

Systematic evaluation of soluble protein expression using a fluorescent unnatural amino acid reveals no reliable predictors of tolerability

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ABSTRACT

Improvements in genetic code expansion have made preparing proteins with diverse functional groups almost routine. Nonetheless, unnatural amino acids (Uaas) pose theoretical burdens on protein solubility, and determinants of position-specific tolerability to Uaas remain underexplored. To broadly examine associations, we systematically assessed the effect of substituting the fluorescent Uaa, acridonylalanine, at more than fifty chemically, evolutionarily, and structurally diverse residues in two bacterial proteins—LexA and RecA. Surprisingly, properties that ostensibly contribute to Uaa tolerability—like conservation, hydrophobicity, or accessibility—demonstrated no consistent correlations with resulting protein solubility. Instead, solubility closely depended on the location of the substitution within the overall tertiary structure, suggesting that intrinsic properties of protein domains, and not individual positions, are stronger determinants of Uaa tolerability. Consequently, those who seek to install Uaas in new target proteins should consider broadening, rather than narrowing, the types of residues screened for Uaa incorporation.

KEYWORDS

Genetic code expansion, nonsense codon suppression, protein solubility, non-canonical amino acids, SOS response

Technological advances in genetic code expansion have encouraged the design of proteins with a wide range of reactive residues, post-translational modifications, photocaged groups, or intrinsic fluorophores.^{1–3} Nonsense codon suppression using orthogonal tRNA/aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase pairs enables direct incorporation of chemically diverse unnatural amino acids (Uaas, also known as non-canonical amino acids) into proteins *in vivo*. Many efforts have sought to boost the efficiency of Uaa incorporation, including evolving more efficient aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases and recoding the *E. coli* genome to remove competing translational release factors.^{4,5} Although these developments can improve total yields of modified proteins, factors governing the position-dependent effects of Uaa substitution on protein solubility remain understudied.

Recent reports have demonstrated that the position of a Uaa can affect the level of total protein expressed, both in cell-free and cell-based systems.^{6–10} Investigations of 20 positions in IFN- α and 33 positions in VSV glycoprotein revealed varying total protein yields, from 0 to 95% of wildtype.^{11,12} Despite these observations, explanations for position-dependent differences in total amounts of Uaa-containing proteins have been limited, and no studies have explicitly addressed UAA incorporation versus the resulting protein solubility.

Unnatural amino acid mutagenesis could hypothetically operate under well-accepted principles that govern the effects of natural amino acid mutation. For example, substitution of a nonpolar for a polar residue within the hydrophobic core generally destabilizes proteins, whereas mutations on the solvent-exposed surface less frequently affect solubility.^{13,14} Unsurprisingly, evolutionarily-conserved residues largely disfavor mutation.^{15–17} Substituting bulkier and more chemically-diverse Uaas into a protein can restrict function¹⁸ and therefore could pose similar burdens on folding and solubility. Nevertheless, the applicability of principles of natural amino acid mutagenesis to Uaa mutagenesis remains unknown.

Suggested guidelines or approaches for choosing Uaa-tolerant sites have been proposed. Some groups favor residues with structural similarity to the Uaa.⁹ Others assert that candidate positions should be first assessed for mutational tolerability with natural amino acids¹⁰ or that proteins should be thoroughly screened by random incorporation of Uaas into protein-GFP fusions to reveal positions that label with high efficiency.^{19,20} Nonetheless, the feasibility of using position-specific properties to increase soluble protein expression remains untested.

To address these open questions, we aimed to explore factors that impact Uaa incorporation and soluble protein production. By employing an intrinsically fluorescent Uaa, acridonylalanine (Acd),^{6,21,22} we directly detect labeled protein in cell lysate samples, overcoming the inability of past studies to measure levels of both total and soluble expressed protein. Our systematic survey of more than fifty sites across two proteins reveals that while incorporation efficiency is relatively similar, protein solubility, and by extension Uaa tolerability, varies widely across different positions. However, most position-specific physicochemical, evolutionary, and structural properties, some of which have been previously suggested to improve yield, were minimally predictive; instead, solubility more strongly associated with the identity of the protein domain. After controlling for this domain effect, we found that only a few factors, such as a tolerance for aromatic residues, moderately trended with protein solubility. To our knowledge, this work currently represents the most systematic effort evaluating predictive factors for producing soluble Uaa-containing proteins.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The bacterial protein LexA, a multi-domain repressor of the DNA damage response, has characteristics that made it well-suited to this broader survey. Wild-type *E. coli* LexA is well-behaved in overexpression and has previously tolerated selective unnatural amino acid (Uaa) incorporation.²² Additionally, the availability of protein crystal structures and a multiple sequence alignment for LexA enabled retrieval of position-specific properties from databases or servers that require these data as inputs (Table S1). For every position in LexA, we calculated established metrics across different classes of properties: physicochemical, such as hydrophobicity; evolutionary, such as conservation; and structural, such as solvent accessibility (Table 1). Using these metrics, we selected 32 positions spanning both domains of LexA, deliberately avoiding known deleterious mutants as well as the most conserved or hydrophobic positions (Figure 1a, Table S2). Our selected positions sample the remaining metrics well (Figure 1b, Figure S1, and Figure S2), indicating that this series is well-positioned to explore how aromatic, accessible, or poorly-conserved residues might differentially tolerate Uaa incorporation.

Historically, measuring Uaa incorporation efficiencies *in vivo* has overlooked protein solubility issues, while labeling Uaa-containing proteins *in vitro* has suffered from incomplete sample recovery and detection. Crucially, we chose to measure both total and soluble protein levels by using the fluorescent Uaa acridonylalanine (Acd, Figure 1c), which already possesses an optimized tRNA/tRNA synthetase pair for *in vivo* incorporation.^{21,22} This system offers several advantages. First, Acd incorporation occurs during protein overexpression without post-translational labeling. Second, measurements of Acd fluorescence at the expected size on an SDS-PAGE gel are directly proportional to levels of protein with successfully-incorporated Acd. Finally, gel-based detection of Acd demonstrates a broad dynamic range, enabling us to detect quantitative differences in the expression of Acd-containing LexA mutants (Figure S3).

Expression levels for a single protein can range widely due to experimental variability, making quantitative comparison between different proteins difficult. To overcome this challenge, we overexpressed the 32 LexA mutants in the presence of both Acd and the Acd-specific tRNA/tRNA synthetase using autoinduction media for consistency in the timing and duration of protein production. Following overexpression, we measured fluorescence intensity levels of Acd-containing LexA protein in both the whole cell lysate and soluble fraction (Figure 1d). The use of purified Acd-containing LexA as a standard enabled quantitative and reproducible comparisons of protein amounts across independent experiments (Figure S4).

Parallel overexpression of all 32 LexA mutants allowed us to investigate how amounts of total expressed Acd-labeled LexA proteins differed (Table S3). A plot of logarithmically-transformed total protein amounts shows uniformly high protein expression (mean = 3.1) with minor variability (SD = 0.16) (Figure 2a). While past studies have suggested that the identity of nucleotides surrounding the stop codon can impact nonsense codon suppression efficiencies,^{23–25} we did not observe this relationship (Figure S5). Rather, the small 4.5-fold difference between measurements of the lowest and highest-expressing samples suggests that changing the position of Acd does not substantially alter Acd incorporation rates *in vivo*, and that incorporation is not a major bottleneck with regards to solubility.

Recognizing the consistency in total levels of expressed protein, we next evaluated whether levels of soluble protein differed. A distribution of logarithmically-transformed soluble protein amounts (Figure 2a) reveals more

variability (mean = 2.2, SD = 0.86). Measured soluble protein amounts ranged nearly 40-fold from the lowest detectable measurements to the highest, a ten-fold increase over the range of total protein amounts. Because both measurements are paired, we can isolate the position-dependent effect of Acd incorporation on solubility by calculating the soluble fraction of total protein, which should exclude variability due to differences in total protein production. The soluble fractions of Acd-labeled LexA mutants still vary considerably, from 0% to nearly 70% of total protein expressed (Figure 2b, Table S3). This result not only corroborates previous observations of position-dependent effects on total protein expression,^{11,12} but it also establishes the heightened sensitivity of protein solubility to Uaa incorporation.

Observing that the position of Acd can substantially impact protein solubility, we next asked which of the properties that ostensibly affect Uaa tolerability might correlate with solubility. We fitted the soluble fraction as a response variable to each property in individual linear regression models (Table S4 and Table S5). For almost all of the properties we evaluated, the explained variability (adj. R^2) was about 5% or less, indicating that if any property-specific effect exists, it is insubstantial and likely below our ability to detect with a sample size of 32 (Figure S6 and Figure S7). We note that particular properties—such as accessibility, conservation, and hydrophobicity—did not explain any substantial variation in our data, despite past suggestions that choosing accessible, less-conserved, and chemically-similar residues may yield more soluble Uaa-containing protein (Figure 2c).

Conspicuously, several highly-correlated properties each explained around 50% of the variability in our data, including individual residue position (adj. R^2 = 0.53), secondary structure (adj. R^2 = 0.45), and overall protein domain (adj. R^2 = 0.53) (Figure 2d and Figure 2e). Specifically, we obtained more soluble protein when Acd was incorporated within the first 74 residues of LexA, which includes all three of the α -helices that comprise the N-terminal domain. By contrast, Acd incorporation within the β -sheets of the C-terminal domain resulted in much lower proportions of soluble protein. The nearly uniform secondary structure composition of each domain limited our ability to interpret whether Acd tolerability is due to local secondary structure effects or global protein domain stabilities.

Excluding the effect that secondary or tertiary structure has on protein solubility could reveal minor trends obscured in the overall dataset. To address this possibility, in individual linear regression models, we fitted each property along with protein domain as explanatory factors for the soluble fraction (Table S6 and Table S7). By controlling for domain, we could detect a minor correlation between the soluble fraction and the evolutionary tolerance of any given position to an aromatic residue (Figure 2f). However, remaining factors—including notable ones such as conservation, hydrophobicity, and accessibility—either did not explain any substantial variation in the data or demonstrated inconsistent trends between domains (Figure 2c). Consequently, our extended LexA analysis reaffirmed that the tolerability of a protein domain to Acd—or possibly the tolerability of a secondary structure type—overwhelmingly determines soluble protein expression.

Studying Acd incorporation in a distinct protein scaffold with mixed α/β character could help dissect the similar effects we observed from the highly-correlated domain and secondary structure factors with LexA. Thus, we extended our survey to RecA, a bacterial ATPase that binds LexA to suppress its repressor function.²⁶ We selected positions in *E. coli* RecA that satisfied one or more criteria: high accessibility, low conservation, few

inter-residue contacts, or prior functional tolerance to mutation (Figure 3a).²⁷ After expressing these mutants with Acd and measuring protein amounts, we again observed greater variability in logarithmically-transformed soluble protein levels (mean = 3.42, SD = 0.40) compared to total protein levels (mean = 3.72, SD = 0.17) (Figure 3b, Figure 3c, Table S8). Similar to LexA, most properties examined did not explain much variation in the fractions of soluble protein (Figure 3d), with the exception that solubility modestly trended with domain type and tolerance to aromatics (Table S9). However, unlike in LexA, no clear relationship existed between protein solubility and type of secondary structure (Figure 3e), a result consistent with a more limited prior survey of GFP.⁸ This survey in RecA bolsters a model in which the intrinsic Uaa tolerability of a protein domain remains the key obstacle for the production of soluble protein.

