sequence. Homology is the similarity attributed to descent from a common ancestor. Sequence alignment is the process of lining up two or more sequences to achieve maximal levels of identity (and conservation, in the case of amino acid sequences) in order to assess the degree of similarity and homology.

The computational biology tool best known among biologists is probably BLAST, an algorithm for searching large sequence (protein, DNA) databases [7]. BLAST is an acronym for basic local alignment search tool and NCBI (National Center for

Biotechnology Information) provides a popular implementation that searches their massive sequence databases. BLAST is an example of one of sequence alignment methods and enables a user to look for sequences that resemble a given sequence of interest. The BLAST program, which was first originated by Altschul and coworkers, pair-wise aligns a user-selected number of subject sequences in the chosen databases that are most similar to an input query sequence [7]. Protein databases presently contain large number of peptide sequences. The BLAST program is written in such a manner that it minimizes the time it spends on a sequence region whose similarity with the query sequence has little chance of exceeding some minimum alignment score. Computerscripting languages such as PERL and Python are often used to interface with biological databases and parse output from bioinformatics programs.

Bioinformatics helps to bridge the gap between genome and proteome projects, for example in the use of a DNA sequence for protein identification. The complete proteome for an organism can be conceptualized as the complete set of proteins from all of the various cellular proteomes. This is very roughly the protein equivalent of the genome. Moreover the proteome has at least two levels of complexity lacking in the genome. The genome is defined by the sequence of nucleotides, whereas the proteome entails more than just the sum of the sequences of the proteins present. Knowledge of the proteome requires knowledge of (1) the structure of the proteins in the proteome and (2) the functional interaction between the proteins.

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2.2 Sequence Homology

Protein structure prediction is an important application of bioinformatics. The amino acid sequence of a protein, the so-called primary structure, can be easily determined from the sequence on the gene that codes for it. But, the protein can only function correctly if it is folded in a very special and individual way. The prediction of this folding just by looking at the amino acid sequence is quite difficult. One of the key principles in bioinformatics is homology. In the genomic branch of bioinformatics, homology is used to predict the function of a gene. Homologous genes are genes with similar nucleotide sequences. Homology theory predicts that, If gene A is homologous to gene B of which the function is already known, then gene B is likely to have a similar function [R]. In the structural branch of bioinformatics, homology is used to determine which parts of the protein are important in structure formation and interaction with other proteins [8].

Sequence regions that are homologous may be called conserved, concensus or canonical sequences and represent the most common choice of base or amino acid at each position. In a technique called homology modeling, this information is used to predict the structure of a protein once the structure of a homologous protein is known. This currently remains the only way to predict protein structures reliably. Sequence homology makes use of these similarities, comparing the query protein sequence with other sequences in the databases [9]. For protein analysis, the BLASTP is a BLAST program for comparing the query protein sequence with protein databases [7].

Insertion is the addition of a few base pairs into genetic sequence. Deletion is the removal of few base pairs from genetic sequence. Genetic mutations are the reason for the insertions and deletions [1].

2.3 Shannon Entropy

Entropy has important physical implications as the amount of disorder of a system. In microscopic system, entropy measures the degree of disorder in the system. In the protein study, the entropy can be defined as [10]

 $S = -\sum$ protein state W (protein state) ln W (protein state) Equation 1 Here, "protein states" refers to all the conformational degrees of freedom necessary to specify the state of the folded protein. The probability of being in a particular state of the protein is W.

Shannon's entropy has a central role in information theory and is sometimes is referred to as measure of uncertainty, thus a measure of amount of information. Sequence entropy is the relevant Shannon entropy expression for proteins and nucleic acids. It is defined as

 $S_k = -\sum p_{jk} \ln p_{jk}$ (j = 1,20) Equation 2

Where p_{ik} is probability of observing a particular amino acid j at sequence position k [10]. The p ln p term is defined as zero if $p=0$. The more partitioning of a set of events [i.e., P_{jk} distribute more evenly], the larger is the Shannon entropy.

 S_k ranges from 0 (only one residue in present at that position) to 3 (all 20 residues are equally represented in that position). Typically, positions with $S_k > 2.0$ are considered variable, whereas those with $S_k < 2$ are consider conserved. Highly conserved positions are those with S_k <1.0. A minimum number of sequences is however required (~100) for S_k to describe the diversity of a protein family.

2.4 Packing Density

The folding of the polypeptide chain allows the van der Waals surfaces of atoms to fit together snugly, filling up most of the space in the interior $[11]$. The packing density of a residue or molecule is the ratio of the volume enclosed by the van der Waals surface to the volume occupied in the state in question (such as protein interior, crystal, and liquid).

2.5 Hydrophobicity

Proteins consist of several amino acids held together with peptide bonds. Each amino acid has a different R group. The R group determines whether the protein is hydrophobic or hydrophilic. Hydrophilic groups are typically polar, interacting with water by hydrogen bonding. For this reason, they are called "water loving". Hydrophobic groups, on the other hand, are nonpolar, unable to interact with water, and thus are referred to as "water fearing". The hydrophobicity of the amino acid determines where the amino acid will be located in the final structure of the protein [11].

In globular proteins, the hydrophobic R groups will be located on the inside of the protein, away from the water in the cytosol as shown in Figure 2. The hydrophilic R groups tend to be located on the outside of the protein, interacting with the water in the cytosol. An integral membrane protein, on the other hand, must have a stretch of 18-20 hydrophobic amino acids to cross the very hydrophobic interior of the bilipid membrane [12]. The hydrophobicity of the inside of the membrane is due to the long hydrocarbon chains of the lipid molecule. Hydrophilic amino acids are often restricted to the outside of the membrane.

CHAPTER THREE

LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Sequence Determines Structure Determines Function

The structure of a protein determines its function. But determination of the structure of a protein is dependent on many factors. The hypothesis that structure is uniquely determined by the specificity of the sequence has been verified for many, but not all, proteins of known structure [13]. It has been observed that particular proteins known as chaperones often play a role in the folding pathway. These proteins also aid in correcting misfolds. It is still generally assumed that the final structure is at the freeenergy minimum [14,15]. Thus, all information about the native structure of a protein may be coded in the amino acid sequence, plus its particular solvent conditions. So far, the exact relationship between protein sequence and structure is not thoroughly understood [14,15]. The gap between the number of known sequences $(>170,000$ [16]) and the number of known structures (about $42,752$ [17]) is widening rapidly. One of the most successful computational methodologies for bridging this gap is using sequence alignment to assist the molecular modeling [18].

Scoring is an important parameter for quantification of alignments when using search algorithms. The score reflects the degree of similarity between the two sequences being compared. The higher the score, the greater the degree of similarity [19]. The space introduced into an alignment to compensate for insertions and deletions in one sequence relative to another is called the gap as shown in Figure 3. Introduction of a gap

causes the deduction of a fixed amount (the gap score) from the alignment score to prevent the accumulation of too many gaps in an alignment. This is called gap-open penalty. Extension of the gap to include additional amino acids is also penalized while scoring the alignment. This is called gap-extension penalty. The raw score S for an alignment is calculated by summing the scores for each aligned position and the scores for gaps. In the following figure, a sample DNA alignment is shown. In amino acid alignments, the score for an identity or a substitution is given by the specified substitution matrix (e.g. BLOSUM62) [20].

Figure 3. Sample of DNA alignment [21].

There are many protein comparison methods that implement fold identification. This is dependent on the theory that proteins with similar sequences tend to fold into similar structures. One method compares the target sequence with each of the database sequences independently in searching for related protein sequences and structures in a

pair-wise fashion. Another method known as homology structure building, first finds the template sequences with known structure that are similar to original sequence, and then uses them as a template to build the model of a final structure [22].

Altschul and coworkers developed another protein comparison approach that relies on multiple sequence comparisons to improve the sensitivity of the search [23]. For a given sequence, an initial set of homologous sequences from a sequence database was collected, a weighted multiple alignment was made from the query sequence database, and its homologues were scored. A position-scoring matrix was constructed from this alignment, and then this matrix was used to search the database for new homologs. The resulting Position-Specific Iterated BLAST (PSI-BLAST) program runs at approximately the same speed per iteration as BLAST, but in many cases is much more sensitive to weak but biologically relevant sequence similarities. So, several new biologically relevant sequences can be related using PSI-BLAST. Another approach uses multiple sequence alignments in combination with structural information predicted from the sequence of the target [24].

Gross and coworkers found that multiple alignments of secondary structure regions are useful in the identification of key hydrophobic residues when utilizing hydrophobic cluster analysis [25].

3.2 Hydrophobicity

Hydrophobicity plays a key role in protein structure and is often conserved during evolution [26]. Hydrophobic effects arise because water molecules take on new, thermodynamically unfavorable networks of hydrogen bonds when placed at a hydrophobic surface. The most obvious result of this is that the most hydrophobic residues tend to be buried in a protein core to avoid the unfavorable water structure. Therefore, interiors of proteins tend to contain fewer charged and polar residues and more nonpolar residues than the surfaces in contact with water [27]. Hydrophobic effects are not true bonds but they are the determinants of protein three-dimensional structure, and the burial of hydrophobic groups is a significant determinant of stabilization energy for proteins [28].

A large number of different hydrophobicity scales have been developed for amino acids. Significant differences exist among these hydrophobicity scales [27]. Among these, the Hopp-Woods scale utilized predictions of potential antigenic sites in globular proteins, assuming they are likely to be rich in charged and polar residues [29]. The scale is essentially a hydrophilic index resulting in nonpolar residues typically being assigned negative values. Hopp-Woods eventually optimized the Levitt scales determined from the measured free energy of transfer of individual amino acid from water to ethanol [30]. When the available experimental information was insufficient, the scales were estimated from the relationship between accessible surface area and hydrophobicity. The Hopp-Woods parameters are optimized from a number of predicted antigenic determinants.

