Motif-Based Protein Sequence Classification Using Neural Networks

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ABSTRACT

We present a system for multi-class protein classification based on neural networks. The basic issue concerning the construction of neural network systems for protein classification is the sequence encoding scheme that must be used in order to feed the neural network. To deal with this problem we propose a method that maps a protein sequence into a numerical feature space using the matching scores of the sequence to groups of conserved patterns (called motifs) into protein families. We consider two alternative ways for identifying the motifs to be used for feature generation and provide a comparative evaluation of the two schemes. We also evaluate the impact of the incorporation of background features (2-grams) on the performance of the neural system. Experimental results on real datasets indicate that the proposed method is highly efficient and is superior to other well-known methods for protein classification.

Key words: protein sequence classification, neural networks, probabilistic motifs, MEME algorithm, motif-based features.

1. INTRODUCTION

PROTEIN SEQUENCE CLASSIFICATION CONSTITUTES an important problem in biological sciences for annotating new protein sequences and detecting close evolutionary relationships among sequences. It deals with the assignment of sequences to known categories based on homology detection properties (sequence similarity). In several studies, protein classification has been examined at various levels, according to a top-down hierarchy in molecular taxonomy, consisting of superfamilies, families, and subfamilies (Dayhoff *et al.*, 1978). Throughout this paper, we will use the terms *family* (or *subfamily*) and *class* interchangeably to denote any collection of sequences that are presumed to share common characteristics and belong to the same category.

Various approaches have been developed for solving the protein classification problem. Most of them are based on appropriately modeling protein families, either directly or indirectly. Direct modeling techniques use a training set of sequences to build a model that characterizes the family of interest. Hidden Markov models (HMMs) are a widely used probabilistic modeling method for protein families (Durbin *et al.*, 1998) that provides a probabilistic measurement (score) of how well an unknown sequence fits to a family. Indirect techniques use direct models as a preprocessing tool in order to extract useful sequence features. In this way,

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sequences of variable length are transformed into fixed-length input vectors that are subsequently used for training discriminative models, such as neural networks.

In protein sequences, *motifs* or *patterns* enclose significant homologous attributes, since they correspond to conserved regions in protein families holding useful structural and functional biological properties. They can be considered as islands of amino acids conserved in the same order of a given family. Therefore, they can be seen as local features characterizing the sequences. Motifs can be either deterministic or probabilistic (Brāzma *et al.*, 1998; Rigoutsos *et al.*, 2000). Deterministic motifs follow grammatical inference properties in order to syntactically describe conserved regions of homologous sequences. The PROSITE database (Hofmann *et al.*, 1999) represents a large collection of such motifs used to identify protein families. On the other hand, probabilistic motifs are more flexible models, and they provide a probabilistic matching score of a sequence to a motif. The BLOCKS database (Henikoff and Henikoff, 1994) is an example of ungapped probabilistic motifs. In any case, motif models are suitable for constructing efficient similarity score functions that can be subsequently used as local features for protein classification. An example is presented by Ma and Wang (2000), and by Wang *et al.* (2001) where motif-based local features are produced based on the minimum description length (MDL) principle for the case of deterministic motifs models.

The *background* information also constitutes another source for extracting features from sequence data. The determination of the background features, also defined as *global* features, is usually made by using the 2-gram encoding scheme that counts the occurrences of two consecutive amino acids in protein sequences (Wang *et al.*, 2001). In the case of protein sequences (generated from the alphabet of the 20 aminoacids), there are 400 possible 2-grams that produce a large feature space. A recent approach (Almeida and Vinga, 2002) proposes a scheme for globally encoding sequences, where each amino acid character is initially represented as a unique binary number with *n* bits (n = 5 for the 20 aminoacids) and then each sequence is mapped into a position inside the *n*-dimensional hypercube.

In this paper, we focus on building efficient neural classifiers for discriminating multiple protein families by using appropriate local features that have been extracted by efficient probabilistic motif models. As motifs constitute family diagnostic signatures, our aim is to exploit this information by constructing a neural network scheme that exploits motif-based (local) features.

The proposed method can be considered as combining an unsupervised with a supervised learning technique. Starting by applying a motif-discovery (unsupervised) algorithm, we identify probabilistic motifs in a training set of multiclass sequences. This can be achieved in two alternative ways: applying the algorithm for motif discovery either to each family training set separately (*class-dependent* motifs), or to the whole dataset of training sequences (*class-independent* motifs). The discovered motifs are then used to convert each sequence to a numerical input vector that subsequently can be applied to a typical feed-forward neural network. Using a Bayesian regularization training technique, the neural network parameters are adjusted, and therefore a classifier is obtained suitable for predicting the family of an unlabeled sequence.

The next section provides a brief overview of statistical and neural techniques proposed for classifying biological sequences, while Section 3 describes the proposed method. Experimental results obtained using several sets of protein families are presented in Section 4, along with a comparison with other known protein classification approaches. Finally, Section 5 summarizes the proposed classification scheme and specifies directions for future research.

2. PROTEIN CLASSIFICATION METHODS

One class of methods for protein sequence classification work directly with sequence information and establish classification criteria based on sequence homology properties. In the general scheme, a representative set of sequences is selected for each protein family and used to build an appropriate model for each family. The classification of an unknown sequence is made by selecting the family that best matches according to the model homology mechanism. This can be considered as a simple *nearest neighbor* scheme that ranks sequence similarities and selects the best ranking.

The popular BLAST tool (Altshul et al., 1990) represents the simplest nearest neighbor approach and exploits pairwise local alignments to measure sequence similarity. The BLAST technique compares protein

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queries with a protein database of labeled sequences and produces normalized alignment scores for each comparison by calculating the corresponding expectation values (E-values). The classification procedure is based on the selection of the label of the sequence that produces the best pairwise alignment score (i.e., minimum E-value).

Another type of direct modeling methods is based on hidden Markov models (HMMs) (Durbin *et al.*, 1998; Karplus *et al.*, 1998). After constructing an HMM for each family, protein queries can be easily scored against all established HMMs by calculating the log-likelihood of each model for the unknown sequence and then selecting the class label of the most likely model.

The Motif Alignment and Search Tool (MAST) (Bailey and Gribskov, 1998) is based on the combination of multiple motif-based statistical score values. According to this scheme, groups of probabilistic motifs discovered by the MEME algorithm (Bailey and Elkan, 1994), are used to construct protein profiles for the families of interest. The MAST algorithm successively estimates the significance of the match of a query sequence to a family model as the product of the *p*-values of each motif match score. This measure (called *E*-value) can then be used to select the family of the unknown sequence.

Neural network schemes for protein classification consist of two stages: the *encoding* stage, where discriminative numerical features are computed for each training sequence, and the *decision* stage, where the created feature vectors are used as input vectors to a neural network classifier. Various encoding schemes have been proposed in the literature that produce numerical features in the encoding stage based on the calculation of background features (global sequence homology) and local features (locally conserved family information) embedded in motifs. In the decision stage, feed-forward neural networks have been used trained either through back-propagation (Wu *et al.*, 1996) or using Bayesian regularization (Ma and Wang, 2000; Wang *et al.*, 2001). These approaches are characterized by the enormous size of the extracted input vectors, the imbalance between global and local features (more emphasis on global features), and the need for large training sets (since the number of network inputs is very large). For example, in Ma and Wang (2000) and in Wang *et al.* (2001) only one feature was responsible for carrying local information, while all the others were produced by the 2-grams encoding scheme (background features).

Support vector machines (SVMs) (Vapnik, 1979) have been also applied to protein homology detection problems. Such an approach, which has been introduced by Logan *et al.* (2001), feeds probabilistic score values from all motifs available (nearly 10,000) in the BLOCKS database (Henikoff and Henikoff, 1994) into an SVM classifier. Obviously, this scheme uses only local features, but the dimensionality of the input space is extremely high. Another method has been proposed by Jaakkola *et al.* (2000) and by Karchin *et al.* (2002) that combines hidden Markov models (HMMs) and SVMs for detecting remote protein homologies. In particular, an HMM is first trained to model a protein family, and then the observed probabilities (in the log space) of each sequence with respect to each parameter of the HMM are calculated. The obtained gradient-log-probability vectors are applied to an SVM to identify the decision boundary between the family and the rest of the protein universe.

3. THE PROPOSED METHOD

This paper studies the problem of classifying a set of *N* protein sequences $\mathbf{S} = \{S_{i}, i = \infty, ..., N\}$ into *K* classes. The set **S** is a union of positive example datasets S_{\parallel} from *K* different classes, i.e., $\mathbf{S} = \{S_{\infty} \cup ... \cup S_{\mathcal{K}}\}$, and can be seen as a subset of the complete set of all possible sequences over the amino acid alphabet ($\mathbf{S} \subseteq \Sigma^*$).

Figure 1 illustrates the architecture of the proposed protein classification scheme. It consists of a search tool (unsupervised learning) for discovering probabilistic motifs in a set of K protein families, a feature vector generator that converts protein sequences into feature vectors, and a decision module (neural network) for assigning a protein family to each input sequence. The following subsections describe in detail the major building blocks of the proposed architecture.

