

**CRASP: software
package for analysis of
physicochemical
parameters of aligned
sequences of protein
families**

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Main page of the package for correlation analysis of amino acid substitutions in protein sequences (*CRASP*).

Program is available at
<http://wwwmgs.bionet.nsc.ru/mgs/programs/crasp/>.

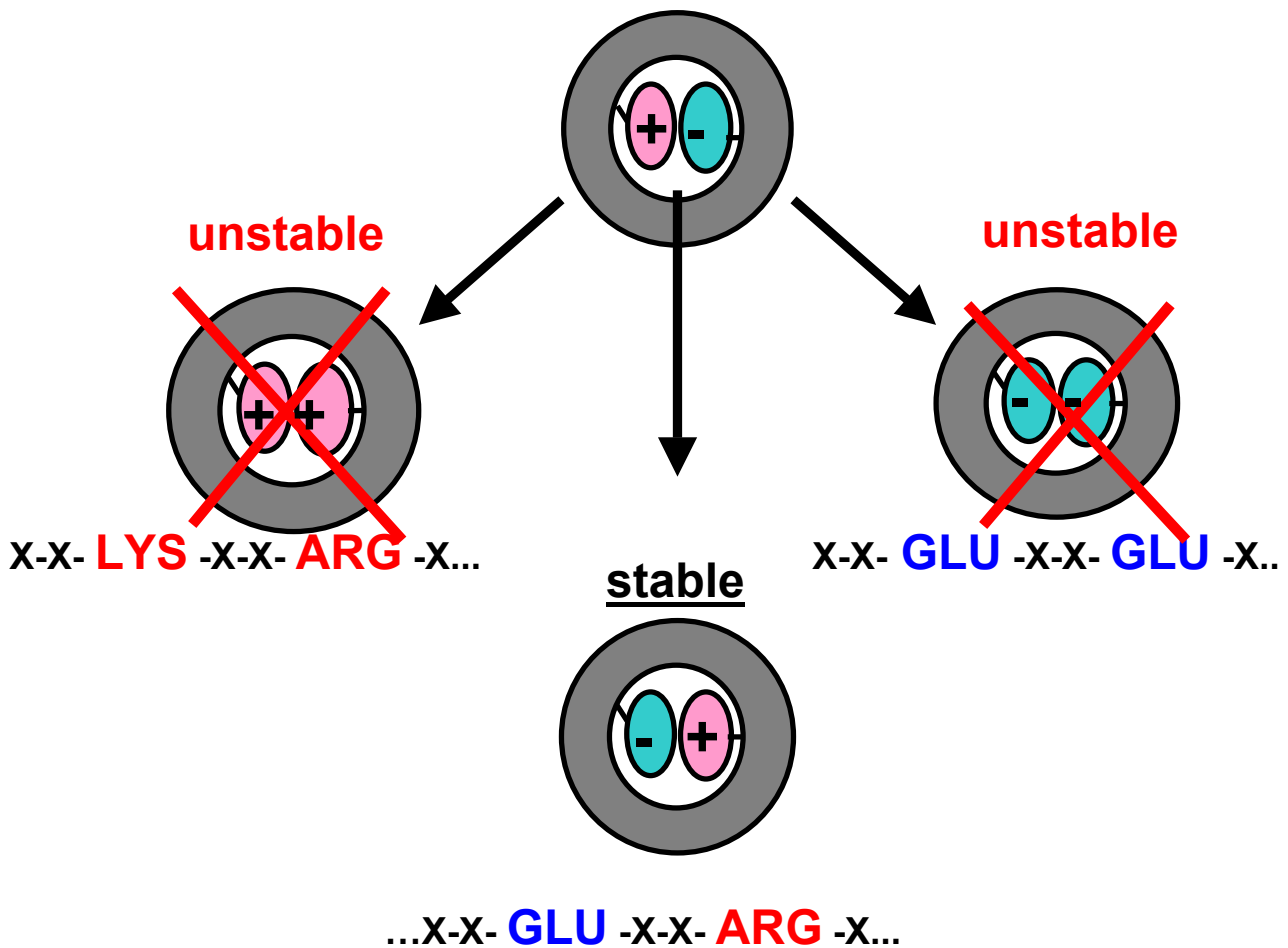
The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the CRASP website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://wwwmgs.bionet.nsc.ru/mgs/programs/crasp/>. The website content includes the CRASP logo, the title "Correlation analysis of the amino acid substitutions in protein sequences.", and a navigation menu with links for "Overview", "Analysis of pairwise positional correlations", "Analysis of protein integral physico-chemical characteristics", and "Result examples". At the bottom, there are logos for the Institute of Cytology and Genetics (ИЦГ) and the Molecular Biological Server, along with the text "This resource has been developed in Institute of Cytology and Genetics. Novosibirsk, Russia". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint, and the system clock displays 12:05.

AN EXAMPLE OF COMPENSATORY (relatively to the charge sign) AMINO ACID SUBSTITUTIONS AT A PAIR OF PROTEIN POSITIONS

LIVKSM^DGAL
STME^CAR^LLIT
GTS^DNS^HQLI
LIM^KV^DGYA

} Analysis of multiple alignment of sequences of a protein family

..X-X-X- **LYS** -X-X- **ASP** -X-X-X..

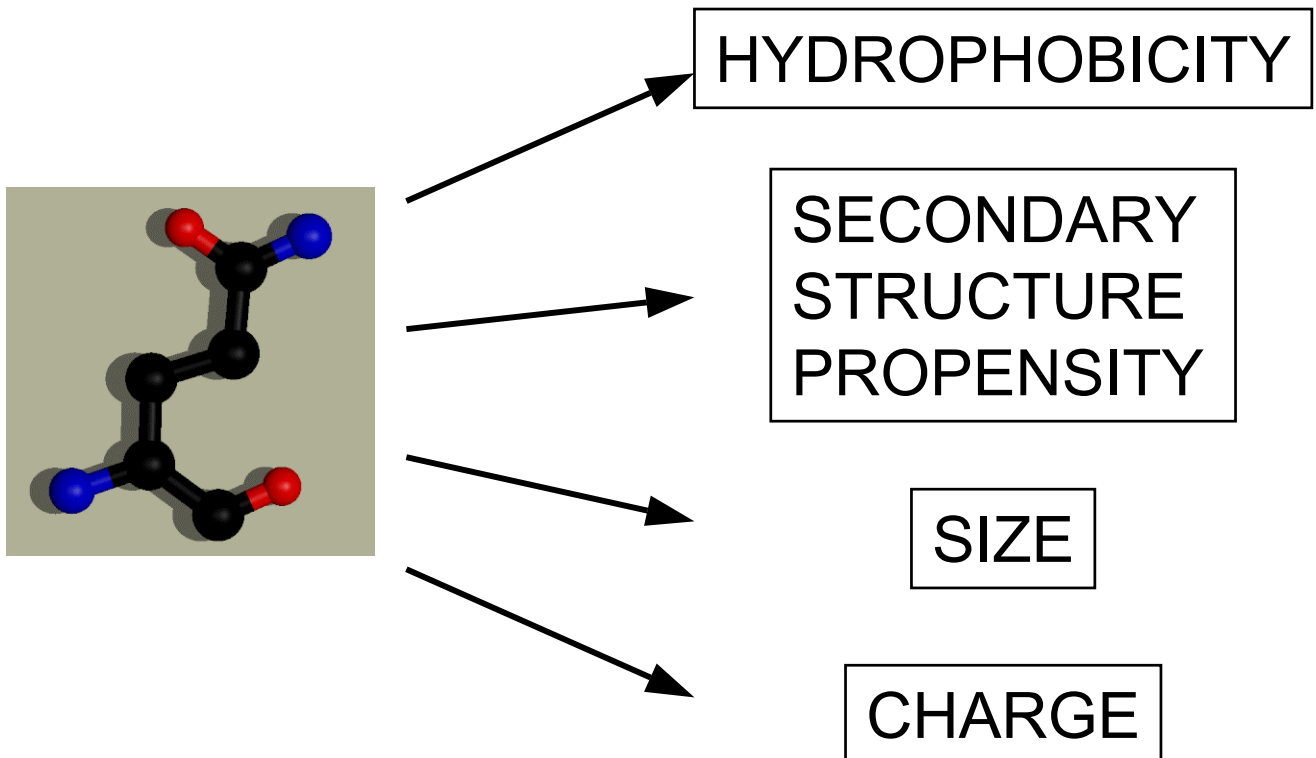


Main goals of the CRASP package analysis:

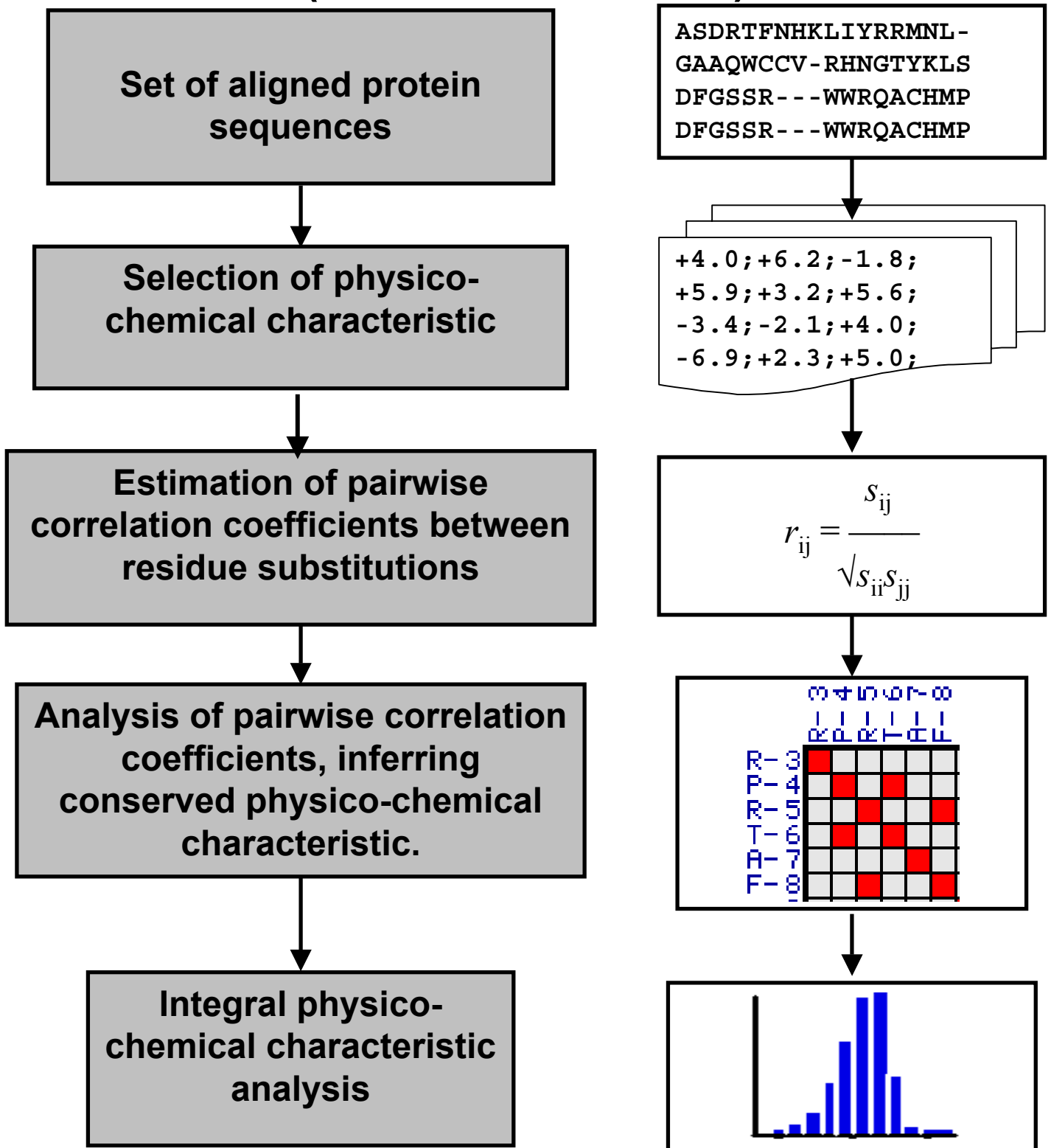
- detection of protein position pairs with co-adaptive residue substitutions;
- detection of protein integral characteristics which conservation (variability) is due to co-adaptive residue substitutions.