Many groups of membrane proteins are observed to have alpha-helical secondary structure. Helices are believed to be the most common motif in membrane proteins. It is observed that this motif is relatively easy to spot in a sequence, and most of the transmembrane alpha helices have been successfully predicted using only molecular sequence data. Steitz and coworkers developed a hydrophobicity scale from the hydrophobic and hydrophilic components of transfer of amino acid side chains from water to a nonaqueous environment [27]. The scale has been specifically developed for amino acids in alpha helical structures. After choosing a residue hydrophobicity value, depending on the scale chosen, the total hydrophobicity of a sequence segment can be determined, and depending on the total polarity, its helical propensity can be predicted. Transmembrane helices are usually identified using this method. Transmembrane alphahelical sequences are characterized by a largely, if not completely, hydrophobic stretch of around 20 amino acids. However, predictions of which sequences will fold into helices may differ slightly depending on which polarity scale is chosen.

Steitz and coworkers stress that many scales are based on side chains partitioning between an aqueous environment and a protein interior, which is a very different case than partitioning between aqueous and lipid environments [27]. The dielectric constant in the lipid environment is low and constant, whereas the prediction of dielectric constant in a protein interior is difficult and is highly variable. The Goldman, Engelman, Steitz (GES) hydrophobicity scale predicts the structure of known membrane helices better than many other known hydrophobic scales, especially those that are known to contain some polar residues [27]. Their method also takes into account the possibility of polar groups

interacting in the bilayer, which would increase the chance of recognizing a transmembrane sequence containing a few polar groups. In the GES scale, the free energy of transfers for both the hydrophobic and hydrophilic components of each amino acid were assigned an individual value. The hydrophobic component of the free energy of transfer for water-oil can be calculated from the surface area of an amino acid side chain in an alpha helix. The hydrophilic term essentially involves polar contributions arising from hydrogen bonding interaction. The hydrophilic term in the GES scale includes the energy required to convert the charged side chains to neutral species at pH 7. For carboxyl groups, the energy cost must be considered in two stages. In the first stage, there is the energy cost of removing the protonated group from contact with the aqueous environment, which involves approximately 4.3 kcal/mole. In the second stage, there is the energy required to protonate the carboxyl group, which is given by

$$
\Delta G = -1.36(pK-7)
$$
 Equation 3

Sharp, Honig and coworkers [31] have refined the existing experimentally determined residue hydrophobicity values [32]. These experiments determined changes in free energy only for individual amino acids from alcohol to water. Sharp and coworkers made corrections for the free energy changes by including the size of side chains too. All three hydrophobicity scales, the Goldman, Engelman, Steitz (GES) hydrophobicity scale, the Hopp-Woods hydrophobicity scale, and the Sharp-Honig hydrophobicity scale, are different in origin and represent a reasonable sample of the many such scales.

Lustig and coworkers observed strong correlations between sequence entropy and aggregate hydrophobicity [33]. Aggregate hydrophobicity was calculated by averaging Sharp-Honig, Hopp and Woods, and GES hydrophobicity values for each of the proteins. When sequence entropy and aggregate hydrophobicity were overlayed with respect to inverse of packing density, they observed a strong similarity between sequence entropy and aggregate hydrophobicity, even in the anomalous regions of high and low packing density. They concluded that hydrophobicity values correspond to sequence entropy because sequence entropy measures the ability of an amino acid to accommodate mutation and because hydrophobicity measures the degree of burial of an amino acid. This was an interesting correlation because hydrophobicity plays a major role in the correct folding of model protein chains.

3.3 Shannon Entropy

Information theory can be used to identify unique protein secondary structures from patterns of variability in amino acid sequences [34]. Lustig and coworkers have observed conventional generalized chain statistics alone may not be entirely useful in calculating the entropic penalty associated with loop closure in proteins and RNA [35,36]. By exploring large-scale sequence space, Larson et al. [37] have found that sequence entropy values cluster around a specific fold. Applying an expression of Shannon entropy to nucleic acid sequence variability has been proven useful in identifying DNA control regions. Valdar and coworkers further extended this method, so as to measure amino acid conservation in proteins [38,39].

Koehl and Levitt introduced an approach to explore and quantify sequence entropy with respect to protein structure. In their work, they have shown that Shannonderived entropies for a protein sequence correlate with the entropies calculated from local physical parameters, including backbone geometry [40]. They suggested a twenty-first term for gaps in the calculation of sequence entropy. In their work, they found that the geometry and stability of a given structure defines the compatibility of the sequence space to a protein structure. They did their study for a small set of ten proteins. The sequence information contained in a sequence alignment was converted into a profile matrix with an array of vectors, one for each position in the sequence. Each of the vectors contained twenty-one values representing the frequencies of occurrence of all twenty types of amino acids plus the gap at the considered sequence position. Sequence entropy was calculated using the Shannon entropy expression for amino acids. Sequences of all protein structures that were homologous to the protein of interest were extracted from the fold classification (FSSP) database and then optimized by averaging the entropy per residue. The structural alignments of these homologous proteins were used to measure structural entropy, Sstr. For the small set of ten proteins, the entropy derived from the sequence information (Sseq) correlated well with the entropy derived from structure information (Sstr). This was an interesting observation, because Sseq and Sstr are two independent measures of the size of the same sequence space, derived from two different databases. So, if bias existed in these databases, it must be small.

When sequence entropy per residue was plotted as a function of the position in the protein sequence, they observed that the sequence spaces that are compatible with two

proteins of similar length possess different sizes. This was due to the dependency of their calculation on the geometry of the protein backbone, on the amino acid composition of the protein sequence, and on the stability of the fold. The calculated design entropy correlated well with the observed structural entropy. This explained the diversity in sequence space observed among known proteins sharing the similar fold. Their results suggest that sequence space exploration using sequence entropy values may be useful for identifying highly designable folds of a given protein.

Lustig and coworkers have also found applications using Shannon entropy exclusively for a large set of protein alignments [33]. They investigated the Shannon information entropy with respect to the local flexibility of globular proteins. Strong correlations were observed between sequence entropy (at each residue), residue flexibility and hydrophobicity. Strong linear correlation was observed between sequence entropy and the inverse packing density, when average sequence entropy was plotted against the inverse of packing density, except at the highest and low ranges of densities. This provided a quantitative relationship between sequence entropy and packing density and thus, an important structural measure for determining likely sites for mutation. They stressed that the packing at the residue level for coarse-grained protein structures exhibited a strong relation to sequence conservation, when it was averaged over large number of residues. This averaging was necessary to obtain a single representation of all the combinations in which a residue's atoms may be packed.

When sequence entropy was averaged over the set of all proteins, the entropy values correlated well with the regression line, whereas there was a lot of variation in the

entropy values calculated for each of the proteins. Sequence entropy values in Liao's data were calculated using the Shannon entropy expression for all twenty amino acids, and in this case gapped regions were ignored. Variability that is higher or lower than average is typically rationalized as resulting from noise in the data, and the introduction of a gap value at the twenty-first term for the calculation of sequence entropy might reduce the noise in the data.

3.4 Packing Density

The packing density of a given protein is defined as the ratio of the volume occupied by its van der Waals (VDW) envelope to the volume it actually occupies. The recent studies involving the measurement of the packing in proteins have shown that the packing inside proteins is somewhat tighter than observed initially. It was also observed that the overall packing efficiency of atoms in the protein core is greater than in crystals of organic molecules. When molecules are packed this tightly, small changes in packing efficiency are quite significant. In this scenario, the limitation on close packing is hardcore repulsion, so even a small change in the packing conformation results into a quite substantial change in the free energy. In addition to this, Richards and Lim [41] pointed out that the number of allowable configurations that a collection of atoms can adopt without hard-core overlap drops off very quickly as these atoms approach the closepacked limit.

Researchers studying protein structure using highly simplified two-dimensional lattice models have pointed out that tight packing in the protein core may drive or force

the formation of secondary structures. This theory has been tested on somewhat more realistic off-lattice models of protein structure [41]. The results of this calculation have been mixed in the sense that these models do observe high packing density driving the formation of secondary structure but to a much lesser degree than in the lattice models. The exceptionally tight packing in the protein core seems to require a precise jigsaw puzzle–like fitting together of the residues inside proteins. This theory holds well for the majority of atoms inside proteins. However, there are exceptions, and some studies have focused on these, showing how the packing inside proteins is punctuated by defects or cavities. These defects can accommodate buried water molecules, if they are large enough. The packing efficiency can also be studied by comparing the protein core to the protein surface [42]. This comparison is especially interesting from the packing density perspective because the protein surface is covered by water. The protein surface is known to be packed usually much less tightly than the protein core and in a distinctly different fashion. When comparative studies for packing were done at internal interfaces inside of proteins, particularly at domain-domain interfaces, packing was found to be closely coupled with protein flexibility.

Local packing density is measured as the alpha carbon packing density, which is calculated from the associated atomic coordinates of the alpha carbons. Bahar and coworkers observed a correlation between the local flexibility and the inverse of local packing density [43]. They observed that, the higher the inverse of local packing density, the higher is the local flexibility. Lustig and coworkers have found that there is a strong correlation between sequence variability and local amino acid flexibility [33].

3.5 Summary

The structure of a protein is determined by the linear sequence of amino acids. Past research shows the importance of the sequence in predicting the protein structure. Though protein structure prediction based on its sequence is far from completion, the growing databases of sequences may facilitate the daunting task. Many factors such as sequence entropy, hydrophobicity, and packing density play a major role in this sequence to structure prediction. To understand protein stability and function, we have to understand the interplay between entropy, structure and sequence. Sequence entropy calculations are currently useful in exploring aggregate behavior of proteins in general.

Koehl and Levitt [40] have shown that Shannon-derived entropies for a protein sequence for a set of ten proteins correlate well with the entropies calculated from local physical parameters, including backbone geometry. Lustig and coworkers [33] have observed that mutability as measured by sequence entropy was inversely correlated to packing density for a set of one hundred and thirty query proteins. They ignored gapped regions in the calculation of sequence entropy values of the proteins using the Shannon entropy expression.

