

B Cell Epitope Prediction

tools.iedb.org

Presented by: Bjoern Peters, PI

Outline of topics

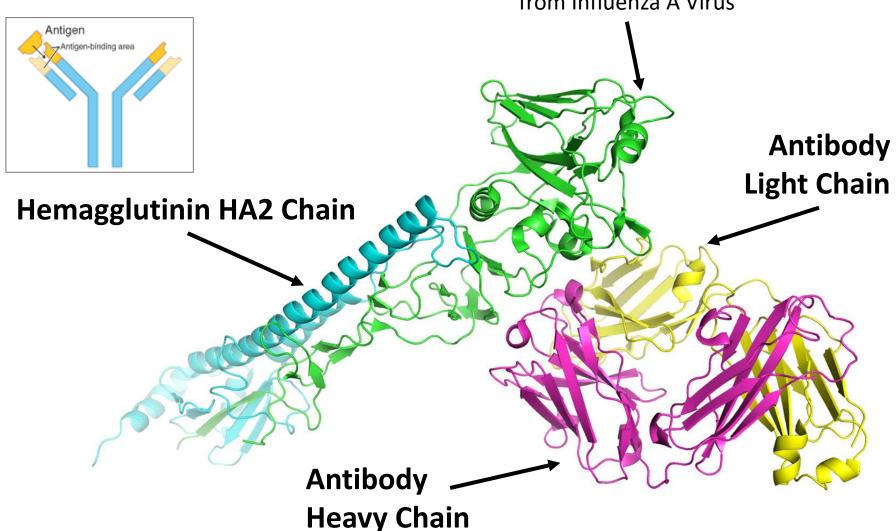
- 1. B cell epitope biology recap
- Prediction tools on IEDB
- 3. Linear sequence-based epitope prediction methods
- 4. Discontinuous 3D structure-based epitope prediction methods
- Computational antibody design
 - a. Antigen and Antibody structure modelling
 - b. Antibody-protein docking

Example: Ab binding HA1

Antigen

PDB ID: 1E08

Hemagglutinin HA1 Chain from Influenza A Virus



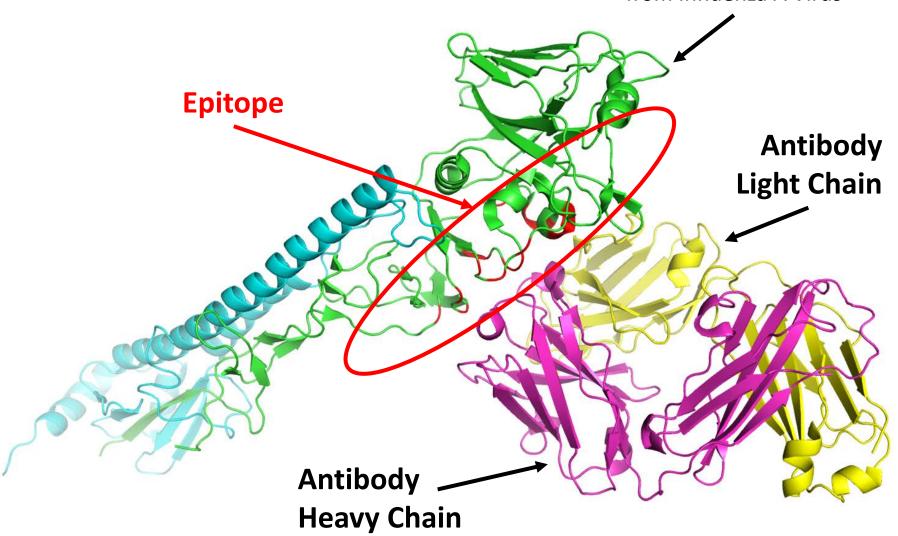
3

Discontinuous epitope

PDB ID: 1E08

Antigen

Hemagglutinin HA1 Chain from Influenza A Virus

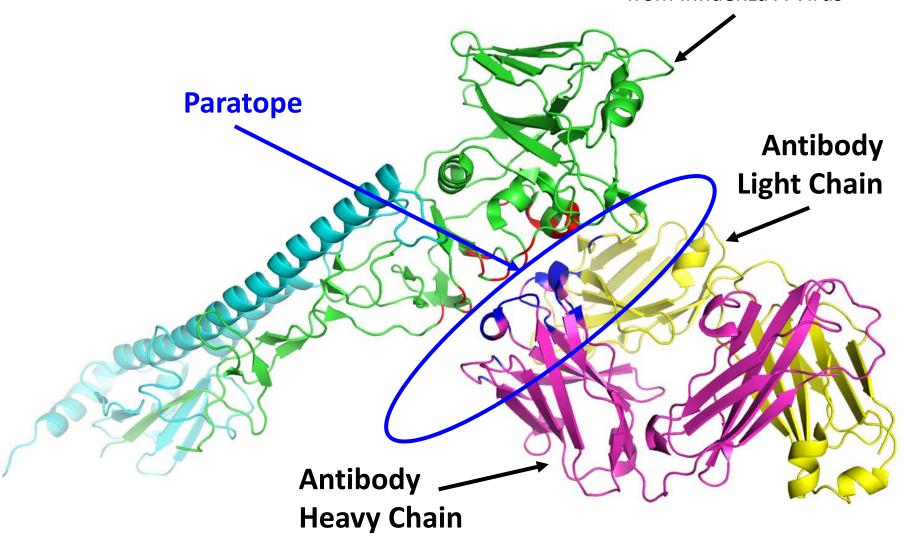


Discontinuous epitope

PDB ID: 1E08

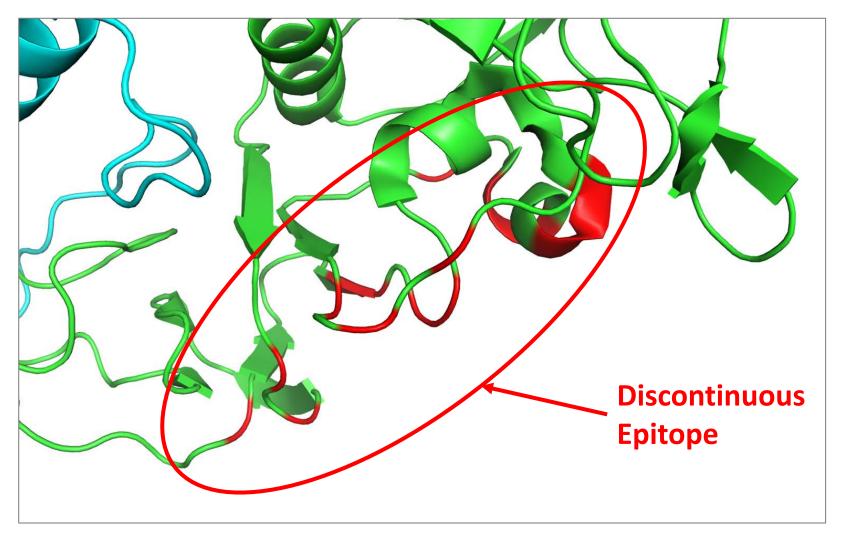
Antigen

Hemagglutinin HA1 Chain from Influenza A Virus

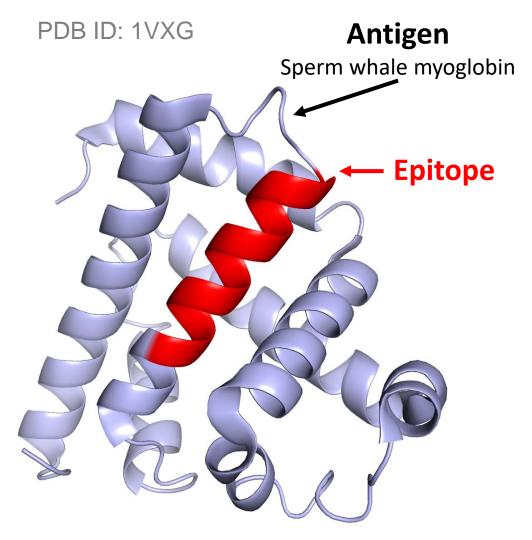


Discontinuous epitope

PDB ID: 1E08



B cell epitopes



- Protein antigens usually contain both linear & discontinuous epitopes
 - "Linear" aka sequential or continuous
 - "Discontinuous" aka nonsequential or conformational epitopes
- More than 90% of the B cell epitopes are estimated to be discontinuous*

*Barlow et al, Nature. 1986. *Van Regenmortel, Methods. 1996.