3.1. Using motifs for feature generation

Consider a finite alphabet consisting of set of characters $\Sigma = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{\Omega}\}$ ($\Omega = 20$ for protein sequences). We can probabilistically model a contiguous (ungapped) motif M_i of length W_i using a



FIG. 1. The architecture of the proposed classification scheme.

position weight matrix (PWM_j) that follows a multinomial character distribution. Each column (l) of the matrix corresponds to a position l in the motif sequence $(l = 1, ..., W_j)$, where the column elements provide the probability of each character of the alphabet $p_{\alpha_{\xi}, l}$ ($\xi = 1, ..., \Omega$) to appear in that position.

Let $s_p = a_{p,1} \dots a_{p,W_j}$ denote a segment of a sequence S beginning at position p and ending at position $p + W_j - 1$. This represents a subsequence of length W_j . Totally, there are $L - W_j + 1$ such subsequences for a sequence S of length L. Then, we can define the probability that s_p matches the motif M_j , or alternatively, has been generated by the model PWM_j corresponding to that motif, using the following equation:

$$P(s_p|M_j) = \prod_{l=1}^{W_j} p_{a_{p,l},l} .$$
 (1)

A major advantage of using the probabilistic matrix PWM_j is the ability to compute the corresponding position-specific score matrix $(PSSM_j)$ in order to score a sequence. The $PSSM_j$ is a log-odds matrix calculating the logarithmic ratio $r_{\alpha_{\xi},l}$ of the probabilities $p_{\alpha_{\xi},l}$ suggested by the PWM_j and the corresponding general relative frequencies of aminoacids $\rho_{\alpha_{\xi}}$ in the family.¹ According to the definition of $PSSM_j$, the score value $f_j(s_p)$ of a subsequence s_p of a sequence S can be defined as

$$f_j(s_p) = \sum_{l=1}^{W_j} \log\left(\frac{p_{a_{p,l},l}}{\rho_{a_{p,l}}}\right) = \sum_{l=1}^{W_j} r_{a_{p,l},l} .$$
⁽²⁾

At the sequence level, the score value of a protein sequence S against a motif M_j can be determined as the maximum value among all scores of the possible subsequences of S, i.e.,

$$f_j(S) = \max_{1 \le p \le L - W_j + 1} f_j(s_p).$$
 (3)

It must be noted that it is possible to adopt other definitions for scoring a sequence, such as setting scores below a certain threshold equal to zero (Bailey and Gribskov, 1998).

If we assume that we have discovered a group of *D* motifs in the set of sequences **S**, we can generate a *D*-dimensional numerical feature space and map each sequence S_i into a vector \mathbf{x}_i in the *D*-dimensional feature space by calculating the score values $x_{ij} = f_j(S_i)$ (j = 1, ..., D) for each of the *D* motif models.

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¹The general relative frequencies of amino acids indicate the background information in a protein family and can be presented as a probabilistic vector ρ of size $\Omega = 20$.

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3.2. Finding probabilistic motifs in protein sequences

Several approaches have been proposed for discovering probabilistic motifs in a set of unaligned biological sequences. CONSENSUS (Hertz and Stormo, 1999), the Gibbs sampler (Lawrence *et al.*, 1993), and MEME (Bailey and Elkan, 1994) are examples of such methods that identify multiple shared motifs in protein families. We have selected the MEME approach for the motif identification component of our strategy, since it has been widely used in biological applications and directly extracts position-specific score matrices. Below, we briefly describe this algorithm and propose two ways to integrate it in our classification system.

The MEME algorithm follows an iterative procedure, which applies at each iteration a two-component mixture model to discover one motif of length W. In the two-component model, one component describes the motif (ungapped common subsequences of length W) while the other component models the background information. Multiple motifs can be found by sequentially fitting the two-component model to the set of sequences that remain after removing the sequences containing occurrences of the already identified motifs.

In particular, MEME (Bailey and Elkan, 1994) uses the Expectation Maximization (EM) algorithm (Dempster *et al.*, 1977) to maximize the log-likelihood function of the two-component mixture model, i.e., to estimate the elements of the corresponding position weight matrix.² Furthermore, MEME provides a strategy for locating efficient initial parameter values in order to prevent the EM algorithm from getting stuck in local optima (Bailey and Elkan, 1994). The *D* motif models PWM_j (j = 1, ..., D) discovered by MEME can be of either fixed or variable length W_j . In our experimental studies, both types of motifs will be examined to evaluate the impact of this decision on the performance of the neural classifier.

In order to discover a group of motifs from a multiclass training set of sequences (containing sequences of K classes), two alternative approaches can be followed. The first approach is to apply the MEME algorithm K times, *separately* to the training sequences of each protein family. Then, putting all the discovered K family profiles together, we can form the final group of D motifs. An alternative approach is to apply the motif-discovery algorithm only once to the total training set S, ignoring class labels. In this way, we do not allow the algorithm to directly create K protein family profiles, but rather to discover D class-independent motifs.

The advantage of the second approach is the ability of taking into account local similarity measurements in the whole training set, without restricting the search procedure to a single class. Therefore, possible partial homologies among sequences from different families can be defined that may prove helpful for the classification task. On the other hand, a disadvantage of the class-independent approach is that the *D* discovered motifs may not be equally distributed among the *K* families. This may result in insufficient modeling of some families, thus leading to performance deterioration. During experiments, both motifdiscovery strategies will be considered and evaluated.

3.3. Construction of a neural classifier

After discovering *D* motifs and constructing the *D*-dimensional feature space, the last stage in our methodology is to implement and train a feed-forward neural network that will be able to map the input vectors into the protein classes of interest. A typical network architecture is illustrated in Fig. 1. To construct the neural classifier, we use the training set $\mathbf{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{t}_i\}$, i = 1, ..., N consisting of positive examples \mathbf{x}_i from the set of *K* protein families. The target vector \mathbf{t}_i is a binary vector of size *K* indicating the class label of input \mathbf{x}_i ; i.e., $t_{ik} = 1$ if \mathbf{x}_i corresponds to a sequence S_i belonging to class *k*, and 0 otherwise. The output of the classifier is represented by the *K*-dimensional vector \mathbf{y}_i where component y_{ik} corresponds to class *k*. Based on this scheme, the predicted class $h(\mathbf{x}_i)$ of an unlabeled feature vector \mathbf{x}_i corresponding to a query sequence S_i is given by the index of the output node with the largest value y_{ic} ; i.e.,

$$h(\mathbf{x}_i) = c : \ y_{ic} = \max_{1 \le k \le K} y_{ik} .$$
 (4)

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 $^{^{2}}$ The model used in our experiments assumes that there are zero or more nonoverlapping occurrences of the motif in each sequence of the dataset. Alternative models that can be used are the exactly one-occurrence-per-sequence and the zero-or-one-occurrence-per-sequence models.

Setting a threshold value $\theta \in [0, 1]$, we can restrict the classifiers' decision to only those input vectors whose maximum output value surpasses this threshold. In this case, we can write

$$h(\mathbf{x}_i, \theta) = c : \quad y_{ic} = \max_{1 \le k \le K} y_{ik} \land \quad y_{ic} \ge \theta .$$
(5)

Parameter θ can be used to specify the sensitivity of the classifier.

In order to train the neural network, we used the Gauss–Newton Bayesian Regularization (GNBR) learning algorithm (Foresse and Hagan, 1997). This algorithm applies Bayesian regularization and implements a Gauss–Newton approximation to the Hessian matrix of the objective function.

In the Bayesian regularization framework, the objective function is formulated as the weighted sum of two terms: the sum of the squared errors (E_X) and the sum of squares of the network weights (E_W) . Using Bayes' rule, the posterior probability distribution for the weights **w** of the network given a training set **X** can be written as follows:

$$P(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{X}) = \frac{P(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{w})P(\mathbf{w})}{P(\mathbf{X})} .$$
 (6)

By properly choosing the prior distribution $P(\mathbf{w})$ and the likelihood function $P(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{w})$, we can obtain the following expression (Bishop, 1995; Foresse and Hagan, 1997) for the posterior distribution:

$$P(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{Z_F} \exp(-\beta E_X - \alpha E_W) = \frac{1}{Z_F} \exp(-F(\mathbf{w})),$$
(7)

where the Z_F corresponds to the normalizing factor that is independent of the weights.