Searching for easily-determined properties that correlate with Acd tolerability may have eliminated from consideration more complicated properties with higher predictive ability. Additionally, linear regression modeling may have over-simplified the inter-dependence of certain properties and protein solubility. Previously, Rosetta modeling has predicted the $\Delta\Delta G$ associated with a particular mutation and identified tolerated mutations within a protein.^{28–30} Speculating that Rosetta modeling could recapitulate our experimental results, we used the Rosetta Modeling Suite to simulate the resulting energy associated with Acd incorporation in LexA or RecA. However, we observed no significant correlations between simulated energies and soluble fractions of LexA or RecA (Figure S8 and Figure S9). Incidentally, we noted that nearly all high-energy positions in LexA experimentally yielded insoluble protein and may therefore have been useful in filtering out those positions; however, we did not observe a similar energy threshold effect for RecA. Accordingly, further refinement towards predicting Uaa incorporation using Rosetta is required in order to recapitulate experimental data and exclude higher-energy and lower-solubility mutants.

CONCLUSION

The expression of soluble protein is a major bottleneck for the study of protein function. Here, we leveraged the fluorescence of Acd to study how protein solubility is impacted by Uaa mutagenesis. In two bacterial proteins, we demonstrated the dramatic impact that Uaa position has on protein solubility. Surprisingly, a number of amino acid properties that purportedly contribute to Uaa tolerability—including low evolutionary conservation, similar hydrophobic character, or high surface accessibility—were unreliable predictors of protein solubility. Instead, these inconsistent relationships suggest that consideration of specific amino acid features for successful Uaa mutagenesis is less critical than previously thought. Rather, we speculate that the Uaa tolerability of a protein domain may matter more. Our results also emphasize a continued need to explore, through theory and experiment, the steric and chemical burdens different Uaas pose to the expression of soluble protein. In the absence of reliable predictors or refined simulation algorithms for Uaa tolerability, a chemical biologist pursuing Uaa incorporation in a new protein, as of now, should broaden rather than narrow the types of residues screened for Uaa tolerability when possible.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Supporting Information Available: The following material is available free of charge via the internet.

Experimental methods, supplemental figures and tables, and associated references.

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Z.M.H., J.J.F., M.R.B., I.S., E.J.P., and R.M.K. designed the experiments. Z.M.H performed all the experiments with assistance from M.R.B. J.J.F. performed the Rosetta simulations. I.S. synthesized Acd. Z.M.H. and J.J.F. performed the data analysis with input from all authors. Z.M.H., E.J.P., and R.M.K. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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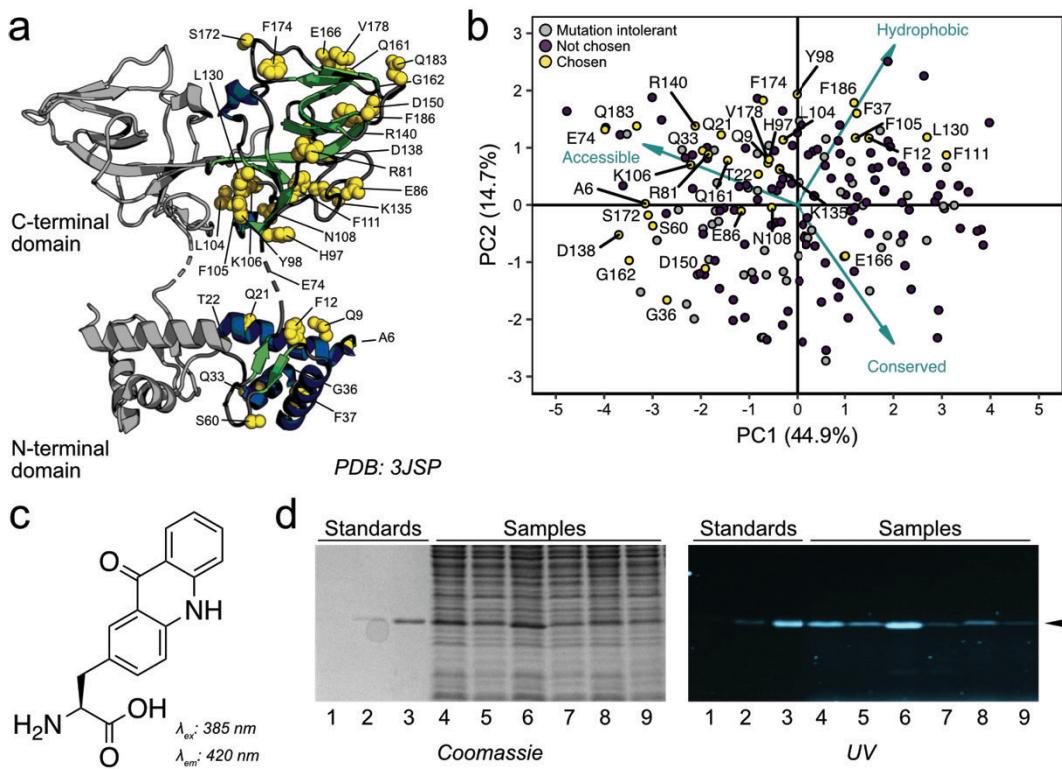


Figure 1: Scanning a variety of positions in LexA for Acd tolerability. (a) Positions chosen for Uaa incorporation in the LexA dimer. Chosen positions are depicted in yellow, α -helices in blue, and β -sheets in green. (b) Principal component analysis (PCA) of LexA positions determined by multiple structural, evolutionary, and physicochemical properties (see methods). All residues in LexA were scored and plotted against the first two principal components, with positions chosen for Uaa incorporation highlighted in yellow. Arrow segments represent a few notable variables among those used in PCA loaded onto the plotted data. (c) Chemical structure of Acd with indicated excitation and emission peaks. (d) Acd-labeled LexA samples visualized in 15% SDS-PAGE gels by Coomassie staining (left) or UV excitation (right). Lanes 1–3 show purified LexA standards. Lanes 4–11 show paired total and soluble fractions from four individual mutants as representative examples.

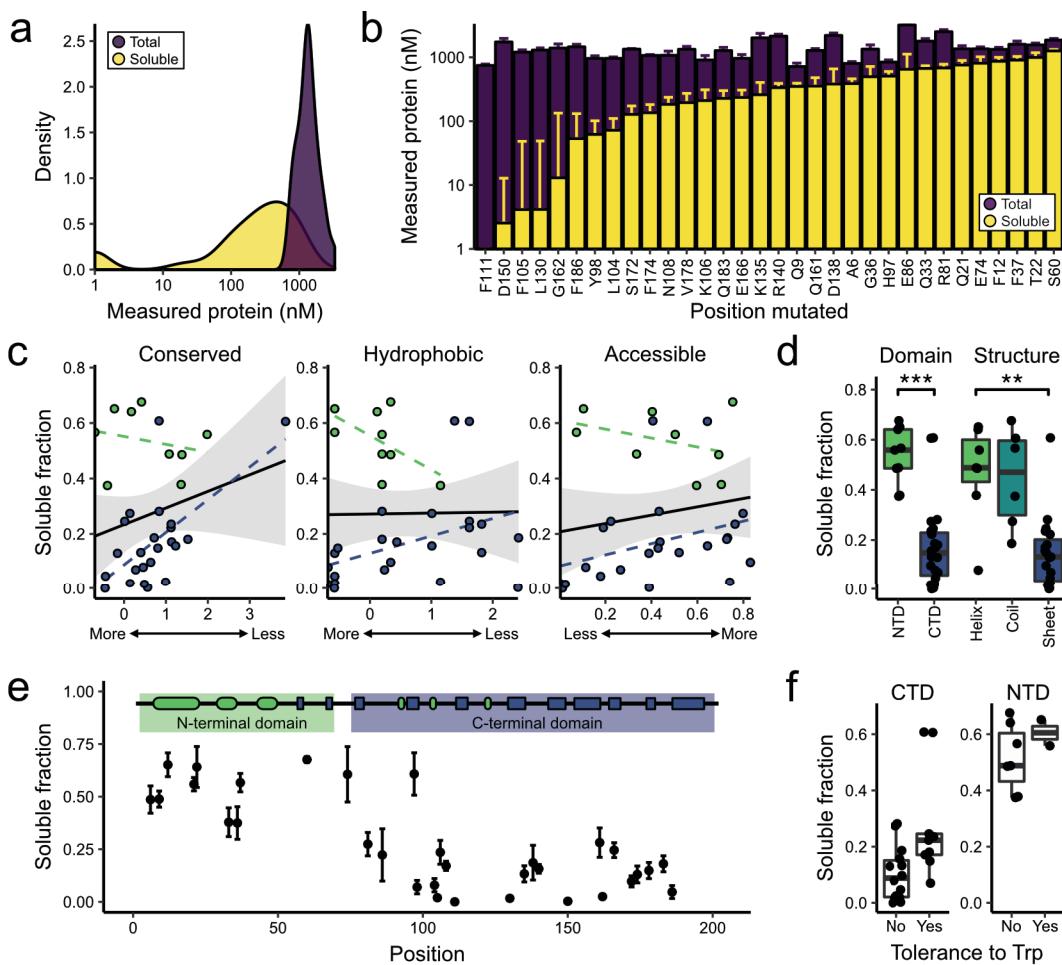


Figure 2: Features associated with soluble Acd-labeled LexA proteins. (a) Smoothed density plots of \log_{10} -transformed amounts of total protein or soluble protein. (b) Average \log_{10} -transformed soluble protein amounts overlaid on average \log_{10} -transformed total protein amounts for each mutant. Error bars indicate the standard deviation from three individual replicates each derived from separate clones. (c) Plots of the average fraction of soluble protein as a function of three selected parameters: conservation, hydrophobicity, and accessibility. Other parameters were also examined (Figures S6 and S7). Fits for the entire LexA dataset to individual linear regression models yield best fit lines (solid black) and 95% confidence intervals (shaded gray). Fits of data from each separate LexA domain yield best fit lines for the NTD (dashed green) or CTD (dashed blue). (d) Boxplots comparing the average fraction of soluble protein against either domain or secondary structure, with individual averages overlaid. Differences between groups were evaluated using Tukey's HSD test for multiple pairwise comparisons (** = p-value < 0.01; *** = p-value < 0.001). (e) Plot of the average fraction of soluble protein as a function of position in the LexA sequence, with error bars indicating the standard deviation from three replicates. Above, the secondary and tertiary structure of LexA is indicated; α -helices are depicted as green ovals and β -sheets as blue rectangles. (f) Separate boxplots for each LexA domain indicating the relationship between average fraction of soluble protein and evolutionary tolerance at each position to tryptophan, as one example of an aromatic residue.