B cell prediction tools on IEDB

http://tools.iedb.org/main/bcell/

IEDB Analysis Resource

Overview T Cell Tools B Cell Tools

Analysis Tools

Tools-API Usage

e Download

Datasets

Contribute Tools

References

B Cell Epitope Prediction Tools

B Cell Epitope Prediction

Prediction of linear epitopes from protein sequence

A collection of methods to predict linear B cell epitopes based on sequence characteristics of the antigen using amino acid scales and HMMs.

Discotope - Prediction of epitopes from protein structure

This method incorporates solvent-accessible surface area calculations, as well as contact distances into its prediction of B cell epitope potential along the length of a protein sequence.

ElliPro - Epitope prediction based upon structural protrusion

This method predicts epitopes based upon solvent-accessibility and flexibility.

Methods for modeling and docking of antibody and protein 3D structures

This page provides information on available methods for modeling and docking of antibody and protein 3D structures.

Structure Tools

LYRA (Lymphocyte Receptor Automated Modelling):

The LYRA server predicts structures for either T-Cell Receptors (TCR) or B-Cell Receptors (BCR) using homology modelling. Framework templates are selected based on BLOSUM score, and complementary determining regions (CDR) are then selected if needed based on a canonical structure model and grafted onto the framework templates.

SCEptRe: Structural Complexes of Epitope Receptor

SCEptRe provides weekly updated, non-redundant, user customized benchmark datasets with information on the immune receptor features for receptor-specific epitope predictions. This tool extracts weekly updated 3D complexes of antibody-antigen, TCR-pMHC and MHC-ligand from the Immune Epitope Database (IEDB) and clusters them based on antigens, receptors and epitopes to generate benchmark datasets. Users can customize structural quality and clustering parameters (e.g. resolution, R free factors, antigen or epitope sequence identity) to generate these datasets based on their need.

🔈: Tools under AR Labs which are experimental and are not quite ready for production yet. They are intended for further research, updates and testing.

5

Epitope prediction

When to use epitope prediction methods?

- You have verified thoroughly that <u>no information is</u> available in the IEDB on the antigen of your interest
- You <u>want to know all the candidate antigenic</u> determinants in an antigen of your interest other than epitopes provided in the IEDB

Sequence-based epitope prediction

Linear epitope prediction:

- Amino acid physicochemical properties-based methods
 - Features which have been correlated with the location of continuous epitopes
 - **β**-Turns (*Chou & Fasman*)
 - Surface Accessibility (Emini)
 - Flexibility (Karplus & Schulz)
 - Antigenic propensity: occurrence of residues in epitopes (Kolaskar & Tongaonkar)
 - Hydrophilicity (*Parker*)
- Only provide information on protein regions which are likely to be accessible for antibody binding

Linear epitope prediction

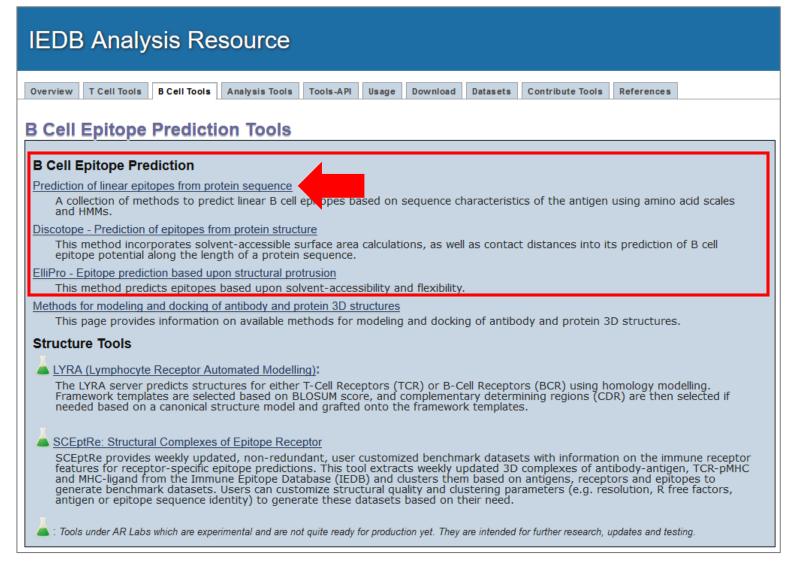
Linear epitope prediction methods:

- Machine learning algorithms
 - Positive and negative training datasets are used
 - Combination of one or more amino acid scales are used as an input to one of the machine learning algorithms
 - Random Forest (BepiPred-2.0)
 - ANN: Artificial Neural Network (ABCpred)
 - SVM: Support Vector Machine (BCpred, FBCpred)
 - Prediction accuracy is optimized