Maximizing the above posterior distribution is equivalent to minimizing the regularized objective function $F(\mathbf{w})$:

$$F(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N_X} \{\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{t}_i\}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{N_W} w_j^2 , \qquad (8)$$

where N_X and N_W represent the number of input vectors and network parameters, respectively. In order to estimate the normalizing factor Z_F , a Gaussian approximation can be used for the posterior distribution (MacKay, 1992) as obtained by the Taylor expansion of function $F(\mathbf{w})$ around the minimum value of the posterior, \mathbf{w}_{MP} . This gives the following estimation (Bishop, 1995):

$$Z_F^*(\alpha,\beta) = \exp(-F(\mathbf{w}_{MP}))(2\pi)^{N_W/2} |\mathbf{H}|^{-1/2} , \qquad (9)$$

where **H** corresponds to the Hessian matrix of the regularized objective function and, therefore, optimal values for parameters α and β at the minimum point \mathbf{w}_{MP} can be computed as follows:

$$\hat{\alpha} = \frac{\gamma}{2E_W(\mathbf{w}_{MP})} \text{ and } \hat{\beta} = \frac{\gamma N_X}{2E_X(\mathbf{w}_{MP})}.$$
 (10)

The quantity γ represents the effective number of network parameters **w** and can be defined using the eigenvalues of H^{-1} as $\gamma = N_W - 2\alpha \text{Tr} \mathbf{H}^{-1}$. In cases where the number of effective parameters is equal to the actual ones ($\gamma \approx N_W$), more hidden units must be added to the network. Furthermore, the GNBR algorithm follows a Gauss–Newton approximation method (Foresse and Hagan, 1997) for calculating the Hessian matrix of $F(\mathbf{w})$ at the minimum point \mathbf{w}_{MP} , using the Levenberg–Marquardt optimization algorithm (Bishop, 1995). It must be noted that in our experiments, the best results for the GNBR algorithm were obtained by scaling the network inputs in the range [-1, 1].

4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Several experiments were conducted to evaluate the proposed method. The classification accuracy was measured by counting the sensitivity and specificity rates. In all *K*-class classification problems, each

Problem: PROSITE 1 ($K = 6$)			Problem: PROSITE 2 ($K = 7$)		
PROSITE family	Positive data	Training set (avg length of seqs)	PROSITE family	Positive data	Training set (avg length of seqs)
PS00030	302	20 (370)	PS00070	129	15 (558)
PS00038	289	20 (359)	PS00077	155	15 (502)
PS00061	317	20 (299)	PS00118	168	15 (127)
PS00198	300	20 (284)	PS00180	123	15 (408)
PS00211	574	30 (478)	PS00215	123	15 (321)
PS00301	386	20 (517)	PS00217	148	15 (490)
		. ,	PS00338	173	15 (212)

TABLE 1. THE TWO PROSITE FAMILIES USED IN THE EXPERIMENTAL STUDY

protein family S_{\parallel} (k = 1, ..., K) was randomly partitioned into training and test sequences, with the training set being only a small percentage (5–10%) of the family dataset. Using the training datasets, experiments have been carried out using the MEME algorithm to discover groups of motifs. Two cases were considered: in the first case, the MEME algorithm has been applied separately to each training set providing a group of $D_k = 5$ class-dependent motifs for each family S_{\parallel} .³ In the second case, the MEME algorithm was applied only once to the total training dataset (ignoring the class labels) to provide a group of $D = 5 \times K$ class-independent motifs.

In any case, the obtained final group of D motifs were used to transform each sequence of the dataset into a dataset with numerical D-dimensional feature vectors, denoted \mathbf{X}_s for the class-dependent case and \mathbf{X}_g for the class-independent case. Furthermore, we also experimented with the effect of the length W of the discovered motifs to the performance of the proposed classifier, by applying the MEME algorithm with either fixed or variable motif length. We selected W = 20 for the first case and the range [10, 30] for the second case. In summary, we have considered four distinct cases considering the application of MEME: discovering either class-dependent or class-independent motifs with either fixed or variable motif length. Therefore, for each classification problem, four distinct neural classifiers will be constructed and tested.

To evaluate classification performance, ROC (receiver operating characteristic) analysis was used. More specifically, we used the ROC_{50} curve which is a plot of the sensitivity as a function of false positives for various decision threshold values until 50 false positives are found.

For our experimental study, three real datasets were selected. In particular we have used protein families from the PROSITE database (Hofmann *et al.*, 1999), which is a large collection of protein families together with their characteristic (deterministic) motifs. Two datasets with K = 6 (PROSITE 1) and K = 7 (PROSITE 2) classes from the PROSITE database (Hofmann *et al.*, 1999) were selected, summarized in Table 1. Moreover, experiments have also been conducted on a dataset of G-protein coupled receptors (GPCR) (Horn *et al.*, 1998), that is, a superfamily of cell membrane proteins. The GPCR database is hierarchically classified into five major classes and their subfamilies (Horn *et al.*, 1998). We studied the problem of classifying subfamilies within the class A, since it dominates the whole GPCR database. As indicated by Karchin *et al.* (2002), the difficulty of recognizing GPCR subfamilies arises from the fact that the classification of the subfamilies has been made based on chemical properties rather than sequence homology. Therefore, members from different subfamilies may share strong homology, thus making their discrimination hard. Among 15 subfamilies consisting of class A, seven of them have been selected in our experimental study described in Table 2. The remaining eight subfamilies are of very small size, and it is difficult to construct an effective system for their discrimination. Details of the three datasets (family/subfamily names and their protein ID's) used in our experiments are given in the appendix.

4.1. Local versus global features

In this series of experiments, we assessed the impact of using 2-grams (background features) on the performance of the proposed classification scheme. For a sequence S_i with length L_i , we define the feature

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T2

³Experiments with a greater number of motifs did not yield better classification performance.

Problem: GPCR $(K = 7)$				
GPCR Class A subfamily	Positive data	Training set (avg length of seqs)		
Amine	306	20 (485)		
Peptide	654	30 (383)		
Hormone	43	10 (378)		
Rhodopsin	270	20 (358)		
Olfactory	325	20 (317)		
Prostanoid	43	10 (721)		
Nucleotide-like	58	10 (348)		

TABLE 2.	Seven	FAMILIES	FROM	THE	GPCR	CLASS A	١
1	Used in	тне Ехре	RIMEN	TAL	Study		

value g_{iq} for each 2-gram q with respect to this sequence as

$$g_{iq} = \frac{\mathcal{N}(q|S_i)}{L_i - 1} , \qquad (11)$$

where $\mathcal{N}(q|S_i)$ denotes the number of occurrence of the 2-gram feature q in the sequence S_i . Obviously, the above equation gives the relative frequency of a 2-gram feature in a sequence. In a training set $\mathbf{S} = \{S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_N\}$ of N sequences, we can ignore *redundant* 2-grams and consider only the N_g features g_{iq} that correspond to the most frequently occurring 2-grams. We select the N_g 2-grams occurring in at least half of the training sequences and by computing the corresponding g_{iq} ($q = 1, \ldots, N_g$) values for each sequence S_i , we construct the corresponding feature vectors to be fed in the neural classifier.

Table 3 presents the dimensionality of the feature spaces obtained using 2-grams and motifs for each dataset used in the experiments. It must be noted that we can further reduce the dimensionality of the 2-gram feature vectors using standard dimension reduction techniques, such as principal component analysis (PCA).

To assess the impact of the several feature types on the performance of the classification system, we have considered five different datasets:

- X_s: D motif-based features separately identified for each family (class-dependent),
- X_g: D motif-based class-independent features,
- $X_s \cup G$: D motif-based class-dependent features along with N_g 2-gram features,
- $X_g \cup G$: D motif-based class-independent features, along with N_g 2-gram features
- G: N_g 2-gram features.

The neural network architecture had one hidden layer of either 10 (for the cases X_s and X_g) or 20 nodes (for the other three cases).

Figure 2 displays the ROC₅₀ curves obtained after training the five neural classifiers in each of the three classification problems, respectively. For each problem, two different graphs are presented concerning

TABLE 3 THE NUMBER OF THE EXTRACTED MOTIE-BASED

(D) AND 2-GRAM (N_g) FEATURES THAT CORRESPONDS TO EACH DATASET				
Problem	N _g 2-gram features	D motif-based features		
PROSITE 1	174	$5 \times 6 = 30$		
PROSITE 2	285	$5 \times 7 = 35$		
GPCR	152	$5 \times 7 = 35$		

the	three	

F2

[T3]



FIG. 2. ROC_{50} curves illustrating the performance of the neural classifier on the three datasets using the five different feature vectors.

motifs of fixed length (W = 20) and of variable length $W \in [10, 30]$. Obviously, motif-based features themselves constitute an excellent source of information able to generate significant features and lead to the construction of efficient classifiers. In all cases, the neural networks trained by mixed features (e.g., NN($\mathbf{X}_s \cup \mathbf{G}$)) exhibit lower classification accuracy compared to the corresponding classifier trained with only motif-based features (e.g., NN(\mathbf{X}_s)). Furthermore, the 2-grams features alone (case NN(\mathbf{G})) do not seem to contain significant discriminant information.

