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# RNA-binding protein sequence specificity: experiments and

models

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CG11360

INRNPK CC







#### Dr. Xiao Li now postdoc at Stanford

co-supervised w/ Howard Lipshitz Dr. Hilal Kazan now faculty at Antalya International University, Turkey

#### Post-transcriptional regulation is *ubiquitous* and *substantive*



#### UTRs of human mRNAs are compact and information-rich



## **Predictive models of PTR**



## Predictive models of PTR



Cellular context (e.g. RBP and miRNA activities)



## 1. Determining specificities of all

## eukaryotic RBPs

## 2. Developing models/methods to scan for RBP binding sites in mRNAs

## Three types of RBPs

#### <u>Sequence-specific</u>

#### Shape-specific

Pun Puf3 Pum1

1) bir Focus

 RBPs with many targets; RBPs with a small number of targets are probably different.

fly) iuman)

A stem

 Binding assays —> preferences; rather than from a handful of targets to preferences.

25%



Estimate of prevalence: 70%

**5%** 

## Three types of RBPs

#### **Sequence-specific**

1) binds ssRNA

2) binds ssRNA in a *structural context* (e.g. **hairpin loop**)

Pumilio (fly) Puf3p (yeast) Pum1/2 (human)



Estimate of prevalence: 70%

Smaug (fly) Vts1 (yeast) SAM4DA/B (human)



#### **Shape-specific**

3) binds dsRNA stem

Staufen (fly) Staufen1/2 (human)



**25%** 



## In vitro RBP binding assays pre-2009 SELEX





#### ~70 RBPs

(Cook et al, Brief Funct Genomics 2015)

## In vitro RBP binding assays

## (HT-)SELEX

#### **RNAcompete** RNA Bind-n-seq 2009, 2013





#### ~70 RBPs

#### ~220 RBPs (~100 unpublished)

#### 3 RBPs (6 unpublished)

2014

(Cook et al, Brief Funct Genomics 2015)

## In vitro RBP binding assays





#### ~70 RBPs

~220 RBPs (~100 unpublished) 3 RBPs (6 unpublished)

(Cook et al, Brief Funct Genomics 2015)

## In vivo RBP binding assays

**RIP** 

**CLIP** 

**PAR-CLIP** 





## In vivo RBP binding assays

RIP

**CLIP** 

#### PAR-CLIP





## Need to consider binding site turnover



#### CEBPA ChIP-seq of animal livers

#### Similar turnover likely occurs for RBPs

## Implications for RBP binding preferences

1. RBP binding sites need to be "evolutionarily easy" to generate, so either:

a) They have variable affinity, clustered sites
- Sequence-specific ssRBP
b) They are easy to concrate via 'conv-and-

b) They are easy to generate via 'copy-andpaste' mechanisms,

- dsRNA binding proteins

Excludes very complex structures for RBPs with many targets?

## **Possible exceptions**



## **Canonical ssRNA-binding domains**



Other domains: CCCH Zinc finger, Pumilio/Puf, Cold Shock Domains, others (sometime C2H2) Auxiliary domains: CCHC Zinc fingers

## **Canonical dsRNA-binding domain**

#### double-standed RNA binding domain binds dsRNA 10-12bp ~20 in RBPs in mammals





Adapted from: Micklem, D. R. et al. The EMBO journal, 19(6), 1366-1377.

## Modelling RBP binding preferences

- 1. What RNA structures are available for RBP to bind? mRNA secondary structure prediction
- 2. What RNA structure / sequences does the RBP want to bind? sequence/structure motif (SSM) finding
- 3. How does RBP binding affects the available RNA structures?
  Ralf Bundschuh

#### **Defining positives and negatives for RBP binding**



## Site accessibility predicts in vivo Puf3p binding



## Site accessibility predicts general RBP binding





## Strict is better than permissive accessibility



# *in silico* versus *in vitro* estimates of site accessibility



Red text indicates sig. differences (P < 0.05 DDCP)

PARS data from (Kestesz et al, Nature 2010)



## **Representing structural context**



Legend P - paired H - hairpin loop I - internal / bulge loop M - multiloop U - external (unstructured)