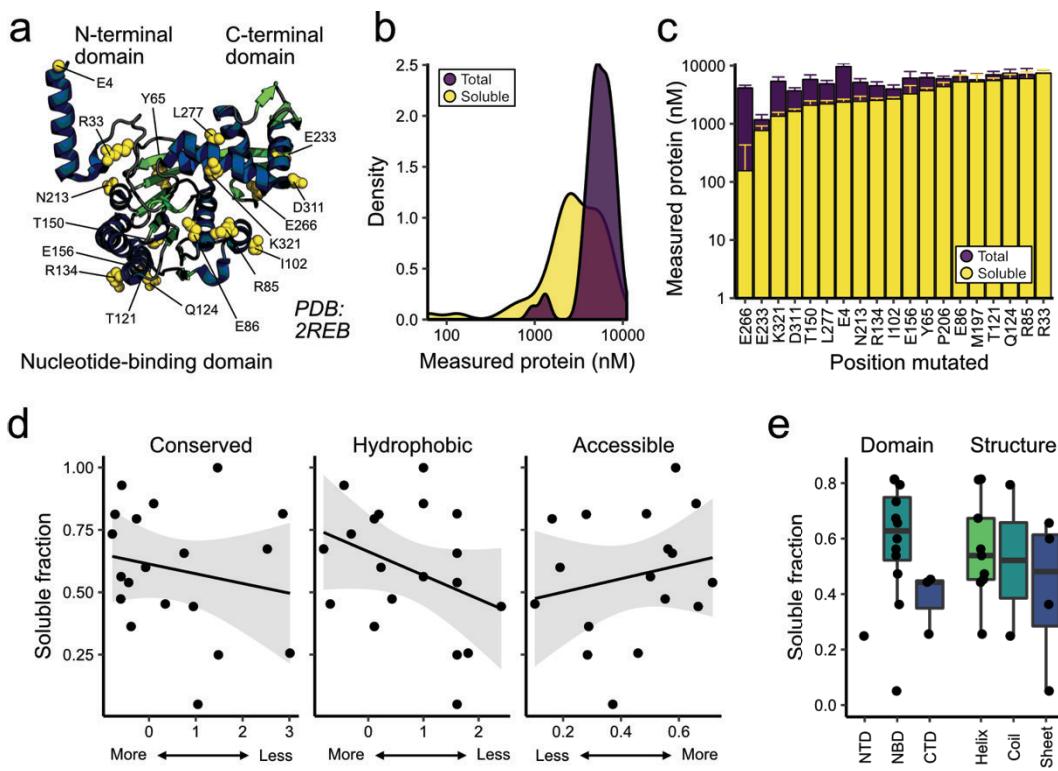


Figure 3: Features associated with soluble Acd-labeled RecA proteins. (a) Positions chosen for Acd incorporation in RecA. Chosen positions are depicted in yellow, α -helices in blue, and β -sheets in green. (b) Smoothed density plots of \log_{10} -transformed amounts of total protein or soluble protein. (c) Average \log_{10} -transformed soluble protein amounts overlaid on average \log_{10} -transformed total protein amounts for each mutant. Error bars indicate the standard deviation from three individual replicates each derived from separate clones. (d) Plots of the average fraction of soluble protein as a function of three selected parameters: conservation, hydrophobicity, and accessibility. Fits to individual linear regression models yield best fit lines (solid black) and 95% confidence intervals (shaded gray). (e) Boxplots comparing the average fraction of soluble protein against domain or secondary structure, with individual averages overlaid.

Table 1: List of properties examined for association with Uaa tolerability^a

Property	Details
Physicochemical	
Hydrophobicity	Discrete number describing experimentally-determined hydrophobic indices (usually kcal/mol)
Similar to Phe, Trp, or Tyr	Discrete number calculated from a substitution matrix similarity score table
Volume	Size of residue (\AA^3)
Evolutionary	
Conservation	Calculated score describing the degree of conservation from a multiple sequence alignment
Tolerance to Phe, Trp, or Tyr	Presence or absence of a particular residue substitution within a multiple sequence alignment
Structural	
Solvent Accessible Area	Surface area of residue exposed to solvent (\AA^2)
Accessibility	Ratio of solvent accessible area relative to the theoretical maximum surface area of a residue
Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	Area lost when a residue is buried upon folding (\AA^2)
Surrounding Hydrophobicity	Numerical sum of local hydrophobic indices assigned to residues within 8 \AA
Average hydrophobic gain/ratio	Total numerical increase or a ratio describing the difference in local surrounding hydrophobicity between unfolded to folded state
Position	Residue number in primary sequence of protein
Secondary/tertiary structure	Categorical assignment to secondary structure type or classification into a protein domain
Nearby contacts	Discrete number of contacts within 8 or 14 \AA , either using C_{α} or C_{β} atoms
Noncovalent contacts	Presence or absence of interaction with another residue through a H-bond, cation- π , hydrophobic, or polar contact
Long Range Order	Presence or absence of contacts with residues close in space but far in sequence
Surrounding Residues	Number of residues within 8 \AA contextualized by sequence position

^a Refer to Table S1 for more details and references to relevant databases

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Experimental Methods

Amber stop codon mutagenesis in LexA and RecA overexpression plasmids. Previously-described pET41 overexpression plasmids encoding either catalytically-inactive LexA with a C-terminal HIS tag¹ or wildtype RecA with an N-terminal HIS tag² were used as the template sequences for site-directed mutagenesis with Phusion polymerase (NEB) and pairs of synthetic oligonucleotides (IDT) designed to incorporate the 5'-TAG-3' amber stop codon. Successful mutagenesis was confirmed by sequencing (GeneWiz).

Parallel overexpression of LexA or RecA mutants. Overexpression plasmids were transformed into BL21(DE3) cells harboring the pDule2-Acd plasmid, which encodes a tRNA/tRNA synthetase evolved for specific incorporation of Acd,^{1,3} and grown on MDAG-11 non-inducing plates⁴ with 50 µg/mL spectinomycin and 120 µg/mL kanamycin. For each replicate, an individual colony was seeded into 1 mL of MDAG-135 non-inducing broth⁴ with selective antibiotics and grown at 30°C. Cell densities of overnight cultures were adjusted so that each 1:1000 inoculation of 1 mL of MDA-5052 autoinduction media⁴ with selective antibiotics transferred an equivalent amount of cells. To autoinduction media, solubilized Acd was added to a final concentration of 0.5 mM. After 24 hours of growth at 30°C, cells were harvested and stored at -20°C.

Cell lysis and soluble protein fractionation. LexA lysis buffer contained 20 mM sodium phosphate pH 6.9, 500 mM NaCl, 0.25 mg/mL lysozyme (Sigma), 25 U/mL benzonase (Sigma), and 1x BugBuster protein extraction reagent (EMD Millipore). Cell pellets from the LexA experiment were lysed by resuspending in 15 µL of LexA lysis buffer per milligram of cell pellet to normalize the measurements and incubating at room temperature for 30 minutes. Cell pellets containing RecA were lysed following established protocol, again normalizing the amount of lysis buffer against cell pellet weight.⁵ The soluble fractions of total cell lysates for LexA or RecA were obtained by centrifuging samples for 15 min at 13,000 rpm in a microcentrifuge at 4°C.

Determination of properties from sequence and structure files. The DNA sequence from the LexA overexpression plasmid was used to determine the effect of 3' nucleotides on nonsense codon suppression efficiencies. Primary amino acid sequences for LexA and RecA were used to calculate the following position-based metrics: Blosum62 substitution matrix similarity scores for Trp, Tyr, or Phe,⁶ residue volumes and surface areas,⁷⁻⁹ residue hydrophobicity scores,¹⁰⁻¹² and evolutionary tolerances to Trp, Tyr, or Phe.¹³ LexA and RecA PDB codes (1JHH or 2REB, respectively) were used as inputs for either the ConSurf database for conservation scores^{14,15} or the STRIDE database for secondary structure classifications.⁹ Remaining position-based metrics for LexA (PDB code 1JHH) were retrieved from the PDBparam server.¹⁶ We note that the PDBparam server was intermittently unavailable, and we were unable to retrieve the same set of PDBparam properties for RecA for this analysis.

Amino acid properties were examined using R.^{17,18} Numerical parameters assigned to the chosen LexA residues whose distributions were approximately uniformly or normally distributed were maintained as continuous factors (solvent accessible area, average hydrophobic gain/ratio, C α or C β within 8 or 14 Å, conservation, fractional loss of accessible area, hydrophobicity, surrounding hydrophobicity, surrounding residues, and residue volume), whereas remaining numerical parameters with obvious skew were simplified to

categorical factors. The degree to which each property was sampled by the chosen positions in LexA was assessed by plotting individual histograms or bar charts (Figure S1 and Figure S2). A more rigorous assessment of the variability of the chosen positions was accomplished through a principal component analysis. From the above continuous factors, highly-correlated parameters were dropped; the remaining continuous factors (solvent accessible area, average hydrophobic ratio, alpha carbons within 14 Å, conservation, hydrophobicity, surrounding hydrophobic residues, surrounding residues, and residue volume) were used to generate principal components using the base “pca()” function in R.

Specific detection of Acd fluorescence. To specifically detect Acd-labeled LexA or RecA, total cell lysate and soluble fraction samples were mixed with equivalent volumes of 2x Laemmli buffer and 8 µL were run on 15% SDS-PAGE gels. On each gel, three dilutions of previously-purified Acd-labeled LexA were also run as standards.¹ Acd fluorescence was visualized by illuminating the gels in the dark with an Entela UL3101-1 handheld UV lamp and exposing with a Sony ILCE-6000 camera with E 35 mm F1.8 OSS lens outfitted with a 440 nm fluorescence bandpass filter (Edmund Optics). Red and green channels were removed from raw images, and fluorescence intensities were quantified using ImageJ.¹⁹ A standard curve for each set of purified LexA standards was used to transform raw fluorescence readings to protein concentrations. To facilitate comparison between total and soluble measurements, fluorescent protein concentrations were logarithmically-transformed, i.e. $y = \log_{10}(x/x_0)$, where y is the transformed value, x is the measured value, and x_0 is equal to 1 unit of fluorescent protein (in nM). To compare differences in protein solubilities between samples, a ratio of the measured soluble fluorescent protein was divided by the measured total fluorescent protein.

Simulation of Acd incorporation into LexA or RecA with Rosetta. Prior to performing simulations, a parameter file and rotamer library were produced for Acd following a previously described method.²⁰ Starting structures for the LexA simulations were prepared from PDB 1JHE and PDB 1JHF by adding the missing residues using the remodel application in Rosetta.²¹ A blueprint file was prepared from each monomer and the primary sequence was modified to match that of the LexA expression construct. After adding the missing residues to each monomer, the dimer was reconstructed by merging the two PDB files and the resultant structure was minimized using the Relax application. The Relax application was run by setting the jump_move, bb_move, and chi_move flags to False and using the relax:fast flag. The starting structure was selected as the lowest energy structure of 10 outputs. The same protocol was followed to produce the RecA starting structures from PDB 3CMW, omitting the remodel application step as all residues were present. For the Backrub-based method, a total 2,500 structures were produced from each starting structure. This was done by running the Backrub application in Rosetta performing 10,000 trials at 0.6 kT to generate each output structure. The total energy was computed for each member of the ensemble following the single-site mutation to Acd and global repacking in PyRosetta. For RecA, all mutations were performed and assessed within a single monomeric unit (residues 967-1299) within the multimer. The total energy was averaged across all members of the single ensemble for RecA and across all members of both ensembles for LexA. LexA simulations based on the relax-based algorithm were performed in PyRosetta using the same initial structures as starting points. The method

consisted exclusively of the FastRelax mover constrained to the starting coordinates using the 'lbfsgs_armijo_nonmonotone' min_type and a maximum of 200 iterations. A total of five output were produced for each mutation and the energy was averaged across all outputs for both starting structures for a given site. All methods were run using the 'beta_nov15' score function weights.