The importance of physico-chemical characteristics analysis.

The values of characteristics reflect specific interactions of residues:



THE SCHEME OF CORRELATION ANALYSIS IN FAMILY OF RELATED PROTEINS (CRASP PACKAGE)

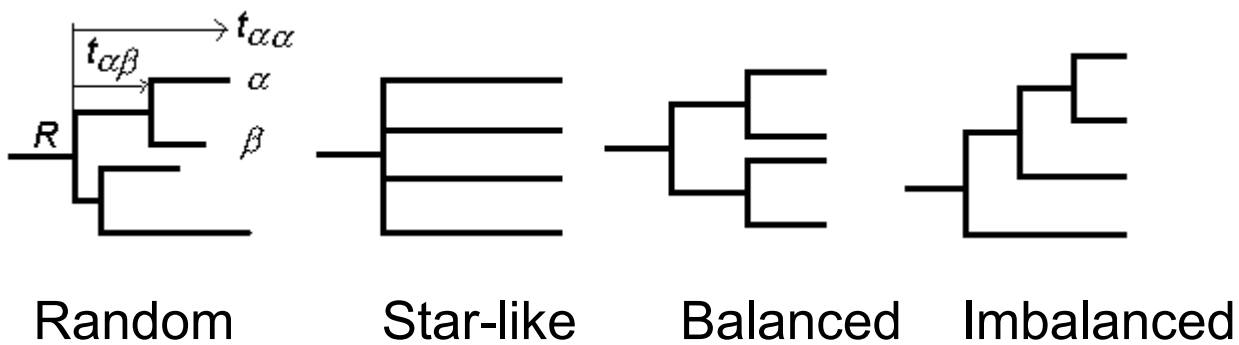


THREE PROBLEMS

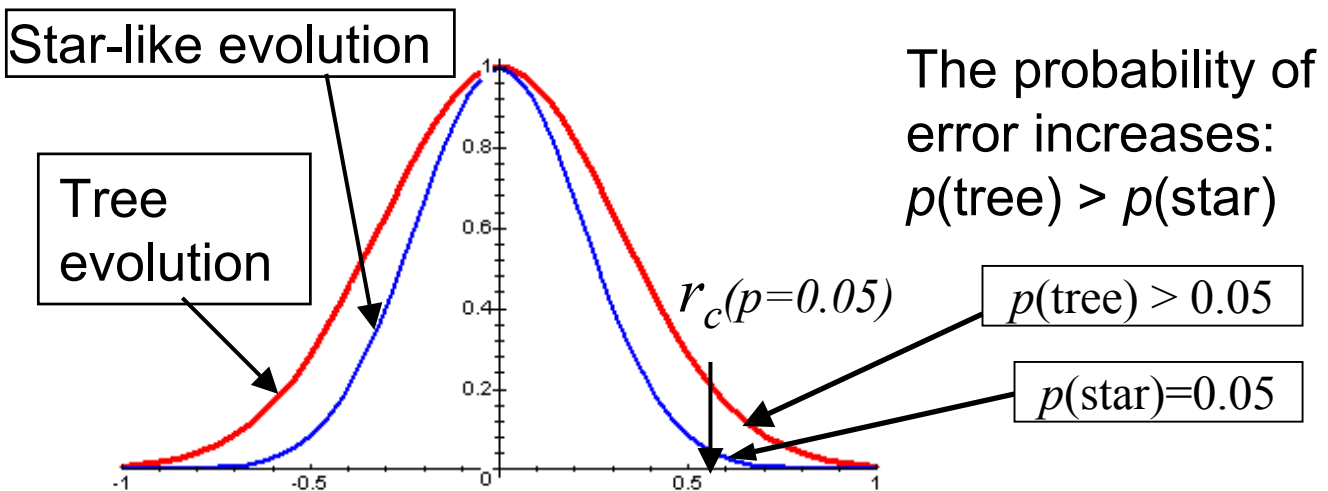
- The problem of evolutionary relationship of sequences
- The problem of chained correlation
- The problem of stability of correlation coefficient estimates

1. TAKING TO ACCOUNT EVOLUTIONARY DEPENDENCE OF ANALYSED SEQUENCES

Evolutionary dependencies viewed as phylogenetic trees:

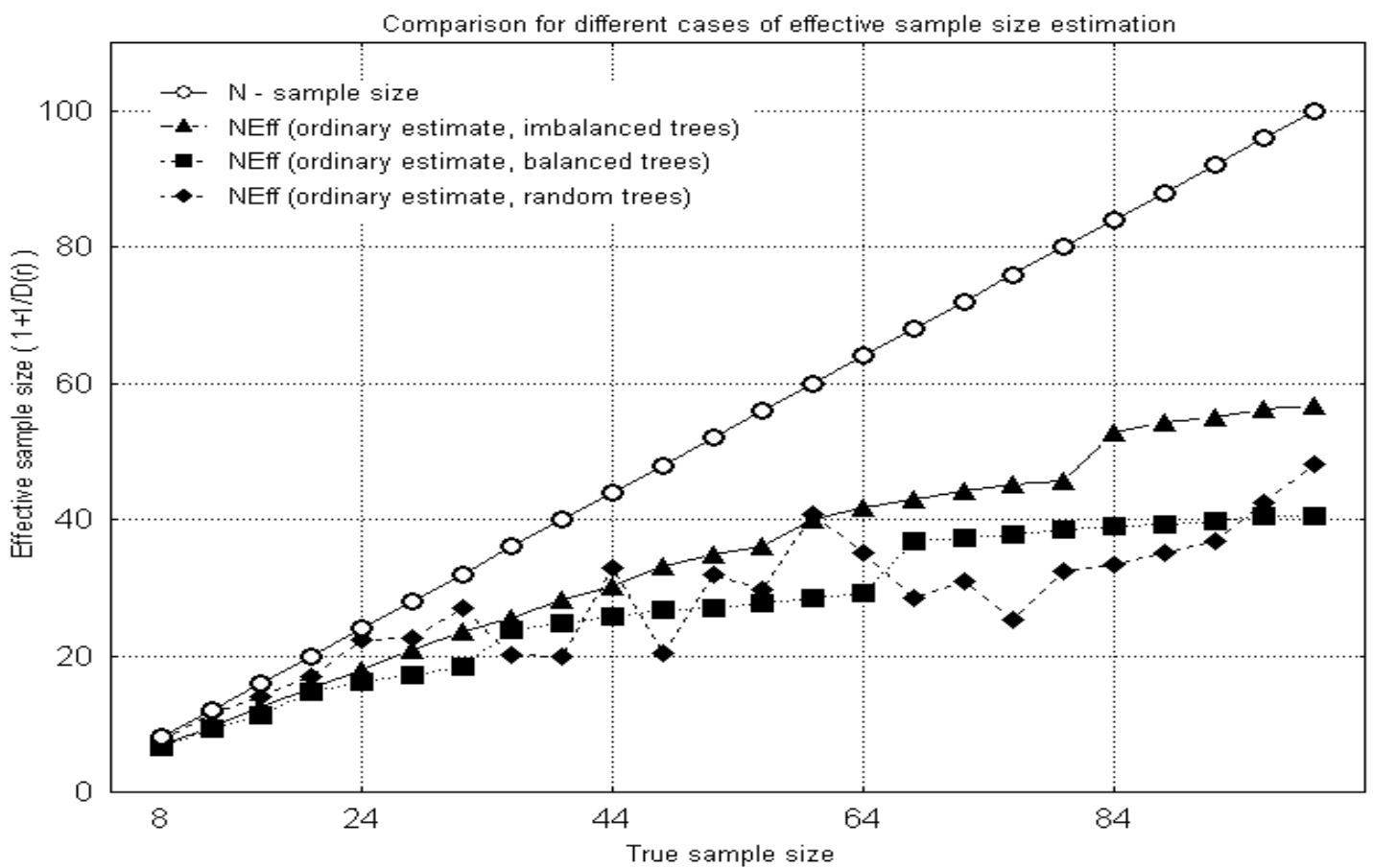


Distribution of correlation coefficient for independent positions: $D(r, \text{star}) = 1/(N-1) < D(r, \text{tree})$



Testing: numerical simulation of evolution with independent sites. Sequence length=500. Sample size and tree topology were varied. For each topology and each sample size 1000 samples were generated.