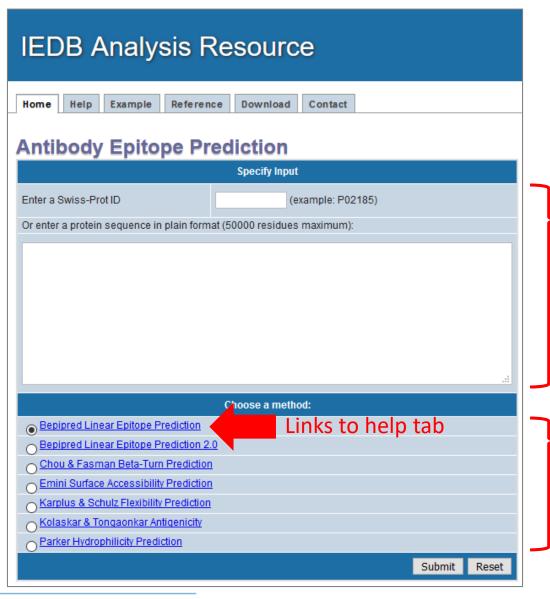
B cell prediction tools on IEDB

http://tools.iedb.org/main/bcell/

12



Linear B cell prediction



http://tools.iedb.org/bcell/

1. Input protein sequence

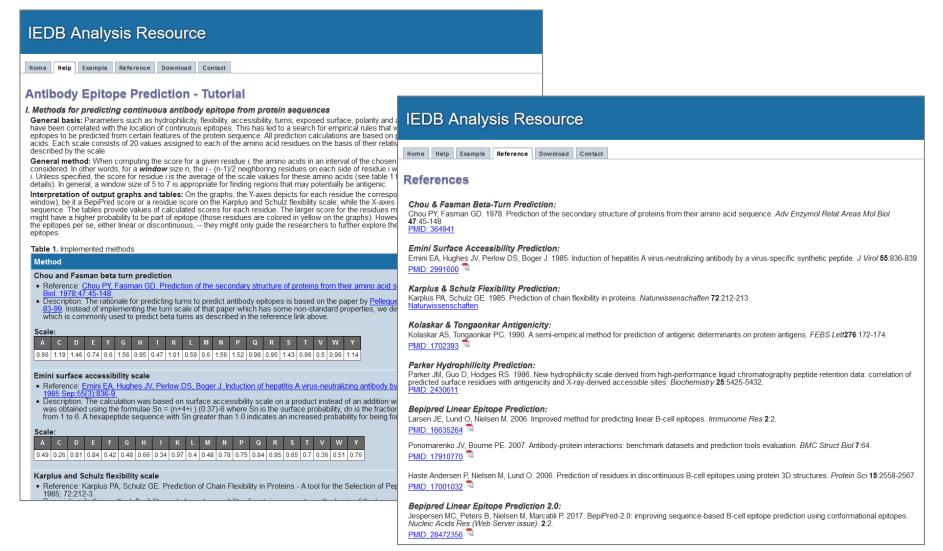
Entry allowed via Swiss-Prot ID or plain format

2. Select prediction method

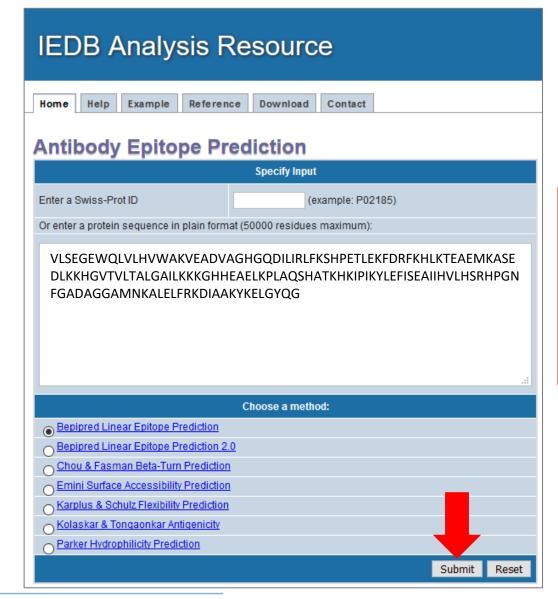
BepiPred is the default & recommended method

Visit Help & Reference tabs to learn about a prediction method

http://tools.iedb.org/bcell/



Linear B cell prediction -example

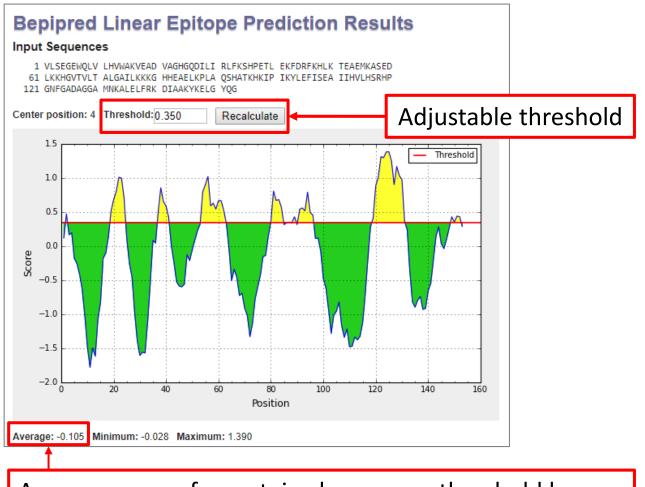


http://tools.iedb.org/bcell/

Example Sequence
Sperm Whale Myoglobin
Swiss-Prot ID P02185

Linear B cell prediction -example

http://tools.iedb.org/bcell/



Average score of a protein chosen as a threshold by default

Predic	Predicted peptides:				
No. ♦	Start \$	End 💠	Peptide	Length 🔷	
1	2	2	L	1	
2	19	24	ADVAGH	6	
3	37	41	PETLE	5	
4	54	62	EMKASEDLK	9	
5	80	84	GHHEA	5	
6	87	87	К	1	
7	89	89	L	1	
8	91	96	QSHATK	6	
9	119	131	HPGNFGADAGGAM	13	
10	149	152	LGYQ	4	

Predicted residue scores:

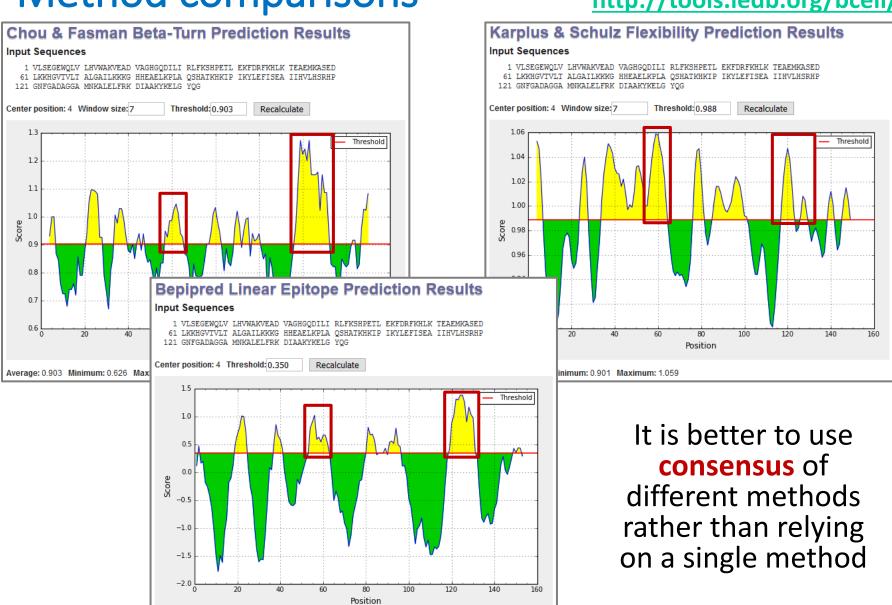
Position	Residue 🔷	Score \$	Assignment +
1	V	0.121	
2	L	0.476	Е
3	S	0.168	
4	E	0.198	
5	G	-0.180	
6	E	-0.255	
7	W	-0.412	
8	Q	-0.631	
9	L	-1.022	
10	V	-1.482	
11	L	-1.784	
12	Н	-1.496	
13	V	-1.619	
14	W	-1.079	
15	Α	-0.829	
16	К	-0.179	
17	V	-0.102	
18	Е	0.131	
19	А	0.516	Е
20	D	0.686	Е
21	V	0.805	Е
22	Α	1.015	Е
23	G	1.003	Е
24	Н	0.705	E

Method comparisons

Average: -0.105 Minimum: -0.028 Maximum: 1.390

2019 IEDB User Workshop

http://tools.iedb.org/bcell/



Sequence-based epitope prediction

Evaluation of amino acid scales: no method gave AUC

above 0.60

J Mol Recognit. 2007 Mar-Apr;20(2):75-82.

Towards a consensus on datasets and evaluation metrics for developing B-cell epitope prediction tools.

Greenbaum JA¹, Andersen PH, Blythe M, Bui HH, Cachau RE, Crowe J, Davies M, Kolaskar AS, Lund O, Morrison S, Mumey B, Ofran Y, Pellequer JL, Pinilla C, Ponomarenko JV, Raghava GP, van Regenmortel MH, Roggen EL, Sette A, Schlessinger A, Sollner J, Zand M, Peters B.