Exploring amino acid properties and levels of Acd-labeled proteins. The calculated soluble fractions for LexA or RecA were fit to individual linear regression models for each categorical or numerical factor using the base "lm()" function in R. Data fitted to the models were evaluated using the base "summary()" function, which provide summary statistics for the fits. Models with single explanatory factors were as follows:

$$y_i = \alpha + \beta_a x_i + \varepsilon_i$$

where, y is the fraction of soluble protein, β is the coefficient for a given property "a", α is the intercept, ε is the error term, and i represents each individual observation. Summary statistics describing the quality of each fit, including adjusted R^2 , are provided in Table S4 and Table S5. Models with protein domain and an individual property as two explanatory factors were modified from the above single-factor model, now explicitly including the term $\beta_{\text{domain}} x_i$ for the protein domain factor:

$$y_i = \alpha + \beta_{\text{domain}} x_i + \beta_a x_i + \varepsilon_i$$

For the two-factor models, the coefficient estimate and standard error for each $\beta_{\text{domain}} x_i$ term were reported in Table S6 and Table S7. In cases where there were too few observations for a given domain and individual property, the model was excluded from analysis. Between-group comparisons for the "domain" and "secondary structure" factors were performed with Tukey's HSD test using the base "TukeyHSD()" function in R.

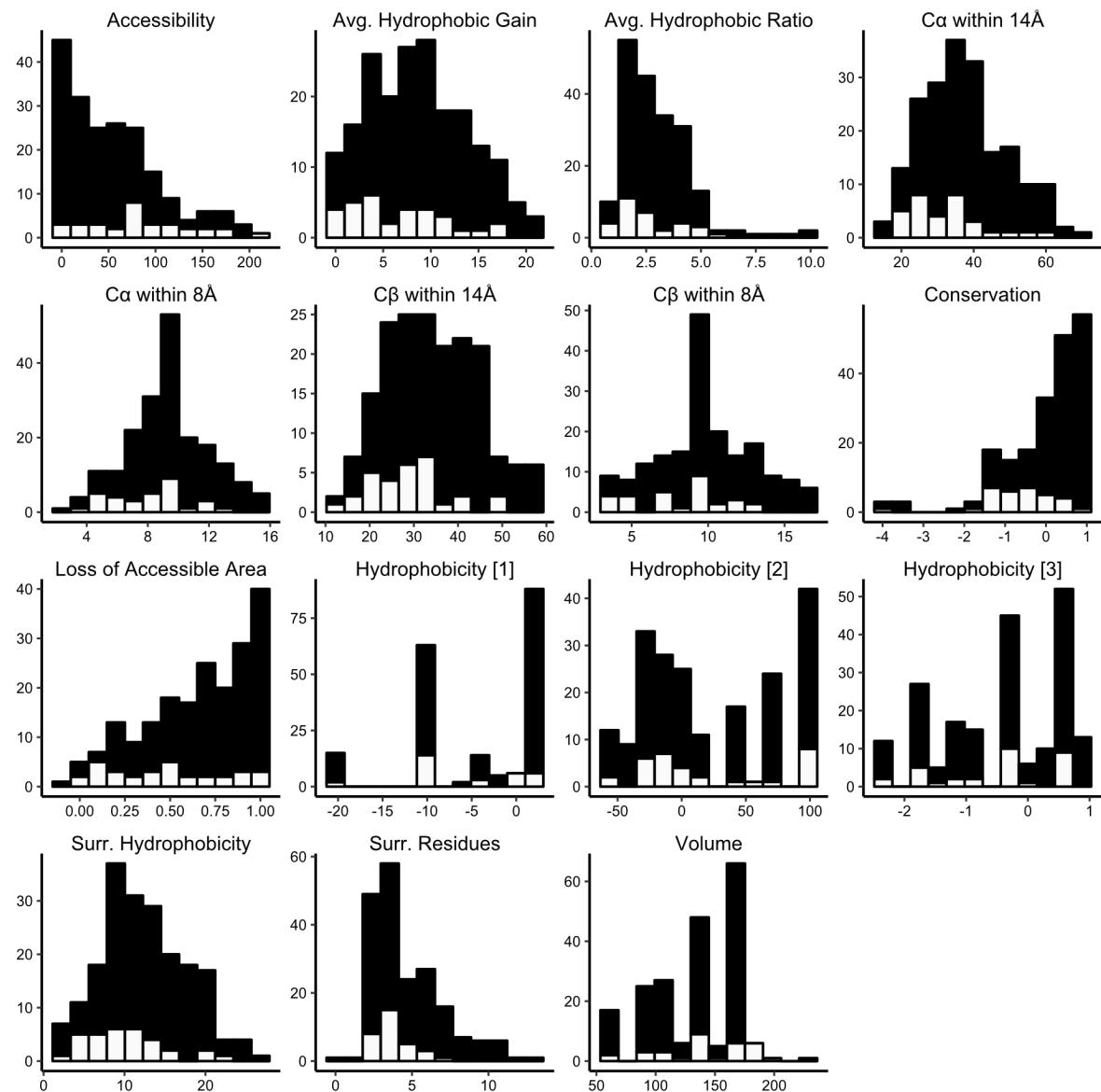


Figure S1: Sampling of numerical properties by chosen positions in LexA

Histograms for each individual numerical structural, evolutionary, or physicochemical metric from Table S1 illustrate the frequency distribution of all positions in LexA. Positions that were advanced for unnatural amino acid mutagenesis are colored white, and the remaining positions in LexA are colored black.

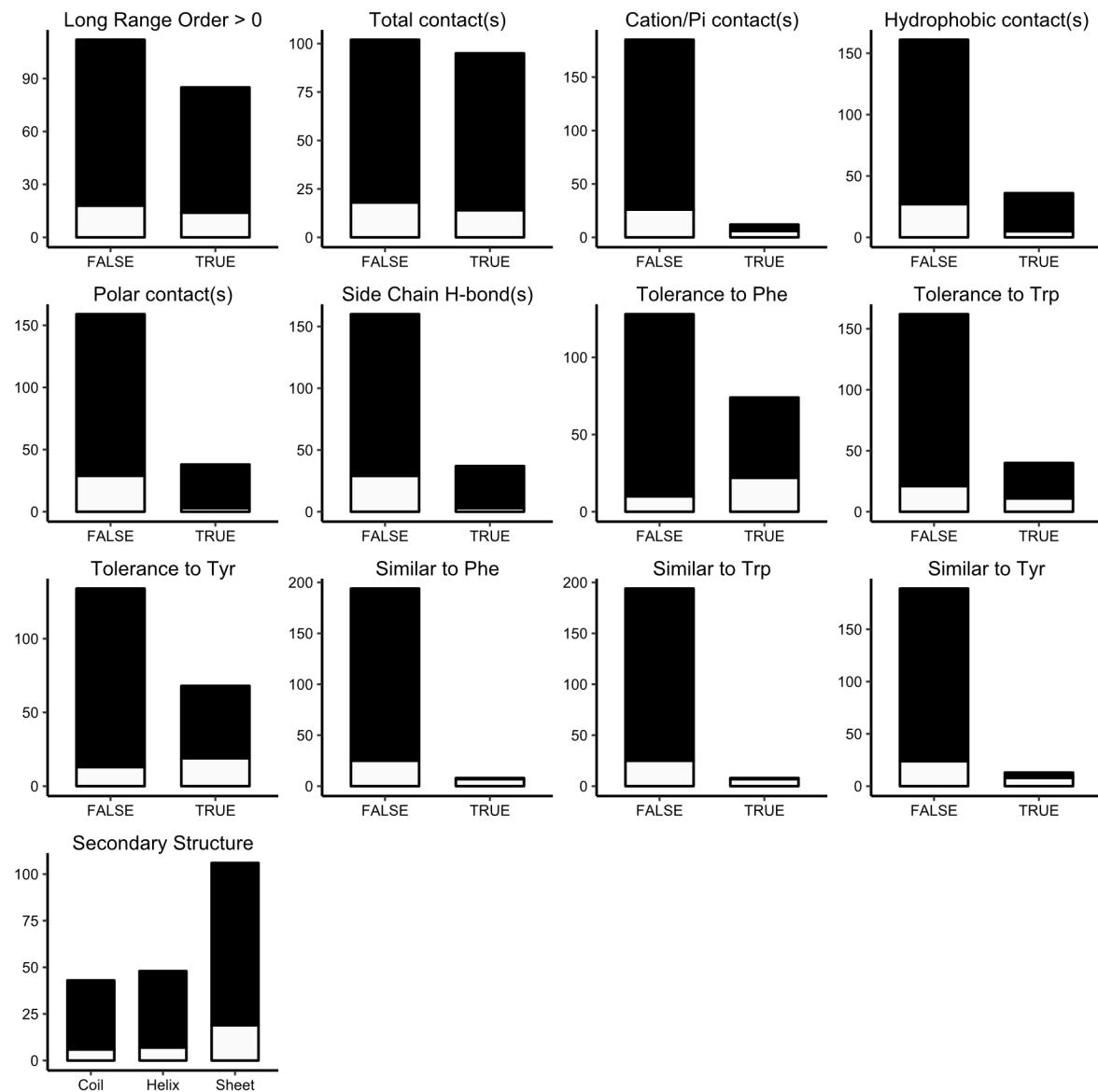


Figure S2: Sampling of categorical properties by chosen positions in LexA.

Bar graphs for each non-numeric structural, evolutionary, or physicochemical metric from Table S1 illustrate the categorization of all positions in LexA. Positions that were advanced for unnatural amino acid mutagenesis are colored white, and the remaining positions in LexA are colored black.

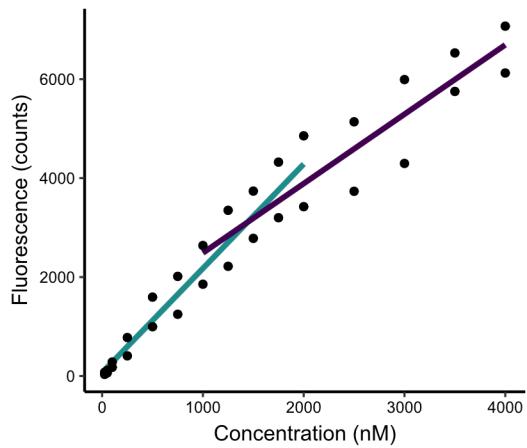


Figure S3: Dynamic range determination from purified LexA standards

Dilutions of purified Acd-labeled LexA were run on 15% SDS-PAGE gels and Acd fluorescence was visualized and quantitated. The band intensities were plotted as a function of known concentration for each protein standard, revealing a nearly 100-fold dynamic range. Two separate linear fits show the concentrations from which purified LexA standards were used: standards from the turquoise curve (from 25 to 2000 nM) were used for quantifying LexA samples, whereas standards from the purple curve (from 1000 to 4000 nM) were used for quantifying RecA samples.