Estimated parameter: $N_{\text{eff}} = 1 + 1/D(r)$. For independent sequences $N_{\text{eff}} = N$, for evolutionary dependent sequences $N_{\text{eff}} < N$



Wrong estimation of critical threshold for correlation coefficient (t_p – percentile of Student’s distribution):

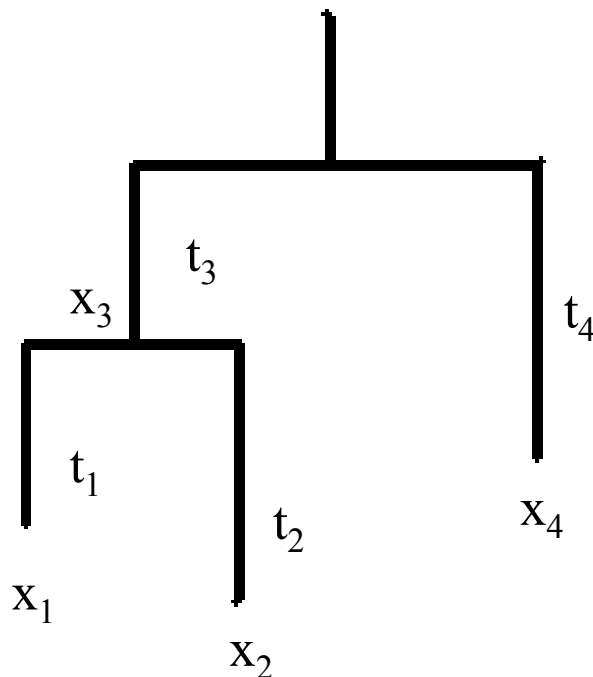
$$|r_c| = \sqrt{\frac{t_p}{t_p + N - 2}}$$

Two possible solutions:

-Numerical simulation to estimate true threshold (time consuming)

-Weighting sequences

Applied method: weighting according to Felsenstein J. (1985) *Am. Nat.*, **125**, 1-15.



1. Estimate values of parameter x at internal nodes of the tree (contrasts) on the basis of values of x at leaf nodes and Gaussian model of distribution.

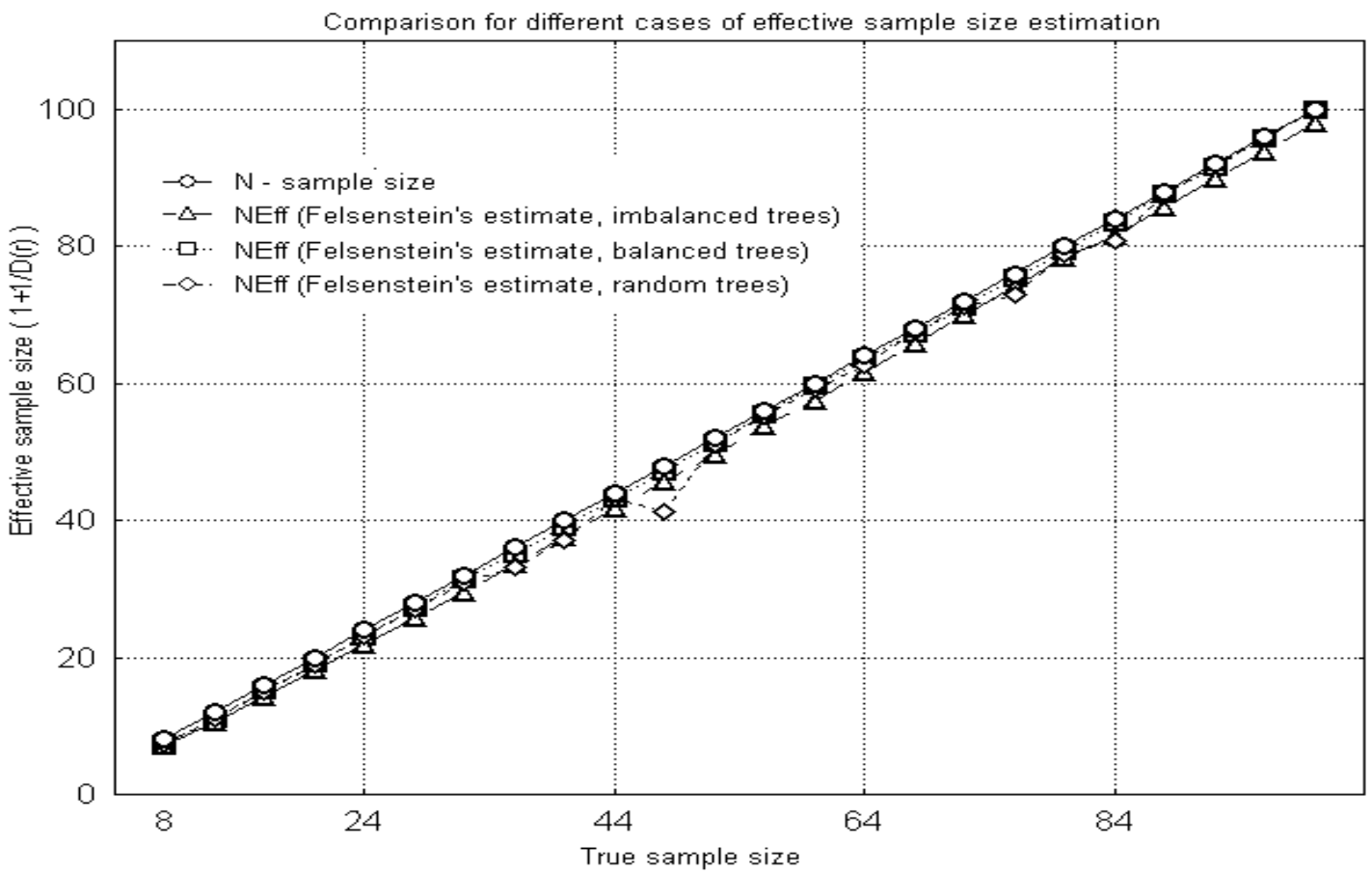
$$x_3 = (x_1 \cdot t_2 + x_2 \cdot t_1) / (t_1 + t_2)$$

$$t_3' = t_3 + t_1 t_2 / (t_1 + t_2)$$

$$D(t) \sim t$$

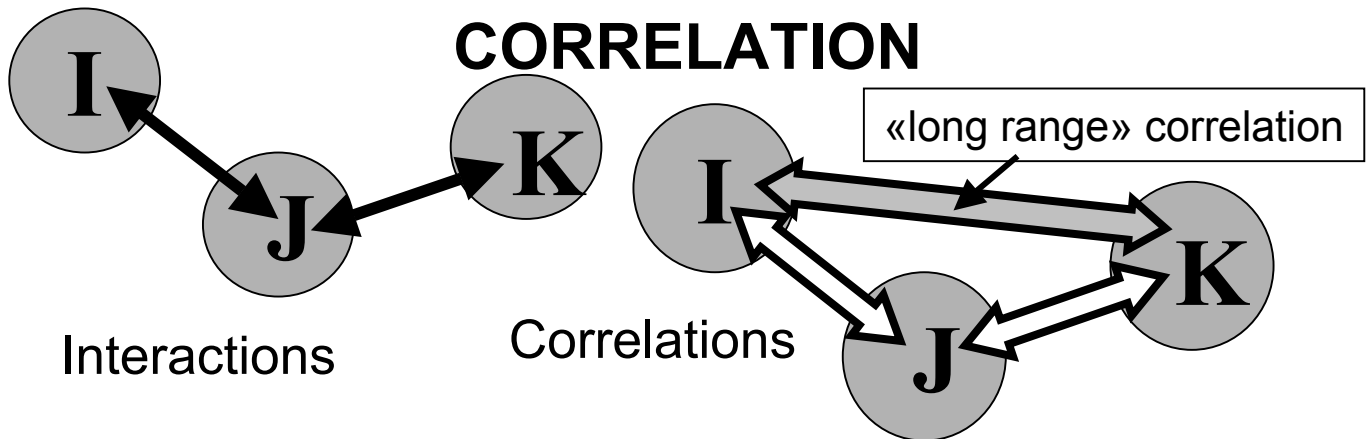
2. Estimate means, variances and correlation coefficients and dispersion for contrasts.

Testing: numerical simulation of evolution with independent sites. Apply weighting estimates for correlation coefficients.



Result: $D(r, \text{tree}) \sim D(r, \text{star})$. It is possible to select threshold r_c as for independent sequences. Weighting allows to choose r_c value the same as for independent sequences

2. THE PROBLEM OF CHAINED CORRELATION

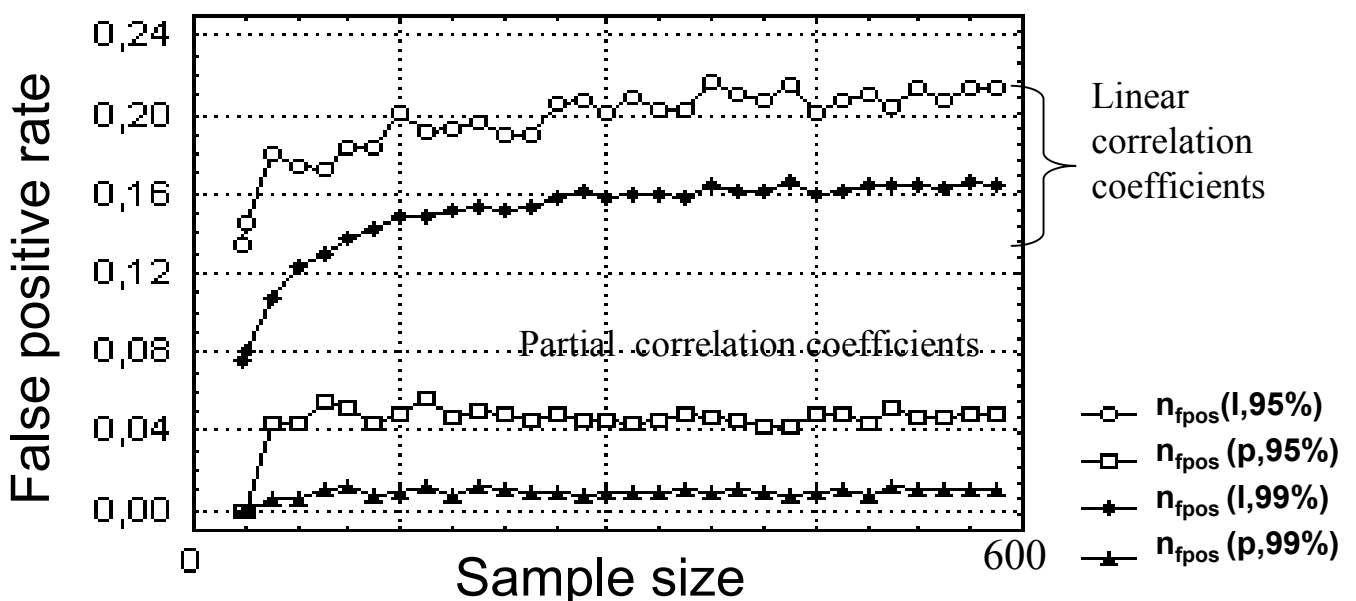


Possible solution: partial correlation coefficients

$$r_{ij \cdot k} = \frac{-a_{ij}}{\sqrt{a_{ii}a_{jj}}}, A = S^{-1}$$

Testing: numerical simulation with harmonically interacting residues, sequences are independent, Metropolis algorithm.