Another observation that can be made from the ROC₅₀ curves in Fig. 2 is related to the performance of the neural classifier with class-dependent motifs (network $NN(\mathbf{X}_s)$) compared to that obtained with class-independent motifs (network $NN(\mathbf{X}_g)$). In almost all cases, we obtained better classification results with the network $NN(\mathbf{X}_s)$. One explanation for this behavior is that, when searching for a specific number *D* of motifs in the whole training set (ignoring class labels), the algorithm may focus on some of the families



FIG. 3. The seven class regions in the GPCR dataset in the case of class-dependent and class-independent features. The data have been projected in two dimensions using PCA.

and leave the other families explored only partially. This possibly affects the satisfactory modeling of some families, since the discovered class-independent motifs may not be sufficient for describing them (only a few individual motifs are dedicated to this family). Experiments in the X_g datasets with MEME have shown that the allocation of motifs in most cases was not equal for all the K families.

An example is shown in Fig. 3 that illustrates the constructed feature space of the X_s and X_g datasets in the case of the GPCR problem (seven classes), after projecting the 35-dimensional numerical to a twodimensional space using PCA. It can be observed that in the case of class-dependent motifs the protein classes exhibit less overlap while in the reduced feature space of class-independent motifs there is a significant overlapping among class regions, thus making the discrimination harder. A selection of higher values of *D* probably would lead to better results for the class-independent case, but would simultaneously result in larger feature spaces or to the overestimation of some families.

4.2. Comparison with other approaches

We have also compared the neural classifier (with class-dependent motif-based features) with two other protein classification methods, namely, the MAST homology detection algorithm (Bailey and Gribskov, 1998) and the profile HMMs built using SAM, (Hughey and Krogh, 1996). In both MAST and SAM, each protein family (or subfamily) is transformed (indirectly or directly) into a probabilistic model-profile, and the test sequences are classified using the class of the profile with the best score value.

More specifically, the MAST procedure (Bailey and Gribskov, 1998) initially uses the MEME algorithm to discover groups of motifs separately for each one of the *K* protein families. For each sequence in the testing set, the MAST algorithm combines the calculated *p*-values and estimates the significance of the observed match (called *E*-value) of the sequence to each of the *K* groups of motifs.⁴ Then the query sequence is assigned to the class with the minimum *E*-value. The SAM method (Hughey and Krogh, 1996) works in a similar way by building an HMM for each one of the *K* protein families (or subfamilies) instead of discovering groups of motifs.⁵

Figure 4 provides comparative results from the application of the proposed neural classifier, MAST and SAM, to the three datasets. We have created five ROC curves for each method (number of false positives versus sensitivity for several threshold values) until 25 false positives were found (ROC₂₅). The performance of the neural classifier and MAST was given by two curves respectively⁶ concerning motifs of fixed (W = 20) and variable length (W = [10, 30]), while the last one corresponds to SAM performance.

[F3]





⁴We use the *meme* and *mast* commands from the available MEME package v.3.0.4.

⁵We use the *buildmodel* and *hmmscore* commands from the available SAM package v.3.3.1.

 $^{^{6}}$ The curves for the neural classifier performance were the best plots from the corresponding ROC₅₀ diagrams in Fig. 2.



FIG. 4. ROC_{25} curves for the three methods (neural (NN), MAST, and SAM) on the three datasets.

In the case of MAST and SAM methods, ROC curves were obtained by setting several E-value thresholds. When the lowest estimated E-value for a query sequence was greater than the threshold, then the test sequence was considered unclassified.

The superior classification of the proposed neural approach is obvious from the plotted curves in all problems, offering greater sensitivity rates with perfect specificity (zero false positives). For the GPCR dataset, which is more difficult to discriminate, the classification improvement is more clear: a sensitivity rate of 99.30% was measured with only 11 false positives, while the corresponding results for MAST and SAM are (95.76%, 25) and (95.38%, 25), respectively. It is also important to stress the higher accuracy that the neural scheme achieves compared with MAST (dot lines). Although these two methods use the same groups of motifs, our method seems to offer a more efficient scheme for combining the motif match scores compared to the combination of their p-values as suggested by MAST. In addition, the neural classifier achieves fewer false positives with higher sensitivity rates in all datasets concerning either fixed or variable motif length. Again, the improvement is more clear in the plots corresponding to the GPCR dataset.

Regarding more carefully the three selected datasets, they can be considered as three different types of protein sequence classification problems. In particular, the PROSITE 1 dataset consists of *diverse protein families* in the sense that their corresponding PROSITE motifs are not very specific (such as in the case of PS00030 and PS00198) and they can be found in sequences from a large number of protein families. Hence, this application can be seen as a diverse protein family recognition problem. On the other hand, the PROSITE 2 dataset consists of protein families with more specific PROSITE motifs that can be distinguished more easily. Finally, the third dataset, GPCR, is related to the recognition of protein subfamilies within a broader protein family domain sharing strong homology.

In all the above three types of protein sequences classification problems, our approach has shown a superior classification performance providing better results in comparison with the two other approaches. As illustrated in Fig. 4, the SAM method seems to be unsuccessful in recognizing diverse protein families (PROSITE 1 case), and the obtained classification rate was low (the individual classification error for each diverse family was about 50%). On the other hand, the performance of the MAST method was lower in the case of the GPCR subfamily recognition problem where sequences from different subfamilies share strong homology. Finally, in the case of recognizing simple protein families (PROSITE 2 dataset), all the three approaches provide similar classification rates, with the proposed neural scheme offering slightly better results.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have presented a neural network approach for the classification of protein sequences. The proposed methodology is motivated by the principle that in biological sequence analysis motifs can provide major diagnostic features for determining the class label of the unknown sequences. The method is implemented in two steps, where a preprocessing step (based on the MEME algorithm) is initially applied for discovering a group of probabilistic motifs appearing in the sequences. We have suggested and evaluated two alternative ways for motif discovery in a set of K-class sequences depending on whether the class labels are taken into account. Using the discovered motifs, a numerical feature vector is generated for each sequence by computing the matching score of the sequence to each motif. At the second stage of the proposed method, the extracted feature vectors are used as inputs to a feed-forward neural network trained using the Gauss–Newton Bayesian Regularization algorithm that provides the class label of a sequence.

Experiments were conducted on real datasets (using very small training sets), and comparisons were made with the MAST and SAM probabilistic methods. ROC curves were used as a performance indicator, and the experimental results clearly illustrate the superiority of the proposed neural system. In addition we have shown that background features do not constitute a useful source of information for the classification task since they do not lead to performance improvement.

In future work, more extensive experiments could be conducted to assess the performance of the method on specific protein superfamilies of important biological functions, as was the case with the GPCR dataset. Also, alternative methods could be implemented and tested, both in the classification stage (mixture models, SVMs, etc.) and in the motif discovery stage.

APPENDIX: DATASETS

In the next tables proteins with bold ID's correspond to the training examples and the rest of them to the test set.