PMID: 17205610 DOI: 10.1002/jmr.815

3D Structures of Ab-Ag complexes

Methods for 3D structure determination:

- X-ray crystallography (provides the most accurate identification of epitopes)
- Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)
- Electron microscopy (EM)

Where to get 3D Ab-Ag complexes??

- IEDB 3D export (1790 3D BCR assays)
- → SCEptRe (for annotation and redundancy removal)

Where to get 3D coordinates of proteins?

Biomolecular 3D structural data is deposited into PDB (Protein Data Bank)

3D Structure-based epitope prediction

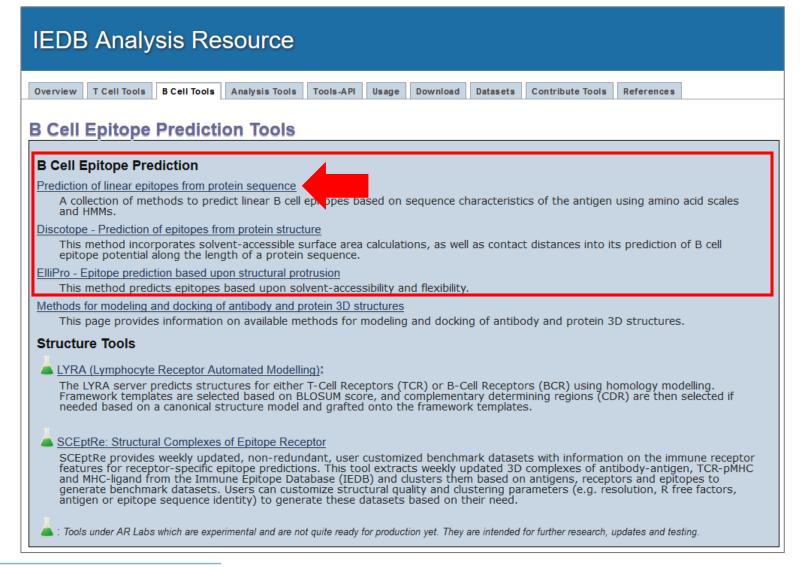
Discontinuous epitope prediction

- Structure-based epitope prediction using:
 - Geometrical properties combined with amino acid scales (DiscoTope, ElliPro, CEP)
 - Geometrical properties and amino acid scales used as input to machine learning approaches (EPSVR)
 - Protein-protein docking algorithms
- Sequence-based epitope prediction using
 - Machine learning approaches (CBTope)

B cell prediction tools on IEDB

http://tools.iedb.org/main/bcell/

21



DiscoTope

- Trained on 75 X-ray structures of antibody-protein complexes
- DiscoTope 2 took into account multiple epitopes in an antigen
- Assigns each residue a score value calculated as a linear combination of normalized values
 - Parker's hydrophilicity scale
 - Amino acid occurrence
 - Number of contacts within 10Å
 - Area of relative solvent accessibility
- AUC 0.71 for DiscoTope 1 and 0.73 for DiscoTope 2

Protein Sci. 2006 Nov;15(11):2558-67. Epub 2006 Sep 25.

Prediction of residues in discontinuous B-cell epitopes using

DiscoTope 2

protein 3D structures.

Haste Andersen P1, Nielsen M, Lund O.

PMID: 17001032 PMCID: PMC2242418 DOI: 10.1110/ps.062405906

DiscoTope 1

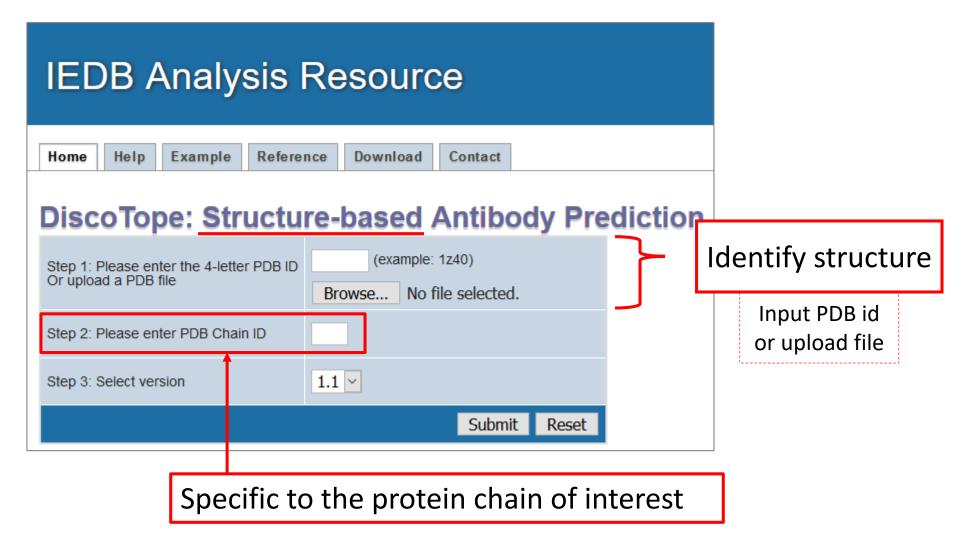
Reliable B cell epitope predictions: impacts of method

PLoS Comput Biol. 2012;8(12):e1002829. doi: 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002829. Epub 2012 Dec 27.

Kringelum JV¹, Lundegaard C, Lund O, Nielsen M.

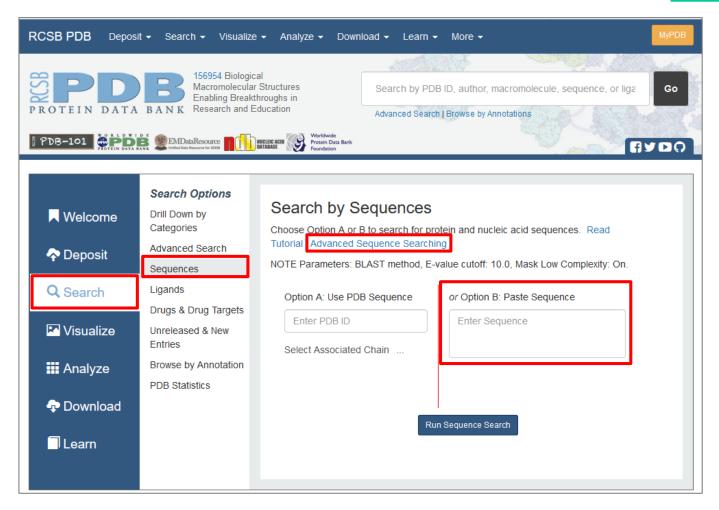
PMID: 23300419 PMCID: PMC3531324 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002829

development and improved benchmarking.



