### Intrinsically accessible motions enable Optimal binding of substrate or drugs



Conformational flexibility + sequence variability mediates substrate selectivity

**Two conformations of P450-CYP2B4: open** (orange) with a large substrate (bifonazole, red), and

**closed** (light blue) with the smaller substrate 4-(4-chlorophenyl) imidazole (blue)

See.

N. Tokuriki and D. S. Tawfik (2009) Science 324: 203-207



### Sequence evolution an information-theoretic approach

Residue index



Information entropy (Shannon, 1951)

$$S(i) = \sum_{x_i=1}^{20} P(x_i) \log \frac{1}{P(x_i)}$$

Mutual information (MI)  $I(i, j) = \sum_{x_i=1}^{20} \sum_{y_j=1}^{20} P(x_i, y_j) \log \frac{P(x_i, y_j)}{P(x_i)P(y_j)}$ 

for correlated mutations analysis (CMA)

### **Mutual Information** without the influence of phylogeny

MIp - to eliminate random noise and phylogenetic components

$$MI_{p}(i,j) = I(i,j) - APC$$

APC = Average product correction

=  $[I(i, x) I(j, x)] / \langle I(i, j) \rangle$ 

R			Ε	۷	Ν	
E			Κ	۷	Ν	
K			Ε	۷	Ν	
R			D	۷	S	
D			Κ	۷	S	
D			Κ	۷	S	
E			R	V	S	

where I(i, x) is the mean mutual information of column  $i = \sum j I(i, j)$ 

Dunn, Wahl and Gloor (2008) Bioinformatics 24: 333-340

# HIV-I protease correlated mutation analysis (CMA)



Dr. Ying Liu

Liu, Eyal & Bahar (2008) *Bioinformatics* 

### MDR mutations distinguished by CMA





## Summary

• two groups of correlated mutation sites

functional aspects	Structural location	structural dynamics
phylogenetic	exposed	mobile
multi-drug resistant	dimerization interface	restrained

Liu, Eyal & Bahar (2008) Bioinformatics 15, 1243.



## Questions:

- Are key mechanical sites (e.g. hinges) conserved?
- Is there any correlation between sequence variability and structural dynamics?
- How does the structure ensure substrate specificity *and* conformational adaptability?

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

### A systematic study of a set of enzymes



Liu Y, Bahar I (2012) "Sequence Evolution Correlates with Structural Dynamics" Mol Biol Evol 9, 2253-63



http://www.csb.pitt.edu/prody/tutorials/evol\_tutorial/index.html

## Correlation between sequence entropy & conformational mobility



Liu Y, Bahar I (2012) "Sequence Evolution Correlates with Structural Dynamics" Mol Biol Evol 9, 2253-63

### Mobility increases with sequence entropy



Liu & Bahar Mol Biol Evol (2012)

### Hinge sites are evolutionarily conserved

despite their moderate-to-high exposure to environment



MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

AND EVOLUTION

Liu & Bahar Mol Biol Evol (2012)

3 Amino acids involved in intermolecular recognition are distinguished by their co-evolution propensities 292 262 D183 232 E182 202 R282 172 F279 R276 142 172 202 232 262 292 142 266 271 276 281 286 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2

Liu Y, Bahar I (2012) "Sequence Evolution Correlates with Structural Dynamics" Mol Biol Evol 9, 2253-63

## Amino acids involved in intermolecular recognition are distinguished by their high global mobility

3



Liu Y, Bahar I (2012) "Sequence Evolution Correlates with Structural Dynamics" Mol Biol Evol 9, 2253-63

### Summary

#### Four types of functional sites

Functional site	Mobility in global modes	Sequence evolution	Dominant Feature	
Chemical (catalytic, ligand binding)	Minimal	Conserved	high fidelity, precision	
Core	Minimal	Conserved	high stability	
Hinge sites	Minimal	Conserved	rotational flexibility	
Substrate recog- nition (specific)		High co-evolution propensity	adaptability	

Liu & Bahar Mol Biol Evol (2012); Liu, Gierasch & Bahar, PLoS Comp Bio (2010)

## There are several methods for evaluating sequence co-evolution

Mao W, Kaya C, Dutta A, Horovitz A, Bahar I (2015) <u>Comparative Study of the Effectiveness and Limitations of Current Methods</u> <u>for Detecting Sequence Coevolution</u> *Bioinformatics* **pii**: btv103PMID: 25697822

Four possible outcomes:

- True positive (TP) correctly predicted to be a hit
- False positive (FP); predicted but it is a miss
- True negative (TN) correctly predicted to be a miss
- False negative (FN) predicted as a miss, but is a hit