The introduction of gap information at the twenty-first term in the calculation of protein sequence entropy values may significantly increase the correlation between the sequence entropy and the inverse of packing density.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

4.1 Objective

The objective of my research is the following:

To implement and test modifications to sequence entropy calculations that significantly reduce the noise in the data when sequence entropy is plotted against the inverse of packing density.

Earlier studies suggest that, for most residue positions, sequence entropy is inversely correlated to their packing density. Calculation of sequence entropy values with an introduction of a gap term may reduce the variability in the data that is higher or lower than the average trend (which is typically rationalized away as resulting from noise in the data). Thus, this study will explore the connections between protein structure and sequence entropy, by the following:

- Recalculating alignment sets for additional query proteins for the set of 130 original \bullet query proteins [44]. Changing the default setting from a maximum of 100 alignments to 500 for a subset of 20 proteins while doing the BLASTP search.
	- This allows one to check how variable the sequence entropy results are \circ when larger sets of alignments are allowed.
- Calculating the sequence entropy at each residue position for an additional term that involves gap information.
- Set filters to see whether any one of the following correlations offers improvement in \bullet the data noise of aggregate plots of sequence entropy versus inverse of packing density for 130 proteins and for each individual protein.
	- o Gap included average sequence entropy versus inverse of packing density, Gerstein-Altman average entropy versus inverse of packing density, window averaged sequence entropy versus inverse of packing density, and normalized B-factor are utilized as optimum measure of inverse C_α packing density in correlation plots.
- Create a subset of 20 proteins from 130 proteins and check the consistencies in the \bullet above mentioned correlations.

CHAPTER FIVE MATERIALS AND METHODS

5.1 Materials

- 130 query proteins and sequence alignment set from Liao [44].
- Sequence alignment and entropy calculation program by Yeh [45] with modifications to the script to incorporate the gap term.
- PERL script to calculate the packing densities of the query proteins.
- Computer with large bandwidth capabilities to access BLAST and PDB.
- Microsoft Excel for analyzing and merging data generated by PERL programs.

5.2 Method

The raw data for 130 query proteins and their sequence alignment sets were obtained from the Lustig group [33]. The raw data were then merged and used as input data for the modified PERL programs. Output files generated by the PERL programs were loaded into Microsoft Excel for analysis. Figure 4 gives an overview of the method that was followed to calculate the packing densities and sequence entropy values for the query proteins from the sequence alignments.

The below mentioned steps will be followed:

5.21 Packing Density and B-factor Values

- A set of 130 query proteins with known 3D structure data from the Protein Data Bank (PDB) were compiled.
- For each query protein residue, a 9 Å radius C_{α} packing density was calculated \bullet from its atomic coordinates from the PDB database.
- The inverse of packing density for each query residue was calculated by finding the reciprocal of C_{α} packing density of the residue.
- Atomic distance involving any two residues i and j of the protein was calculated using the following formula:

$$
D(i,j) = \sqrt{((x(i) - x(j))^{2} + ((y(i) - y(j))^{2} + ((z(i) - z(j))^{2})}
$$
 Equation 4

- The temperature factor or B-factor of each query residue was taken from the PDB data file of each protein from the PDB website.
- Yeh's PERL program was modified to read and print the temperature factor value along with the packing density value for each query residue.

5.22 Sequence Alignment:

- Homologous protein sequences for the query proteins were searched using the **BLASTP.**
- On the BLASTP query page, the number of alignments was set to 10-100 by Liao \bullet for the 130 proteins. To see the effect of more alignments, the number of alignments was set to 10-500 for a subset of 20 proteins
- The resulting number of alignments for a particular query should be more than 10 \bullet to be of any statistical significance and hence, results with fewer alignments are discarded.
- 5.23 Sequence Entropy and Gerstein-Altman Entropy
- A gap term was introduced for the sequence entropy calculations. \bullet

The Gerstein-Altman entropy was calculated using equation 5, where the first term is \bullet the most basic Shannon (sequence) entropy expression, the second term is the entropy for random substitution S^R for each protein, and P_i is the probability of observing amino acid type *i* in the whole sequence alignment, and *j* ranges from 1 to 20 [39]. G.E. = - $\sum_{j=1,20}$ P_{jk} log
2 P_{jk} + $\Sigma_{j=1,20}$ P_j log
2 P_j Equation 5

Single averaging for the Gerstein-Altman sequence entropy can be implemented where each residue position can be averaged within an interval of inverse of packing density. Similar single averaging for the sequence entropy, described by the first term in equation 5, can also be implemented [33].

Gap-included sequence entropy for each residue position was calculated using the Equation 6 that was embedded in the PERL program.

S.E. = - $\sum_{j=1,21}$ P_{jk} log₂ P_{jk} Equation 6

The PERL program was modified to include the gaps in sequence entropy calculations, where the BLASTP query results file was used as an input to the PERL program. The gap-included sequence entropy values are then averaged within an interval of inverse of packing density.

Window averaged entropy (W.A.E) for each residue position was calculated using Equation 7 that was embedded in the PERL program. S.E. in the Equation 7 was calculated using the Equation 6, where N is the length of the window used for averaging (additional averaging within an interval of inverse packing density can also be implemented).

W.A.E. =
$$
(1/N)
$$
 ($\sum_{i=1,N}$ S.E.), where N = 2, 3, 4, 5 Equation 7

5.3 Analysis

Various Correlation plots will be plotted to understand the relationships. The different plots that will be analyzed are as follows:

- Gap-included sequence entropy versus inverse of alpha carbon packing density for each of the query proteins.
- Aggregate gap-included single average sequence entropy (sequence entropy for all query proteins) versus inverse alpha carbon packing density.
- Gerstein-Altman entropy versus inverse of alpha carbon packing density for each of the query proteins.
- Gerstein-Altman single average entropy (G.E. for all query proteins) versus inverse alpha carbon packing density.
- Window averaged sequence entropy versus inverse alpha carbon packing density.
- B-factor values for each query residue versus gap included sequence entropy for all \bullet the 130 proteins.
- 5.31 Sequence Entropy versus Inverse Packing Density
- Sequence entropy is plotted on the ordinate and the inverse C_{α} packing density on the abcissa.
- Linear regression is applied to the correlation plot. R square values, slope, and intercept for each protein is calculated from the linear fit and regression [46].

5.32 Aggregate Sequence Entropy versus Inverse Packing Density

- Aggregate sequence entropy is plotted on ordinate and inverse C_{α} packing density \bullet on the abscissa. This plot will show the relationship between entropy and packing density.
- Single averaging is done by adding individual residue entropies for a particular C_{α} \bullet packing density interval from all query protein sets of alignments.

Figure 4. Flow diagram of the method.

CHAPTER SIX

RESULTS

6.1 Gap-included Single Average Entropy

The plot of aggregate average sequence entropy versus inverse packing density for all the 130 query proteins is shown in Figure 5. The average sequence entropy values were calculated from the alignment sequences generated by protein BLAST by including the gap term in the residue entropy calculation. The gaps were treated as an additional $21st$ term along with 20 amino acids in the residue entropy calculation. In the previous study done by the Lustig group [33], gaps were ignored in the residue entropy calculations for the average sequence entropy versus inverse density plots as shown in Figure 7. A gap term was introduced to see whether it offers any improvement in the noise of the plots. As shown in Figures 5 and 6 there are two main regions associated with, high and low density [33]. In the high-density region, there is a strong correlation between entropy and inverse packing density for inverse packing density values 0.040 to 0.083. There is no big improvement in the data noise due to gap introduction in the entropy calculations but a slight improvement was observed in the linear correlation. The linear correlation for the overall correlation plot in Figure 5 was found to be $y = 2.236x +$ 0.6507, with a correlation coefficient of 0.2995 and $P<0.001$, whereas the linear correlation for the overall correlation plot in Figure 6 was found to be $y = 0.7996x +$ 0.6843, with a correlation coefficient of 0.040 and $P< 0.001$. Also the linear correlation

for major region I in the gap-included entropy plot shown in Figure 5 was found to be $y =$ $17.862x - 0.2768$, with a correlation coefficient of 0.9945 and P<0.001.

Figure 5. Aggregate graph of average sequence entropy plotted against inverse packing density, for the packing radius 9 Å for 130 query proteins. The average sequence entropy (ordinate) is calculated for each inverse packing density, by averaging the entropy values of all the residues within a density interval of one. The entropy values were calculated by taking into account of the gap term for each protein. The inverse packing density (abscissa) of each residue is determined from the C_{α} coordinates supplied by the PDB protein files, using the 9 Å packing radius.

Figure 6. Aggregate graph of average sequence entropy plotted against inverse packing density, for the packing radius 9 Å for 130 query proteins, where entropy values were calculated by excluding the gap term for each query protein residue.

 $\bar{\gamma}$

The correlation plot in Figure 5 consists of four regions, flanking region I with decreasing sequence entropy with respect to inverse packing density from inverse packing density 0.03 to 0.038 (35to 26 C_{α}), major region I with increasing sequence entropy with respect to inverse packing density from inverse packing density 0.04 to 0.083 (25 to 12 C_{α}), major region II with flattening of sequence entropy with respect to inverse packing density from inverse packing density 0.09 to 0.17 (11 to 6 C_{α}), and flanking region 2 with decreasing sequence entropy with respect to inverse packing density from inverse packing density 0.2 to 0.33 (5to 3 C_{α}).

There is a total of 42,253 residues for the 130 proteins, and flanking region 1 has 102 residues (0.24 % of total residues), major region I has 24, 392 residues (57.7 % of total residues), major region II has 16,977 residues (40.1 % of total residues), and flanking region 2 has 782 residues (1.8 % of total residues).