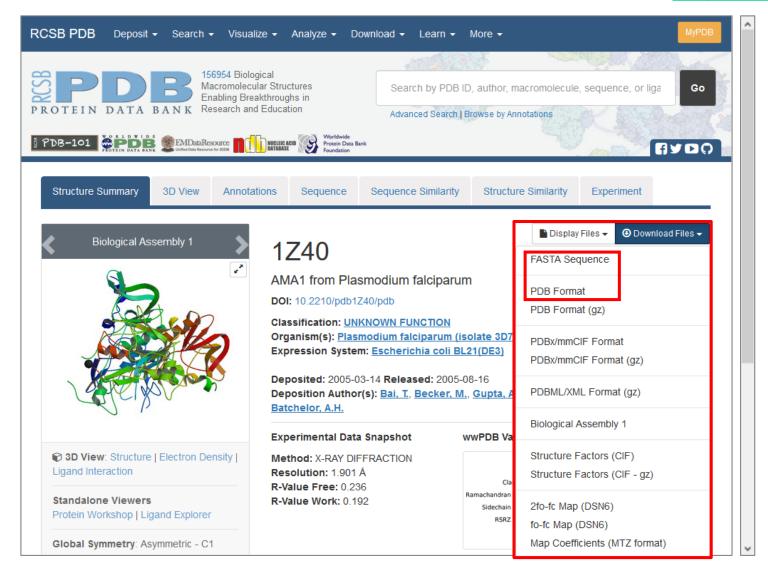
Search in PDB to identify inputs

http://www.rcsb.org/



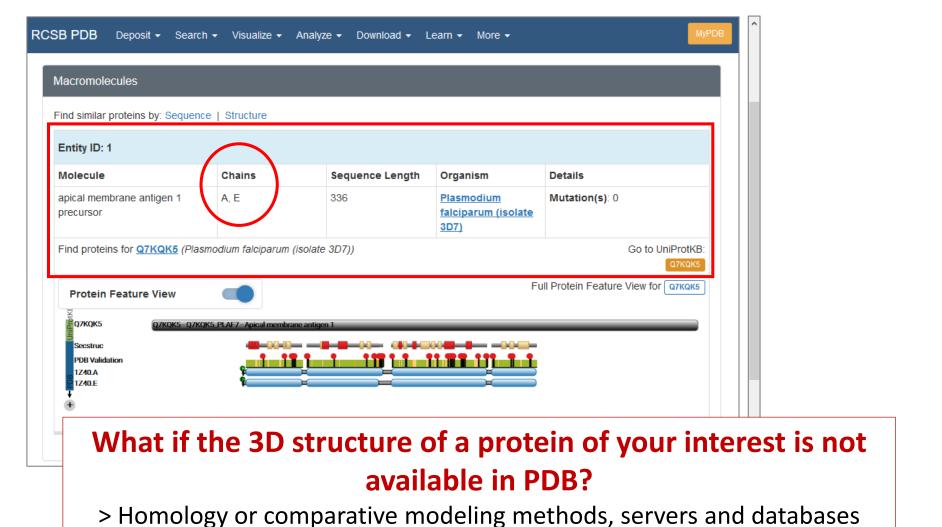
Search in PDB to identify inputs

http://www.rcsb.org/

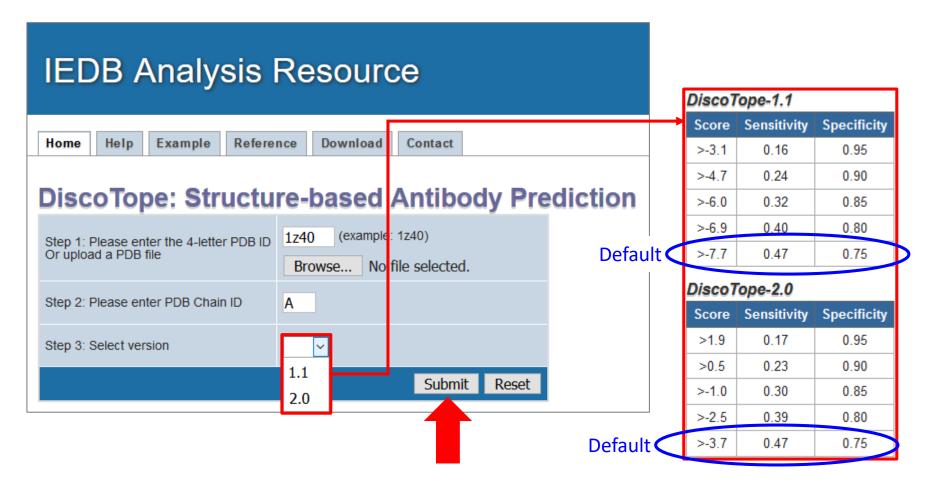


Search in PDB to identify inputs

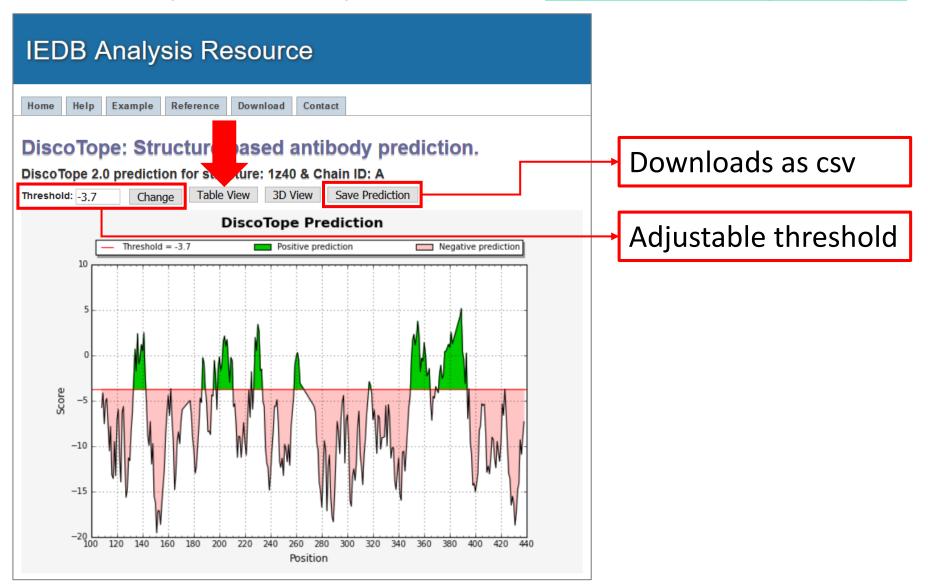
http://www.rcsb.org/



http://tools.iedb.org/discotope/



http://tools.iedb.org/discotope/



http://tools.iedb.org/discotope/

Chart Vie	w 3D View	Save Predict	tion		
Chain ID 🌼	Residue ID e	Residue Name *	Contact Number •	Propensity Score e	Discotope Score
A	108	ASN	17	-4.287	-5.749
A	109	PRO	7	-3.77	-4.141
A	110	TRP	23	-5.522	-7.532
Α	111	THR	4	-5.226	-5.085
A	112	GLU	2	-5.1	-4.744
A	113	TYR	20	-5.97	-7.584
A	114	MET	20	-9.295	-10.526
A	115	ALA	10	-7.532	-7.816
A	116	LYS	23	-11.888	-13.166
A	117	TYR	33	-11,038	-13.564
A	118	ASP	12	-9.15	-9.478
A	119	ILE	35	-10.419	-13.246
A	120	GLU	10	-6.657	-7.042
A	121	GLU	13	-5.019	-5.937
A	122	VAL	30	-8.676	-11.129
A	123	HIS	43	-10.161	-13.938
A	124	GLY	17	-4.876	-6.27
Α	125	SER	25	-3,112	-5.629
Α	126	GLY	33	-8.05	-10.92
A	127	ILE	39	-12.601	-15.637
A	128	ARG	27	-13.272	-14.85
A	129	VAL	25	-9.506	-11.288
A	130	ASP	39	-8.027	-11.589
A	131	LEU	29	-5.732	-8.408
A	132	GLY	30	-3.241	-6.318
A	133	GLU	20	-0.565	-2.8
A	134	ASP	19	3.255	0.695
Α	135	ALA	28	1.707	-1.709