## **Representing structural context**

5'-AGACGCGCGCGUUCGCCG	CGCU	CGGCGCAUGC -3'
<b>UPPIPPPPPHHHHPPIP</b>	PPPP	Р <mark>U</mark> РРННННРР
UUUPPIPPPPHHHHHPP	PPPI	PPUUUUUUUU
UUUUPPPPIPPIIIPPHH	HPPI	PPPPPPUUUU
<b>UPPPPHHHHPPPPIPPP</b>	нннн	PPPPUUUUUU
UUUUUUUPPPPIPPPP	нннн	PPPPPIPPP

Proposed binding site

State	Probability
Р	45%
Н	45%
I	10%
Μ	08
U	08

Legend P - paired H - hairpin loop I - internal / bulge loop M - multiloop U - external (unstructured)

## Single nucleotide context



## Structural context of a binding site

5'-AGACGCGCGCGUUCG	CCGCGCU	JCGGCGCAUGC	<u>'</u> -3'				
<b>UPPIPPPPPHHHHP</b>	PIPPPI	P <mark>U</mark> PPHHHHPP	)				
UUUPPIPPPPHHHH	IHPPPPP]	PPUUUUUUUU	ſ				
UUUUPPPPIPPIIIP	PHHHPPJ	PPPPPPUUUU	ſ				
<b>UPPPPHHHHPPPPIP</b>	PPPPHHHF	PPPPUUUUUU	J				
UUUUUUUPPPPIPP	PPPPHHHF	PPPPPIPPP	)				
Proposed binding site							

Legend P - paired H - hairpin loop I - internal / bulge loop M - multiloop U - external (unstructured)

State	Probability
PPPP	20%
нннн	40%
IIII	0%
MMMM	08
UUUU	08
paired	40%

#### **Full site context**



## Structure context predicts RBP binding better than site accessibility



RIP-chip data from Gerber et al 2004, Hogan et al 2008 + others

## Summary

1. RNA secondary structure predictions helps identify *in vivo* RBP binding (>70% of RBPs),

2. *In silico* predictions better recover *in vivo* binding than circa 2010 *in vitro* experimental predictions,

3. Estimates of site 'structural context' often provide more information than site accessibility,

### Models of structure binding preferences.



adapted from Hackermuller et al (2005) Gene 345:3.

\*Hiller et al (2006) Nuc. Acids Res. 34:e117.

## Motif models for structure preference

#### Model of RNA sequence preferences



See: RNAcontext & Malarkey

#### Single nucleotide structural context

Proposed binding site



Kazan et al, PLoS Comput Biol. 2010 Jul 1 (RNAcontext)

RBP RBD		Sequence	Structural preference	AU-ROC
		preference	type <u>0 0.5</u>	full seq only
Khd1	KH		lli 98	0.81* 0.74
Vts1	SAM		ll 66	0.71* 0.63
Hairpin L	loop	Bulge / Internal Loop Mu	altiloop Extern	nal Loop Paired / Dummy



RBP	RBD	Sequence	Stru pref	Structural preference		AU-ROC		
		preference	type 0	0.5	1	full	seq only	





RBP	RBD	Sequence	Stru pref	Structural preference		AU-ROC		
		preference	type 0	0.5	1	full	seq only	







## Evidence for functional binding of Pumilio to paired target sites

from Kedde et al, Nature Cell Biology 12, 1014–1020 (2010)



### Human vs Drosophila Staufen domain structures



req. for homodimerization

Adapted from: Micklem, D. R. et al. The EMBO journal, 19(6), 1366-1377.