T4-T6

TABLE 4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROSITE 1 DATASET

Family	Protein ID's
PS00030	CB20-HUMAN GAR2-SCHPO HRB1-YEAST HS49-YEAST JF34-MOUSE NAB4-YEAST PAB3-ARATH RB27-DROME RN15-YEAST ROA1-MOUSE ROC3-NICSY RU17- HUMAN RU17-YEAST RU1A-DROME RU2B-HUMAN STP2-HUMAN V2AF-CAEEL U2AF-HUMAN U2AG-HUMAN K682-HUMAN A2BP-HUMAN A2BP-MOUSE ARP2- PLAFA ROA-MOUSE CAZ-DROME CB20-XENLA CG79-HUMAN PM14-MOUSE CIRP-HUMAN CYBC-MOUSE D111-ARATH ELAV-DROME ELAV-DROWI ELV1-HUMAN CSX1-SCHPO CTF1-SCHPO CUG1-HUMAN CUG1-MOUSE CWF5-SCHPO CYPE-DROME CYPE-HUMAN CYPE-MOUSE D111-ARATH ELAV-DROME ELAV-DROWI ELV1-HUMAN ELV1- MOUSE ELV2-HUMAN GB2-HUMAN GB2-MOUSE G3BP-HUMAN G3BP-MOUSE G3BP-SCHPO CBP2-YEAST GRI0-BRANA GRP1-HUMAN GRP1-SINAL GRP1-SORBI GRP2-SINAL GRP2-SORBI GRP7-ARATH GRP8-ARATH GRPA-MAIZE GRP-DAUCA JF34-CAEEL JF34-HUMAN JF34-SCHPO JF34-YEAST TF39-HUMAN JF39-SCHPO JF39- TOBAC JF39-YEAST JF48-HUMAN JF48-YEAST JF4H-HUMAN JF1-HMOUSE SIN1-YEAST LA-ACBEL JF34-HUMAN JF34-SCHPO JRD1-YEAST LF4-SEAL LA JF3-HUMAN JF34-SCHPO JF39- TOBAC JF39-YEAST JF48-HUMAN JF49-YEAST JF4H-HUMAN JT41-MOUSE JF31-YEAST LA-ACBEL JF34-HUMAN JF13-SCHPO JF39-JFUMAN NAB3-YEAST NOF4-YEAST NOF
PS00038	AHR-RAT ARRS-MAIZE CBF1-YEAST DA-DROME ESM7-DROME HEN2-MOUSE HES3-MOUSE MAD4-MOUSE MITF-RAT MX11-BRARE MYC-HYLLA MYF6- HUMAN MYOD-BRARE NDF1-MESAU SIM1-MOUSE TAL2-MOUSE TAL-HUMAN TE1-MOUSE TWS1-HUMAN US2-RAT AHR-HUMAN AHR-MOUSE ARLC-MAIZE ARN2-HUMAN ARR2-MOUSE ARTO-DROME ARTH-HUMAN ARNT-MOUSE ARTT-RABT ARNT-RAT ASC1-HUMAN ASC1-MOUSE ASC2-RAT ASC2- HUMAN ASC2-MOUSE ASC2-RAT AST3-DROME AST4-DROME AST5-DROME AST5-DROME AST6-DROME ATH1-HUMAN ATH1-MOUSE NDF6-MOUSE NDF4-MOUSE NDF4-XENLA NGN2-MOUSE ASC2-RAT AST3-DROME AST4-DROME AST5-DROME AST5-DROME AST6-DROME ATH1-HUMAN ATH1-MOUSE NDF6-MOUSE NDF4-MOUSE NDF4-XENLA NGN2-MOUSE ASC2-RAT AST3-DROME AST4-DROME ESM5-DROME CSM6-DROME ESM6-DROME ESM6-DROME ESM6-DROME HARD-DROME HARD-DROME HARD-DROME HARD-ROWI HAN1-CHICK HAN1-HUMAN HAN1-MOUSE HAN1-RAT HAN1-SHEEP HAN1-XENLA HAN2-BRARE HAN2-CHICK HAN2-HUMAN HAN2-MOUSE HAN2-XENLA HEN1- HUMAN HES1-CHICK HES1-HUMAN NES1-CHICK HES1-HUMAN NES1-MOUSE HES1-RAT HES2-HUMAN HES2-AWD SE HAS2-RAT HES3-MOUSE HAN2-XENLA HEN1- HUMAN NEN1-MOUSE HEN2-HUMAN NES1-CHICK HES1-HUMAN NES1-MOUSE HES1-RAT HE32-MUMAN HES2-AWD SE HAN2-RAT HES3-MOUSE HAN2-RAT HES1-MOUSE HES1-RAT HE1- HUMAN NEN1-MOUSE HUNAN HIB21-CHICK HES1-HUMAN NES1-MOUSE HES1-RAT HE32-HUMAN HES2-HUMAN HES2-HUMAN HES1-MOUSE HAN2-RAT HES3-RAT HES1- HUMAN NEN2-AWD BI-RAT ID2-HUMAN NID2-MOUSE HID2-RAT ID3-HUMAN NID4-HUMAN NID4-MOUSE MAN2-RAT HIN2-YEAST INA0-YEAST NA0-YEAST NA0-YEAST
PS00061	2BHD-STREX ADH2-DROMN ADH-DROMA ADH-DROMM ADH-DROSL DECR-RAT DHB7-RAT DHGA-BACME DHG-BACSU DHI2-RABIT DHI2-SHEEP DHK2- STRON ENTA-ECOLI MASI-AGRT9 PGDH-HUMAN Y019-THEMA YAEB-SCHPO YF43-MYCTU YWC4-CAEEL OXIR-STRAT 25KD-SARPE 3BHD-COMTE ACT-S-STRCO ADH1-CERCA ADH1-DROMY ADH1-DROMN ADH1-DROMA ADH1-DROMA ADH1-DROMA ADH2-CERCA ADH2-DROM ADH2-DROMU ADH2-DR

TABLE 4.(Continued)

Family	Protein ID's
PS00198	DHSB-CYACA DHSB-PARDE DHSB-RICCN FER3-PLEBO FER-ALIAC FER-CLOST FIXG-RHIME FIXX-BRAJA HMC6-DESVH MAUM-METEX NIFJ-ECOLI NUIC- ARTH NUM-NEUCR PORD-METIA PSAC-ORYSA RNEB-PASMU RNFC-ECOST Y208-METIA YD49-METIA YFHL-ECOLI AEGA-ECOLI ASRA-SALTY ASRC-SALTY COOF-RHORU DCA1-METMA DCA2-METMA DCMA-METIA DCMA-METTE DCMA-METTH DCMG-METTH DDHSB-BACTOP DHSB-BACSU DHSB-CAEEL DHSB-CHOCR DHSB-COXBU DHSB-DROME DHSB-ECOLI DHSB-HUMAN DHSB-HYCGR DHSB-PORPU DHSB-RACT DHSB-SCHOP DHSB-BACSU DHSB-CAEEL DHSB-CHOCR DHSB-COXBU DHSB-DROME DHSB-ECOLI DHSB-HUMAN DHSB-HYCGR DHSB-PORPU DHSB-RACTH DHSB-SHCPD DHSB-BACTHO DHSB- USTMA DHSB-YEAST DMSB-ECOLI DMSB-HAEIN DPYD-BOVIN DPYD-CAEEL DPYD-HUMAN DPYD-PIG DSRB-ARCFU DSVB-DESGI DSVB-DESVH FDHB-METTG PDHB-METTA FDHB-WOLSU FDNH-ECOLI FDNH-HCHI FER1-DESDN FER1-DESDN FER1-DSNN AZOCH FDXN-BAAIA FDXN-RHILT FDNN RHIME FDXN-RHIISN FDXN-RHOCA FER1-AZOVI FER1-CAUCR FER1-CHLI FER1-DESDN FER1-DESDN FER1-DSNN FER1-ANAY FFEX-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER2-DESDN FER2-DESDN FER2-DESVM FER2-HIDA FER2-RHOCA FER2-RHORU FER2-SULTO FER2-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-BOXTE FER2-METIA FER2-RHOCA FER2-MIDA FER3-METIA FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-BACTH FER3-BUTME FER2-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-RHIN FER3-RHOCA FER4-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-BACA FER3-RHIN FER3-RHOCA FER4-METIA FER5-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-CLU FER3-RHIN FER3-RHOCA FER4-METIA FER5-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-METIA FER3-ANAY FER3-DAYA FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-ANAY FER3-CLU FER3-CLU FER3-SERA FER3-SERA FER3-SERA FER3-DAYA FER3-ANAY FER3-CLU FER3-CLU FER3-SERA FER3-S
PS00211	ABC2-HUMAN APPD-BACSU FTSE-HAEIN HISP-SALTY KSTI-ECOLI LCCL-LACLA LMRA-LACLC LOLD-BUCAI MDL-BRUCAI MKL-MYCTU MODC-HAEIN MRP2-RABIT NIKD-RCOLI NOD-AZOCA NODE-RIISN NOSF-PSETS INTD-SYNY3 OPFF-LACLA OPF-MICY ABI HAIMAN ABIL-MOUSE ABIL- RABIT ABIL-RAT ABL-HUMAN ABC-MOUSE ABL-SCHIPO ABC-2MOUSE ABC-SHUMAN ABC-MUNCY MYCTON POTA-MYCCGE REBEAVIXAX SUFC-ECOLI RABIT ABIL-RAT ABL-HUMAN ABC-MOUSE ABL-SCHIPO ABC-2MOUSE ABC-SHUMAN ABC-MUNCY MATHEM NA BC-MOUSE ABC-SHUMAN ABC-MOUSE ABC- ABL-ABL-ABL-ABL-ABL-ABL-ABL-ABL-ABL-ABL-

 TABLE 4.
 (Continued)

Family	Protein ID's
PS00301	CYSN-RHITR CYSN-XYLFA EF1A-ARCFU EF1A-DICDI EF1A-SULSO EF1S-PORPU EF2-CHICK EF2-MESAU EFTU-CHLTR EFTU-FERIS EFTU-GRALE EFTU- MYCPN CYSN-SDEAC CYSN-RHIME EFIO-XENLA EF11-CRIG RE11-DAUCA EF1-DROME F11-IEDRC RE11-HORVU EF11-HUMAN EF1-MOUSE EF1-RHIRA EF11- SCHPO EF11-XENLA EF12-DAUCA EF12-DROME EF12-EUPCR EF14-DAUCA EF14-APMCE F14-ARTH EF12-SCHPO EF12-XENLA EF13-RHIRA EF12- SCHPO EF13-XENLA EF11-SCHPO EF1A-ABSGL EF1A-AERRE EF1A-ABCA EF1A-APMCE F14-ACRYN EF1A-ARTH EF1A-DESMO EF1A-ENNOUSE EF1-RHIRA EF12- SCHPO EF13-XENLA EF11-SCHPO EF1A-ABSGL EF1A-AERRE EF1A-ACREA EF1A-APMCE F1A-ACRYN EF1A-DESMO EF1A-ENNOUSE EF1-ARHIRA EF12- SCHPO EF13-XENLA EF11-SCHPO EF1A-ABSGL EF1A-AERRE EF1A-ADECA EF1A-APMCA EF1A-ACRYN EF1A-DESMO EF1A-ENNOUSE EF1-ARHIRA EF1A- EF1A-GALA EF1A-HALHA EF1A-HALMA EF1A-HELVI EF1A-APTA EF1A-LYCCS EF1A-MARS EF1A-META EF1A-ENNO EF1A-PYRA EF2-CRYP EF2-CRYP EF2-DROME EF2-PYRA EF3-PYRA PYRA PYRA PYRA PYRA PYR