http://tools.iedb.org/discotope/

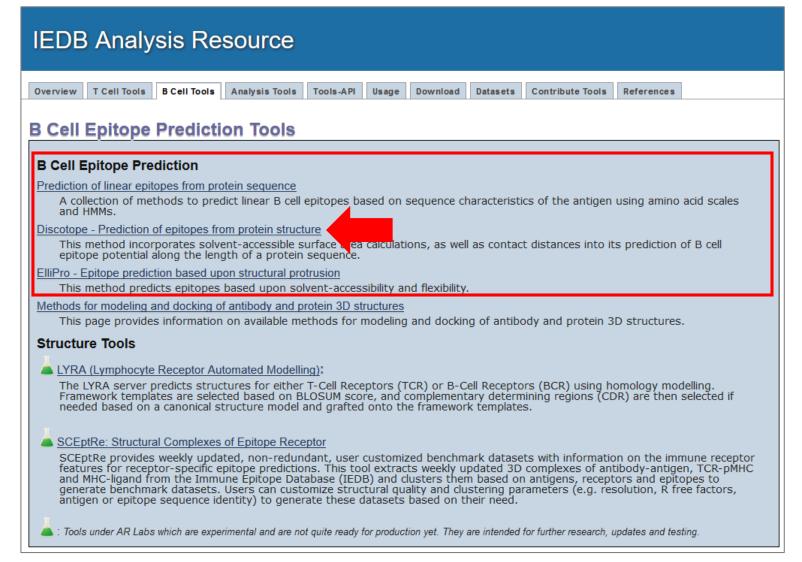


30

B cell prediction tools on IEDB

http://tools.iedb.org/main/bcell/

31



ElliPro

- Predicts linear and discontinuous antibody epitopes based on the geometrical properties of protein structure
- Uses Thornton's Method
- Implements three algorithms:
 - Approximation of the protein shape as an ellipsoid
 - Calculation of the residue protrusion index (PI)
 - Clustering of neighboring residues based on PI values

EMBO J. 1986 Feb;5(2):409-13.

Location of 'continuous' antigenic determinants in the protruding regions of proteins.

Thornton JM, Edwards MS, Taylor WR, Barlow DJ.

PMID: 2423325 PMCID: PMC1166746

BMC Bioinformatics. 2008 Dec 2;9:514. doi: 10.1186/1471-2105-9-514.

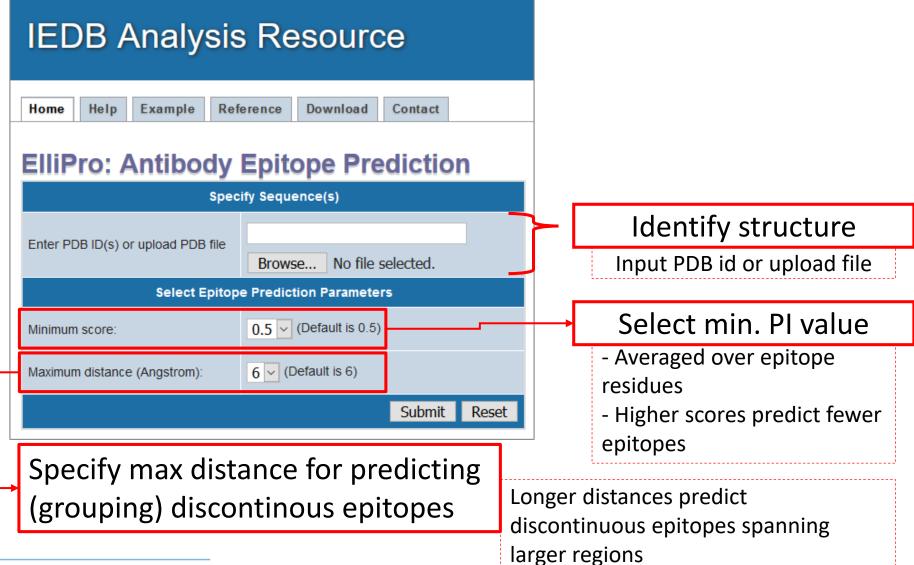
ElliPro: a new structure-based tool for the prediction of antibody epitopes.

Ponomarenko J¹, Bui HH, Li W, Fusseder N, Bourne PE, Sette A, Peters B.

