



Title	Computational Analysis and Prediction of Ligand Binding Sites in Proteins
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Citation	大阪大学, 2012, 博士論文
Version Type	
URL	https://hdl.handle.net/11094/59365
rights	
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博士の専攻分野の名称	博士 (理学)
学位記番号	第 25447 号
学位授与年月日	平成 24 年 3 月 22 日
学位授与の要件	学位規則第 4 条第 1 項該当 生命機能研究科生命機能専攻
学位論文名	Computational Analysis and Prediction of Ligand Binding Sites in Proteins (計算機による蛋白質のリガンド結合部位に関する解析と予測)
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論文内容の要旨

Many proteins are known to function by interacting with their ligands. Determination of the ligand binding sites (LBSs) in proteins is essential for the identification of their protein functions. In addition, understanding the relationship amongst LBSs should give valuable knowledge for the annotation of their functions. Although an exhaustive comparison among local structures of LBSs has so far been addressed, such comparison among local surface patches of LBSs has never been addressed due to computational complexity. Thus, it is worth attempting to perform the exhaustive comparison among patches and to classify them based on their geometrical and physicochemical similarities.

In this study, representative patches were selected and prepared for the exhaustive comparison among them. A hierarchical clustering on them was then performed using a geometric-based similarity search method developed by the current study. Consequently, I found that common patches are shared by distantly related proteins or by proteins with cross-fold similarity. I also revealed the diversity of the patches. Furthermore, the similarities amongst the patches were compared with other sequential or structural similarities amongst the LBSs, and the unique nature of the patches was clarified. In addition, the representative patches were implemented as an optional patch database into the search service ‘eF-seek’, which was developed to identify LBSs in proteins based on molecular surface similarity, accelerating computation without reducing its performance.

Moreover, I developed an accurate computational method to predict RNA-binding sites in proteins using a Support Vector Machine with sequence features; position specific scoring matrices, interface propensity, predicted accessibility and hydrophobicity. This is because RNA is one significant ligand, and also because RNA-binding proteins have been recently known to be involved in the wide range of human diseases such as neurological disorders and cancers. The proposed method outperformed previously published methods. It was then implemented as a web

server in order to provide accurate predictions for experimentalists to perform more targeted experiments for functional annotations of the putative RNA-binding proteins.

論文審査の結果の要旨

本論文では、蛋白質分子の構造と機能の関係について、特に蛋白質機能部位における分子表面の形状と静電位の分布に対し、そこに結合するリガンド分子との関連性を明らかにするため、分子表面を形成するパッチの形状や静電位の類似性を高速に探索する手法を開発した。その手法を用いて、リガンド低分子毎にパッチ間の網羅的な比較とクラスタリングを行い、代表的なパッチを選択した。次に、この代表パッチ間の網羅的な比較により、フォールド構造の異なる蛋白質においても共有されているパッチを見出し、低分子リガンドが結合する分子表面の多様性を明らかにした。本研究で得られた代表パッチ構造は、分子表面の類似性検索手法を用いて蛋白質に結合する低分子とその結合部位を同定するeF-seekツールに、精度を保ったまま高速に検索できる手法として実装された。さらに、配列情報を基に、機械学習法を用いて蛋白質上のRNA結合部位を予測する高精度な計算科学的手法も開発し、別途Web上で公開した。

これらの研究は、蛋白質の構造と機能の関係を解明する研究において新しい知見を与える、大きく貢献するものと考えられるため、博士 (理学) の学位に値するものと認める。