Estimated parameter: fraction of false positives (pairs with no interaction, but significant, at 95 and 99% levels, correlation) n_{fpos} .

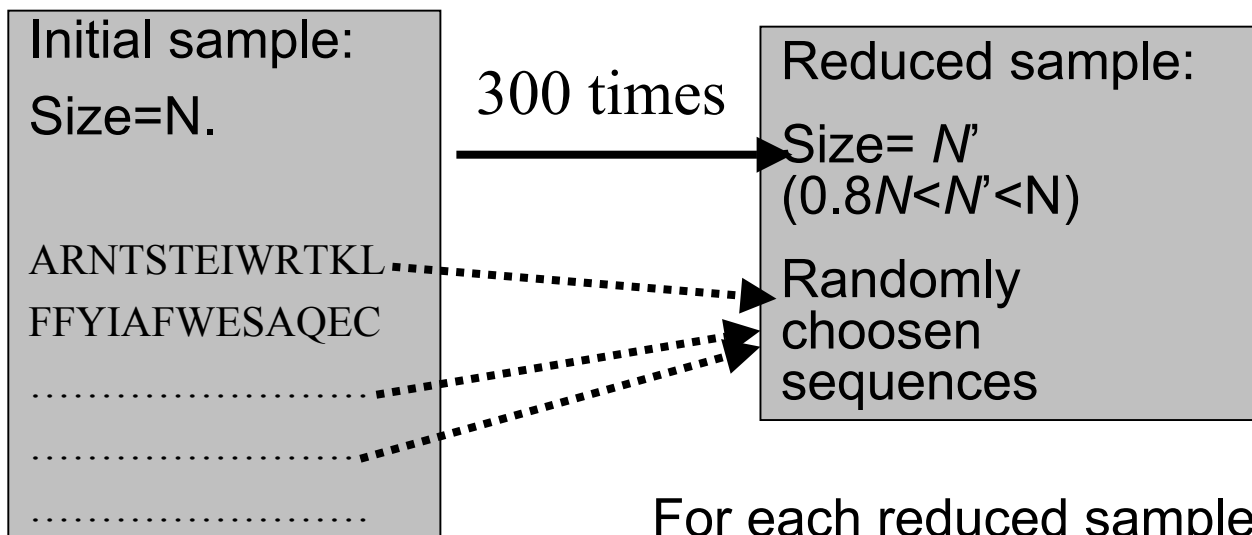


ESTIMATION THE STABILITY OF CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS

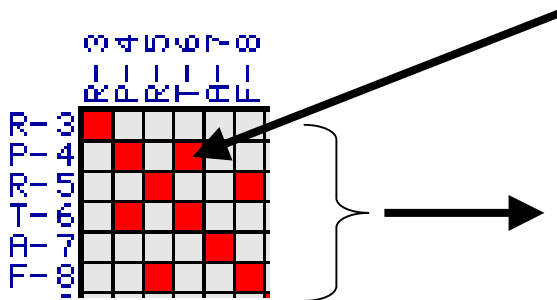
Resampling procedure (N' samples out of initial, $0.8N < N' < N$)

Estimation the dispersion of ratio

$$rS = r_{ij} / \sqrt{1 / (N' - 1)}$$



For each reduced sample estimate r_{ij}



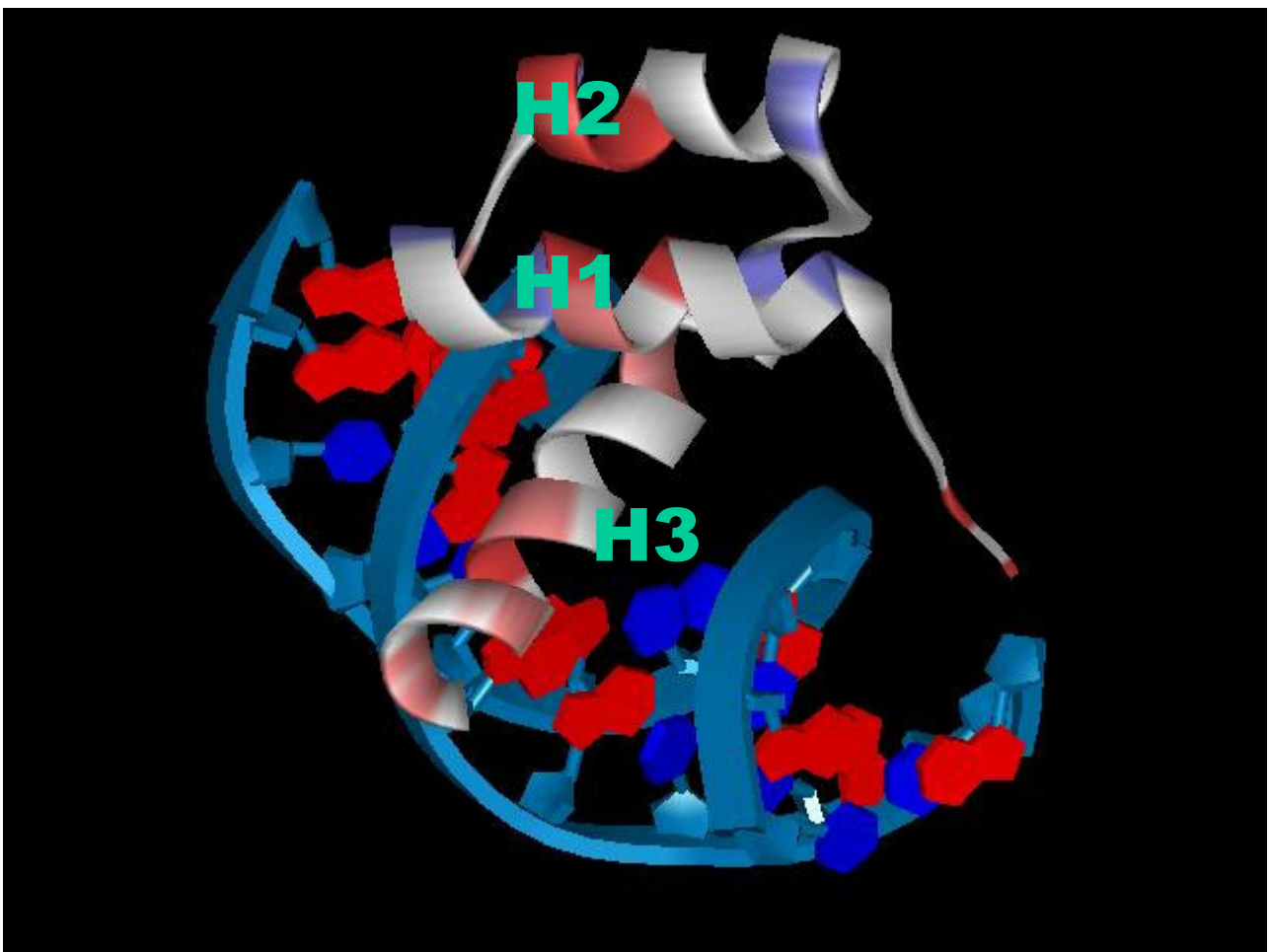
Estimate the dispersion of r_s parameter using 300 r_{ij} values for each pair i, j .

5% pairs with highest dispersion of r_s parameter considered as unstable and eliminated from analysis

APPLICATION FOR HOMEODOMAIN FAMILY ANALYSIS

372 sequences (source - Pfam), 47 positions.
Analysed characteristic - isoelectric point
Evolutionary tree estimated by CLUSTALW program.

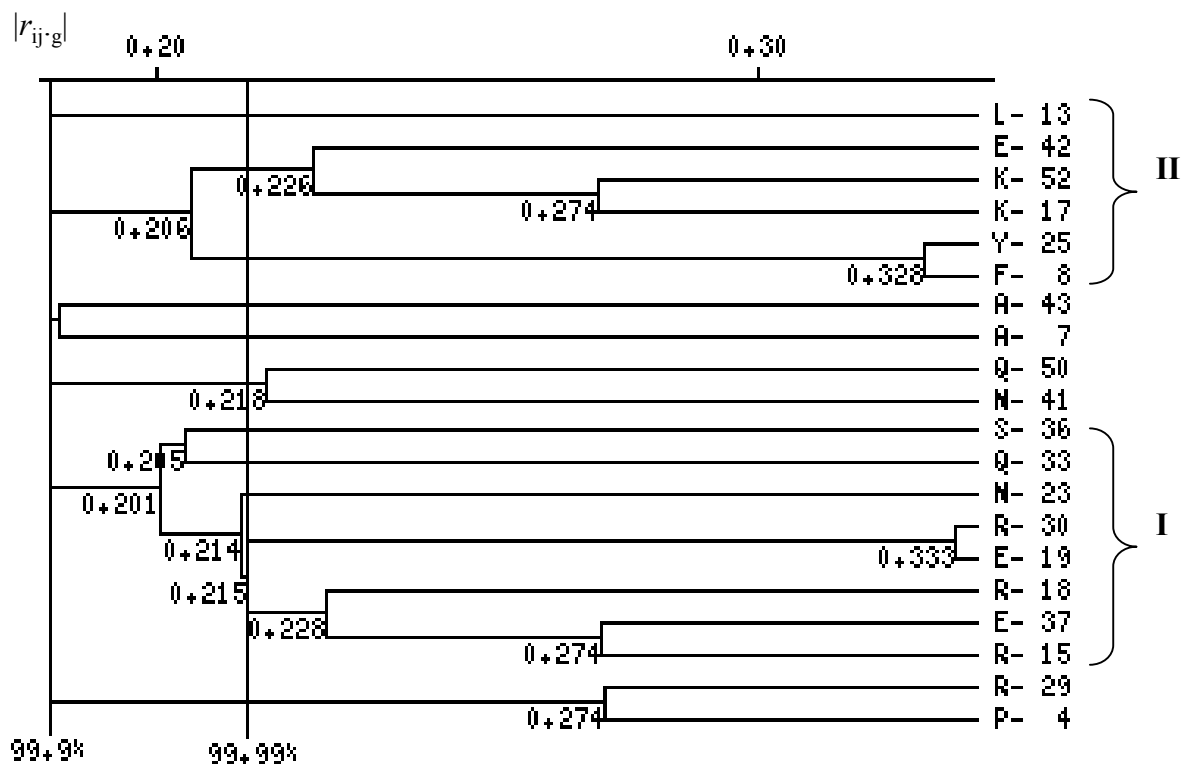
Spatial structure of homeodomain complex



