CASP 13
Assembly assessment
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Biological assembly of targets

- The *Ground Truth* is not always 100% clear when talking about biological assemblies of crystal structures (still most structures, 7 EM out of 42 targets)

- Assessors did not always have the structures at time of assignment

- Most of the times authors did not provide experimental evidence for the quaternary structure
Biological assembly of targets: assignment

- EPPIC\(^1\) used as main method to find most likely bioassemblies (when structure available)
  - Evaluation of all possible assemblies in crystal. Predictions include confidence values
  - Scoring based on evolutionary conservation of interfaces

- Other methods used: PISA, structural homologs

\(^1\) Bliven et al, PLoS Comp Biol, 2018
http://eppic-web.org
Biological assembly of targets: assignment

- Structure available?
  - Yes → X-ray?
  - Yes → Run EPPIC
    - High confidence prediction?
      - Yes → Final assignment
      - No → Run PISA, check structural homologs, ask authors
  - No → HHpred to find PDB templates
- No (EM) → HHpred to find PDB templates
- X-ray?
  - Yes → Run EPPIC
    - High confidence prediction?
      - Yes → Final assignment
      - No → Run PISA, check structural homologs, ask authors
  - No → Good matches with QS consensus?
    - Yes → Final assignment
    - No → Final assignment. Low confidence
- Consensus?
  - Yes → Final assignment
  - No → Final assignment. Low confidence
Some difficult cases

- **T0995 (assignment A8)**
  - Helical assembly: stoichiometry assignment subjective.
  - We decided A8. But A2 or A4 would have been reasonable choices too

- **T0966 (assignment A2)**
  - Large dimeric interface 1700 Å² not very well packed.
  - Bad EPPIC scores (indicating monomer). PISA says monomer
  - A subdomain covering only a small region from the full length protein
  - No experimental evidence provided. Kept A2 from authors assignment.

- **T1018 (assignment A2)**
  - EPPIC: dimer medium confidence. PISA: dimer.
  - Structural homologs both monomers and dimers (a feature of that family, following literature)

- **T0985**
  - Released as A1, structure wasn’t available
  - Clear A2 (once structure became available)
  - Excluded from our assessment, even though some groups submitted good predictions
Target difficulty: easy

- Templates with the same quaternary structure can be detected by sequence similarity (HHPred)

- T0961o (A4)
  - 4Y9J

- H0974 (A1B1)
  - CASP: Image redacted

- T0977o (A3)
  - 5EFV

- 1Y7Y (C2 homodimer)
Target difficulty: medium

- No assembly template is easily found, (partial) templates for subunits, (partial) interface templates are available

T0999 (A2): all domains and most of the interfaces available, but fragmented. The structure needs to be puzzled together

T0976 (A2): the best assembly template is a monomer. Possible domain swap.

T0981 (A3): assembly template for ¼ of the structure, individual domains for the rest.

CASP: Image redacted

[Images of protein structures: 1YT8, 5M9F]
Target difficulty: hard

- No or negligible amount of information available on the subunits and assembly

T0989 (A3)

H0953 (A3B1)

H0986 (A1B1)

H1021 (A6B6C6): partial templates available, but the total assembly is huge

CASP: Image redacted
Scores

Interface/local:
- Interface Contact Score (F1)
- Interface Patch Score (Jaccard)

Assembly/global:
- Oligomeric IDDT
- Oligomeric GDT
Scores: per target overview

* Naive predictor: Seok-naive_assembly (thanks Seok group!)
Group ranking - methodology

- Interface Patch Score (Jaccard), Interface Contact Score (F1), IDDT (oligo) and GDT (oligo)
  - normalised to Z-scores
  - equal weights
  - $\text{Sum}(Z_i) > 0$ only

- Leave-one-out cross-validation performed on the scoring, groups ordered by mean score
  - Scoring by difficulty and stacking the results does not change the overall ranking
  - Excluding targets with poor predictions and small score variance (e.g. H0980, H0968, H0986) does not change the ranking
Group ranking - CASP groups, all targets

366 Venclovas
068 Seok
086 Baker
344 Kiharalab
329 D-Haven

1. Regular: 19th
2. Regular: 36th
3. Regular: 20th
4. 
6. 
Group ranking - CAPRI targets only, all groups

366 Venclovas
086 Baker
068 Seok
230 FernandezRecio
155 ZouTeam
Comparison with CASP12

● **Organisation**
  ○ Oligomeric predictions have their own format
  ○ No accidental participation by predictors
  ○ No need to determine if a prediction is meant to be oligomeric

● **Participation**
  ○ Almost 5000 models submitted (CASP+CAPRI) vs. 1600 in CASP12
  ○ 45 groups in CASP13 vs 108 in CASP12
    ■ Some groups may have participated in this category by accident in CASP12
  ○ Targets
    ■ CASP13: 42 regular (12 heteromers), 16 data-assisted.
    ■ CASP12: 30 regular (8 heteromers), no data-assisted
Comparison with CASP12

Improvements across the board!
Prediction highlights: what went well

- Target: dimeric
- Each chain: 2 copies of same domain (CATH 3.40.250.10, oxidized rhodanese)
- Plenty of templates for the domain
- Best template: 1YT8 monomeric, with central domain-domain interface very similar to dimeric interface of target
- Best model: 155_4 (CAPRI group). F1 (ICS) 39.8
Prediction highlights: what went well

- Huge complex A6B6C6 (798x6 residues)
- Partial templates: 6bdc (A6), 3j9q (6-fold ring with matching B chain and another molecule)
- 068_5: decent global assembly prediction
What did not go so well

- Very good template for monomer
- No templates for assembly or interface
- I.e. pure docking
- But! no good predictions

Weak dimer? Crystal contact?

We don’t know!
Quaternary is important for regular modelling

- Bad modelling in C-terminal for almost all regular groups
- Best model (043_1) folds C-terminal in
- Some assembly groups have decent models in the C-terminal (e.g. 086_1)
Quaternary is important for regular modelling

- Overall bad predictions (best GDT_TS 37.16)
- Homodimer with very large interface (3300 Å²)
- 366 (best assembly group) is best prediction (GDT_TS 37.16, QCS 69.00). Pretty good from manual inspection.
- Next best prediction (214_1) is good in N-terminal but the helix in C-terminal is folded in T0991-D1
Quaternary is important for regular modelling

There are a few more examples:

● T0998 (mentioned in Multicom’s presentation)
● T0973 (mentioned in Zhang’s group and Seok’s talk). TBM-easy target!
● H0957
● T0981
● T0989 (mentioned in Read’s talk as a problem in refinement)

**Question:** can quaternary modelling become mainstream? What are the obstacles?

About half of the targets were oligomeric (representative of the PDB)
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