## Staufen (dsRBD3) binds optimally to 12bp uninterrupted stem in vitro



North-western blot showing binding of wild-type dsRBD3 to RNA stem–loops

#### Human Staufen binds a 19bp dsRNA in human



human ARF1 Staufen binding site (SBS) 3'UTR nt 1-300

The SBSs within c-JUN, SERPINE1, IL7R and GAP43 mRNAs do not contain an uninterrupted stem that is more than 12 bp

#### Fly Staufen binds bicoid 3'UTR in three locations



# Drosophila Staufen targets in embryos were identified using two RIP-Chip experiments







John Laver

Kristin Ancevicius

## What does Staufen bind?

Paired region _ motifs	→ Stems -	→ Refined stems
15 of 19; 10 of 12	[19,15]; [12,10]	[19,15,0] [19,15,4]
<b>e</b> . <b>g</b> . 15 of 19		[12,10,2]
Ť.		ismatches
	[19,15]	unpaired bases
—	⇒	[19, 15, 4]
	_m≎m_m¢m T	



### **Stems enriched in Drosophila Staufen targets**

#### [19,15]

Structure motif description:

Stem spanning 19 bps with at least 15 Watson-Crick paired bases [12,10]

Stem spanning 12 bps with at least 10 Watson-Crick paired bases

Representative structures:



mismatches

unpaired bases





### **Distinguishing features of Staufen-bound stems**



**pos:** Staufen-bound 3'UTRs **neg:** Co-expressed 3'UTRs, not Staufen-bound



#### Staufen-recognized structures (SRSs)



- 1) no G-G mismatches in positive set!
- 2) Negative set structures have high entropy
- 3) Positive set structures are highly conserved

### Non-canonical basepairing helps find Staufen sites



#### Staufen-recognized structures (SRSs)



John D. Laver<sup>1</sup>, Xiao Li<sup>1</sup>, Kristin Ancevicius<sup>2,3</sup>, J. Timothy Westwood<sup>2,3,\*</sup>, Craig A. Smibert<sup>1,4,\*</sup>, Quaid D. Morris<sup>1,5,\*</sup> and Howard D. Lipshitz<sup>1,\*</sup>

Nucleic Acids Res. 2013 Nov 1;41(20):9438-60. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkt702. Epub 2013 Aug 13.



#### ADAR2 has two dsRNA that bind a 16-bp stem



### **Re-analysis of Human Stau1 data**

Staufen1 senses overall transcript secondary structure to regulate translation

```
Emiliano P Ricci<sup>1-3</sup>, Alper Kucukural<sup>1-3</sup>, Can Cenik<sup>1-4</sup>, Blandine C Mercier<sup>1-3</sup>, Guramrit Singh<sup>1-3</sup>, Erin E Heyer<sup>1-3</sup>, Ami Ashar-Patel<sup>1-3</sup>, Lingtao Peng<sup>1-3</sup> & Melissa J Moore<sup>1-3</sup>
```

Question #1: Are our Drosophila SRSs predictive of Human Stau1 binding? - Yes!

Question #2: Does the same analysis applied to Stau1 data produce similar structures? - See next slide

**Question #3:** Does Human Stau1 detect "overall transcript secondary structure" or the presence (and abundance) of specific secondary structures?

- "Overall transcript secondary structure" and GC content are no longer predictive of Stau1 binding once you account for the abundance of two specific secondary structures.

### **Re-analysis of Human Stau1 data**



p < 10<sup>-5</sup>

## Summary

**1:** Like Drosophila Staufen, human Stau1 has at least two binding modes

**2:** Human Stau1 and Drosophila Staufen recognize a similar "best structure", [19,16,0] vs [19,15,0], but may differ on the "minimum structure", [15,13] vs [12,10].

**3:** Differences may arise from lack of dsRBD1 in human Stau1 and lack of SSM in Drosophila Stau

**4:** No evidence that human Stau1 recognizes 'overall transcript structure' except when it generates one of the two structural motifs that we found.

## **Computationally-derived motif for SLBP**



## **SSMfinder**

- B. Fold sequences and annotate structural context\*\*\*
- C. Find enriched k-mers (seq and struct)
- D. Cluster k-mers
- E. Order and overlap clusters (next slide)







## **Ordering and overlapping SLBP clusters**





## **RNAcompete-S derived SLBP motif is present predominantly at histone 3' ends**





## **RNAcompete-S derived SLBP motif is** present predominantly at histone 3' ends



#### Eukaryote-wide mapping of RBP sequence binding preferences

#### Core RNAcompete Team

Pls

Prof. Tim Hughes @ Donnelly





me

Molecular biology

Dr. Deb Ray



# Computational biology



Prof. Hilal Kazan



Kate Cook



Prof. Matt Weirauch



Dr. Hamed Najafabadi

(Ray\*, Kazan\* et al, Nat Biotech 2009; Ray\*, Kazan\*, Cook\*, Weirauch\*, Najafabadi\* et al, Nature 2013)