CLUSTERING APPROACH TO DETECT GROUPS OF HIGHLY CORRELATED POSITIONS

The clustering of the sequence positions is performed with the distance measure dependent on the absolute value of correlation coefficient $|r_{ij}|$ between positions, both partial coefficients were used:

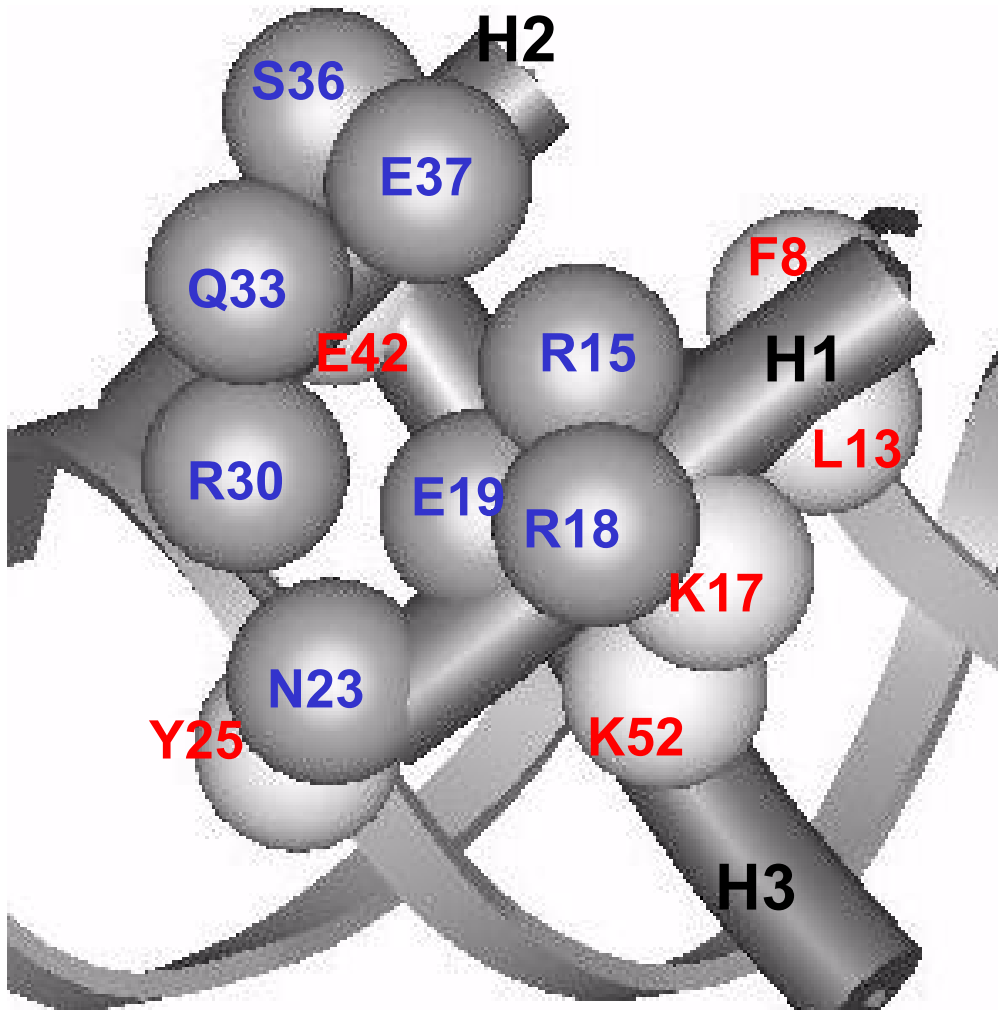
$$d_{ij} = 1 - |r_{ij}|$$



Two groups of positions have been determined group I and group II

SPATIAL LOCATION OF RESIDUES FROM GROUPS I AND II

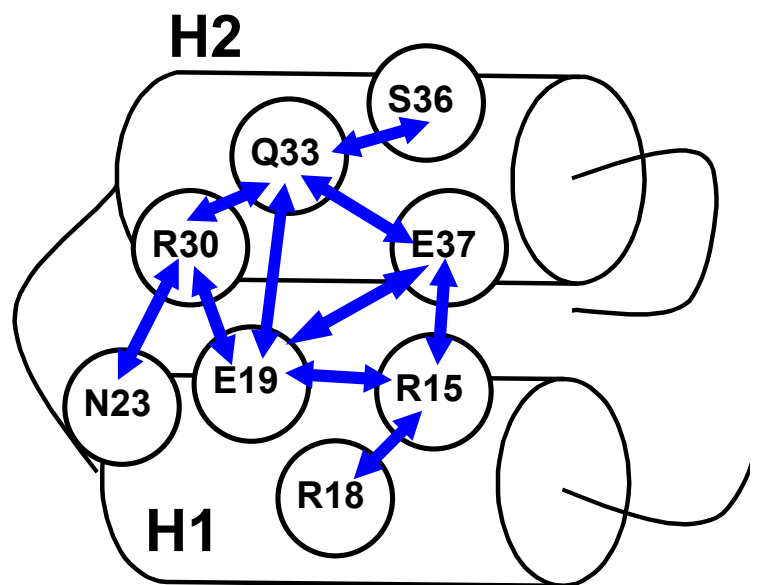
Cluster I residues are shown in dark grey and blue letters,
Cluster II residues are shown in light grey and red letters.



ANALYSIS OF POSITION FROM CLUSTER I

Position	$r_{ij \cdot g}$
R18-R15	-0.228
E19-R15	-0.215
N23-E19	-0.214
R30-E19	-0.333
R30-N23	-0.185
Q33-E19	-0.190
Q33-R30	-0.201
S36-Q33	-0.205
E37-R15	-0.274
E37-E19	-0.185
E37-Q33	-0.194

The values of significant correlation coefficients and schematic representation of relationships between residues in group I



Proposed conserved characteristic: net isoelectric point value (net charge)

$$Q_I = pI_{15} + pI_{18} + pI_{19} + pI_{23} + pI_{30} + pI_{37} + pI_{33}$$

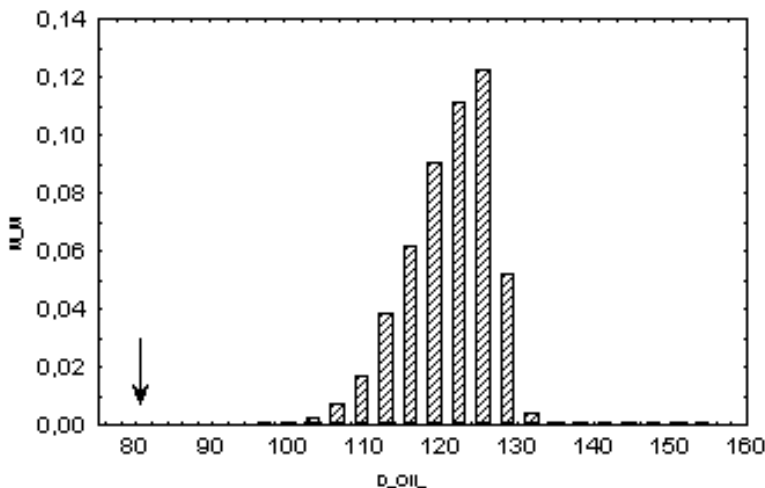
ANALYSIS OF Q_I CONSTANCY

Expected variance (in absense of correlations, $c_i=1$, $D(f_i)$)-positional dispersions

$$D_{\text{exp}}(F) = \sum_{i=1}^L c_i^2 D(f_i)$$

Comparison of observed Q_I variance with that expected for random samples and result of numerical simulations

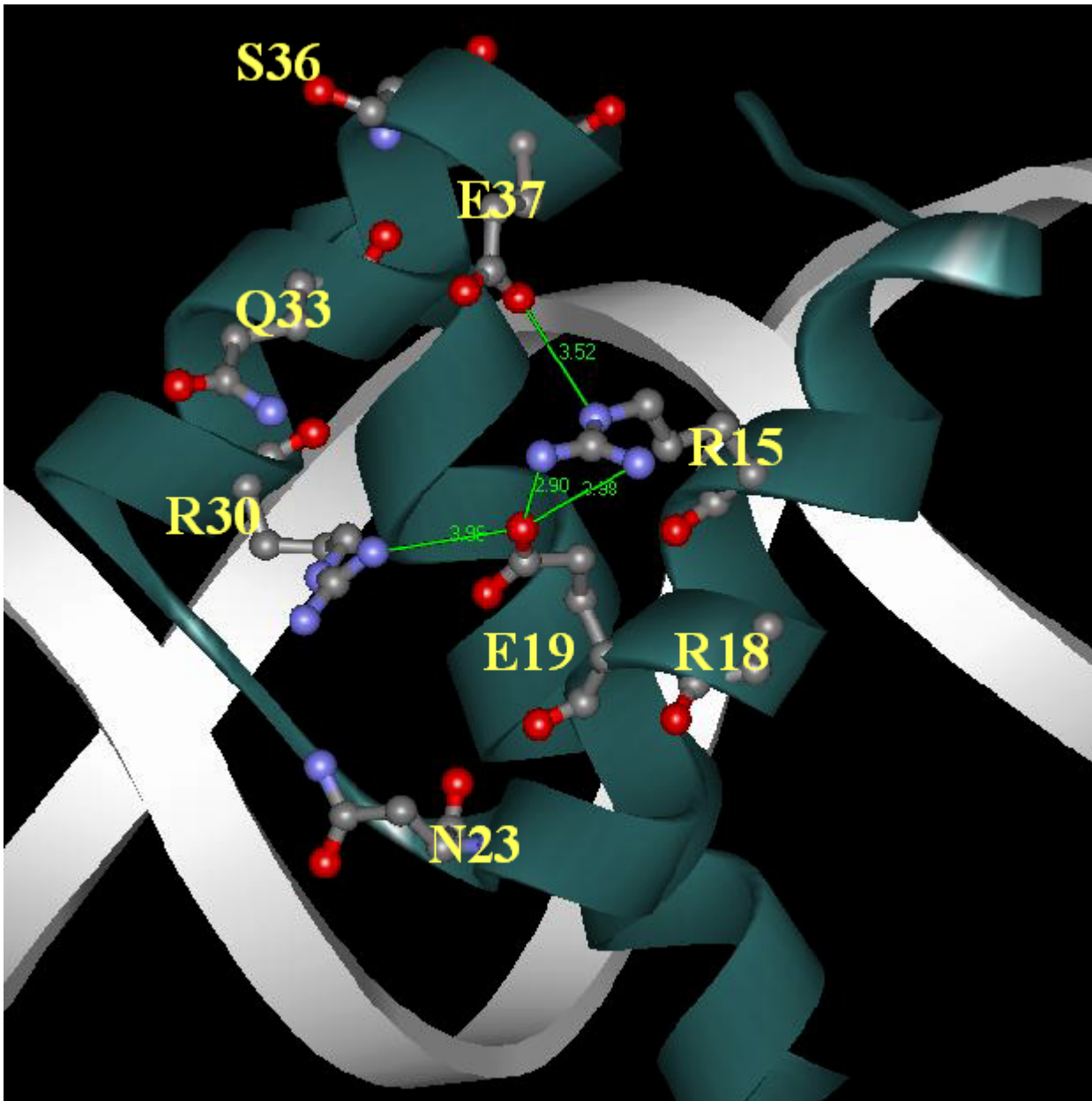
F	$D(F)$	$D_{\text{EXP}}(F)$	$D_{\text{RND}}(F)$, <i>mean</i>	$N(D_{\text{RND}}(F) > D(F))$
Q _I	80.758	127.742	128.093	100000



Distribution of $D_{\text{rnd}}(F)$ in 100000 samples and the value of $D(F)$ (arrow). Significance, estimated from the F-distribution of the D_{exp}/D ratio: $P > 99\%$.