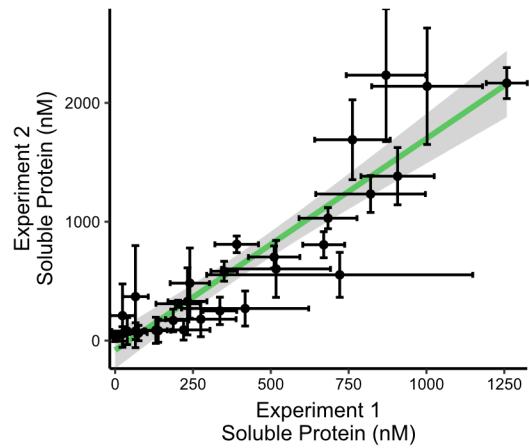


Figure S4: Reproducibility of experimental approach

Plot of soluble protein measurements from two separate overexpression experiments in which Acd was incorporated into each of the 32 chosen positions in LexA. Each set of samples were overexpressed, processed, and measured on different days. Data points represent the average amount of soluble protein for each sample across the two separate experiments. Error bars represent the standard deviation of three replicates for each sample. A linear fit of the data (green line) shows good correlation (Pearson coefficient = 0.91) of the measured values, with a 95% confidence interval shown in gray.

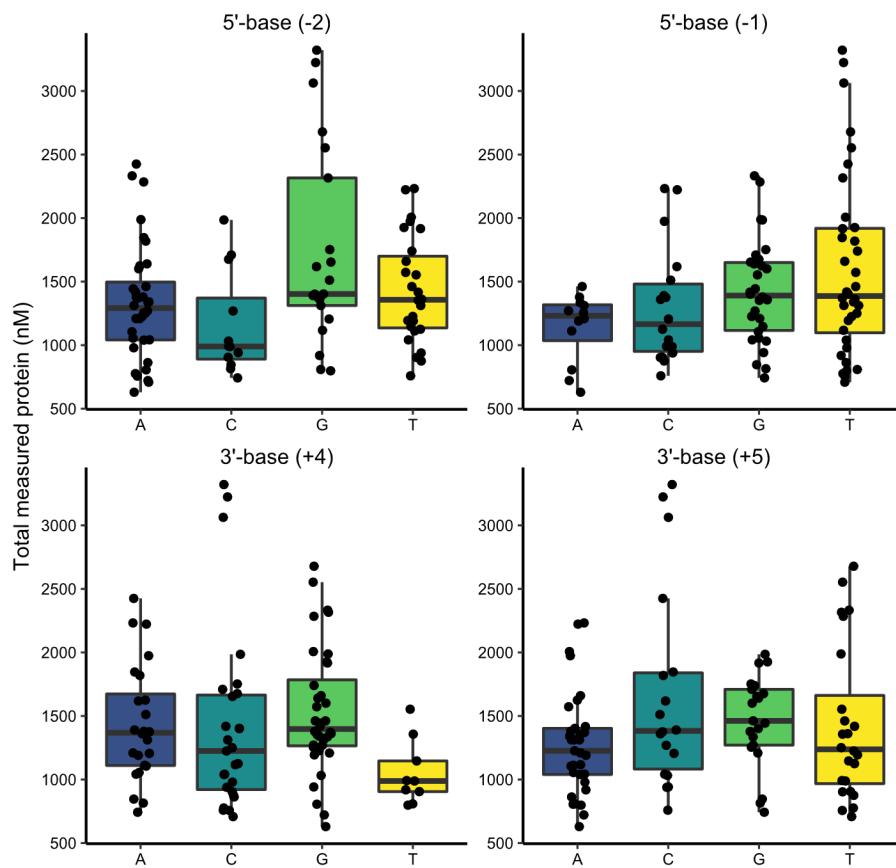
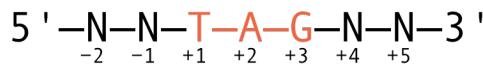


Figure S5: Effect of neighboring nucleotides on amber stop codon suppression efficiency

(Top) Schematic of the 5' and 3' nucleotide context surrounding the amber stop codon. (Bottom) Boxplots illustrating the relationship between total expressed protein and the surrounding nucleotide context either upstream, with the (-2) or (-1) 5'-base, or downstream, with the (+4) or (+5) 3'-base, of the amber stop codon in each mutant. Data points represent measurements of individual replicates of total expressed protein.

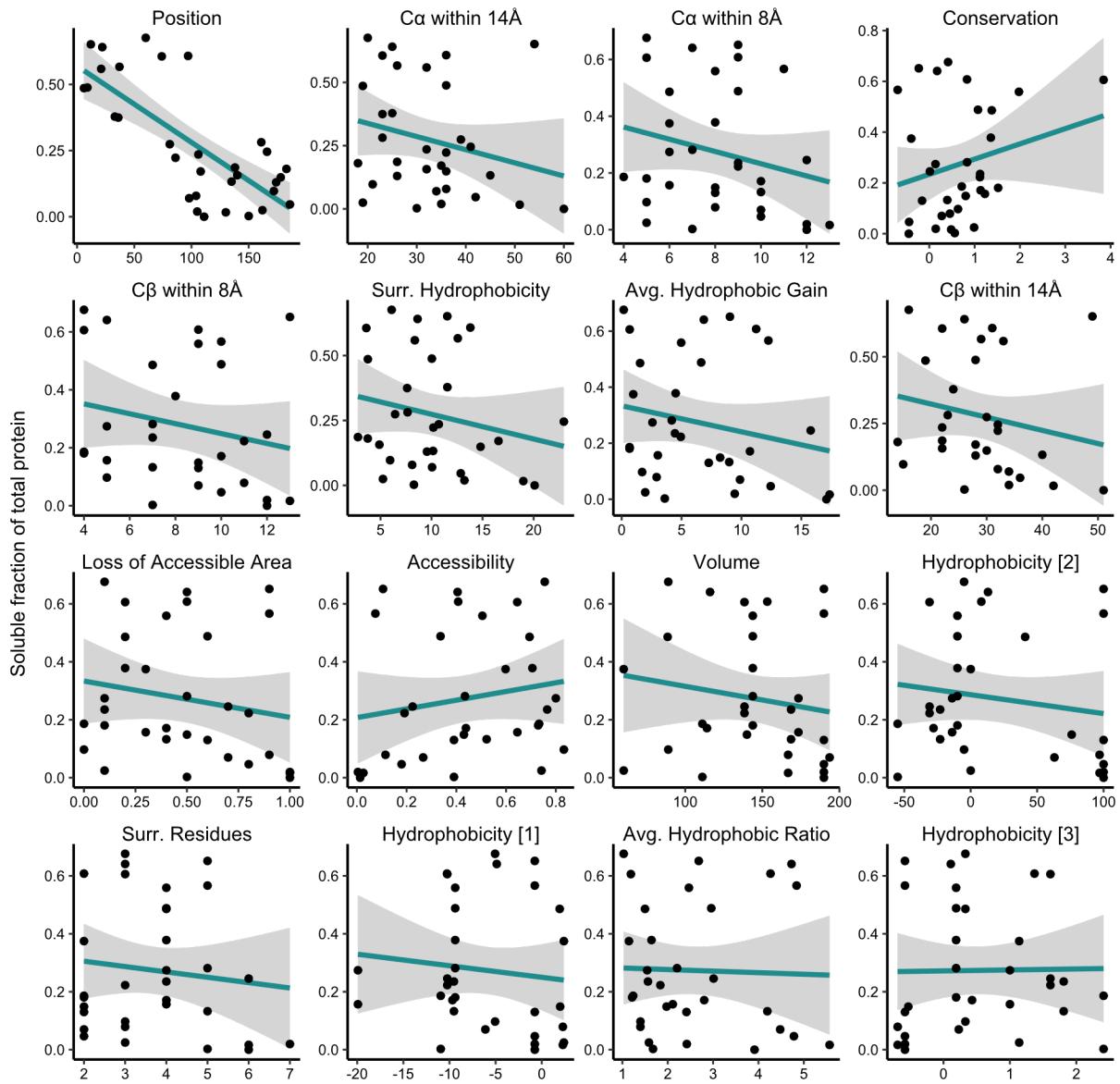


Figure S6: Effect of individual numerical properties on LexA solubility

Scatterplots illustrating the relationships between the soluble fraction of total protein as a function of each of the numerical structural, evolutionary, or physicochemical properties. Data points represent the average soluble fraction of total protein for each sample in LexA. Linear fits of the data (turquoise) with 95% confidence intervals (gray) for each property are shown.

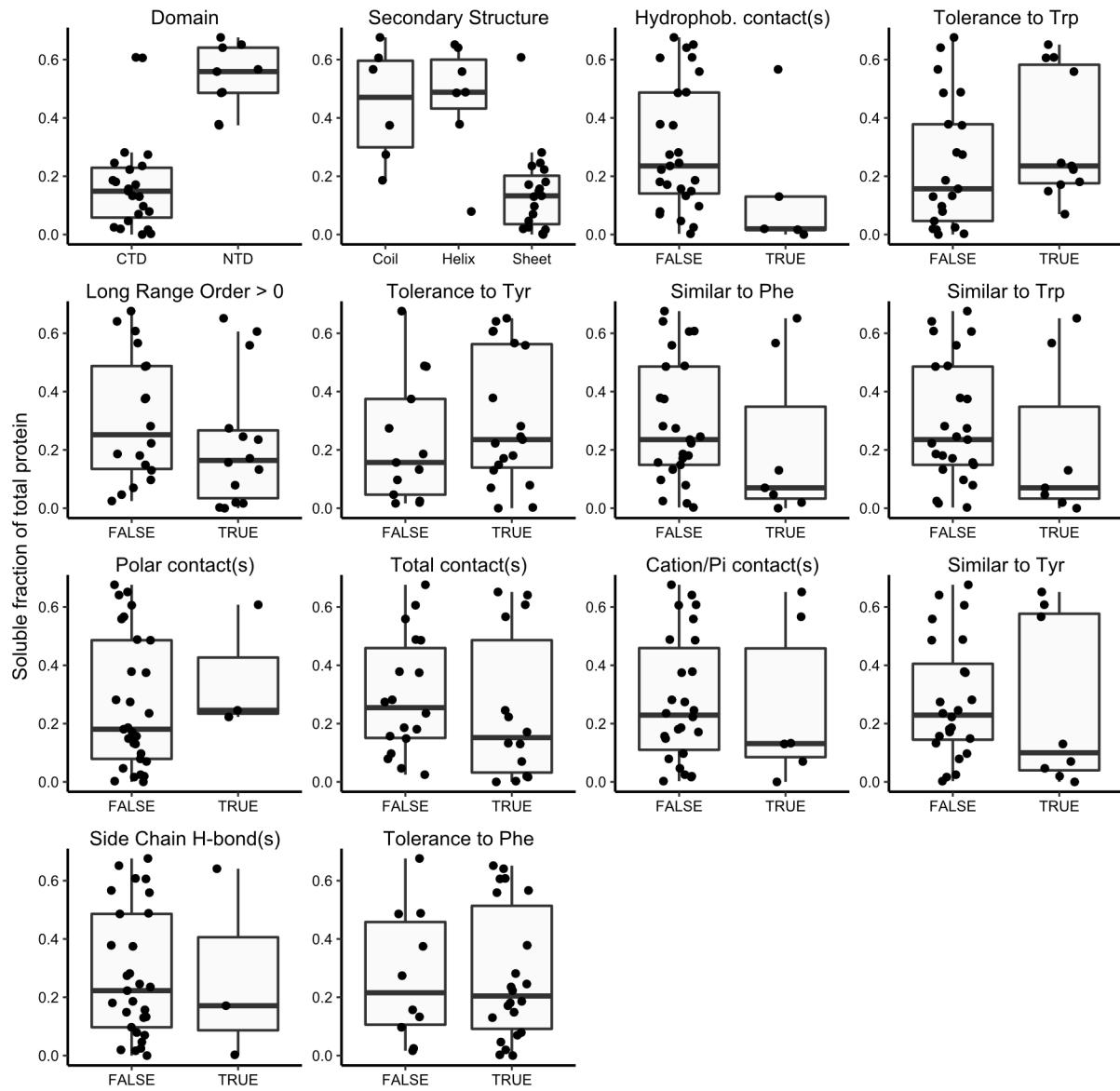


Figure S7: Effect of individual categorical properties on LexA solubility

Boxplots illustrate the relationships between the fraction of soluble protein produced across each of the categorical structural, evolutionary, or physicochemical properties. Data points represent the average soluble fraction of total protein for each sample in LexA.