PMID: 19055730 PMCID: PMC2607291 DOI: 10.1186/1471-2105-9-514

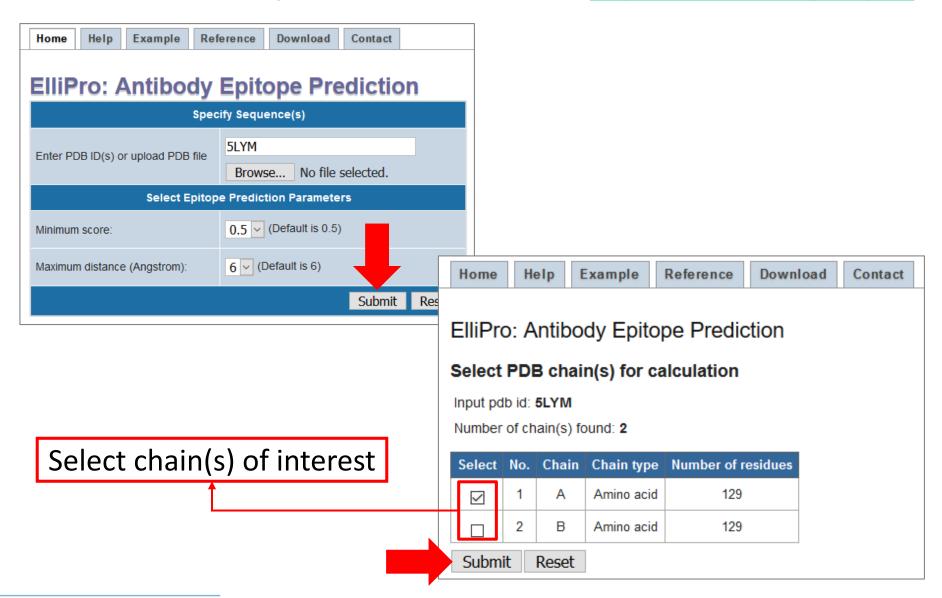
ElliPro

http://tools.iedb.org/ellipro/



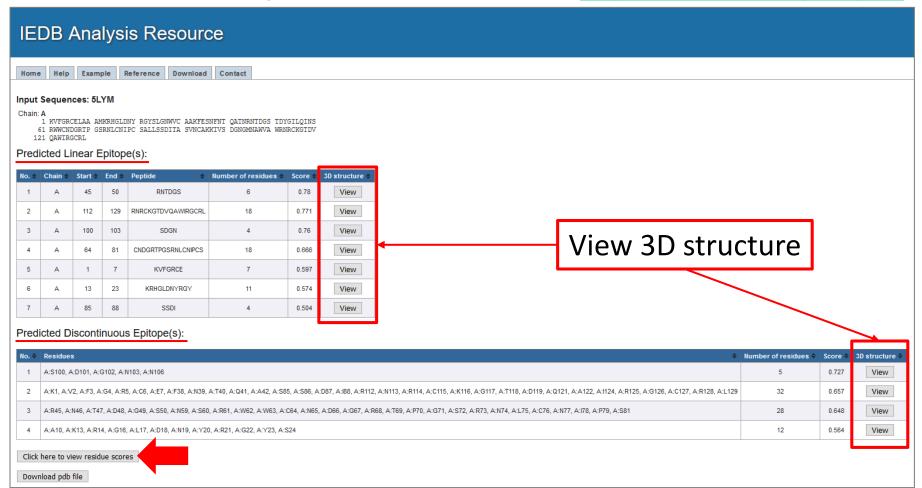
ElliPro -example

http://tools.iedb.org/ellipro/



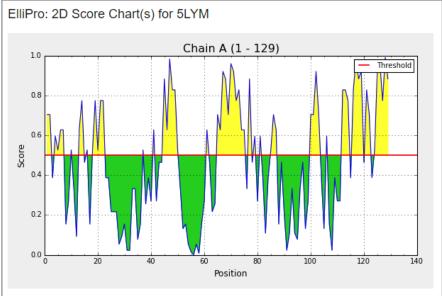
ElliPro -example

http://tools.iedb.org/ellipro/



ElliPro -example

http://tools.iedb.org/ellipro/



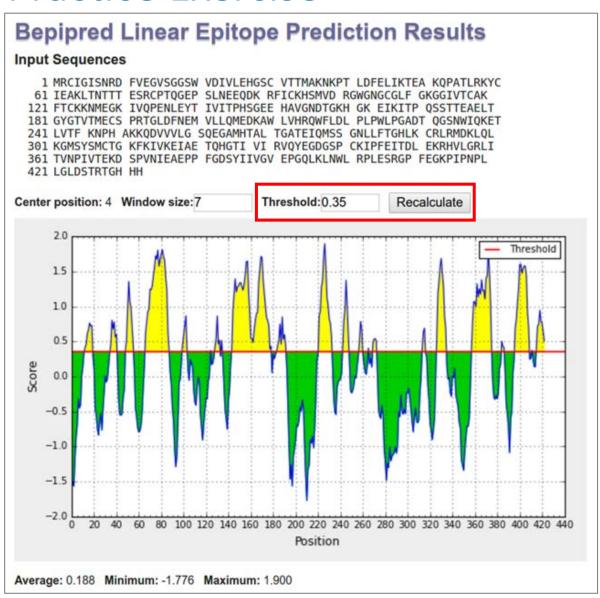
Data table

No.	Chain	Residue number	Residue name	Score
1	Α	1	LYS	0.705
2	Α	2	VAL	0.705
3	Α	3	PHE	0.388
4	Α	4	GLY	0.597
5	Α	5	ARG	0.527
6	Α	6	CYS	0.628
7	Α	7	GLU	0.628
8	Α	8	LEU	0.155
9	Α	9	ALA	0.271
10	Α	10	ALA	0.527
11	Α	11	ALA	0.333
12	Α	12	MET	0.093
13	Α	13	LYS	0.628
14	Α	14	ARG	0.775
15	Α	15	HIS	0.465
16	Α	16	GLY	0.527
47	۸	47	LEIL	0.455

Summary – B cell epitope predictions

- Linear and discontinuous (conformational) epitopes can be overlapping and depending on method of discovery
- Traditional B cell epitope prediction methods largely predict surface accessibility
- If a 3D structure of the antigen is available (or a reliable model thereof), predictions can be further improved.

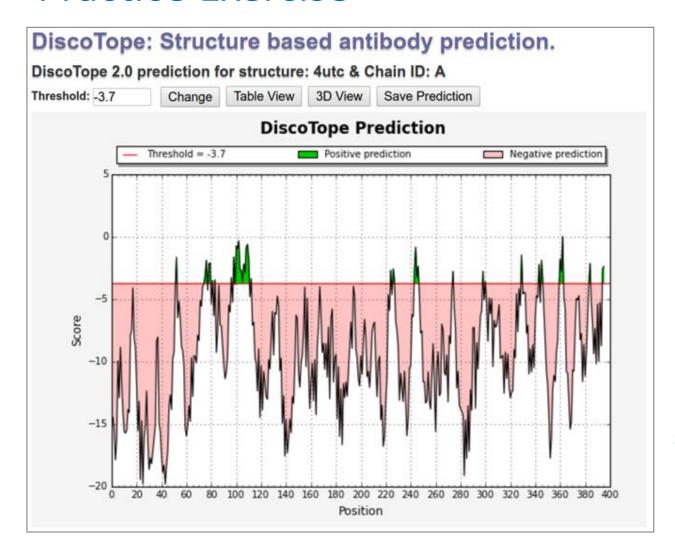
- Use BepiPred and DiscoTope to predict B cell epitopes of dengue 2 virus envelope glycoprotein
- Download crystal structure and sequence of dengue 2 virus envelope glycoprotein from PDB (PDB ID: 4UTC)



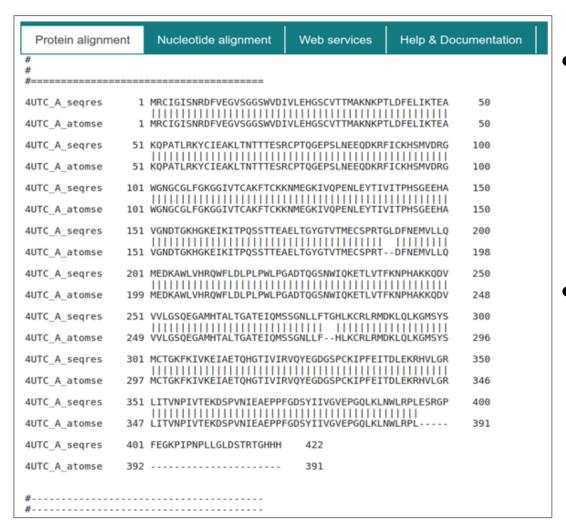
Too many epitope candidates?

Bepipred Linear Epitope Prediction Results **Input Sequences** 1 MRCIGISNRD FVEGVSGSW VDIVLEHGSC VTTMAKNKPT LDFELIKTEA KOPATLRKYC 61 IEAKLTNTTT ESRCPTOGEP SLNEEODK RFICKHSMVD RGWGNGCGLF GKGGIVTCAK 121 FTCKKNMEGK IVQPENLEYT IVITPHSGEE HAVGNDTGKH GK EIKITP QSSTTEAELT 181 GYGTVTMECS PRTGLDFNEM VLLOMEDKAW LVHROWFLDL PLPWLPGADT OGSNWIOKET 241 LVTF KNPH AKKODVVVLG SQEGAMHTAL TGATEIQMSS GNLLFTGHLK CRLRMDKLQL 301 KGMSYSMCTG KFKIVKEIAE TQHGTI VI RVQYEGDGSP CKIPFEITDL EKRHVLGRLI 361 TVNPIVTEKD SPVNIEAEPP FGDSYIIVGV EPGOLKLNWL RPLESRGP FEGKPIPNPL 421 LGLDSTRTGH HH Center position: 4 Window size:7 Threshold:0.9 Recalculate 1.5 10 0.0 -0.5-1.0-1.560 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 220 240 260 280 300 320 340 360 380 400 420 440 Position Average: 0.188 Minimum: -1.776 Maximum: 1.900

Score threshold of 0.9 corresponds to 90% specificity



Did you notice the length difference between BepiPred (length 422) and DiscoTope (length 391) outputs?