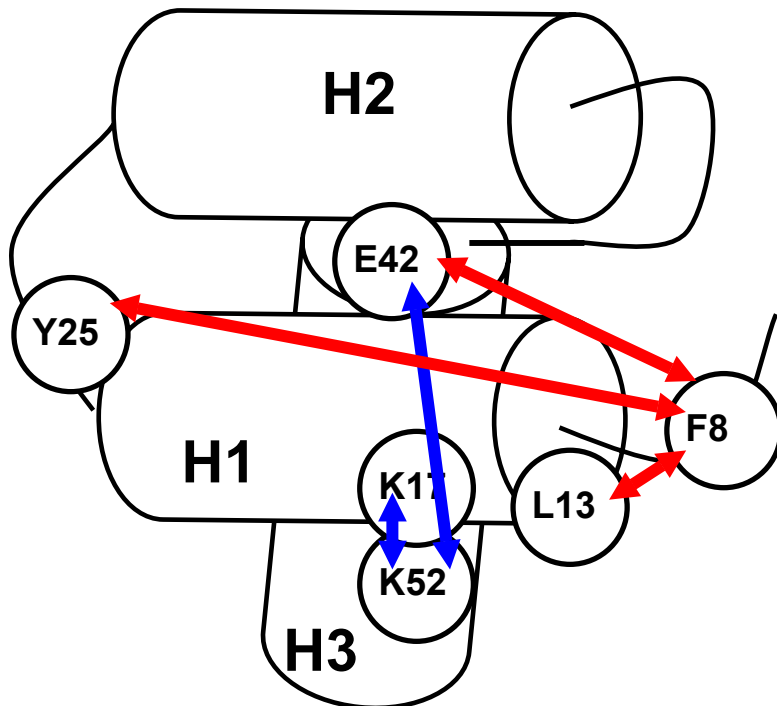
We may conclude, that Q_I is conserved due to co-adaptive substitutions.

SOME OF RESIDUES FROM GROUP I FORM SALT BRIDGES



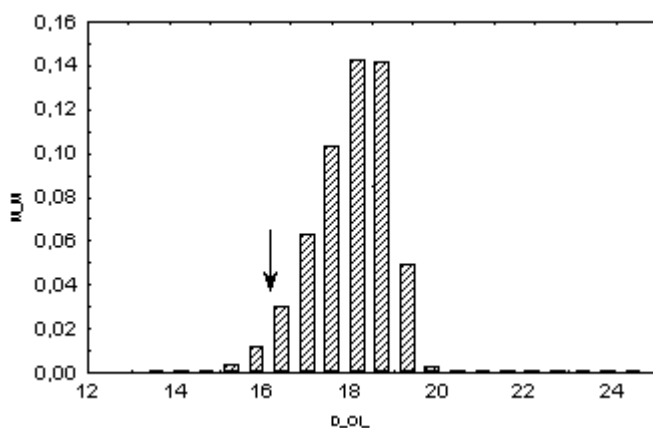
Salt bridges in 1HDC structure: R30–E19, E37–R15, and E19–R15.
Functional importance of Q1 characteristic: stabilization of H1-H2 helix packing.

ANALYSIS OF Q2 CHARACTERISTIC CONSTANCY



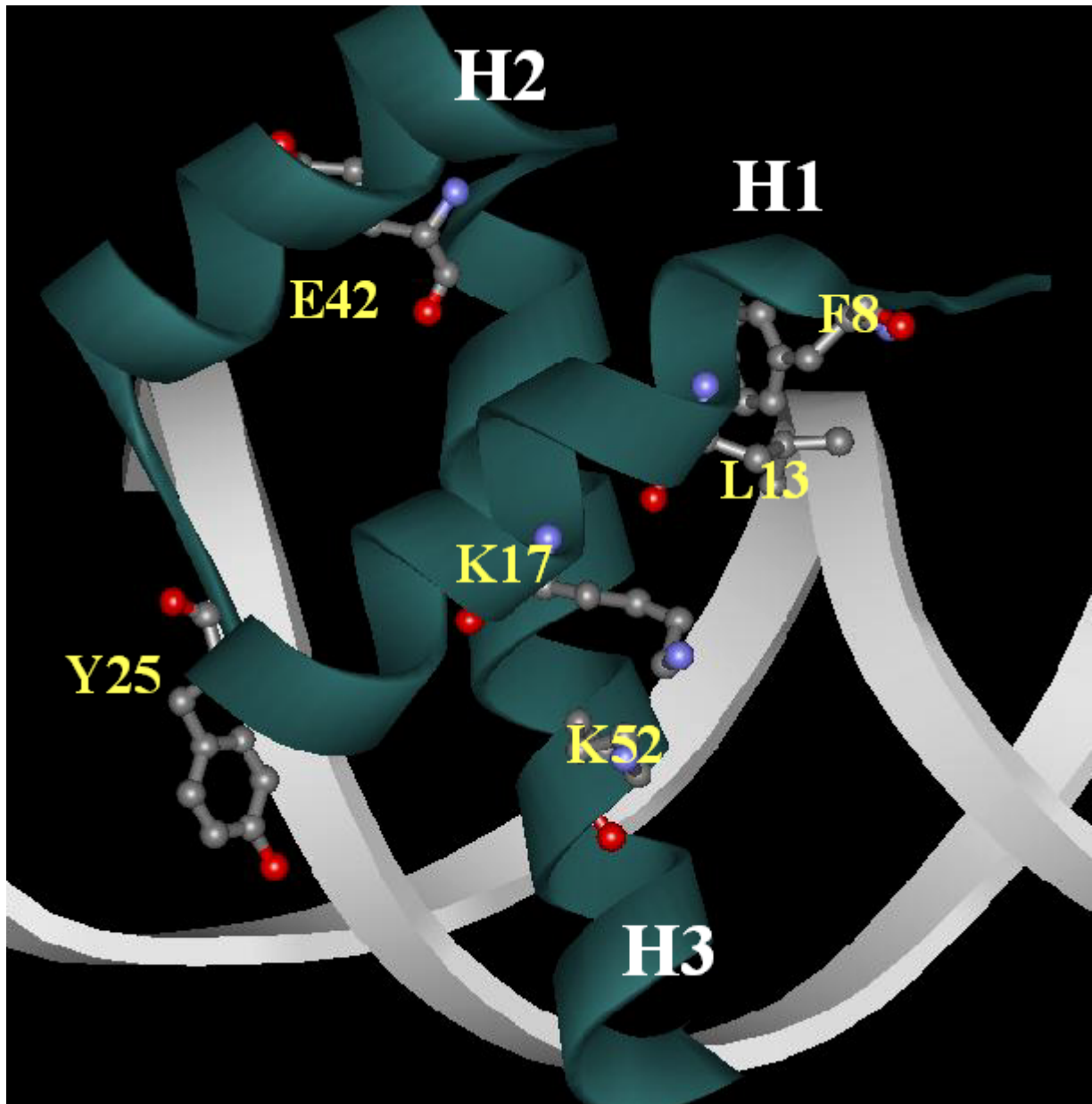
Proposed characteristic for cluster II positions:
 $Q_{II} = p_{I_{13}} + p_{I_{17}} + p_{I_{25}} + p_{I_{42}} + p_{I_{52}} - p_{I_8}$

F	$D(F)$	$D_{EXP}(F)$	$D_{RND}(F),$ <i>mean</i>	$N(D_{RND}(F) > D(F))$
Q_{II}	16.181	18.939	18.996	98339



Distribution of $D_{rnd}(F)$ in 100000 samples and the value of $D(F)$ (arrow)
 Significance, estimated from the F-distribution of the D_{exp}/D ratio: $99\% > P > 95\%$.

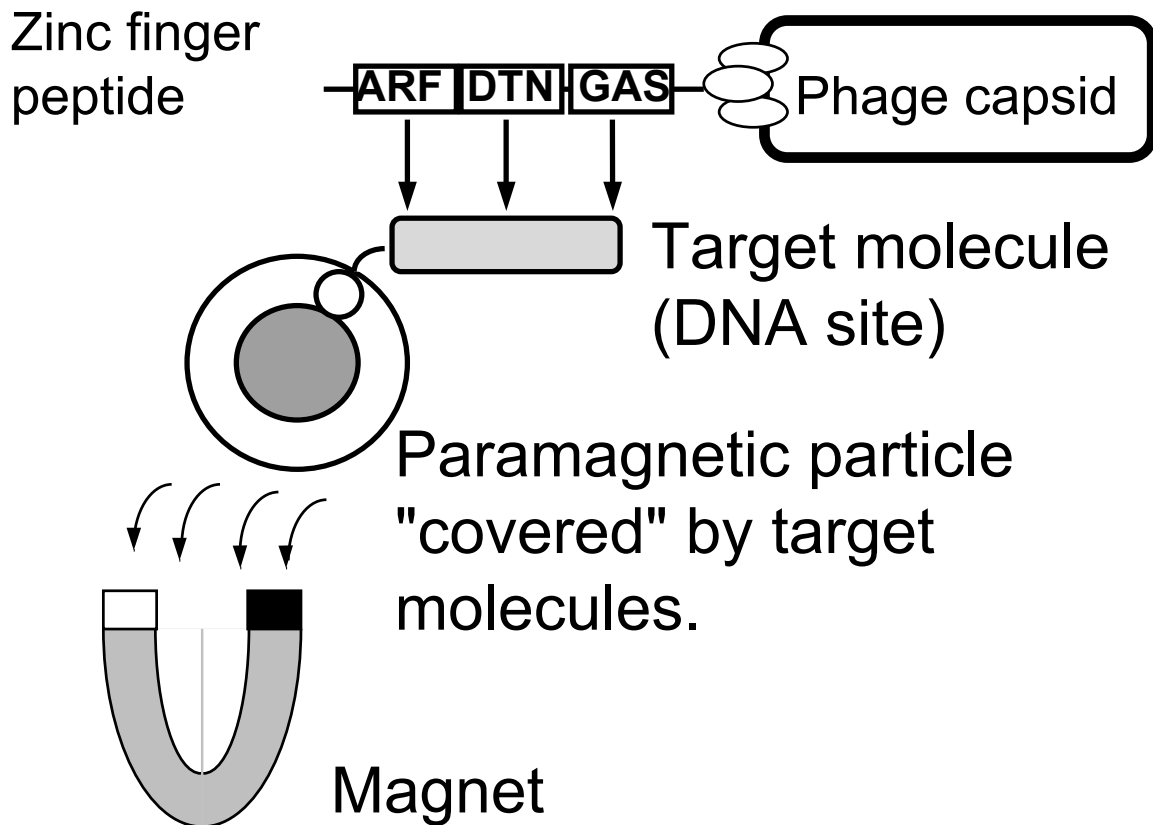
RESIDUES FROM GROUP II ARE CLOSE TO DNA BACKBONE



Proposed function: Interaction with DNA; providing for an appropriate DNA - protein orientation.