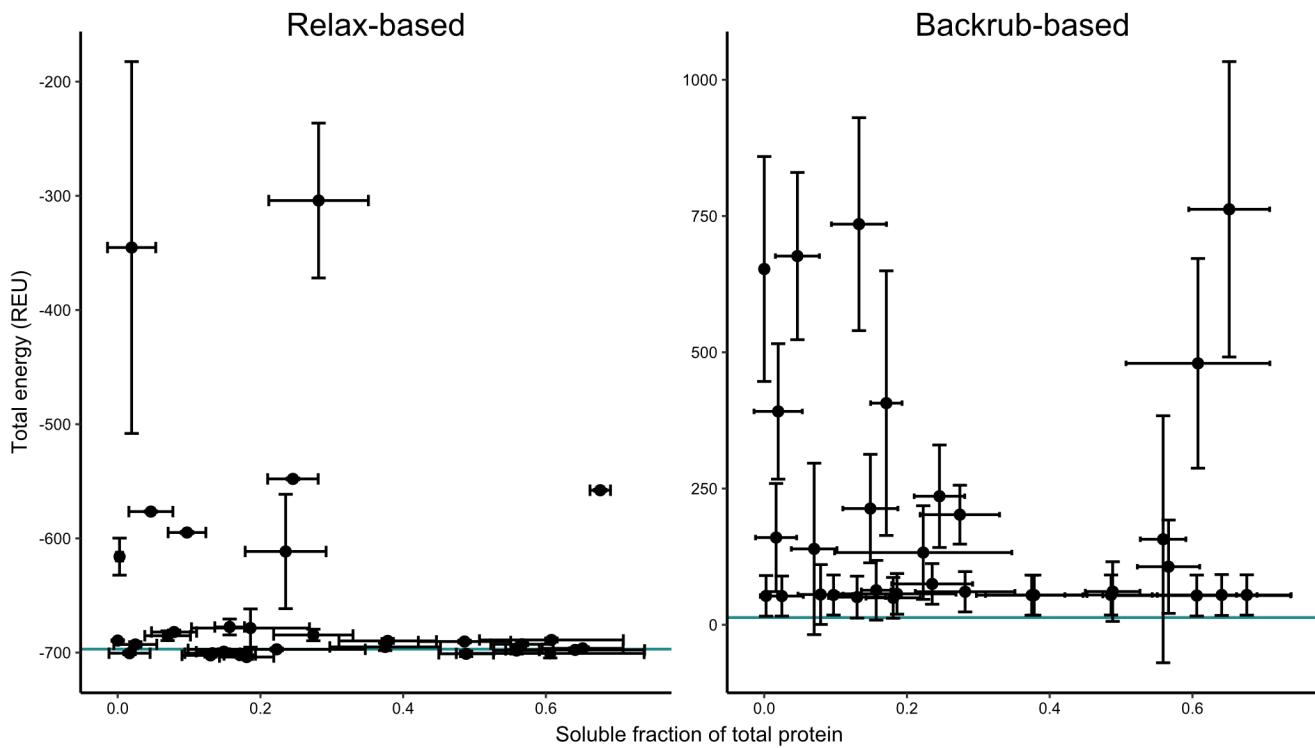


Figure S8: Predicting protein solubility through simulation of Acd incorporation in LexA

Scatterplots of the total energies in Rosetta Energy Units (REU) from simulating Acd incorporation in LexA as a function of the soluble fraction of total protein. Rosetta energies were obtained by performing each single mutation on a relaxed structure of LexA derived from one of two previously published structures (PDB: 1JHE or 1JHF), using either a Relax-based (left) or Backrub-based (right) method. The total energy of each LexA mutant was computed following mutation of the residue of interest to Acd either by minimizing of the energy using a relax-based protocol or following repacking of all residues for each member of an ensemble of LexA structures. Each point represents the average of the two different simulations, with vertical error bars representing standard deviations. The solid turquoise line represents the average energy of energy-minimized LexA without any Acd mutation.

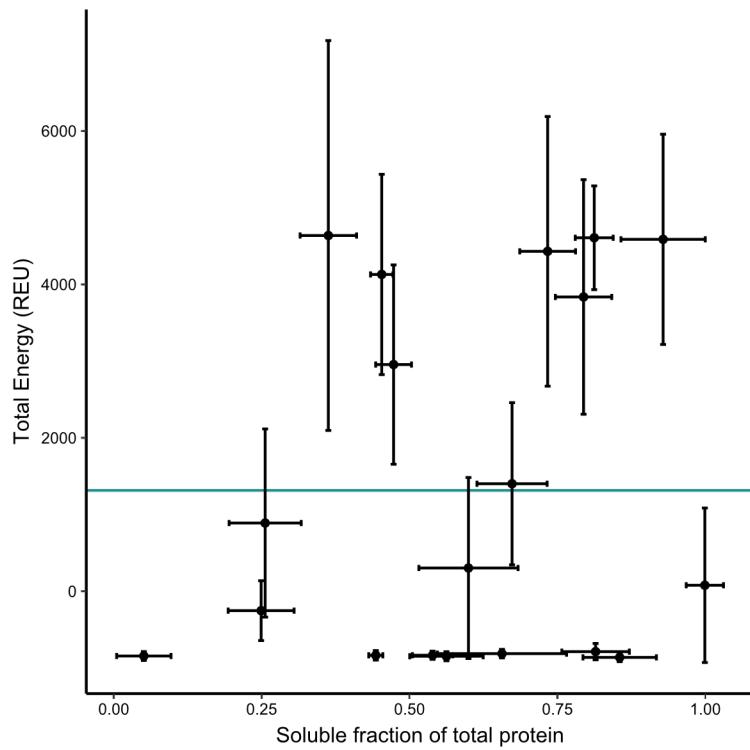


Figure S9: Predicting protein solubility through simulation of Acd incorporation in RecA

Scatterplot of the total energies in Rosetta Energy Units (REU) from simulating Acd incorporation in RecA as a function of the soluble fraction of total protein. Rosetta energies were obtained by performing each single mutation on each member of a 2,500 structure RecA ensemble generated using the Backrub application. Separate ensembles were generated from the previously published structure (PDB: 3CMW). The total energy of each RecA mutant was computed after mutating the residue of interest to Acd and repacking all residues in RecA. Each point represents the average energy computed across all members of the different simulations, with vertical error bars representing standard deviations. The solid turquoise line represents the average energy of energy-minimized RecA without any Acd mutation.

Table S1: Expanded list of properties examined for association with Uaa tolerability

Property	Details	Variable type	Units or categories	Database
Physicochemical				
Hydrophobicity	Experimentally-determined hydrophobic indices ^A	Discrete	Usually kcal/mol	
Similar to Phe, Trp, or Tyr	Substitution matrix similarity score using Blosum62 table ^B	Discrete		
Volume	Size of residue ^C	Continuous	Å ³	
Evolutionary				
Conservation	Degree of conservation from a multiple sequence alignment	Continuous	normalized scale	Consurf ^D
Tolerance to Phe, Trp, or Tyr	Presence or absence of a particular residue substitution within a multiple sequence alignment	Categorical	True or False	SIFT ^E
Structural				
Solvent Accessible Area	Surface area of residue exposed to solvent	Continuous	Å ²	STRIDE
Accessibility	Solvent accessible area divided by maximum area of a residue ^F	Continuous	fraction	STRIDE ^G
Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	Area lost when a residue is buried upon folding	Continuous	fraction	PDBparam
Surrounding Hydrophobicity	Sum of hydrophobic indices assigned to residues within 8 Å	Continuous	kcal/mol	PDBparam
Average hydrophobic gain/ratio	Total increase or a ratio describing the difference in local surrounding hydrophobicity between unfolded and folded states	Continuous	ratio	PDBparam
Position	Residue number in primary sequence of protein	Discrete		
Secondary/tertiary structure	Simplified secondary structure assignment or classification into a protein domain	Categorical		STRIDE
Nearby contacts	Number of contacts within 8 or 14 Å using C _α or C _β atoms	Discrete	count	PDBparam
Noncovalent contacts	Interaction with another residue through a H-bond, cation-π, hydrophobic, or polar contact	Categorical	True or False	PDBparam
Long Range Order	Presence or absence of contacts with residues close in space but far in sequence	Categorical	True or False	PDBparam
Surrounding Residues	Number of residues within 8 Å contextualized by sequence position	Discrete	count	PDBparam