6.2 Gerstein-Altman Single Average Entropy

The plot of aggregate average Gerstein-Altman entropy versus inverse of packing density for all of the 130 query proteins is shown in Figure 7. The same trend is observed in the four regions for the average gerstein entropy plot that was calculated by taking the effect of random entropy for each protein into account. When compared to the average entropy plot shown in Figure 6 there is no significant improvement in the data noise for the average Gerstein-Altman plot shown in Figure 7. There is a slight improvement in the linear correlation of the average entropy within the packing density interval; the linear correlation for the plot in Figure 7 was found to be $y = -0.2065x + 0.2618$, with a

correlation coefficient of 0.055 and P<0.001, whereas the linear correlation for plot in Figure 6 was found to be $y = 0.7996x + 0.6843$, with a correlation coefficient of 0.040 and P<0.001.

 $\bar{\bar{\pi}}$

Figure 7. Aggregate graph of average Gerstein-Altman sequence entropy plotted against inverse packing density, for the packing radius 9 Å for 130 query proteins. The average Gerstein-Altman sequence entropy (ordinate) is calculated for each inverse packing density, by averaging the entropy values of all the residues within a density interval of one. Gerstein entropy values were calculated by taking into account the Gerstein-Altman term. The Gerstein-Altman sequence entropy was calculated by subtracting sequence entropy S_k with the random entropy S^R for each protein. Inverse packing density (abscissa) of each residue is determined from the C_{α} coordinates supplied by the PDB protein files, using the 9 Å packing radius.

6.3 Window Averaged Sequence Entropy

Neighbors are the amino acid residues that are adjacent to each other within a given packing radius. To see the effect of different window lengths for averaging, Figure 8 shows the average sequence entropy plots for 9 Å packing radius, using 2, 3, 4, and 5 neighbors. The window averaging serves as a tool for smoothening the curve [46]. The significance of different window sizes for averaging is to determine what window length greatly reduces standard deviation and reduces noise associated with data points away from linear correlation. Summing the single average entropy values corresponding to the window length and then dividing by the respective window size determines the window-averaged entropy. The window averaged sequence entropy of three neighbors is determined by summing the sequence entropy values of residue and above and below neighbors of a given residue and later dividing by three.

Table 1 shows the mean, median, and standard deviation of average entropy in each bin of C_{α} packing density with respect to each window length for averaging sequence entropy. It shows averaging with a window size of three neighbors greatly reduces the standard deviation compared to averaging with other window sizes, but causes only a slight reduction in the mean and median values. However, except for the reduction in standard deviation with a window size of three and a slight overall difference in magnitude for each window averaged sequence entropy plot, as shown in Figure 8 all the average entropy curves with different window sizes are effectively identical.

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Figure 8. Window Averaged Correlation Plots (Window Averaging-3) Aggregate graph of window averaged entropy plotted against inverse packing density, for the packing radius 9 Å for 130 query proteins. The average sequence entropy is calculated as explained in Figure 1. The length of window used for window averaging was 2, 3, 4, and 5 neighbors.

| Window Averaging Length for Sequence Entropy | $\overline{2}$ | 3 | $\overline{4}$ | 5 | Gapped Entropy without Window Averaging |
|---|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|---|
| Mean | 0.800 | 0.790 | 0.804 | 0.810 | 0.792 |
| Median | 0.782 | 0.740 | 0.750 | 0.735 | 0.806 |
| Standard Deviation | 0.500 | 0.314 | 0.604 | 0.605 | 0.500 |

Table 1. The mean, median, and standard deviation of each window-averaged entropy, calculated using window length of 2, 3, 4, 5.

Figure 9 shows the standard deviations of average entropy with respect to each packing density. It shows that the window average entropy with a window length of three neighbors greatly reduces the standard deviation compared to an average entropy calculated by taking into account the gap term. The average standard deviation for the window average entropy is 0.313, compared to 0.5 for the gapped entropy. There is a 38% reduction in standard deviation for averaging the entropy with a window length of three neighbors. However, except for the reduction in standard deviation with window averaging, the two types of averaged sequence entropy are effectively identical.

Figure 9. Standard deviations of average entropy with respect to each packing density. Estimated average standard deviation for window average entropy is 0.313 , and 0.5 for average entropy.

6.4 Correlation Pattern for 20 Proteins

A subset of 20 proteins was selected from 130-protein list to check whether the same kind of correlation exists between sequence entropy and inverse density for these 20 proteins as shown in Figure 5. The list of 20 proteins is shown in Table 2.

Criteria for the selection of these 20 proteins were:

(1). 20% of them, i.e. at least four proteins, should have multifunctional sites and multiple chains.

(2). Proteins from different size ranges i.e. proteins with both a small and large number of residues.

There is a total of 7474 query residues for the 20 proteins, and flanking region 1 (35to 26 C_{α}) has 19 query residues (0.25 % of total residues), major region I (25 to 12 C_{α}) has 4068 query residues (54.4 % of total residues), major region II (11to 6 C_{α}) has 3260 query residues (43.6 % of total residues), and flanking region 2 (5 to 3 C_{α}) has 127 query residues $(1.6\% \text{ of total residues}).$

Figure 10 shows that the correlation pattern between sequence entropy and inverse density for these 20 proteins is similar to that of the 130 query proteins. Aggregate correlation plots for the highly populated region (packing of 25 to 12 C_{α}) within 9 Å radius) are shown in Figures 10 and 11. These plots show that the average entropy values for the 130 query proteins and for the 20 query proteins are strongly

linearly correlated with respect to inverse packing density. The straight-line fit for the aggregate average sequence entropy versus inverse packing density for the 130 proteins is $y = 17.862x - 0.2768$; the correlation coefficient is 0.9945; P<0.001. The straight-line fit for the aggregate entropy plot for the 20 proteins is effectively identical: $y = 17.544x$. 0.2781; correlation coefficient is 0.9553; $P<0.001$.

Table 2. List of 20 proteins with their residue count, where shaded proteins [47] can be classified as multimeric proteins.

| 1a1i - 85 | $1bf2 - 750$ | 1e3q - 596 | 4dfr - 159 |
|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1a1s - 314 | $1bg3 - 918$ | 1 omd -108 | $5acn - 754$ |
| 1a3s - 160 | 1 boh -295 | 1ton -235 | 5 rub -465 |
| 1agm - 470 | 1 crc -105 | 2cts - 437 | $7cat - 506$ |
| 1aln - 294 | 1dht - 327 | 3psg - 370 | 8atc - 310 |

Figure 10. The aggregate graph of average sequence entropy plotted against inverse packing density, for the 9 Å packing radius of 20 query proteins. The straight-line fit for this plot is $y = 1.6395x + 0.6511$; correlation coefficient is 0.1632; P<0.001.

Figure 11. Linear regression of selected regions (packing of 25 to 12 alpha carbon atoms within 9 Å radius) for correlation plots involving 24,392 residues for 130 proteins and involving 4068 residues for 20 proteins. Aggregate average entropy and inverse density are calculated as mentioned in Figure 6. The straight-line fit for the aggregate average sequence entropy (triangles) versus inverse packing density for 130 proteins is $y =$ $17.862x - 0.2768$; correlation coefficient is 0.9945; P<0.001. The straight-line fit for the aggregate entropy plot for 20 proteins (squares) is effectively identical: $y = 17.544x$. 0.2781; correlation coefficient is 0.9553; P<0.001.

6.5 Frequency Distributions

Various frequency distributions of the 20 query proteins {listed in Table 2} residues are shown in Figure 12. Frequency distribution plot of total of 7474 residues of all 20 proteins with respect to each packing density interval shown in Figure 12A is slightly right-skewed. Packing density values range from 0 to 30 and average, standard deviation, standard error values for the frequency per density interval are 0.804, 0.296

and 0.82 respectively. Packing density values of 1, 2, 29, and 30 C_{α} atoms within 9 Å radii have no residues, while packing density value of 10 C_{α} atoms has the largest number of 769 residues.

Frequency distribution data for the length of query proteins is shown in Figure 12B. The average, median, mode number of amino-acid length per query protein for all 20 proteins are 2, 2, 1 respectively. The range of query residue values is from 85 to 918 with 1 ali having 85 residues and 1 bg3 having 918 residues.

The query sequence alignment search by NCBI BLAST generates a result of 3285 aligned protein sequences for all 20 proteins. Alignments were excluded if bit score values fall below 100 and alignments should be greater than or equal to 40% of the best bit score to be included in the result set. Calculations for a set of 130 query proteins showed 40% of the best BLASTP bit score as a reasonable cutoff with respect to sequence entropy calculations within each C_{α} packing density interval [45]. Earlier sequence entropy calculations done by Lustig's group allowed only a maximum number of 100 alignments. This maximum default value was initially designed to limit any size bias, however an alternative of effectively unlimited size was also explored (this was met by 500 alignments, maximum alignment value allowed by BLASTP). This was done because, for proteins with a high degree of homology, number of alignments may need to be larger than 100 to generate reasonable sequence entropy values. The frequency distribution of number of alignments is shown in Figure 12C. The alignment values range from 7 to 500. 1bf2 has the least number of alignments with a value of 7 and 1 alihas highest number of alignments with a value of 500.

The bit score is the most important criterion for selecting alignments from an alignment set generated by BLASTP. The alignment bit score is calculated by normalizing the raw score with respect to the scoring system. The bit score values range from 197 to 1829 for 20 query proteins. Protein 1a1i has the highest bit score value of 197, and protein 1bg3 has a value of 1829. The frequency distribution of BLAST bit scores shown in Figure 12D is consistent with the right-skewed distribution for 130 protein set BLAST scores [33].

Figure 12. Various frequency distributions of 20 query proteins and BLASTP alignments.