#### **RNAcompete-based measurement of RBP RNA binding**



## In vitro sequence preferences of >200 RBPs



#### 209 sequencespecific RBPs profiled

85 RBPs 31%\* of genome

61 RBPs 36%\* of genome

73 RBPs <1% of eukaryote genomes

# Analysis of RBP secondary structure preferences

- RNA oligos in RNAcompete were designed to have no or weak secondary structure
- Nonetheless, we were able to detect a significant preference for ssRNA for 55 of the RBPs (no RBPs preferred dsRNA)
- 7 showed a preference **for** binding loops
- 15 showed a bias against binding loops



## Similar protein sequence implies similar motifs





(Ray\*, Kazan\*, Cook\*, Najafabadi\*, Weirauch\* et al, Nature 2013, in press)

## Inferring RBP motifs by protein sequence identity



CISBP-RNA Database: Catalog of Inferred RNA Binding Proteins

+

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	By Domain Type +
	By Motif Evidence $\Rightarrow$
	By Evidence Type ÷
	By Study ÷
	Database Build Version 0.5 +
	Latest build: 0.5
	GO!
	Last updated: 18-11-2012 Database Build (
Current databas	e contents: 7753 RBP binding motifs(238 from direct experiments), out of a total of 62587 Eukaryotic RBPs from 55 families in 289 species

CISBP-RNA Database: Catalog of Inferred RNA Binding Proteins			K
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			<b>+</b>

CISBP-RNA Database: Catalog of Inferred RNA Binding Proteins							
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now to cite	Pfam ID	Interpro ID	Gene ID	CISBP-RNA ID	Sequence sourc	e	
	PF00076 (RRM 1)	IPR000504	ENSDARG0000002968	T36035_0.5	Ensembl (2011-Oct	t- <u>26)</u>	
	Directly determined binding motifs						
	Name/Motif ID	Species	Sequence Logo	IUPAC	Type/Study/Study ID	RBD Identity	
	No direct experiments						
	Motifs from related RBPs						
	Name/Motif ID         Species         Sequence Logo         IUPAC         Type/Study/Study ID         RBD Identity						
	A1CF M001_0.5	Homo sapiens		WUAAUUR	RNAcompete <u>Ray et al.(2012)</u> RNCMPT00001	0.848	
		For this family	v, RBPs with RBD identity $> 0.7$	will likely have a sim	ilar motif		

## Summary

- We have RNA sequence motifs for 209 RBPs
- Can infer motifs for 1,000s more RBPs by homology, including 57% of human RBP complement and 30% of metazoan RBPs
- Motif scans allow the prediction of RBP function based on location of conserved motif hits and simple correlation analysis.

## A bunch of different motifs from different species (selected from >100)

RRM	AT3G55460	Plantae	Arabidopsis_thaliana
RRM	PK27672.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa
RRM	PK26404.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa
RRM	PK13173.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa
RRM	PK15111.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa
RRM	PK23225.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa
RRM	PK23842.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa
RRM	PFI1175c	Protista	Plasmodium_falciparum
RRM	Smp_036270	Protista	Schistosoma_mansoni
RRM	Smp_032060	Protista	Schistosoma_mansoni
RRM x 2	DDB_G0286331	Amoebozoa	Dictyostelium_discoideum
RRM x 2	DDB_G0288391	Amoebozoa	Dictyostelium_discoideum
RRM x 2	CBG14639	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_briggsae
RRM x 2	CBG13971	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_briggsae
RRM x 2	CBG14639	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_briggsae
RRM x 2	CBG04067	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_briggsae
RRM x 2	CBG05471	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_briggsae
RRM x 2	CBG03563	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_briggsae
RRM x 2	rnp-2	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_elegans
RRM x 2	Y111B2A.18	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_elegans
RRM x 2	W02B12.2	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_elegans
RRM x 2	K08D10.3	Animalia	Caenorhabditis_elegans
RRM x 2	ENSDARG00000036161	Animalia	Danio rerio