A Hydrophobicity indices retrieved from three separate sources¹⁰⁻¹²

B Blosum62 substitution matrix⁶

C Residue volumes⁷

D Consurf database¹⁵

E SIFT server¹³

F Maximum areas of residues⁸

G STRIDE database⁹

Table S2: Properties assigned to each position in LexA

Sample	No	Chosen for screen ^A	Average Hydrophobic Gain	Conservation	Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	Hydrophobicity [1]	Hydrophobicity [2]	Hydrophobicity [3]	Long Range Order > 0	Cα within 8Å	Cα within 14Å	Cβ within 8Å	Cβ within 14Å	Total contact(s)	Side Chain H-bond(s)	Cation-π contact(s)	Hydrophobic contact(s)	Polar contact(s)	Secondary Structure	Similar to Tyr	Similar to Trp	Similar to Phe	Solvent accessible area	Surrounding Hydrophobicity	Surrounding Residues	Tolerance to Phe	Tolerance to Trp	Tolerance to Tyr	Volume
M1	No	NA	NA	-0.794	NA	-1.48	74	-0.44	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Coil	F	F	F	201	3.04	2	T	T	162.9	
K2	No	1.64	1.539	1.15	0	-9.52	-23	1.81	F	2	23	5	25	T	F	T	F	T	Coil	F	F	F	69.8	5.52	3	T	F	168.6	
A3	No	2.51	1.647	1.014	0.4	1.94	41	0.33	T	4	21	4	17	F	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	37.6	8.11	7	F	F	88.6	
L4	No	6.83	2.98	-0.646	0.8	2.28	97	-0.69	T	9	25	11	30	F	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	100.2	5.65	4	F	F	166.7	
T5	No	0.07	1.015	-0.66	0.5	-4.88	13	0.11	F	6	23	6	23	T	T	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	70.4	4.76	4	F	F	116.1	
A6	Yes	1.54	1.498	1.377	0.2	1.94	41	0.33	F	6	19	7	19	F	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	83.3	3.76	4	F	F	88.6	
R7	No	5.56	6.915	-0.547	0.6	-19.92	-14	1	F	7	31	8	30	T	F	T	F	T	Helix	F	F	F	98.5	9.29	4	F	F	138.4	
Q8	No	13.06	6.464	-0.938	0.9	-9.38	-10	0.19	T	12	38	13	34	T	T	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	19.6	15.45	8	F	F	143.8	
Q9	Yes	6.64	2.959	1.073	0.6	-9.38	-10	0.19	F	9	36	10	28	F	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	72	10.03	4	F	F	143.8	
E10	No	5.22	2.101	0.737	0.4	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	8	40	10	34	T	F	F	F	T	Helix	F	F	F	39.3	12.24	5	F	F	111.1	
V11	No	16.4	4.905	-0.52	1	1.99	76	-0.53	T	12	54	15	49	F	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	14.8	14.75	5	T	T	166.7	
F12	Yes	9.04	2.683	-0.233	0.9	-0.76	100	-0.58	T	9	54	13	49	T	F	T	F	F	Helix	T	T	T	24.5	11.54	5	T	T	189.9	
D13	No	2.84	1.282	1.378	0.7	-10.95	-55	2.41	T	9	48	11	43	T	T	F	F	T	Helix	F	F	F	33.9	12.24	5	F	F	111.1	
L14	No	9.39	2.247	0.075	0.9	2.28	97	-0.69	T	9	54	13	47	F	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	21.8	17.4	9	T	T	111.1	
I15	No	17.45	5.021	-0.803	1	2.15	99	-0.81	F	10	54	16	56	F	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	0	18.64	6	F	F	166.7	
R16	No	11.24	2.641	0.286	0.8	-19.92	-14	1	T	11	45	11	47	T	T	T	T	F	Helix	F	F	F	54.2	17.24	7	F	F	173.4	
D17	No	10.04	2.252	2.009	0.8	-10.95	-55	2.41	T	13	42	13	38	T	T	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	21.8	17.4	9	T	T	111.1	
H18	No	13.57	3.869	0.7	0.8	-10.27	8	1.37	F	12	42	13	41	T	T	F	F	T	Helix	T	F	F	34.8	17.43	8	T	T	153.2	
I19	No	14.53	10.081	-0.054	0.8	2.15	99	-0.81	F	11	35	11	36	F	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	41.2	12.98	7	F	F	166.7	
S20	No	9.16	3.24	1.946	0.5	-5.06	-5	0.33	T	11	38	10	36	T	T	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	56.4	13.18	7	T	F	89	
Q21	Yes	4.97	2.466	1.977	0.4	-9.38	-10	0.19	T	8	32	9	33	F	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	109.2	8.36	4	T	T	143.8	
T22	Yes	6.86	4.728	0.172	0.5	-4.88	13	0.11	F	7	25	5	26	T	T	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	64.7	8.63	3	T	F	116.1	
G23	No	4.19	1.929	-0.965	0.2	2.39	0	1.14	F	7	24	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	62.9	8.6	2	F	F	60.1	
M24	No	6.61	2.158	-0.18	0.6	-1.48	74	-0.44	T	8	31	7	25	F	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	87.8	10.65	3	T	T	162.9	
P25	No	15.81	4.43	-0.657	0.9	NA	-46	-0.31	T	13	44	10	42	T	F	F	T	F	Coil	F	F	F	17.2	17.65	6	F	F	112.7	
P26	No	14.61	3.726	-0.994	1	NA	-46	-0.31	T	10	42	12	43	F	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	0.6	17.2	5	F	F	112.7	
T27	No	4.81	1.663	-0.904	0.8	-4.88	13	0.11	T	8	44	9	34	T	T	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	26.5	12	6	F	F	116.1	
R28	No	10.12	3.311	-0.557	0.8	-19.92	-14	1	T	11	45	10	39	T	T	F	F	T	Helix	F	F	F	54.2	13.65	9	T	F	173.4	
A29	No	5.45	2.15	-0.788	0.5	1.94	41	0.33	T	9	31	9	28	F	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	56.3	9.32	7	F	F	88.6	
E30	No	4.36	1.76	-0.879	0.6	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	8	38	10	34	T	T	F	F	T	Helix	F	F	F	63.9	9.43	4	F	F	138.4	
I31	No	20.41	9.469	-0.915	1	2.15	99	-0.81	T	14	43	17	46	T	F	F	T	F	Helix	F	F	F	0	19.67	7	F	F	166.7	
A32	No	13.16	3.818	-0.438	0.9	1.94	41	0.33	F	14	33	14	27	T	F	F	T	F	Helix	F	F	F	7.5	16.96	10	F	F	88.6	

^A Rows containing chosen positions are also indicated in bold type

Sample	A										B																	
	Chosen for screen	Average Hydrophobic Gain	Average Hydrophobic Ratio	Conservation	Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	Hydrophobicity [1]	Hydrophobicity [2]	Hydrophobicity [3]	Long range Order >0	Ca within 8Å	Ca within 14Å	Cβ within 8Å	Cβ within 14Å	Total contact(s)	Side Chain H-bond(s)	Polar contact(s)	Cation-π contact(s)	Hydrophobic contact(s)	Secondary Structure	Similar to Tyr	Similar to Trp	Similar to Phe	Solvent accessible area	Surrounding Hydrophobicity	Surrounding Residues	Tolerance to Phe	Tolerance to Trp	Tolerance to Tyr
Q33	Yes	4.51	1.641	1.357	0.2	-9.38	-10	0.19	F	7	29	8	25	T	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	151.7	11.55	4	T	T	143.8	
R34	No	7.54	3.401	-0.276	0.3	-19.92	-14	1	F	7	34	10	36	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	150.2	9.83	3	T	T	173.4	
L35	No	8.06	3.11	-0.493	0.7	2.28	97	-0.69	F	7	34	10	36	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	53.5	9.71	2	F	F	166.7	
G36	Yes	0.97	1.144	-0.399	0.3	2.39	0	1.14	F	6	23	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	57.3	7.61	2	F	F	60.1	
F37	Yes	12.25	4.84	-0.699	0.9	-0.76	100	-0.58	F	11	26	10	29	T	F	T	T	Coil	T	T	T	17.4	12.57	5	T	F	189.9	
R38	No	2.59	1.446	-0.005	0.2	-19.92	-14	1	F	6	20	6	19	T	F	T	F	Coil	F	F	F	189	7.55	3	F	F	173.4	
S39	No	3.55	1.54	-0.939	0.6	-5.06	-5	0.33	F	8	22	8	20	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	41.3	10.06	4	F	F	89	
P40	No	12.92	7.872	-0.485	0.5	NA	-46	-0.31	F	11	26	10	26	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	68.5	12.03	4	T	F	112.7	
N41	No	2.28	1.498	-0.871	0.2	-9.68	-28	0.43	F	7	23	8	21	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	123.9	6.77	4	F	F	114.1	
A42	No	7.07	2.607	-0.776	0.9	1.94	41	0.33	F	10	28	11	29	T	F	F	T	Helix	F	F	F	14.5	10.6	4	F	F	88.6	
A43	No	15.36	7.678	-0.859	1	1.94	41	0.33	F	13	41	16	40	T	F	F	T	Helix	F	F	F	0	16.79	4	F	F	88.6	
E44	No	8.19	3.497	-0.633	0.7	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	9	44	10	37	T	T	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	44.3	10.8	4	F	F	138.4	
E45	No	4.14	1.904	-0.249	0.2	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	8	36	9	30	T	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	132.8	8.05	4	F	F	138.4	
H46	No	7.52	2.46	-0.746	0.8	-10.27	8	1.37	F	10	46	13	44	T	F	F	F	Helix	T	F	F	38.5	11.8	4	F	F	153.2	
L47	No	11.77	3.906	-0.682	1	2.28	97	-0.69	F	11	53	15	53	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	0	13.65	5	F	F	166.7	
K48	No	7.85	2.291	0.436	0.5	-9.52	-23	1.81	F	9	37	10	31	T	T	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	104.8	12.29	5	F	F	168.6	
A49	No	4.9	1.715	-0.456	1	1.94	41	0.33	F	9	33	10	33	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	4.8	10.88	4	F	F	88.6	
L50	No	17.01	5.021	-0.943	1	2.28	97	-0.69	F	13	42	15	44	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	0	19.07	6	F	F	166.7	
A51	No	13.62	3.463	-0.625	0.7	1.94	41	0.33	F	11	34	11	32	T	F	F	T	Helix	F	F	F	33.2	18.28	7	F	F	88.6	
R52	No	5.23	2.094	0.081	0.2	-19.92	-14	1	F	7	29	6	24	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	179.6	9.16	3	F	F	173.4	
K53	No	7.72	3.092	-0.656	0.6	-9.52	-23	1.81	F	8	28	10	28	T	T	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	78	9.77	2	F	F	168.6	
G54	No	5.98	1.796	-0.94	0.7	2.39	0	1.14	T	8	29	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	23.8	13.39	4	F	F	60.1	
V55	No	10.1	2.817	0.578	0.9	1.99	76	-0.53	T	10	37	11	37	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	8.8	13.79	5	T	T	140	
I56	No	14.53	3.509	-0.57	1	2.15	99	-0.81	T	10	46	13	44	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	2.5	17.17	6	F	F	166.7	
E57	No	9.98	1.994	-0.188	0.6	-10.24	-31	1.61	T	10	34	9	26	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	76.2	19.35	6	F	F	138.4	
I58	No	11.93	3.071	-0.621	0.7	2.15	99	-0.81	F	10	34	10	32	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	48.5	14.54	5	T	F	166.7	
V59	No	6.84	2.714	0.076	0.6	1.99	76	-0.53	F	8	27	7	23	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	57.9	8.96	6	T	T	140	
S60	Yes	0.17	1.028	0.413	0.1	-5.06	-5	0.33	F	5	20	4	16	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	105.8	6.09	3	F	F	89	
G61	No	0.2	1.069	-0.383	0.2	2.39	0	1.14	F	5	17	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	57.9	2.98	3	F	F	60.1	
A62	No	2.84	3.606	-0.408	0.2	1.94	41	0.33	F	6	16	5	14	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	82.8	3.06	3	T	F	88.6	
S63	No	0.14	1.073	-0.709	0.2	-5.06	-5	0.33	F	5	22	4	22	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	98.7	1.99	2	F	F	89	
R64	No	8.98	3.143	-1.019	0.7	-19.92	-14	1	F	9	33	8	29	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	77.8	12.32	2	F	F	173.4	
G65	No	8.93	2.815	-0.772	0.9	2.39	0	1.14	F	10	34	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	7.7	13.75	2	F	F	60.1	
I66	No	14.76	4.718	-0.584	1	2.15	99	-0.81	F	9	48	12	46	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	7.8	15.58	2	F	F	166.7	
R67	No	12.46	2.642	-0.538	0.4	-19.92	-14	1	F	9	42	9	26	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	138.7	19.2	2	F	F	173.4	
L68	No	8.53	2.382	-0.234	0.8	2.28	97	-0.69	F	8	38	12	36	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	36.1	12.53	3	F	F	166.7	
L69	No	7.96	3.157	0.859	0.6	2.28	97	-0.69	F	8	27	8	25	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	71.4	9.48	2	T	T	166.7	