ANALYSIS OF SEQUENCE ALIGNMENTS FROM PHAGE DISPLAY EXPERIMENTS

Scheme of *in vitro* selection experiment.



ASPD- Artificially Selected Peptides Database.



ASPD (Artificial Selected Proteins/Peptides Database) is a curated database on selected from randomized pools proteins and peptides. Database access is realised by means of SRS system (Sequence Retrieval System). ASPD is integrated by means of hyperlinks with different databases (SWISS-PROT, PDB, PROSITE ...).

ACCESS
to ASPD

SRS ACCESS: [ASPD_ALIGN](#) [ASPD_REF](#)
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Current release

ASPD is updated on a regular basis.
 The current release has 103 entries and was indexed
 06-Oct-2000.

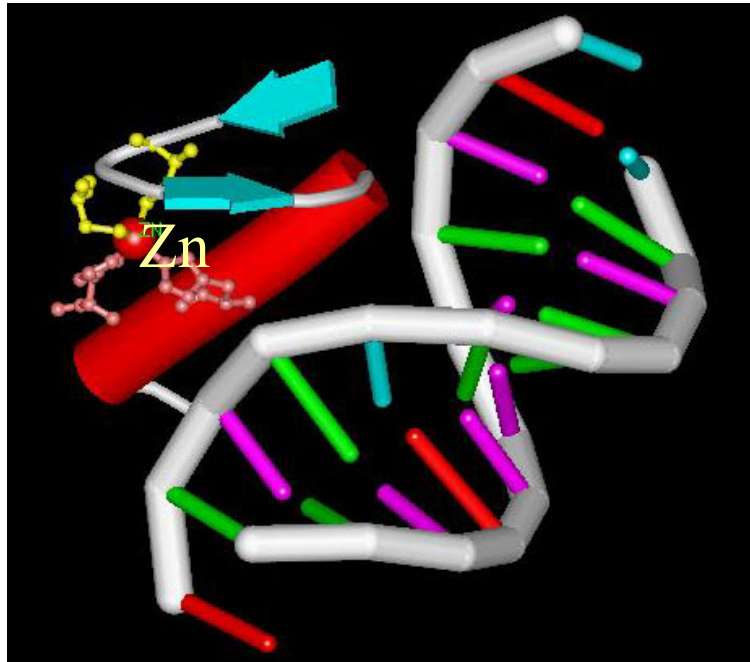
User's guide

[Brief manual on the database ASPD](#)

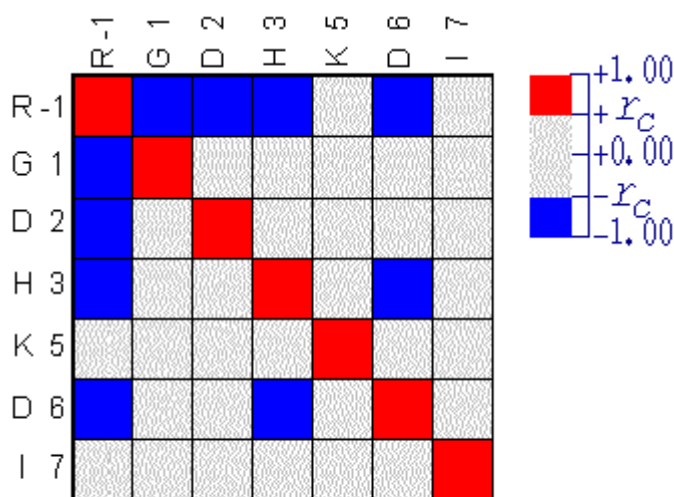
Additional information

[Blast search ASPD database](#)
[ASPD substitution matrix](#)
[Correlations values of the ASPD substitution matrix with other matrices](#)
[ASPD amino acid composition](#)

CORRELATION ANALYSIS OF C2H2 ZINC-FINGER



CO-ADAPTIVE SUBSTITUTIONS: ISOELECTRIC POINT VALUES

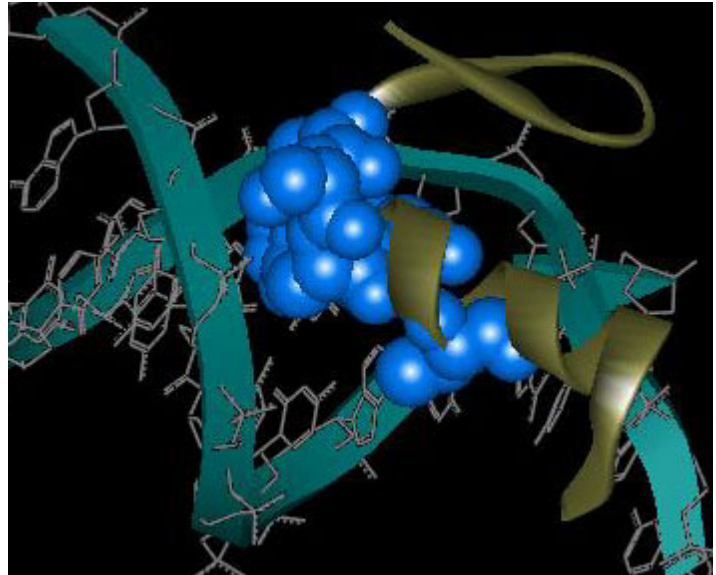
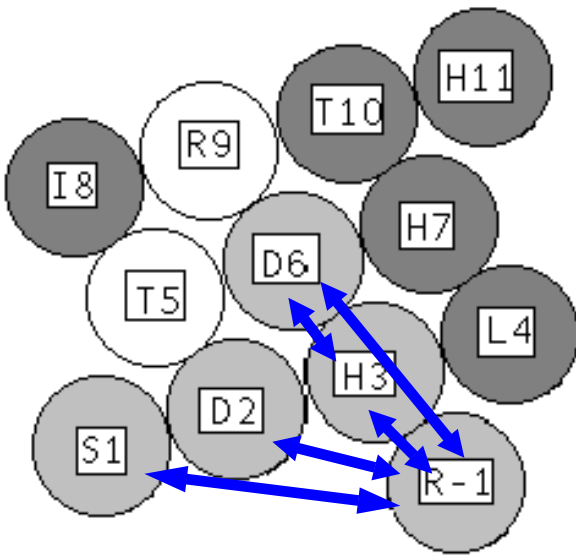
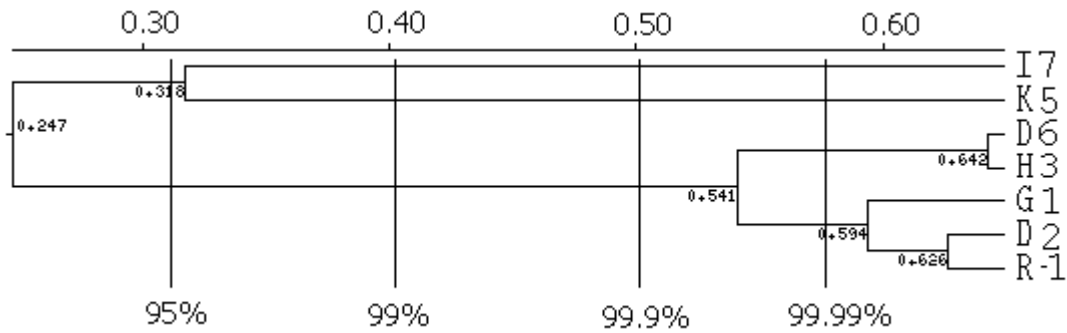


45 non-identical sequences from Choo & Klug experiments were analyzed. Position numbering is relative to α -helix first residue.

Partial Correlation $r_c = 0.40$
Isoelectric point

DETECTION AND ANALYSIS OF CORRELATION NETWORK

Hierarchical clustering diagram



a). Structure of the correlation network: alpha helical projection of residues. Cluster residues in light gray color. Invariant residues in dark gray color. All significant correlation are negative (blue).

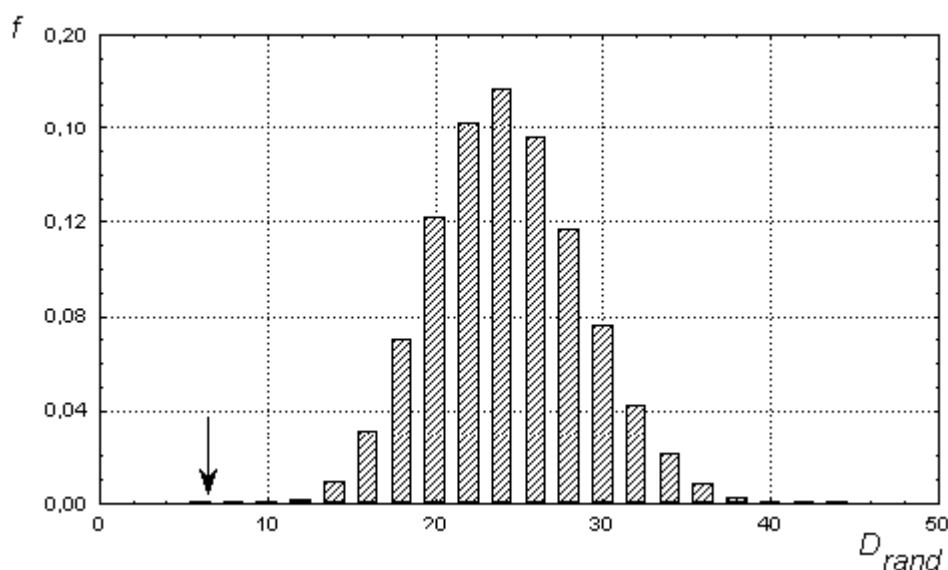
b) Spatial location of residues from detected cluster.