# Two criteria for assessing the performance of different methods







Intermolecular signals: 6.69% Intramolecular signals: 93.31%



3D contact-making pairs

 Maximizing true positives (signals between contact making residues

## Screening of large databases

### For testing 9 methods, including

- observed-minus-expected-squared ((OMES) (Kass and Horovitz, 2002)
   statistical coupling analysis (SCA) (Halabi et al., 2009; Lockless and Ranganathan, 1999).
- Direct Coupling Analysis (DCA or DI for Direct Information) (Morcos et al., 2011; Weigt et al., 2009),
- Protein Sparse Inverse COVariance (PSICOV) (Jones et al., 2012),

## PSICOV and DI are the best



Average performance of the nine methods based on two criteria, absence of intermolecular FPs (a), and fraction of 3D contact making pairs (b) among different subsets of top-ranking signals. The signals are classified to 3 groups: strong coevolution signals (0.1-0.5%), intermediate signals (0.5-5%) and relatively weak signals (5-20%), which also refer to relatively small, intermediate, and high coverage of coevolving pairs. PSICOV and DI outperform other methods in the strong coevolution region. For the intermediate signal, OMES and MIp exhibit performances similar to PSICOV and DI in panel **a**. MIp<sup>(S)</sup> shows the best performance in the weak signal regime. SCA and MI (and its shuffled version) have lower performance compared to all others for both criteria over the whole range.

# Allosteric communication mechanisms explored by network models

Diffusion of signal obeys a Markov process

The structure is modeled as a network

Network connectivity given by  $\Gamma$ 

References

Laplacian based manifold methods (Belkin & Niyogi)

Chennubhotla & Bahar Mol Systems Biology (2006); PLoS Comp Bio (2007)



### **Markov Model of Network Communication**

 $\Gamma = D - A$  where A = connectivity/affinity matrix and D = diagonal matrix of degrees

A discrete-time, discrete-state Markov process is defined by setting the conditional probability of signal transduction from residue *j* to *i* as

 $m_{ij} = a_{ij} / d_j$ 

The conditional probability matrix  $\mathbf{M} = \{m_{ij}\}$ , also called the Markov transition matrix, is

 $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{D}^{-1}$ 

M completely defines the stochastics of information transfer over the network of residues.

## Hitting time: a measure of communication efficiency between two endpoints

#### Based on all possible pathways

path	# of steps	Path Probability
j  ightarrow i	1	0.5
$j \rightarrow k \rightarrow j \rightarrow i$	3	$0.5^{2}$
$\left  j \rightarrow k \rightarrow j \rightarrow k \rightarrow j \rightarrow i \right $	5	$0.5^{3}$



$$H(j,i) = 1 \times 0.5 + 3 \times 0.5^2 + \dots = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (2j-1) \times 0.5^j, = 3.$$

$\operatorname{path}$	# of steps	Path Probability
$i \rightarrow j \rightarrow k$	2	0.5
$i \to j \to i \to j \to k$	4	$0.5^{2}$
$i \to j \to i \to j \to i \to j \to k$	6	$0.5^{3}$

$$H(k,i) = 2 \times 0.5 + 4 \times 0.5^2 + \dots = 2\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j \times 0.5^j = 4.$$

P(t) = M P(0), where  $M = AD^{-1}$  is the conditional prob matrix for signal diffusion

### Fluctuations as determinant of communication



Chennubhotla & Bahar (2007) *PLoS Comp Bio* 



#### **Communication times**





Nadler, Lafon, Kevrekidis & Coifman (2005) Diffusion Maps, Spectral Clustering and Eigenfunctions of Fokker-Planck Operators, NIPS 18; Coifman et al (2005) PNAS 102, 7426.

#### Active sites are distinguished by effective communication properties



Chennubhotla & Bahar (2007) PLoS Comp Bio



## CONCLUSION





Proteins are designed to favor functional changes in their structure. Pre-existing soft modes facilitate substrate binding.

Collective mechanics/allosteric dynamics are mediated by conserved residues

The intrinsic motions confer enhanced flexibility at substrate recognition sites

Correlated mutations at recognition sites enable substrate specificity while conferring conformational adaptability

Accurate modeling of protein dynamics is essential to assessing target druggability

## **Mechanics vs chemistry?**

How does complexity scale with size of the system?

Residues Proteins Dominance of molecular machinery 10  $10^{2}$ 103 2-10 33Å 104 10 - 100184 Å microtubule

Increasing specificity/chemistry)



## DISCUSSION



Different tools for different time/length windows: MD cannot explore long-time processes for multimeric systems; ANM does not incorporate detailed atomic forces

Not all evolutionarily correlated sites refer to structural or dynamic correlations

Accurate modeling of protein dynamics is essential to computer-aided drug discovery, but not sufficient for quantitative evaluation of binding affinity

Druggability simulations identify druggable sites, but not the type of drugs that optimally bind those sites