6.6 Individual Protein Correlation Plots

Examples of protein correlation plots (sequence entropy for each query residues plotted against inverse of C_{α} packing density) showing the best, medium, and worst fit among the 130 query protein set are given in Figures 13A thru 13C. Representatives of the range of plots with corresponding P values are lactate dehydrogenase (51dh, 333) residues), hexokinase (1bg3, 901 residues), and troponin (4tnc, 160 residues). The respective straight-line fits for the raw data are $y = 11.707x - 0.297$ (P<0.001), $y =$ $9.0421x + 0.2307$ (P<0.001), and y = 3.9208x + 0.4608 (P<0.001), and the respective correlation coefficients are 0.1792, 0.1039, and 0.0197. The correlation plots between sequence entropy and inverse of C_{α} packing density show a large scattering of data points for all 130 proteins. However, a similar correlation trend is observed for the straight-line fits of all proteins. The respective straight-line fits of average sequence entropies with respect to inverse of C_{α} packing density are y = 13.309x - 0.3915, y = 7.1014x + 0.277, $y = 0.8465x + 0.6427$, and the respective correlation coefficients are 0.9162, 0.7937, and 0.0061. Correlation coefficients between average sequence entropies and the inverse of C_{α} packing density are larger than the ones between the raw sequence entropy and inverse of the C_{α} packing density for most proteins. This trend remains valid for the three proteins shown in Figure 13. For an individual protein; two major regions and two flanking regions can be indicated. Interestingly, the best linear correlation fit may correspond to the least representative example of such four-region behavior.

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Figure 13. Correlation plots of sequence entropy and inverse of packing density for a range of sample proteins to show best, medium, and worst fit. A) For dehydrogenase (5ldh, 333 residues), the straight-line fit for raw data is $y = 11.707x - 0.297$; correlation coefficient is 0.1792. B) For hexokinase (1bg3, 901 residues), the straight-line fit for raw data is $y = 9.0421x + 0.2307$; correlation coefficient is 0.1039. C) For troponin (4tnc, 160 residues), the straight-line fit for raw data is $y = 3.9208x + 0.4608$; correlation coefficient is 0.0197.

6.7 Normalized B-factor Values

B-factors or temperature factors of amino acid residues provide experimental information about the flexibility and dynamics of a protein. Different scales are used to measure B-factors in different protein structures due to differences in their refinement procedures. So, raw data may be normalized to compare B-factors of different protein structures [48]. The B-factor values of 130 proteins were normalized using equation 10, where B' is the normalized B-factor, B is the B-factor value, $\langle B \rangle$ is the average value of all C_{α} atoms, and $\sigma(B)$ is the standard deviation of the B-value for the chosen protein.

$$
B' = {B < B >}/\sigma(B)
$$
 Equation 10

The total number of residues and total entropy were then calculated within each bin of normalized B-factor values. Average entropy with respect to B-factor values was then calculated by dividing the total entropy by the total residues within each normalized B-factor bin. Each B-factor bin is 0.1 times the temperature value, and temperature values that were calculated for 130 proteins from the PDB ranged from -2 to $+6$. So, there are 80 bins of averaging for the plot shown in Figure 14. The plot of aggregate average sequence versus normalized B-factor for all of the 130 proteins is also shown in Figure 14. There is a linear correlation between temperature factor or B-factor and the mean square displacement of an atom, and thus B-factor values provide an indication of protein flexibility [49].

A correlation of similar pattern to that of average sequence entropy versus inverse density plot as shown in Figure 5 was expected for the average sequence entropy versus normalized B-factor plot as shown in Figure 14, as inverse density is a measure of flexibility of a protein. But, Figure 14 shows a different correlation and, hence, the normalized B –factor plot was discarded as a proper tool for checking the noise reduction in the data.

Figure 14. The aggregate graph of average sequence entropy plotted against normalized B-factor values for 130 query proteins.

Four different correlation plots - average entropy versus inverse density, gapped (i.e. gap included) entropy versus inverse density, window average entropy versus inverse density, and Gerstein-Altman entropy versus inverse density and linear correlation data tables for these plots are shown for each of 130 proteins in appendices A, and B respectively.

CHAPTER SEVEN

DISCUSSION

The connections between sequence entropy, protein flexibility, and structure are continuously being explored. Shannon entropy or sequence entropy is essentially a measure of sequence variability [39]. The sequence entropy of a protein was observed to be closely related to the packing density and hydrophobicity of a protein [33]. Investigation of the correlation between sequence entropy and flexibility (measured by inverse C_{α} packing density) within a 9 Å packing radius for 130 query proteins yielded a four-region behavior. The size of the 130 query proteins ranged from 85 to 901 residues. Major region I was shown by the Lustig group to span the range of C_{α} packing densities from 12 to 25 amino acids indicating a strong correlation between sequence entropy and inverse packing density, and this region contains a majority of the total residues for the 130 query proteins. At higher inverse densities, nearly all of the remaining query residues were associated with relatively constant sequence entropy, most likely corresponding to the surface of a protein. Again, the 9 Å C_{α} packing radius was found to be the optimum in the previous studies involving sequence entropy and inverse packing density [45].

The major objectives of this research were to reduce noise in the correlation plots obtained for sequence entropy and inverse of C_{α} packing density, and to develop and evaluate methods to reduce noise associated with sequence entropy. Three aggregate plots for 130 query proteins – gap-included average entropy, Gerstein-Altman entropy,

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and window-averaged entropy, all plotted against inverse of C_{α} packing density for a 9 Å packing radius - show some improvement in data noise in terms of linear correlation compared to gap-excluded average entropy plotted against inverse of packing density.

When the data shape for all the aggregate plots shown in Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8 is compared, the overall trend of the data shape looks similar with the occurrence of two major regions and two flanking regions. Data shape comparison between gap-included average entropy plot shown in Figure 5 and gap-excluded average entropy plot shown in Figure 6 shows that the introduction of a gap-term in the sequence entropy calculations moderates a downward shift in the correlation in the flanking region 2. Flanking region 2 is the most flexible region of all the four regions (with packing density of 5 to 3 C_{α} for a 9 Å packing radius), and the correlation shift might have occurred due to the increase in flexibility because of the introduction of the gap term. There are 42,253 residues for 130 proteins, and only 782 residues out of them lie in the flanking region 2, so there is not enough representative data for this region to make a conclusive observation.

The individual graphs of sequence entropy versus inverse of packing density are plotted for each protein to see if there is an improvement in the noise. These individual plots are shown in Appendix A. The majority of these individual plots exhibit a similar pattern of occurrence of four regions as observed in the aggregate plots. The slope, intercept, and R^2 values obtained from the linear fit and regression of each of the plots are tabulated into tables. These tables are shown in Appendix A. Few of the proteins were observed to contain a negative slope in the linear fit. There are only 3 proteins (1eby, 11z1, and 3pgk) out of 130 proteins with negative slopes in the linear fit for the major

region I. The most sensitive and quantitative signature of anomalous behavior is the presence of a negative slope, but when all 130 plots were visually inspected, additional proteins were observed to contain a flat major region I along with a lack of indication of any other behavior.

The major region I in the 130-protein aggregate gap set entropy plot with respect to inverse of C_{α} packing density, shown in Figures 5 and 12 (from 25 to 12 C_{α}), was found to contain 57.7 % of the total residues that exhibit a strong linear dependence between sequence entropy and inverse packing density. This indicates a strong correlation between sequence variability and local amino acid flexibility, because ability of a local structure to accommodate mutation increases with the increased flexibility at a residue position [36]. The containment of a large fraction of residues in major region I is consistent with the pattern observed by Lustig and coworkers where 74.9 % of the total residues were observed in the major region I [33]. The major region II (from 11 to 6 C_{α}) was found to contain 40.1 % of the total residues that exhibit flattening of sequence entropy with respect to inverse packing density, indicating the presence of strongly hydrophobic residues.

Anomalous behavior is observed in the two flanking regions, the regions above packing densities of 26 C_{α} and below densities of 5 C_{α}. The region above 26 C_{α} (ranging from 26 to 30 C_{α}) contains only 102 residues and the region below 5 C_{α} (ranging from 5 to 3 C_{α}) contains 782 residues out of a total of 42,253 residues.

A strong correlation between sequence variability (mutability) and local amino acid flexibility is consistent with a similar pattern noted by Lustig and coworkers with

respect to peptide binding to RNA [35, 36]. The ability of a protein structure to accommodate mutation was indicated by an enhanced flexibility at a particular residue position. These residue positions are found primarily in flexible 3-D features such as loops and possibly in alternative residue contacts.

Disorder in a protein has been measured by many means, such as protease digestion where sites of hypersensitivity indicate disorder, X-ray diffraction where residues missing from electron density maps indicate disorder, and NMR spectroscopy where sharp peaks indicate disorder [50]. Shannon entropy, often referred to as sequence entropy, is also a measure of disorder of a system and has been applied to amino acid sequences to measure the disorder in a protein computationally. Koehl and Levitt quantified sequence entropy with respect to conformational entropy [40].

Sequence entropy measures the sequence variability and residue conservation of amino acids. Gerstein and Altman [39] compared sequence conservation to structure conservation by measuring the entropy of a position relative to the random alignment of sequences. Gerstein-Altman entropy is calculated by subtracting the random entropy that takes into account of the random occurrence of each amino acid from the Shannon entropy for each protein. The aggregate Gerstein-Altman entropy curve, which is calculated by considering the possible effect of random entropy, is found to be comparable to the gap included average entropy and window-averaged entropy curves.

Earlier studies by Koehl and Levitt [40] indicate that entropy derived from sequence information was similar to the entropy derived from structure information for a small set of ten proteins, when a gap was included as a twenty-first term at the considered

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sequence position. So, inclusion of a gap in sequence entropy calculations is an appropriate tool in studying correlations between sequence entropy and flexibility of a protein.