Proposed conserved integral characteristic:

$$Q = pl_{-1} + pl_1 + pl_2 + pl_3 + pl_6.$$

ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTANCY OF PROPOSED CHARACTERISTIC

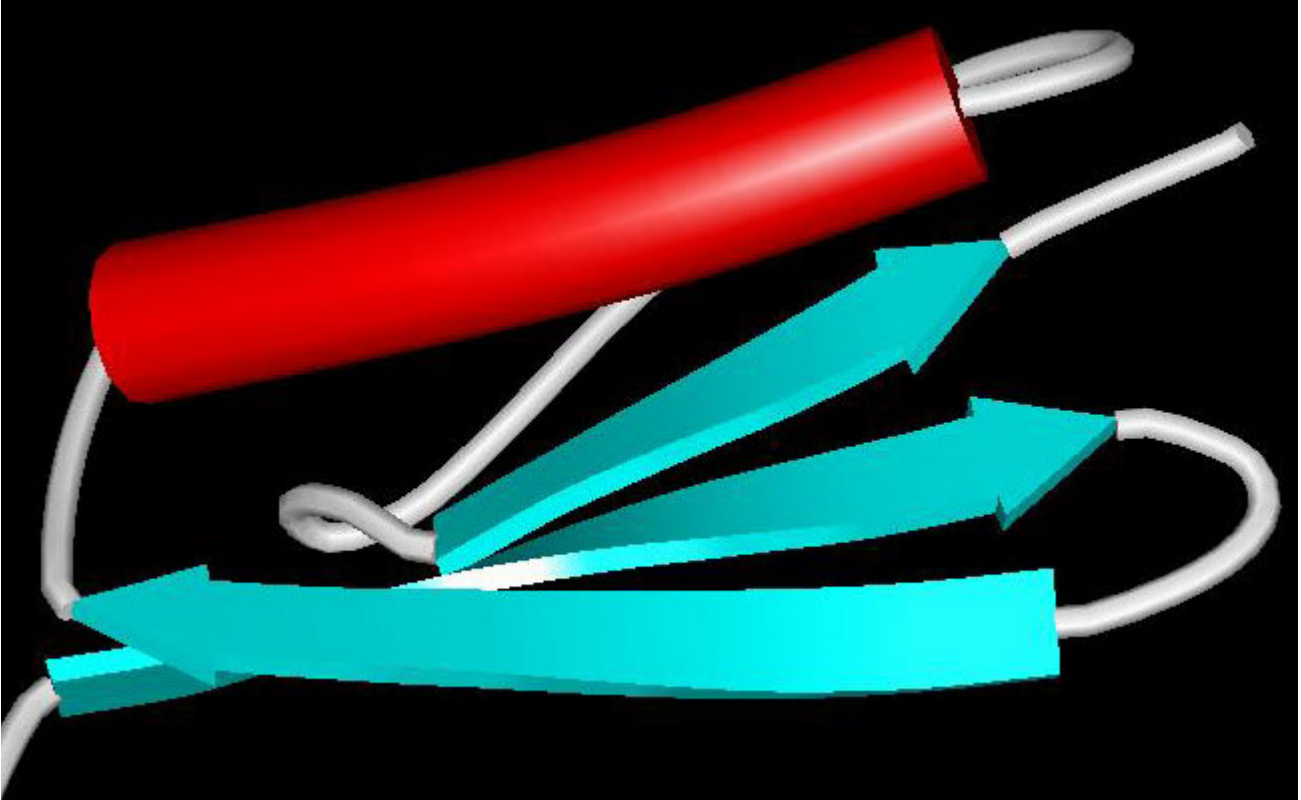
F	$D(F)$	$D_{EXP}(F)$	$D_{RND}(F),$ <i>mean</i>	$N(D_{RND}(F) > D(F))$
Q	6.5	24.91	24.4	100000



Distribution of $D_{rand}(F)$ in 100000 samples and the value of $D(F)$ (arrow). Significance, estimated from the F-distribution of the D_{exp}/D ratio: $P > 99\%$.

Possible role of the characteristic Q: unspesific electrostatic interaction with DNA , anchoring the helix into the major groove.

ANALYSIS OF THE Ig BINDING DOMAIN (PHAGE DISPLAY DATA)

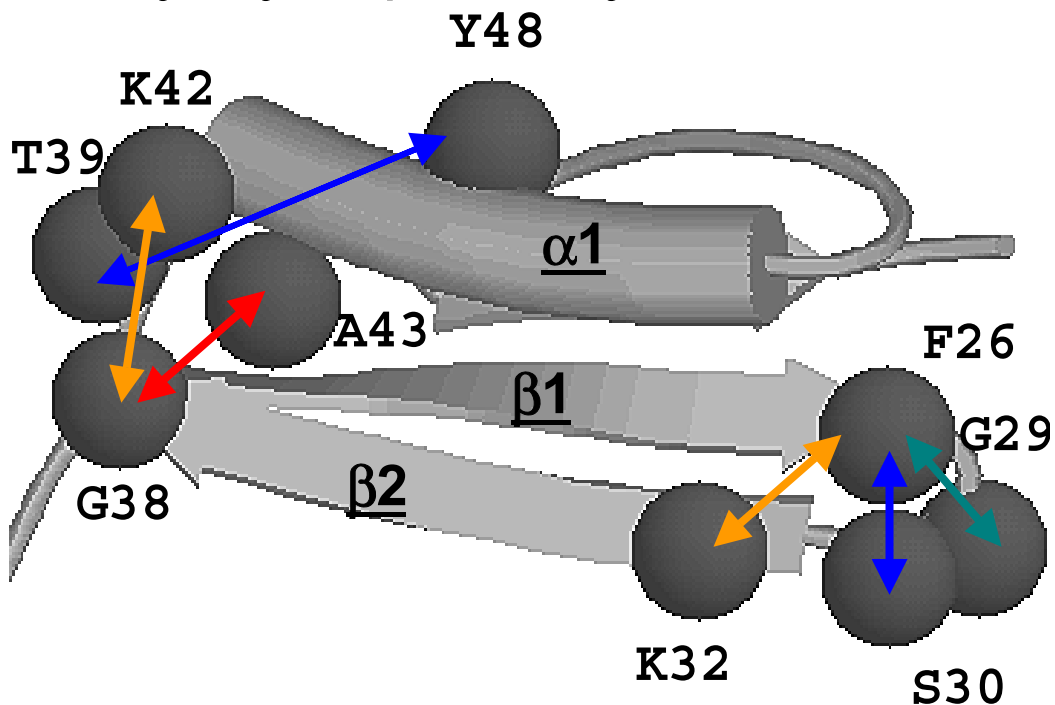








Sequences were selected by fast and correct folding. Two sequence alignments were analysed:

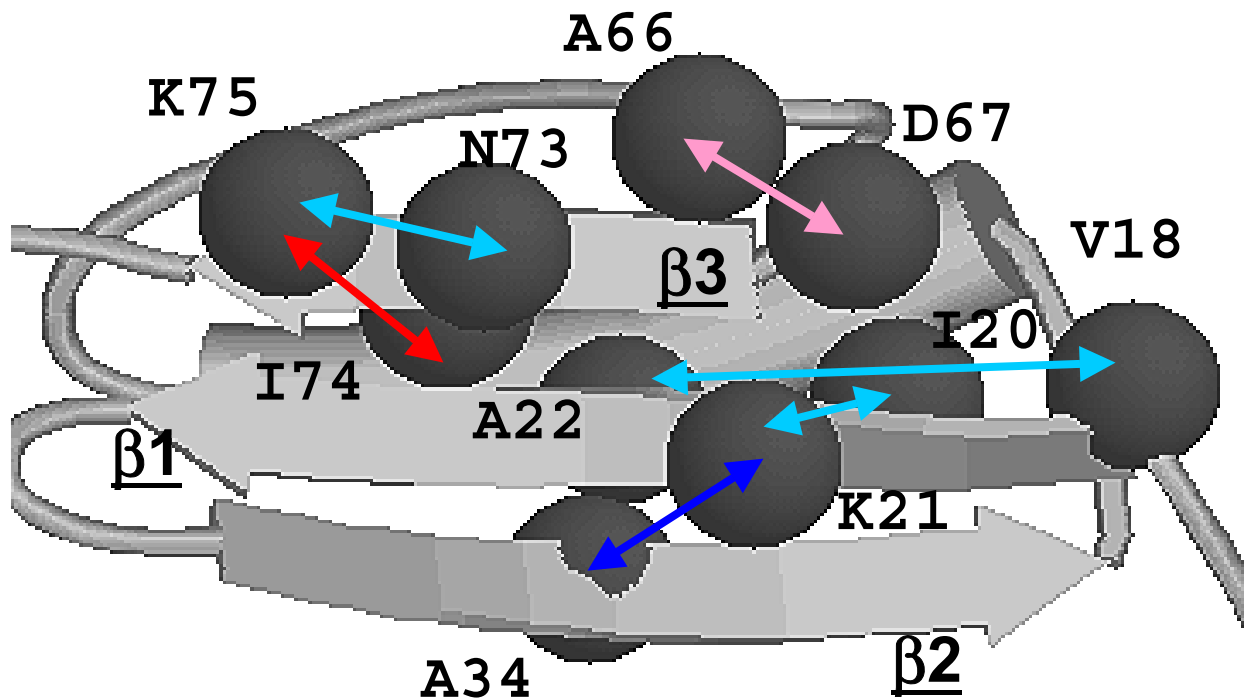
- Gu H., Yi Q., Bray S.T., Riddle D.S., Shiau A.K., Baker,D. Protein Sci. 1995. V. 4, P. 1108-1117.
- Kim D.E., Gu H., Baker D., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 1998. V. 95, P. 4982-4986.

RESULTS OF THE CORRELATION ANALYSIS OF THE Ig BINDING DOMAIN

Tested physico-chemical characteristics:
side chain volume; isoelectric point;
polarity; hydrophobicity.



-  Isoelectric point, negative
-  Isoelectric point, positive
-  Volume, negative
-  Hydrophobicity, negative
-  Hydrophobicity, positive
-  Polarity, positive



Possible function of these interactions:
 stabilize protein fold, providing for the proper
 packing of secondary structure elements.

THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF CORRELATED NETWORKS IN PROTEINS.

- **mutational flexibility of the protein in the course of its molecular evolution**
- **the network could form a "collective protein position" subjected to the selective pressure and reflecting global structural and functional features of proteins**

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