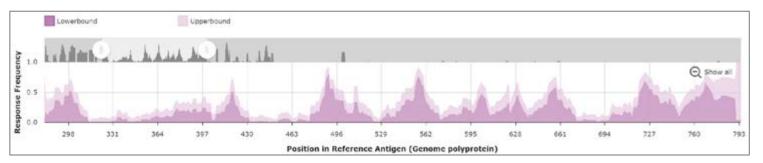
- There might be missing residues in PDB coordinate file compared to the sequence file provided by PDB
- These missing residues are not resolved properly in the structure
 - e.g. flexible loops

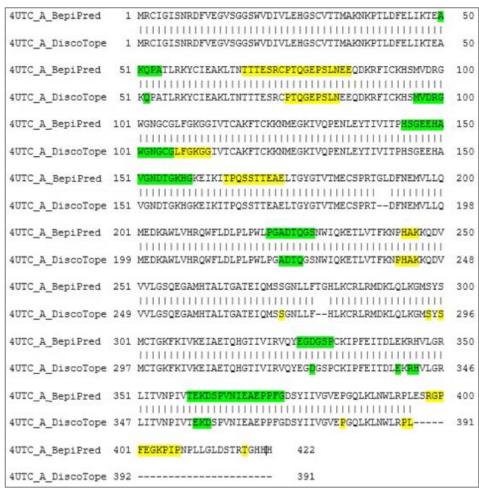
4UTC_A_BepiPred	1	${\tt MRCIGISNRDFVEGVSGGSWVDIVLEHGSCVTTMAKNKPTLDFELIKTE} {\tt A}$	50
4UTC_A_DiscoTope	1	MRCIGISNRDFVEGVSGGSWVDIVLEHGSCVTTMAKNKPTLDFELIKTEA	50
4UTC_A_BepiPred	51	KQPATLRKYCIEAKLTNTTTESRCPTQGEPSLNEEQDKRFICKHSMVDRG	100
4UTC_A_DiscoTope	51	KQPATLRKYCIEAKLTNTTTESRCPTQGEPSLNEEQDKRFICKHSMVDRG	100
	101	${\tt WGNGCGLFGKGGIVTCAKFTCKKNMEGKIVQPENLEYTIVITP} {\tt HSGEEHA}$	150
4UTC_A_DiscoTope	101	WGNGCGLFGKGG IVTCAKFTCKKNMEGKIVQPENLEYTIVITPHSGEEHA	150
4UTC_A_BepiPred	151	VGNDTGKHGKEIKITPQSSTTEAELTGYGTVTMECSPRTGLDFNEMVLLQ	200
4UTC_A_DiscoTope	151	VGNDTGKHGKEIKITPQSSTTEAELTGYGTVTMECSPRTDFNEMVLLQ	198
4UTC_A_BepiPred	201	${\tt MEDKAWLVHRQWFLDLPLPWL} {\tt PGADTQGS} {\tt NWIQKETLVTFKNP} {\tt HAK} {\tt KQDV}$	250
4UTC_A_DiscoTope	199	MEDKAWLVHRQWFLDLPLPWLPG <mark>ADTQ</mark> GSNWIQKETLVTFKN <mark>PHAK</mark> KQDV	248
	251	VVLGSQEGAMHTALTGATEIQMSSGNLLFTGHLKCRLRMDKLQLKGMSYS	300
4UTC_A_DiscoTope	249	VVLGSQEGAMHTALTGATEIQMS <mark>S</mark> GNLLFHLKCRLRMDKLQLKGM <mark>S</mark> YS	296
	301	${\tt MCTGKFKIVKEIAETQHGTIVIRVQY} {\tt EGDGSP} {\tt CKIPFEITDLEKRHVLGR}$	350
4UTC_A_DiscoTope	297	MCTGKFKIVKEIAETQHGTIVIRVQYEGDGSPCKIPFEITDLEKRHVLGR	346
	351	LITVNPIV <mark>TEKOSPVNIEAEPPFG</mark> DSYIIVGVEPGQLKLNWLRPLES <mark>RGP</mark>	400
4UTC_A_DiscoTope	347	LITVNPIVT <mark>EKU</mark> SPVNIEAEPPFGDSYIIVGVE <mark>P</mark> GQLKLNWLR <mark>PL</mark>	391
4UTC_A_BepiPred	401	FEGKPIPNPLLGLDSTRTGHHH 422	

Predicted

Correctly predicted

Epitope residues from 3D B cell <u>assay 3319631</u> (PDB ID: <u>2R69</u>) were mapped on Dengue envelope glycoprotein





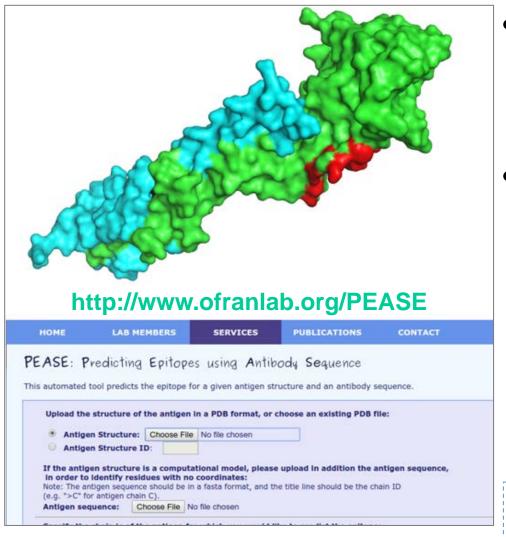
Epitope residues <u>from the</u>

<u>IEDB</u> in Dengue envelope
glycoprotein

Predicted

Correctly predicted

3D Structure-based epitope prediction



- Theoretically, the whole exposed surface of an antigen can be targeted by different antibodies
- Antibody sequence based B cell epitope prediction method called PEASE was developed
 - Users must provide antigen structure and antibody sequence

Bioinformatics. 2015 Apr 15;31(8):1313-5. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btu790. Epub 2014 Nov 27.

PEASE: predicting B-cell epitopes utilizing antibody sequence.

Sela-Culang 1¹, Ashkenazi S¹, Peters B¹, Ofran Y¹.

PMID: 25432167 DOI: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btu790

Benchmark on 42 X-ray structures of Abprotein complexes (Ponomarenko & Bourne, 2008)

Average AUC values

```
• 0.73 ElliPro (Ponomarenko et al., 2008)
```

- **0.65 Epitopia** (Rubinstein et al., 2008)
- **0.63 PEPITO** (Sweredoski & Baldi, 2008)
- **0.60 DiscoTope 1** (Andersen et al, 2006)
- 0.59 DOT (1st model, bound Ab-protein docking)
- 0.58 PatchDock (1st model, bound Ab-protein docking)

Benchmark on 52 X-ray structures of Abprotein complexes (Kringelum et al., 2012, PLoS Comp. Biol.)

Average AUC values

(* means p-value < 0.05 in comparison with DiscoTope 2)

0.73 DiscoTope 2

0.73 PEPITO

• 0.73 Epitopia

0.72 SEPPA

0.71 DiscoTope 1

0.69* ElliPro

0.65* EPCES

0.59* EPSVR

(Kringelum et al., 2012)

(Sweredoski & Baldi, 2008)

(Rubinstein et al., 2008)

(Sun et al., 2009)

(Andersen et al, 2006)

(Ponomarenko et al., 2008)

(Liang et al., 2009)

(Liang et al., 2010)

3D Structure-based epitope prediction

- The reason for the relatively poor performance is in the quality of the benchmark datasets
 - Structural information on the entire "biological unit" is often not available
 - Existence of well characterized epitopes from very few antigens