The original sequence alignments of the 130 query proteins obtained from the BLASTP search utilized in this research were 3 years old, so a representative set of 20 proteins was selected, and an updated set of sequence alignments was obtained using the current version of BLASTP. Interestingly, the aggregate plot of average sequence entropy versus inverse of the C_{α} packing density for 20 proteins is observed to contain the same four regions (two major regions and two flanking regions), similar to the aggregate sequence entropy curve observed for 130 proteins. Initial concern about using a complete set of BLASTP alignments attempts to minimize any concerns of bias. A limited number of 130 protein query set and the 20- protein query set exceeded the original 100-alignment limit. The frequency distribution for 20 proteins between frequency of query protein and number of alignments after the correction, reveals eight proteins with a number of alignments greater than 100.

Window average entropy is calculated by averaging the entropy values of closest neighbors for each residue [51]. Earlier studies, done by Galzitskaya and Melnik [52] in predicting protein domain boundaries using sequence information alone, indicate that averaging entropy within a small window size provides additional entropy information. Increasing the window size (i.e. neighbors included in the window for average entropy calculation) smoothes the entropy profile; lowering it increases the resolution of the plot but results in the introduction of more noise. Defining an optimum window size is the

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best compromise between a good resolution of the plot and low noise. The objective of this research was to study the effects of different window sizes (2, 3, 4 and 5 neighbors within a window) on the noise level. While doing the single average entropy calculations, it was observed that the window size of three neighbors significantly reduces the standard deviation values. Window average entropy, calculated by using a window size of three was found to be the optimum in terms of resolution and tolerable noise level for the individual protein plots. This approach significantly improved the linear correlation for the individual protein plots as shown in the appendices. This improvement might be because, the variations in the packing of the secondary structure are minimal for three neighbors as compared to 4, 5, 6 neighbors. Variations in the packing of the secondary structure are minimum for two neighbors as compared to three neighbors, but averaging the entropy for two neighbors biases data in one direction.

CHAPTER EIGHT

CONCLUSIONS

Various filters were introduced to observe the affect on the noise level of the aggregate average sequence entropy plots; gap included sequence entropy curve, Gerstein-Altman entropy curve, window average entropy curve, and normalized B-factor curve. Gap-included average entropy (gapped entropy) offers some improvement in terms of linear correlation but not a significant reduction in noise level. The linear correlation coefficient R was determined to be 0.1352 and the corresponding P value was calculated to be less than 0.001 for the gapped entropy plot, whereas the linear correlation coefficient R was determined to be 0.031 and the corresponding P value was calculated to be less than 0.001 for the average entropy plot. Two major regions and two flanking regions are observed in the sequence entropy versus inverse of $C\alpha$ packing density correlation plot.

Subsequently, the Gerstein-Altman entropy calculated considering the random entropy effect also offers some improvement in linear correlation between sequence entropy and inverse of $C\alpha$ packing density with no significant reduction in the noise level. The linear correlation coefficient R was determined to be 0.055 and the corresponding P value was calculated to be less than 0.001 for the Gerstein-Altman entropy plot. Window averaging with a window size three significantly improves the linear coefficient values of correlation plots between average entropy and inverse density for most of the 130 query proteins. The average standard deviation for the window average entropy is 0.313, compared to 0.5 for the gapped entropy.

Correlation pattern between sequence entropy and inverse density for a subset of 20 query proteins is similar to that of 130 query proteins. The straight-line fit for the aggregate average sequence entropy versus inverse packing density for the 130 proteins is $y = 17.862x - 0.2768$; the correlation coefficient is 0.9945; P<0.001. The straight-line fit for the aggregate entropy plot for the 20 proteins is effectively identical: $y = 17.544x$. 0.2781 ; correlation coefficient is 0.9553 ; P<0.001. Correlation pattern for normalized Bfactor curve plotted between aggregate average sequence entropy and normalized Bfactor is different to the correlation pattern observed between average sequence entropy and inverse density, hence is not utilized to further explore the relationship between sequence entropy and B-factor at individual protein level.

SUGGESTED FUTURE STUDIES

Further understanding the protein structure relations with sequence entropy is of great interest and should include:

- 1. Exploring the reasons for the fluctuations in sequence entropy values in anomalous regions (high density and low density regions).
- 2. Exploring the usage of PSI BLAST or other means in the sequence alignment search to take care of the redundancies in the sequence alignment sets.
- 3. Exploring the usage of B-factor information to characterize the flexible portions of a protein.

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APPENDIX A- Individual Correlation Plots for 130 Proteins.

Four different correlation plots are shown for each of the 130 proteins

Top-left: Entropy versus inverse density

Top-right: Gapped (i.e. gap included) entropy versus inverse density

Bottom-left: Gerstein-Altman entropy versus inverse density

Bottom-right: Window average entropy versus inverse density

Error bars corresponding to the standard deviation as calculated from the data are shown for each scatter plot. These are derived from the averaging of all sequence entropies within a density bin. The overall region for the plots corresponds to the packing density values of 1 to 30 C_{α} atoms, and major region I corresponds to higher packing densities of 12 to 25 C_{α} atoms.

 \blacksquare - denotes major region 1 data points, and \blacktriangle - denotes overall region data points for the correlation plots of all the proteins.

Figure A1. Various correlation plots for protein1A1I

Figure A2. Various correlation plots for protein 1A1S

Figure A3. Various correlation plots for protein 1A3C

Figure A4. Various correlation plots for protein 1A3S

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Figure A5. Various correlation plots for protein 1A5Z

Figure A6. Various correlation plots for protein 1A6F

Figure A8. Various correlation plots for protein 1A32

Figure A10. Various correlation plots for protein 1A59

Figure A11. Various correlation plots for protein 1AAT

Figure A12. Various correlation plots for protein 1AB4

Figure A13. Various correlation plots for protein 1ACB

Figure A14. Various correlation plots for protein 1ADD

Figure A15. Various correlation plots for protein 1ADI

Figure A16. Various correlation plots for protein 1AE4

Figure A17. Various correlation plots for protein 1AF3

Figure A18. Various correlation plots for protein 1AGM

Figure A20. Various correlation plots for protein 1AHA

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Figure A22. Various correlation plots for protein 1AI2

Figure A23. Various correlation plots for protein 1AK2

Figure A24. Various correlation plots for protein 1AKO

Figure A25. Various correlation plots for protein 1AL8

Figure A26. Various correlation plots for protein 1ALC

Figure A28. Various correlation plots for protein 1AMN

Figure A29. Various correlation plots for protein 1AMP

Figure A30. Various correlation plots for protein 1AN9

Figure A31. Various correlation plots for protein 1ANG

Figure A32. Various correlation plots for protein 1AO5

Figure A33. Various correlation plots for protein 1AOB

Figure A34. Various correlation plots for protein 1AQH

Figure A35. Various correlation plots for protein 1AQO

Figure A36. Various correlation plots for protein 1ATP

Figure A37. Various correlation plots for protein 1AV5

Figure A38. Various correlation plots for protein 1AV6

Figure A39. Various correlation plots for protein 1AV7

Figure A40. Various correlation plots for protein 1AW5

Figure A41. Various correlation plots for protein 1AW9

Figure A42. Various correlation plots for protein 1AYE

Figure A43. Various correlation plots for protein 1AYL

Figure A44. Various correlation plots for protein 1AYX

Figure A45. Various correlation plots for protein 1AZI

Figure A46. Various correlation plots for protein 1BA3

Figure A47. Various correlation plots for protein 1BC2

Figure A48. Various correlation plots for protein 1BF2

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Figure A50. Various correlation plots for protein 1BG3

Figure A51. Various correlation plots for protein 1BGO

Figure A52. Various correlation plots for protein 1BIA

Figure A53. Various correlation plots for protein 1BLZ

Figure A54. Various correlation plots for protein 1BN6

Figure A56. Various correlation plots for protein 1BOH

Figure A58. Various correlation plots for protein 1BT3

Figure A59. Various correlation plots for protein 1BUL

Figure A60. Various correlation plots for protein 1BXQ

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Figure A61. Various correlation plots for protein 1BYT

Figure A62. Various correlation plots for protein 1CBO

Figure A64. Various correlation plots for protein 1CJX

Figure A65. Various correlation plots for protein 1CK6

Figure A66. Various correlation plots for protein 1CRC

Figure A67. Various correlation plots for protein 1CRM

Figure A68. Various correlation plots for protein 1CRZ

Figure A70. Various Correlation plots for protein 1D6M

Figure A71. Various Correlation plots for protein 1DAJ

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Figure A72. Various correlation plots for protein 1DCS

Figure A73. Various correlation plots for protein 1DHS

Figure A74. Various correlation plots for protein 1DHT

Figure A75. Various correlation plots for protein 1DIN

Figure A76. Various correlation plots for protein 1DMR

Figure A77. Various correlation plots for protein 1E1K

Figure A78. Various correlation plots for protein 1E3H

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Figure A79. Various correlation plots for protein 1E3Q

Figure A80. Various correlation plots for protein 1E5M

Figure A81. Various correlation plots for protein 1EBV

Figure A82. Various correlation plots for protein 1EEH

Figure A83. Various correlation plots for protein 1HGU

Figure A84. Various correlation plots for protein 1LZ1

Figure A86. Various correlation plots for protein 1RBP

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Figure A88. Various correlation plots for protein 2ACT

Figure A89. Various correlation plots for protein 2CTS

Figure A90. Various correlation plots for protein 2LBP

Figure A91. Various correlation plots for protein 2LDX

Figure A92. Various correlation plots for protein 2LIV

Figure A93. Various correlation plots for protein 2PRK

Figure A94. Various correlation plots for protein 2RN2

Figure A95. Various correlation plots for protein 2TAA

Figure A96. Various correlation plots for protein 3BLM

Figure A97. Various correlation plots for protein 3CLA

Figure A98. Various correlation plots for protein 3CNA

Figure A99. Various correlation plots for protein 3EST

Figure A100. Various correlation plots for protein 3GBP

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Figure A101. Various correlation plots for protein 3GRS