TABLE 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROSITE 2 DATASET

Family	Protein ID's
PS00070	DHAE-MACPR DHAX-HUMAN DHA1-BOVIN HPCC-ECOLI YHJ9-YEAST GABD-ECOLI MAOC-ECOLI DHA4-YEAST DHA3-BACSU DHA5-YEAST YLQ6-CAEEL DHAS-CHICK DHAM-BOVIN PUT2-HUMAN MMSA-CAEEL ALDA-ECOLI ALDB-ECOLI ASTD-FCOLI ASTD-FSEAE CALB-CAUER CALB-PSEAE DHA2-VIEAC DHA1-MAD-CABAE CALB-PAEAE DHA2-VIEAE DHA8-PSICD DHAA-BACTRING DHAAB-BACTRING DHAAB-BACTRING DHAAB-BACTRING DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-SACTRING DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-SACTRING DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-SACTRING DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-SACTRING DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-SACTRING DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-SACTRING DHAA-BACTRING DHAA-BACTRING DHAAB-CARCH DHAA-SACRU DHAAB-SACRU DHAA-SACRU DHAA-SACRU DHAA-SACRU DHAA-SACRU DHAA-SACRU DHAA-SACRU DHAA-SACRU DHAA-SACRU DHAAB-CARCH DHAA-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAA-CARCH DHAA-CARCH DHAA-CARCH DHAA-SACRU DHAAB-CARCH DHAA-SACRU DHAAB-SACRU DHAAB-SACRU DHAAB-SACRU DHAAB-SACRU DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-SACRU DHAAB-CARCH DHAAB-SACR
PS00077	COX1-THETH COX1-BACFI COX1-DIDMA COX1-ASCSU COX1-HORSE COX1-EPHEQ FIXN-AZOCA COX1-SYNVU COX1-CRION COX1-ALLMA AOX1-AERPE COX1-PEA COX1-RHOSH COX1-SOYBN COX1-PLABE CO13-THETH CO14-BRAJA COX1-ACCA COX1-ALBCO COX1-ALBTU COX1-AMICA COX1-ANAPL COX1- ANGGA COX1-ANOUL COX1-APIAL COX1-ATRAT COX1-ATREF COX1-ASTPE COX1-ASTPE COX1-BACPS COX1-BACPS COX1-BACPS COX1-BACPS COX1-BACPS COX1-ADAPL COX1- BOYIN COX1-BRAJA COX1-CAEEL COX1-CANFA COX1-ACTSF COX1-ASTPE COX1-ASTPE COX1-CASBE COX1-CERS1 COX1-CHICK COX1-PHICK COX1-SALS COX1-PHICK COX1-SALS COX1-SALS COX1-PHICK COX1-SALS COX1-PHICK COX1-SALS COX1-PHICK COX1-SALS COX1-
PS00118	PA21-NAJMO PA21-HORSE PA2H-BUNFA PA2E-PSEAU PA2C-CRODU PA2H-BOTJR PA2C-PSEAU PA2Z-HUMAN PA22-BUNMU PA23-NAJNG PA21-TRIGA PA21- ACAAN PA21-BOTPI PA2X-RAT PA22-PIG 0C90-CAVPO 0C90-HUMAN 0C90-MOUSE PA20-BUNMU PA20-NOTSC PA20-PSEAU PA21-AGKHA PA21-AGKHP PA21-AGKH PA21-BOTAS PA21-BOTIA PA21-BOTIN PA21-BOTNN PA21-BUNNU PA21-CANFA PA21-CAVPO PA21-ERIMA PA21-HEHHA PA21-HUMAN PA21-LATSE PA21- MATBI PA21-MOUSE PA21-NAIME PA21-NAINK PA21-NOTSC PA21-OXYSC PA21-PSEAU PA21-BEL PA21-RAT PA21-SHEEP PA21-THEHAH PA21-HUMAN PA21-LATSE PA22- ACAAN PA22-AGKHA PA22-AGKHP PA22-ASPSC PA22-BITNA PA22-BOTAS PA22-BOTMO PA22-BOTNO PA22-GERGO PA22-ERIMA PA21-HELAN PA22-LATCO PA22-AATBI PA22-NAIKA PA22-AGKHA PA22-AGKHP PA23-ASPSC PA22-BITNA PA22-BOTAS PA22-BOTMO PA22-BOTNO PA22-GERGO PA22-ERIMA PA21-HELAN PA22-HATDE PA22-NAIKA PA22-AGKHA PA22-AGKHP PA23-ASPSC PA22-BITNA PA22-BOTAS PA22-BOTNO PA22-BOTNO PA23-GKHP PA23-BOTAS PA23-BOTNP PA23-BUNNU PA23- HELSU PA23-HUMAN PA23-LATSE PA23-NAIME PA23-NAIME PA23-NAIMO PA23-NOTSC PA23-OXYSC PA23-PSEAU PA23-TRIGA PA23-BUNNU PA24-DABRU PA24- LATSE PA24-TRIGA PA23-HUMAN PA25-MOUSE PA22-SPSEAU PA23-STRIGA PA23-FISTE PA26-ATRIGA PA23-BUNNU PA24-DABRU PA24- LATSE PA24-TRIGA PA23-HUMAN PA32-MICNI PA24-MOUSE PA27-STRIGA PA32-NEITE PA26-ARABIT PA3A-RAT PA3A-VIPA PA28- BUNFA PA2A-CRODU PA2B-MICNI PA2B-PSEEP PA2B-STRIFI PA2B-FIRID PA26-TRIGA PA27-DBBEND PA27-NEITE PA3C-VIPAA PA3C-VIPAP PA2B- BUNFA PA2B-CRODU PA2B-MICNI PA2B-PSETE PA2B-TRIFI PA2B-FIRID PA2B-SPETE PA3C-ARABIT PA3A-VIPA PA3C-VIPAP PA3B- BUNFA PA3B-CRODU PA2B-MICNI PA3B-PSETE PA2B-FIRIFI PA3B-RIFIL PA3B-RIFINU PA3B-VIPAA PA3C-MOUSE PA3C-PSETE PA3C-VIPAA PA3C-
PS00180	GLNA-PCICIGL GLNA-PEA GLN2-DROME GLNA-HELPY GLNA-PANAR GLN3-RHILP GLN1-ARATH GLN5-MAIZE GLNA-PIG GLNA-PYRHO GLNA-THIFE GLNA- SALTY GLN3-PHAVU GLNA-NICPL GLN2-DAUCA GLN1-ALNGL GLN1-BRAJA GLN1-CHLEE GLN1-DAUCA GLN1-DROME GLN1-FRAAL GLN1-LOTIA GLN1-MAIZE GLN1-MEDSA GLN1-WIYGN3 GLN1-PEA GLN1-PHAVU GLN1-RHIME GLN1-SUBME GLN1-SUBME GLN1-STRYE GLN1-TRYEN GLN1-STRYE GLN1-TRYEN GL

TABLE 5. (Continued)