GAAGA CGCGC GAAGAAG AGyAG AUCCA AAAAg <u>\_\_\_\_\_GAGG\_\_\_</u> UUUULEE AGCAC UAGGA GCACUU AUUAGGA BUUUUA ...AGUAA \_<mark>\_\_\_\_\_\_GA\_\_\_GA</mark> GCACUU ASGA GA GGAGGAG AUAGeA

RRM x 2	FBgn0031607	Animalia	Drosophila_melanogaster	g
RRM x 2	РТВР2	Animalia	Homo_sapiens	•12
RRM x 2	CPEB1	Animalia	Homo_sapiens	
RRM x 2	ENSMGAG00000016128	Animalia	Meleagris_gallopavo	-
RRM x 2	ENSMGAG0000006135	Animalia	Meleagris_gallopavo	U
RRM x 2	ENSXETG00000027221	Animalia	Xenopus_tropicalis	200
RRM x 2	ENSXETG00000026650	Animalia	Xenopus_tropicalis	_
RRM x 2	PGTG_09691	Fungi	Puccinia_graminis	U
RRM x 2	spo5	Fungi	Saccharomyces_cerevisiae	
RRM x 2	srp2	Fungi	Saccharomyces_cerevisiae	_
RRM x 2	SPCC306.04c	Fungi	Schizosaccharomyces_pombe	2
RRM x 2	AT2G46610	Plantae	Arabidopsis_thaliana	-
RRM x 2	AT2G41060	Plantae	Arabidopsis_thaliana	9
RRM x 2	PK03611.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa	_
RRM x 2	PK03611.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa	
RRM x 2	PK15181.1	Plantae	Cannabis_sativa	
RRM x 2	PK04894.1	Plantae	Cannabis sativa	A
RRM x 2	PK14112.1	Plantae	– Cannabis sativa	
RRM x 2	PK11774.1	Plantae	_ Cannabis sativa	Û
RRM x 2	PK25912.1	Plantae	_ Cannabis sativa	Ū
RRM x 2	PK00513.1	Plantae	Cannabis sativa	
RRM x 3	DDB G0270634	Amoebozoa	Dictvostelium discoideum	U
RRM v 3	CBG15837	Animalia	Caenorhabditis briggsae	
INNIA 2	0013031	Animana	cacitor nabalitis_briggsdC	-

AUAUU <u>...uuc</u>U JUUUUU. \_\_UGCG GCAC AAAAA CGACG GAUG ccGGGG ACGA JUUUU Ualgug **U<sub>O</sub>U<sub>G</sub>UG** GG\_G\_B UAGgoo AAAyuu

#### New RBPs identified recently by mass spectrometry



#### The mRNA-Bound Proteome and Its Global Occupancy Profile on Protein-Coding Transcripts

Alexander G. Baltz,<sup>1,3</sup> Mathias Munschauer,<sup>1,3</sup> Björn Schwanhäusser,<sup>1</sup> Alexandra Vasile,<sup>1</sup> Yasuhiro Murakawa,<sup>1</sup> Markus Schueler,<sup>1</sup> Noah Youngs,<sup>2</sup> Duncan Penfold-Brown,<sup>2</sup> Kevin Drew,<sup>2</sup> Miha Milek,<sup>1</sup> Emanuel Wyler,<sup>1</sup> Richard Bonneau,<sup>2</sup> Matthias Selbach,<sup>1</sup> Christoph Dieterich,<sup>1</sup> and Markus Landthaler<sup>1,\*</sup> <sup>1</sup>Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology, 13125 Berlin, Germany <sup>2</sup>Center for Genomics and Systems Biology, Department of Biology, New York University, New York, NY 10003, USA

#### Insights into RNA Biology from an Atlas of Mammalian mRNA-Binding Proteins

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## Human ucRBPs are often sequence specific (initial result: 9/37 = 24% yield motif)



DUFs

No Known Domain

21

28

**Ribosomal protein** 

ssDNA binding protein, mitochondrial biogenesis

(Positive control)

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