Figure A102. Various correlation plots for protein 3PFK

Figure A103. Various correlation plots for protein 3PGK

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Figure A104. Various correlation plots for protein 3PGM

Figure A105. Various correlation plots for protein 3PSG

Figure A106. Various correlation plots for protein 3RN3

Figure A107. Various correlation plots for protein 3RP2

Figure A108. Various correlation plots for protein 4APE

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Figure A109. Various correlation plots for protein 4DFR

Figure A110. Various correlation plots for protein 4MDH

Figure A111. Various correlation plots for protein 4PEP

Figure A112. Various correlation plots for protein 4TNC

Figure A113. Various correlation plots for protein 5ACN

Figure A114. Various correlation plots for protein 5CHA

Figure A115. Various correlation plots for protein 5CPA

Figure A116. Various correlation plots for protein 5CPV

Figure A118. Various correlation plots for protein 5LDH

Figure A120. Various correlation plots for protein 6LDH

Figure A121. Various correlation plots for protein 6XIA

Figure A122. Various correlation plots for protein 7API

Figure A123. Various correlation plots for protein 7CAT

Figure A124. Various correlation plots for protein 8ADH

Figure A125. Various correlation plots for protein 8ATC

Figure A126. Various correlation plots for protein 8DFR

Figure A127. Various correlation plots for protein 9PAP

Figure A128. Various correlation plots for protein 9WGA

Figure A129. Various correlation plots for protein 1BIT

Figure A130. Various correlation plots for protein 1A48

APPENDIX B- Various Data tables for 130 Proteins.

Table B1 shows the residue count and estimate of standard deviation of gapped entropy for overall density region and major I region respectively for 130 proteins.

Tables B2 and B3 show linear correlation data for overall density region and major region I of 130 proteins respectively. In these tables, following notations are used. AE – average entropy, GE – gapped entropy, WE – window average entropy, and GAE – Gerstein-Altman entropy. R - r-square value, S – slope, I – intercept, S.D. – standard deviation from linear fit of the individual plots plotted between AE, GE, WE, GAE against density.

Table B1. Standard deviation data of gapped entropy for major region I and
overall density regions.

 $\mathcal{L}^{\text{max}}_{\text{max}}$

| PDB ID | $AE-R$ | $AE-S$ | $AE-I$ | $GE-R$ | $GE-S$ | $CE-I$ | $WE-R$ | $WE-S$ | WE-I | $GAE - R$ | GAE-S | $GAE - I$ |
|-----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 1A1I | 0.009 | -0.572 | 0.551 | 0.086 | 0.379 | 0.007 | 0.038 | 0.150 | 0.032 | 0.080 | -0.397 | -0.092 |
| 1A1S | 0.078 | -4.318 | 1.770 | 0.239 | 8.623 | 0.984 | 0.468 | 8,444 | 1.112 | 0.125 | 2.228 | 0.304 |
| 1A32 | 0.619 | 11.497 | -0.089 | 0.658 | 12.316 | -0.146 | 0.618 | 9.749 | 0.222 | 0.619 | 5,331 | -0.137 |
| 1A3C | 0.190 | 7.565 | 0.518 | 0.054 | 3,396 | 0.963 | 0.249 | 6.094 | 0.810 | 0,094 | 2.206 | 0.287 |
| 1A3S | 0.005 | $-0,658$ | 0,831 | 0.561 | 9.477 | 0.308 | 0.758 | 9.235 | 0.324 | 0.545 | 6.405 | -0.219 |
| 1A48 | 0.027 | 1,662 | 0.897 | 0.030 | 1,855 | 0.922 | 0.414 | 10.140 | 0.292 | 0.050 | 1.381 | 0.343 |
| 1A59 | 0.008 | -0.524 | 0.696 | 0.000 | -0.093 | 0.691 | 0.350 | 4.265 | 0.399 | 0.081 | 1.493 | 0,233 |
| 1A5Z | 0.125 | -3.076 | 1.428 | 0.039 | -2.024 | 1.360 | 0.001 | 0.319 | 1.232 | 0.005 | 0.385 | 0.478 |
| 1A6F | 0,162 | 7.151 | 0.454 | 0.031 | 2,148 | 1,139 | 0.087 | 1.618 | 1,220 | 0.173 | 3.848 | 0.344 |
| 1A6Q | 0.093 | 2,028 | 0.401 | 0.647 | 6.378 | 0,332 | 0.773 | 7.712 | 0.252 | 0.483 | 3,705 | -0.088 |
| 1AAT | 0.430 | 7.559 | 0.589 | 0.520 | 8,814 | 0.544 | 0.718 | 10.895 | 0.415 | 0.391 | 3.875 | 0.124 |
| 1AB4 | 0.788 | 12.501 | 0.094 | 0.788 | 12.659 | 0.104 | 0.834 | 11.471 | 0,234 | 0.767 | 6.060 | -0.157 |
| 1ACB | 0.712 | 15.814 | 0.167 | 0.742 | 16.164 | 0.345 | 0.804 | 19.018 | 0.184 | 0.701 | 8,369 | -0.030 |
| 1ADD | 0.058 | 1.212 | 0.099 | 0.449 | 4.056 | 0.185 | 0.830 | 4.826 | 0.149 | 0.075 | 1.136 | -0.095 |
| 1ADI | 0.005 | 0.954 | 1.169 | 0.002 | 0.561 | 1.249 | 0.163 | 5.077 | 0.969 | 0.051 | -1.449 | 0.460 |
| 1AE4 | 0.577 | 7.015 | 0.151 | 0.415 | 5.123 | 0.632 | 0.360 | 2.798 | 0.814 | 0.145 | 1.309 | 0.126 |
| 1AF3 | 0.577 | 7.015 | 0.151 | 0.020 | 1.241 | 1.132 | 0.331 | 3.225 | 0.990 | 0.007 | -0.372 | 0.538 |
| 1AGM | 0.225 | 4,084 | 0.387 | 0.394 | 7.492 | 0,577 | 0.478 | 9.344 | 0.456 | 0.442 | 2.097 | 0.109 |
| 1AGX | 0.529 | 10.137 | 0.074 | 0.544 | 10.622 | 0.058 | 0.729 | 13.550 | -0.106 | 0,508 | 6.385 | -0.109 |
| 1 AHA | 0.771 | 13.242 | -0.247 | 0.759 | 12.692 | -0.150 | 0.869 | 13,973 | -0.214 | 0.808 | 9.500 | -0.373 |
| 1AHN | 0.092 | 4.992 | 0.830 | 0,185 | 7.031 | 0.743 | 0.647 | 13.840 | 0.275 | 0.017 | 1.505 | 0.438 |
| 1AI2 | 0.002 | 0.405 | 0.858 | 0.338 | 6.143 | 0.551 | 0.784 | 9.753 | 0.294 | 0.001 | 0,126 | 0.174 |
| 1AK2 | 0.032 | -2.647 | 1.514 | 0.007 | -1.448 | 1.542 | 0.027 | 0.923 | 1.440 | 0.148 | 3,345 | 0.229 |
| 1AKO | 0.807 | 12.659 | -0.214 | 0.849 | 13.253 | -0.241 | 0.882 | 14.202 | -0.277 | 0.818 | 7.609 | -0.272 |
| 1AL8 | 0.045 | 1.678 | 1.131 | 0.147 | 2.890 | 1.214 | 0.349 | 5.460 | 1.032 | 0.011 | 0.449 | 0.469 |
| 1ALC | 0.011 | -0.848 | 0.804 | 0.505 | 9.327 | 0.258 | 0.748 | 10.937 | 0.178 | 0.337 | 4.110 | -0.054 |
| 1ALN | 0.483 | 7.826 | 0.167 | 0.666 | 15.614 | 0.126 | 0.783 | 14.521 | 0.182 | 0.570 | 6.999 | 0.000 |
| 1AMN | 0.281 | 6.858 | 0.478 | 0.448 | 7,622 | 0.521 | 0.765 | 11.004 | 0.310 | 0.214 | 2.875 | 0.207 |
| 1AMP | 0.018 | 0.990 | 0.387 | 0.373 | 4,644 | 0.175 | 0.529 | 5.823 | 0.122 | 0.012 | 0.628 | 0.129 |
| 1AN9 | 0.078 | 1.757 | 0.150 | 0.048 | 1.357 | 0.536 | 0.526 | 3.918 | 0.369 | 0,127 | 1,625 | -0.073 |
| 1ANG | 0.285 | 4,707 | 0.122 | 0.552 | 7.135 | 0.055 | 0.674 | 7.585 | 0.101 | 0.201 | 1.972 | -0.017 |
| 1AO5 | 0.706 | 14.504 | 0.000 | 0.729 | 14.790 | 0.140 | 0.815 | 16.604 | 0.025 | 0.592 | 6.472 | -0.161 |
| 1A0B | 0.014 | 0.896 | 0.750 | 0.025 | 1.215 | 0.748 | 0.725 | 10,750 | 0.061 | 0.078 | 1.014 | 0.129 |
| 1AQ0 | 0.832 | 19.332 | -0.255 | 0.822 | 19.442 | -0.242 | 0.915 | 17.640 | 0.023 | 0.861 | 8.491 | -0.253 |
| 1 AQH | 0.672 | 10.205 | 0.141 | 0.661 | 10.362 | 0.152 | 0.814 | 12.348 | 0.037 | 0.735 | 5.437 | -0.114 |
| 1ATP | 0.571 | 9.543 | 0.201 | 0.616 | 11,133 | 0.205 | 0.908 | 12.125 | 0.104 | 0.245 | 3.545 | 0.017 |
| 1AV5 | 0.547 | 14.047 | 0.378 | 0.546 | 13,906 | 0.435 | 0.885 | 15.543 | 0.337 | 0.351 | 5.109 | 0.088 |
| 1AV6 | 0.675 | 5.720 | 0.059 | 0.733 | 6.208 | 0.119 | 0.838 | 7.605 | 0.020 | 0.690 | 3.607 | -0.120 |
| 1AV7 | 0.684 | 9.215 | 0.346 | 0.686 | 9.942 | 0.396 | 0.779 | 11.358 | 0.315 | 0.343 | 2.662 | -0.022 |
| 1AW5 | 0.009 | -0.368 | 0.770 | 0.485 | 3.183 | 0.591 | 0.755 | 4.418 | 0.489 | 0.007 | -0.233 | 0.373 |
| 1AW9 | 0.001 | -0.198 | 1.576 | 0.011 | -1.020 | 1.689 | 0.197 | 3,014 | 1,389 | 0.159 | -2.433 | 0.750 |
| 1AYE | 0.058 | 1,979 | 0.557 | 0.263 | 4.426 | 0.535 | 0.545 | 7.359 | 0.342 | 0.058 | 1.234 | 0.211 |
| 1AYL | 0.530 | 12.315 | 0.118 | 0.527 | 13.067 | 0.152 | 0.686 | 16.572 | -0.024 | 0.349 | 5.121 | -0.001 |