Family	Protein ID's
PS00215	UCP5-HUMAN ARI3-NEUCR SAI8-MOUSE YIA6-YEAST SHMI-YEAST ADTI-BOVIN ADT2-WHEAT UCP3-BOVIN M2OM-RAT YAD8-SCHPO UCP1-MOUSE TXTP- HUMAN DNC-HUMAN ADT3-YEAST ADT3-HUMAN ADT1-ARATH ADT1-GOSHI ADT1-HUMAN ADT1-MAIZE ADT1-MOUSE ADT1-RAT ADT1-SOLTU ADT1-WHEAT ADT1-YEAST ADT2-ARATH ADT3-HUMAN ADT3-WAIZE ADT2-MOUSE ADT2-RAT ADT2-SOLTU ADT2-YEAST ADT3-BOVIN ADT3-MOGA ADT-CHLKE ADTCHLRE ADT0-PROME ADT-KLULA ADTNEUCR ADT0-RYSA ADT5-CHPO BT1-MAIZE C669-HUMAN CMC1-CAEEL CMC1-DROME CMC1-HUMAN CMC1-YEAST CMC2-CAEEL CMC2-HUMAN CMC2-MOUSE CMC3-CAEEL DIC-HUMAN DIC-MOUSE ELX1-YEAST GDC-BOVIN GDC-HUMAN GMC-RAT LEUS-YEAST M2OM-BOVIN M2OM-HUMAN M2OM-MOUSE MC3-TAEL DIC-HUMAN MC4T-RAT MFT-HUMAN MPCP-BOVIN MPCP-RATS GDC-BOVIN GDC-HUMAN GMC-RAT LEUS-YEAST M2OM-BOVIN M2OM-HUMAN M2OM-MOUSE MC3-TAEST CMC2-TAEST ODC-HUMAN ORT1-HUMAN ORT1-MOUSE ORT1-YEAST ORT2-HUMAN P47A-CANBO P47B-CANBO P47B-CABEL M2SAT MRS4-YEAST ODC1-YEAST ODC2-YEAST ODC-HUMAN ORT1-HUMAN ORT1-MOUSE ORT1-YEAST ORT2-HUMAN P47A-CANBO P47B-CANBO P47B-CABE PM34-HUMAN PM34-MOUSE PMC7-YEAST SHATS AJABH MAN SFC1-YEAST TXTP-B0VIN TXTP-CAEEL TXTP-RAT TXTP-YEAST UCP1-BOVIN UCP1-HUMAN UCP3- MOUSE UCP3-RDI UCP1-RAT UCP2-ABAR RE UCP2-CANFA UCP2-CYPCA UCP2-HUMAN UCP2-HUMAN P47A-CANBO P47B-CANBO P47B-CABE MOUSE UCP3-RDI UCP1-RAT UCP2-ABARE UCP2-CANFA UCP2-CYPCA UCP2-HUMAN UCP3-MOUSE UCP2-PIG UCP2-RAT UCP3-CANFA UCP3-HUMAN UCP3- MOUSE UCP3-RDI UCP1-RAT UCP2-ABARE UCP2-CANFA UCP2-CYPCA UCP2-HUMAN UCP3-MOUSE UCP2-PIG UCP3-RAT UCP3-CANFA UCP3-HUMAN UCP3- MOUSE UCP3-RDI UCP1-RAT UCP2-ABARE UCP3-CANFA UCP3-CYPCA UCP3-HUMAN UCP3-MOUSE UCP3-RAT UCP3-CANFA UCP3-HUMAN UCP3- MOUSE UCP3-RDI UCP3-RAT UCP4-MUMAN UCP3-MOUSE UCP3-RAT VEG3-YEAST YG3-UCP3-HUMAN UCP3-HUMAN UCP
PS00217	GTR1-RAT IOLF-BACSU CSBC-BACSU GTR5-HUMAN KHT2-KLULA PH84-YEAST NANT-ECOLI GHT3-SCHPO HUP1-CHLKE HGT1-CANAL GTR4-RAT GTR1- CHICK MMLH-ALCEU OUSA-ERWCH PHDK-NOCSK AGT1-YEAST ARAE-BACSU ARAE-ECOLI ARAE-KLEOX BENK-ACICA CTI1-ECOLI CTI-KLEPN CTI1-SALTY GAL2-YEAST GALP-ECOLI GHT2-SCHPO GHT4-SCHPO GHT4-SCHPO GTT1-YEAST GLCP-SYNY3 GL-ZYMMO GT10-HUMAN GT11-HUMAN GTR1-BOVIN GTR1-HUMAN GT11-LEDD GTR1-MOUSE GTR1-PIG GTR1-RABIT GTR1-SHEEP GTR2-BOVIN GTR2-CHICK GTR2-HUMAN GTR2-LEDD GTR2-MOUSE GTR2-PIG GTR2- RAT GTR3-BOVIN GTR2-CANFA GTR3-CHICK GTR3-BOVIN GTR3-MOUSE GTR3-FIG GTR3-RABIT GTR3-RAT GTR3-SHEEP GTR4-BOVIN GTR4-CANFA GTR4-HUMAN GTR4-MOUSE GTR4-PIG GTR5-BOVIN GTR5-MOUSE GTR3-RABIT GTR3-RAT GTR3-BABIT GTR3-RAT GTR3-SHEEP GTR4-BOVIN GTR4-CANFA GTR4-HUMAN GTR4-MOUSE GTR4-PIG GTR5-BOVIN GTR5-MOUSE GTR5-RABIT GTR3-RAT GTR3-BABIT GTR3-RAT GTR3-SHEEP GTR4-BOVIN GTR4-CANFA GTR4-HUMAN GTR4-MOUSE GTR4-PIG GTR5-BOVIN GTR5-MOUSE GTR5-RABIT GTR3-RAT GTR3-BABIT GTR3-RAT GTR3-HUMAN GTR8-MOUSE GTR8-RAT GTR3- HUMAN HEX6-RICCO HGT1-KLULA HUP2-CHLKE HUP3-CHLKE HXT0-YEAST HXT1-YEAST HXT2-YEAST HXT3-YEAST HXT3-YEAST HXT5-YEAST HXT3-YEAST HXT5-YEAST HXT6-YEAST HXT
PS00338	SOMA-TRIVU PRI-CHICK PRI-PAROL SOMA-MACMU PRI-MOUSE SOMA-ACALA PLI2-MESAU SOMI-SIGGU SOMA-ESOLU SOM2-CARAU SOMA-CANFA PRI-SHEEP SOM2-HUMAN PRI-HORSE SOMA-PANTR GHR1-RAT GHR3-RAT GHR4-RAT PLF1-MOUSE PLF2-MOUSE PLF3-MOUSE PLF3-MOUSE PLI1-OREMO PRI-2-ALIMI PRI- MOUSE PLI-RAT PLI2-BOVIN PLI2-MOUSE PLI2-RAT PLI-VRAT PLI-HUMAN PL-SHEEP PRI-ALIMI PRI-CRONO PRI-1-ONCKE PRI-1-OREMO PRI-2-ALIMI PRI- CRONO PRI-2-ONCKE PRI-2-OREMO PRI-2-NATO PLI-VRAT PLI-HUMAN PLI-SHEEP PRI-1-ALIMI PRI-1-CRONO PRI-1-ONCKE PRI-1-OREMO PRI-2-ALIMI PRI- CRONO PRI-2-ONCKE PRI-2-OREMO PRI-2-NATO PRI-BALDO PRI-BOVIN PRI-BUDIA PRI-CAMDR PRI-CAPHI PRI-CARAU PRI-CHEMY PRI-CORAU PRI-CYPCA PRI-DICLA PRI-FEI,CA PRI-HUMAN PRI-HYPMO PRI-HYPNO PRI-1CTIVU PRI-100XAF PRI-MACMU PRI-MEGA PRI-MSAU PRI-MEMY PRI-CORAU PRI-ONCMY PRI-PIG PRI-PROAT PRI-ABBIT PRI-RAT PRI-SALSA PRI-SPAAU SOM2-PICIU SOM2-BULMI SOM2-ONCMY SOM2-ONCNE SOM2-PANTR SOM2-SPAAU SOMA-ACABU SOMA-ANAPI. SOMA-ANCKE SOM1-ONCNE SOM1-SPAAU SOM2-ACIGU SOM2-BUEMA SOMA-CALIA SOMA-CARDE SOM2-PANTR SOM2-SPAAU SOMA-ACABU SOMA-ANAPI. SOMA-ANGKE SOM1-ONCNE SOM1-SPAAU SOM2-CYPCA SOMA-DICLA SOMA-CARDE SOMA-CRENE SOM3-CRENE SOMA-LATERD SOMA-CICLE SOMA-DICLA SOMA-CARDE SOMA-CRENE SOM3-CRENE SOM3-CRENE SOMA-LATERD SOMA-LATCA SOMA-LATCA SOMA-CARDE SOMA-SOMA-CRENE SOMA-HEETO SOMA-HORSE SOMA-HUMAN SOMA-CIPU SOMA-CRENE SOM3-MACTED SOMA-PIG SOMA-LATCA SOMA-LECAS SOMA-LOXAF SOMA-NELGA SOMA-MESAU SOMA-MISMI SOMA-MONDO SOMA-MORSE SOMA-PAROE SOMA-HARON SOMA-LATCA SOMA-LECAS SOMA-LOXAF SOMA-NELGA SOMA-MESAU SOMA-GREND SOMA-ARGEN SOMA-PAROG SOMA-PAROE SOMA-PAROE SOMA-PIG SOMA-PICAS SOMA-ANCKE SOM3-NONCKE SOM3-PAROES SOMA-PAROE SOMA-PAROE SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PAROAN SOMA-PAROE SOMA-PAROE SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICES SOMA-PICES SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICAS SOMA-PICES SOMA-