Table B2. Linear correlation data for overall density region of 130 proteins.

| PDB ID | $AE - R$ | $AE-S$ | $AE-I$ | $GE - R$ | $GE-S$ | $GE-I$ | $WE - R$ | $WE-S$ | WE-I | $GAE-R$ | $GAE-S$ | $GAE-I$ |
|--------|----------|--------|---------|----------|--------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1A1I | 0.769 | 24.08 | -1.02 | 0.034 | 0.604 | -0.01 | 0.12 | 0.753 | 0.088 | 0.152 | -1.591 | -0.021 |
| 1A1S | 0.507 | 28.58 | -0.17 | 0.516 | 29.58 | -0.17 | 0.857 | 24.18 | 0.186 | 0.565 | 11.428 | -0.201 |
| 1A32 | 0.714 | 34.37 | -1.71 | 0.714 | 34.37 | -1.71 | 0.989 | 40.38 | -2.13 | 0.515 | 12.74 | -0.664 |
| 1A3C | 0.674 | 34.28 | -1.05 | 0.588 | 24.97 | -0.4 | 0.863 | 28.49 | -0.59 | 0.452 | 12.25 | -0.33 |
| 1A3S | 0.391 | 19.61 | -0.55 | 0.372 | 19.76 | -0.31 | 0.85 | 19.99 | -0.36 | 0.64 | 15.785 | -0.767 |
| 1A48 | 0.824 | 37.45 | -1.42 | 0.85 | 39.53 | -1.53 | 0.912 | 40.39 | -1.59 | 0.774 | 22.204 | -0.995 |
| 1A59 | 0.5 | 16.02 | -0.34 | 0.532 | 17.25 | -0.4 | 0.927 | 15.88 | -0.32 | 0.519 | 12.502 | -0.433 |
| 1A52 | 0.839 | 22 | -0.13 | 0.826 | 21.58 | -0.09 | 0.939 | 22.35 | -0.11 | 0.645 | 11.172 | -0.167 |
| 1A6F | 0.393 | 27.85 | -0.77 | 0.148 | 11.33 | 0.56 | 0.385 | 7.025 | 0.874 | 0.088 | 6.219 | 0.193 |
| 1A6Q | 0.733 | 16.06 | -0.49 | 0.736 | 16.93 | -0.28 | 0.809 | 16.14 | -0.23 | 0.702 | 10.541 | -0.505 |
| 1 AAT | 0.692 | 30.06 | -0.71 | 0.698 | 30.38 | -0.71 | 0.912 | 25.54 | -0.43 | 0.46 | 13.847 | -0.449 |
| 1AB4 | 0.769 | 26.43 | -0.72 | 0.776 | 27.12 | -0.74 | 0.917 | 24.17 | -0.54 | 0.636 | 10.179 | -0.382 |
| 1ACB | 0.945 | 38.76 | -1.13 | 0.949 | 38.71 | -0.93 | 0.967 | 37.78 | -0.89 | 0.924 | 20.9 | -0.739 |
| 1ADD | 0.479 | 5.597 | -0.17 | 0.314 | 8.565 | -0.07 | 0.494 | 6.336 | 0.069 | 0.426 | 4.252 | -0.289 |
| 1ADI | 0.654 | 28.51 | -0.55 | 0.63 | 28,37 | -0.48 | 0.922 | 27 | -0.39 | 0.552 | 11.548 | -0.346 |
| 1AE4 | 0.014 | 2.438 | 0.505 | 0.017 | 3.133 | 1.009 | 0.016 | -1.185 | 1.312 | 0.017 | 1.54 | 0.406 |
| 1AF3 | 0.014 | 2.438 | 0.505 | 0.001 | 0.486 | 0.987 | 0 | -0.205 | 1.028 | 0.049 | -2.717 | 0.395 |
| 1AGM | 0.812 | 24.33 | -0.75 | 0.836 | 32.73 | -0.88 | 0.965 | 33.77 | -0.93 | 0.805 | 16.209 | -0.619 |
| 1AGX | 0.853 | 26.78 | -0.79 | 0.858 | 27.36 | -0.81 | 0.916 | 26.31 | -0.76 | 0.829 | 17.034 | -0.657 |
| 1 AHA | 0.917 | 19.66 | -0.57 | 0.698 | 20.41 | -0.63 | 0.917 | 19.66 | -0.57 | 0.624 | 13.726 | -0.647 |
| 1AHN | 0.441 | 25.76 | -0.43 | 0.461 | 26.64 | -0.45 | 0.814 | 27.87 | -0.52 | 0.23 | 13.366 | -0.303 |
| 1A12 | 0.358 | 13.66 | 0.009 | 0.368 | 14.79 | 0.002 | 0.758 | 15.33 | -0.02 | 0.081 | 3.134 | -0.028 |
| 1AK2 | 0.113 | 11.48 | 0.538 | 0.1 | 11.19 | 0.728 | 0.155 | 3,963 | 1,241 | 0.016 | 2,551 | 0.279 |
| 1AKO | 0.902 | 24.98 | -0.91 | 0.905 | 25.33 | -0.92 | 0.955 | 24.48 | -0.86 | 0.872 | 15.114 | -0.697 |
| 1AL8 | 0.637 | 23.39 | -0.19 | 0.683 | 24 | -0.06 | 0.927 | 28.28 | -0.37 | 0.412 | 11.335 | -0.191 |
| 1ALC | 0.326 | 17.15 | -0.37 | 0.502 | 23,96 | -0.63 | 0.89 | 22.44 | -0.53 | 0.327 | 9.903 | -0.397 |
| 1ALN | 0.449 | 12.71 | -0.06 | 0.702 | 28.5 | -0.58 | 0.923 | 28.31 | -0.59 | 0.694 | 16.152 | -0.507 |
| 1AMN | 0.749 | 25.24 | -0.54 | 0.76 | 25.6 | -0.55 | 0.969 | 25 | -0.52 | 0.645 | 12.988 | -0.399 |
| 1AMP | 0.718 | 16.1 | -0.44 | 0.725 | 16.82 | -0.47 | 0.775 | 16.55 | -0.46 | 0.742 | 12.646 | -0.535 |
| 1AN9 | 0.778 | 10.74 | -0.4 | 0.701 | 9.64 | 0.028 | 0.891 | 9.681 | 0.023 | 0.777 | 8,113 | -0.466 |
| 1ANG | 0.822 | 23.16 | -0.99 | 0.849 | 22.4 | -0.86 | 0.978 | 23.01 | -0.91 | 0.772 | 11,69 | -0.601 |
| 1A05 | 0.722 | 31.82 | -0.97 | 0.688 | 30.44 | -0.74 | 0.915 | 31.93 | -0.85 | 0.692 | 16.246 | -0.711 |
| 1AOB | 0.43 | 16.63 | -0.33 | 0.457 | 17.11 | -0.34 | 0.925 | 18.78 | -0.47 | 0.203 | 7.016 | -0.259 |
| 1AQ0 | 0.812 | 39.31 | -1.43 | 0.815 | 40.41 | -1.47 | 0.929 | 30.22 | -0.78 | 0.834 | 16.047 | -0.69 |
| 1AQH | 0.859 | 28.6 | -0.95 | 0.865 | 29.39 | -0.98 | 0.983 | 26.25 | -0.81 | 0.716 | 12,015 | -0.489 |
| 1ATP | 0,064 | 8,931 | 0.221 | 0.083 | 10.93 | 0.193 | 0.962 | 22.53 | -0.58 | 0.007 | -2.117 | 0.354 |
| 1AV5 | 0.312 | 22.84 | -0.18 | 0.355 | 24.52 | -0.25 | 0.937 | 27.73 | -0.44 | 0.181 | 8.802 | -0.132 |
| 1AV6 | 0.738 | 12.78 | -0.42 | 0.827 | 12.7 | -0.33 | 0.967 | 14.04 | -0.42 | 0.704 | 8.497 | -0.447 |
| 1AV7 | 0.735 | 25.19 | -0.53 | 0.757 | 26.99 | -0.54 | 0.863 | 25.29 | -0.42 | 0.586 | 10.532 | -0.453 |
| 1AW5 | 0.213 | 5.939 | 0.356 | 0.229 | 6.96 | 0.335 | 0.685 | 9.295 | 0.177 | 0.271 | 4.787 | 0.053 |
| 1AW9 | 0.154 | 9.561 | 0.946 | 0.119 | 9.004 | 1.041 | 0.585 | 12.55 | 0.788 | 0 | 0.197 | 0.573 |
| 1AYE | 0.545 | 14.58 | -0.22 | 0.702 | 20.03 | -0.4 | 0.887 | 21.47 | -0.5 | 0.509 | 8.951 | -0.269 |

Table B3. Linear correlation data for major I density region of 130 proteins.

 $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{A})$