 TABLE 6.
 Description of the GPCR Dataset

Subfamily	Protein ID's
Amine	SHIA-RAT SHIB-CAVPO SHIB-CRIGR SHIB-HUMAN SHIB-RABIT SHID-MOUSE SH2A-CRIGR SH2A-MOUSE SHTB-DROME ACMI-DROME ACM3-PIG ACM4-MOUSE BAR-RESAU DBDR-XENLA HH2R-MOUSE 04198 061232 0AR2-LOCMI SHIL-FUGRU SHIA-HUMAN SHIB-MOUSE SHIB-DIDMA SHIB-FUGRU SHIB-MOUSE SHIB-RAT SHIB-SPAEH SHID-CANPO SHID-FUGRU SHID-HUMAN SHID-ABIT SHID-RAT SHIE-HUMAN SHID-CAVPO SHIH-HUMAN SHID-CAVPO SHI-HUMAN SHID-MOUSE SHID-RAT SHOLD SHID-RAT AZAA-BOVIN A2AA-CAVPO A2AA-HUMAN A2AB-MOUSE AIAA-RAT AZAB-CAVPO AZACHUMAN AZAB-MOUSE AIAA-RAT AZAB-CAVPO AZACHUMAN AZACHUMAN AZAB-CAVPO AZAB-HUMAN AZAC-CAVPO AZACHUMAN AZAB-CAVPO AZAB-HUMAN AIAB-MOUSE AZA-RAT AZAB-CAVPO AZACHUMAN AZAC-GAVPO AZACHUMAN AZAB-CAVPO AZAB-HUMAN AZAB-CAVPO AZAB-HUMAN AZAB-CAVPO AZAB-HUMAN AZAC-CAVPO AZACHUMAN AZAC-CAVPO AXACHUMAN AZAC-CAVPO AXACHUMAN AZAC-CAVPO AXACHUMAN AZAC-CAVPO AHZACHUMAN AZAC-CAVPO HIZACHUMAN BIAR-CAUPA ALAMACHU ZAR-CANFA HIZAC-CANFA HIAR-CAUPA

 TABLE 6.
 (Continued)

Subfamily	Protein ID's
Peptide	BRSJ. HUMAN CCR3-HUMAN CREWARDUC CREWTRAFE FAIL-PANTE GP7-HUMAN LATE. AND TE JACANTE LISA-ANDET LISA-CARCT GORGO MCSR-RAT MSHE CEEL KKRHHUMAN MDREMOUSE ACT. BOVIN ACTE-CAVPO ACTE. HUMAN ACTE.MEDIZIO 60756 OMISEI ACTE. SHEEP ADMR-HUMAN ADMR- MOUSE ADMR-RAT 4022-HUMAN AG23-MEREN AG22: AAT 462 CAPTO ACTE. HUMAN ACTE.MEDIZIO 60756 OMISEI ACTE. SHEEP ADMR-HUMAN ADMR- MOUSE ADMR-RAT 4022-HUMAN AG23-MEDIX AG22: AAT 462 CAPTO ACTE. HUMAN ACTE.MEDIZIO 60756 OMISEI AG28: AG12 RAT 4028. SHEEP ADMR-HUMAN ADMR- MOUSE ADMR-RAT 402-2HUMAN AG23-MEDIX AVTCATCO BRB-HUMAN REBL-RABIT BBRI-RAT BBRI-RAT BRB-RAT BRB-LAR HUMAN REBL-MUMSE BBRI-RABIT BBRI-RAT BRBI-RAT BRB-RAT BRB-RAT BRB-RAT BLR-RAT DRA-HUMAN CSA- MOUSE CARL-RAT CSAR-CANPO CSAR-GORGO CSAR-GORGO CSAR-CAVPO CSAR-HUMAN CSAR-MOUSE CAR-RAT CSAR-CANPO CSAR-RAT CCKR-CAVPO CCKR-HUMAN CCR-MOUSE CCKR-RABIT CCKR-RAT CCKR-XENLA CCR3-MOUSE CCR4-BOUN CCR4-EETO CCR4-FELCA CCR4-HUMAN CCR4- MOUSE CSAR-RAT CSAR-CANPO CSAR-GORGO CSAR-GOLGO CSAR-HUMAN CSAR-MOUSE CSAR-PART CSAR-PONY CSAR-RAT CCKR-CAVPO CCKR-HUMAN CCR4-MOUSE CCKR-RABIT CCKR-RAT CCKR-TENLA CCR3-MOUSE CCR4-BOUN CCR4-EETO CCR4-FELCA CCR4-HUMAN CCR4- MACFA CCR4-MOUSE CCR4-PART CKR3-MOUSE CCR5-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-CWPO CKR3-CRAE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MACHU CKRA-MACHU CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-CANPO CKR3-CRAE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MACHU CKR4-MUMA CKR4-MUMAS CKR4-MUMAU CKR4-MACHU CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR4-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR4-HUMAN CKR4-MOUSE CKR3-HUMAN CKR4-HUMAN CKR4-HUMAN CKR4-HUMAN CKR4-HUMAN CKR
Hormone	FSHR-EQUAS FSHR-SHEEP Q14751 Q98784 Q9BG55 Q9DGC5 Q9DGC6 Q918N7 Q91948 TSHR-BOVIN FSHR-BOVIN FSHR-CHICK FSHR-HORSE FSHR-HUMAN FSHR-MACFA FSHR-MOUSE FSHR-PIG FSHR-RAT LSHR-BOVIN LSHR-CALLA LSHR-HUMAN LSHR-MOUSE LSHR-PIG LSHR-RAT LSHR-SHEEP Q64183 Q98785 Q98TF4 Q9BG56 Q9BGN4 Q9D697 Q9DGF5 Q91949 Q9PVN9 Q9PVP0 Q9PW16 TSHR-CANFA TSHR-HUMAN TSHR-MOUSE TSHR-RAT TSHR-SHEEP
Rhodopsin	057422 057447 OPS1-DROPS OPSB-SAIBB OPSD-ICTPU OPSD-MACFA OPSD-SARMI OPSD-SARSP OPSD-SHEEP OPSG-SCICA OPSR-FELCA OPSV-CHICK Q0226 Q98UJS Q9GUG3 Q9IB87 Q9TTX9 Q9PUE9 Q0UAN9 Q9W609 00246 002465 046554 057448 057605 061473 061473 062860 070363 076123 076124 076125 096107 097901 0PN3-HUMAN OPN3-MOUSE OPN-HUMAN OPN3-MOUSE OPS1-CAIU1 OPS1-DROME OPS1-HEMSA OPS1-LIMPO OPS1-APTYE OPS1- SCHGR OPS2-DROME OPS2-DROPS OPS2-HEMSA OPS2-LIMPO OPS2-PATYE OPS2-SCHGR OPS3-DROME OPS3-DROME OPS4-DROME OPS4-DROPS OPS4-DRONE OPS3-DROME OPS3-DROME OPS3-DROME OPS3-DROME OPS3-DROME OPS3-DROME OPS3-DROME OPS3-DAUGA
Olfactory	OICI-HUMAN 07266 070270 0888-HUMAN 0LFI-CANRA OLF6-CHICK OLF6-RAT 0967QB2 09H24 09H241 09I882 09H2C 09H27 20H27 20

 TABLE 6.
 (Continued)

Subfamily	Protein ID's
Prostanoid	O00326 PD2R-MOUSE PE22-MOUSE PE23-BOVIN PE23-HUMAN PE23-RABIT PF2R-MOUSE PI2R-BOVIN Q9R261 TA2R-BOVIN 000325 015191 035932 046657 07528 PD2R-HUMAN PE21-HUMAN PE21-MOUSE PE21-RAT PE22-CANFA PE22-HUMAN PE22-RAT PE23-MOUSE PE23-RAI PE24-RAIT PE24-RAIT PE2R-BOVIN PF2R-HUMAN PE24-RAIT PE24-RAIT PE24-RAIT PE2R-BOVIN PF2R-HUMAN PF2R-RAIT PF2R-SHEEP PI2R-HUMAN PI2R-MOUSE PI2R-RAIT Q9BGL8 Q9D627 Q9TU16 TA2R-CERAE TA2R- HUMAN TA2R-MOUSE TA2R-RAIT
Nucleotide-like	AAIR-BOVIN AAIR-RAT AA2A-RAT 057466 P2Y3-MELGA P2Y6-HUMAN P2YR-RAT Q99MT6 Q9ERK9 Q9H1C0 AAIR-CANFA AAIR-CANFO AAIR-CHICK AAIR-HUMAN AAIR-RABIT AA2A-CANFA AA2A-CAYFO AA2A-HUMAN AA2A-MOUSE AA2B-CHICK AA2B-HUMAN AA2B-MOUSE AA2B-RAT AA3R-CANFA AA3R-HUMAN AA3R-RABIT AA3R-RAT AA3R-SHEEP GPR2-HUMAN GPR2-MOUSE 000398 008766 035811 P2UR-HUMAN P2UR-MOUSE P2UR-RAT P2Y3-CHICK P2Y4-HUMAN P2Y5-CHICK P2Y5-HUMAN P2Y6-RAT P2Y8-XENLA P2Y9-HUMAN P2YR-BOVIN P2YR-CHICK P2YR-HUMAN P2YR-MELGA P2YR-MOUSE Q9BXS1 Q9BXC1 Q9BYU4 Q9CPZ4 Q9DE05 Q9JJS7 Q9N100 Q9PU18 Q9R202 Q9W6C4

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Author Right running head okay as shown (short title)?

Pub/Author

Appendix tables (Tables 4–6) were able to be picked up from electronic file for manipulation. So, these tables are supplied as type rather than art. Okay?