Sample	No Chosen for screen	Average Hydrophobic Gain	Average Hydrophobic Ratio	Conservation	Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	Hydrophobicity [1]	Hydrophobicity [2]	Hydrophobicity [3]	Long Range Order > 0	Cα within 8Å	Cα within 14Å	Cβ within 8Å	Cβ within 14Å	Total contact(s)	Side Chain H-bond(s)	Cation-π contact(s)	Polar contact(s)	Sheet	Secondary Structure	Similar to Tyr	Similar to Trp	Similar to Phe	Solvent accessible area	Surrounding Hydrophobicity	Surrounding Residues	Tolerance to Phe	Tolerance to Trp	Tolerance to Tyr	Volume
Q70	No	2.54	1.447	3.837	0.3	-9.38	-10	0.19	F	6	20	7	23	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	119.7	8.22	3	T	T	143.8		
E71	No	2.84	1.809	3.353	0.2	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	5	28	6	26	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	146.3	5.68	2	T	T	138.4		
E72	No	0.67	1.333	3.827	-0.1	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	4	22	4	15	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	198.2	2.01	2	T	F	138.4		
E73	No	0.67	1.318	3.73	0.3	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	5	25	6	29	T	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	119.8	2.11	2	T	T	138.4		
E74	Yes	0.67	1.186	3.844	0.2	-10.24	-31	1.61	T	5	23	4	22	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	138	3.61	3	T	T	138.4		
G75	No	8.94	2.424	1.324	0.9	2.39	0	1.14	T	10	32	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	7.5	15.12	8	F	F	60.1		
L76	No	16.92	3.963	-0.222	1	2.28	97	-0.69	T	13	42	12	40	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	2.8	20.46	11	F	F	166.7		
P77	No	15.93	3.525	-0.927	0.8	NA	-46	-0.31	T	12	42	9	44	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	24.7	19.47	10	F	F	112.7		
L78	No	19.86	3.874	0.197	1	2.28	97	-0.69	T	14	48	13	42	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	1.8	24.6	12	F	F	166.7		
V79	No	20.93	4.553	-0.013	1	1.99	76	-0.53	T	15	49	13	46	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	0	24.95	13	F	F	140		
G80	No	7.81	2.155	-1.015	0.9	2.39	0	1.14	T	9	41	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	6.4	14.47	7	F	F	60.1		
R81	Yes	2.57	1.546	0.136	0.1	-19.92	-14	1	T	6	39	5	30	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	211.7	6.43	4	F	F	173.4		
V82	No	9.32	4.465	-0.902	0.8	1.99	76	-0.53	T	9	39	10	41	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	31.3	10.14	6	F	F	140		
A83	No	3.07	1.832	-0.874	0.7	1.94	41	0.33	T	7	29	8	24	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	32.6	5.89	5	F	F	88.6		
A84	No	2.2	1.627	-1.021	0.4	1.94	41	0.33	T	6	27	4	22	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	70.7	4.84	4	F	F	88.6		
G85	No	0.76	1.147	-0.99	0.4	2.39	0	1.14	T	5	29	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	47.3	5.84	3	F	F	60.1		
E86	Yes	4.94	1.836	1.116	0.8	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	9	36	11	32	T	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	39	10.18	3	T	T	138.4		
P87	No	4.37	1.855	-0.883	0.9	NA	-46	-0.31	F	8	46	8	40	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	13	6.71	3	F	F	112.7		
L88	No	7.45	2.15	-0.746	1	2.28	97	-0.69	T	8	58	13	54	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	6.3	11.76	4	F	F	166.7		
L89	No	8.79	2.513	-0.421	0.8	2.28	97	-0.69	F	9	53	10	46	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	42.8	12.43	4	T	T	166.7		
A90	No	9.91	3.283	-0.953	1	1.94	41	0.33	F	11	42	14	37	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	0	13.38	4	F	F	88.6		
Q91	No	5.32	2.361	0.066	0.7	-9.38	-10	0.19	F	8	39	8	41	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	50.3	9.23	3	T	F	143.8		
Q92	No	0.67	1.137	-0.274	0.3	-9.38	-10	0.19	F	5	34	8	29	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	120.5	5.56	3	T	F	143.8		
H93	No	11.64	4.047	0.063	1	-10.27	8	1.37	F	12	37	13	38	T	F	F	T	Helix	T	F	F	7.6	14.59	2	T	F	153.2		
I94	No	13.97	9.518	0.209	0.8	2.15	99	-0.81	F	12	34	11	33	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	32.9	12.46	3	T	F	166.7		
E95	No	7.58	2.519	0.158	0.4	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	9	29	6	28	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	104.9	11.9	2	F	F	138.4		
G96	No	6.91	1.939	0.611	0.7	2.39	0	1.14	F	7	30	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	22.8	14.17	2	T	T	60.1		
H97	Yes	11.23	4.265	0.831	0.5	-10.27	8	1.37	F	9	36	9	31	T	F	F	F	Sheet	T	F	F	86.5	13.8	2	T	T	153.2		
Y98	Yes	9.88	4.479	0.274	0.7	-6.11	63	0.23	F	10	34	9	34	T	F	T	F	Sheet	T	T	T	67.4	10.05	2	T	T	193.6		
Q99	No	2.94	1.484	0.873	0.4	-9.38	-10	0.19	F	8	26	6	22	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	101.5	9.01	2	T	T	143.8		
V100	No	4.14	1.679	0.074	1	1.99	76	-0.53	F	7	33	10	32	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	1.3	8.37	2	T	F	140		
D101	No	2.93	1.622	-0.637	0.6	-10.95	-55	2.41	F	7	33	7	25	T	T	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	51.3	6.98	3	F	F	111.1		
P102	No	9.53	2.998	1.822	0.7	NA	-46	-0.31	F	10	39	10	32	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	36.5	11.53	6	F	F	112.7		
S103	No	5.44	1.642	1.219	0.4	-5.06	-5	0.33	F	8	32	7	22	T	T	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	69.4	13.84	6	T	F	89		
L104	Yes	2.92	1.397	0.453	0.9	2.28	97	-0.69	T	8	36	11	32	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	22.1	8.1	3	T	F	166.7		
F105	Yes	9.44	2.42	0.141	1	-0.76	100	-0.58	T	12	35	12	34	T	F	F	T	Sheet	T	T	T	1.8	13.22	7	T	F	189.9		
K106	Yes	4.45	1.563	1.12	0.1	-9.52	-23	1.81	T	9	32	7	22	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	176.8	10.71	4	T	T	168.6		

Sample	No	Chosen for screen	Average Hydrophobic Gain	Average Hydrophobic Ratio	Conservation	Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	Hydrophobicity [1]	Hydrophobicity [2]	Hydrophobicity [3]	Long Range Order > 0	Cα within 8Å	Cα within 14Å	Cβ within 8Å	Cβ within 14Å	Total contact(s)	Side Chain H-bond(s)	Cation-π contact(s)	Polar contact(s)	Secondary Structure	Similar to Tyr	Similar to Trp	Similar to Phe	Solvent accessible area	Surrounding Hydrophobicity	Surrounding Residues	Tolerance to Phe	Tolerance to Trp	Tolerance to Tyr	Volume
P107	No	5.58	2.02	1.33	0.7	NA	-46	-0.31	T	7	33	9	31	T	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	45.1	8.28	4	F	F	112.7		
N108	Yes	10.71	2.803	1.131	0.4	-9.68	-28	0.43	T	10	35	10	28	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	81.9	16.56	4	T	T	114.1		
A109	No	19.68	4.08	0.293	1	1.94	41	0.33	T	15	47	15	42	T	F	F	T	Coil	F	F	F	3.4	25.2	8	T	F	T	88.6	
D110	No	13.62	3.27	-0.273	0.5	-10.95	-55	2.41	T	11	51	9	46	T	T	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	72.9	18.96	6	F	F	F	111.1	
F111	Yes	17.1	3.913	-0.453	1	-0.76	100	-0.58	T	12	60	12	51	T	F	T	T	Sheet	T	T	T	2.4	20.1	6	T	F	T	189.9	
L112	No	19.1	3.916	-0.38	1	2.28	97	-0.69	T	13	61	16	49	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	0	23.48	6	T	F	F	166.7	
L113	No	13.39	2.726	-0.991	1	2.28	97	-0.69	T	11	63	13	57	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	7.4	18.98	6	F	F	F	166.7	
R114	No	10.94	2.742	0.024	0.6	-19.92	-14	1	T	12	54	12	40	T	T	T	F	Sheet	F	F	F	101.8	16.37	6	F	F	F	173.4	
V115	No	14.32	5.489	-0.811	0.9	1.99	76	-0.53	T	12	51	12	46	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	11.5	15.64	10	F	F	F	140	
S116	No	2.5	1.557	0.615	0	-5.06	-5	0.33	T	7	39	4	33	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	111	6.92	5	F	F	T	89	
G117	No	4.2	1.937	-0.99	0.7	2.39	0	1.14	F	8	35	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	25.7	8.58	6	F	F	F	60.1	
M118	No	8.88	4.277	-0.001	0.7	-1.48	74	-0.44	T	9	32	9	26	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	58.5	9.92	7	T	T	T	162.9	
A119	No	8.91	2.754	-1.011	0.9	1.94	41	0.33	T	9	38	11	40	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	8.3	13.12	7	F	F	F	88.6	
M120	No	16.88	4.488	-1.02	1	-1.48	74	-0.44	T	14	44	14	44	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	5.4	20.05	11	F	F	F	162.9	
K121	No	8.99	2.416	-0.553	0.8	-9.52	-23	1.81	T	10	32	10	26	T	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	50	13.7	7	F	F	T	168.6	
D122	No	4.57	1.697	0.189	0.4	-10.95	-55	2.41	T	8	25	7	24	T	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	88.1	10.47	5	F	F	F	111.1	
I123	No	5.49	1.989	-0.553	0.7	2.15	99	-0.81	T	6	36	8	29	F	F	F	F	Helix	F	F	F	48.2	7.89	3	T	T	T	166.7	
G124	No	3.41	1.395	-0.779	1	2.39	0	1.14	F	7	34	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	0	11.94	2	F	F	F	60.1	
I125	No	13.19	3.364	-1.008	1	2.15	99	-0.81	T	11	41	12	39	T	F	F	T	Coil	F	F	F	9.8	15.62	4	F	F	F	166.7	
M126	No	9.35	3.332	0.948	0.9	-1.48	74	-0.44	F	12	33	9	28	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	24.7	11.69	3	T	F	T	162.9	
D127	No	4.37	1.783	-0.474	0.3	-10.95	-55	2.41	F	8	32	6	28	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	97.1	9.29	2	F	F	F	111.1	
G128	No	3.84	1.744	-0.678	0.6	2.39	0	1.14	T	9	34	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	31.7	8.9	3	F	F	F	60.1	
D129	No	14.16	3.776	-1.019	1	-10.95	-55	2.41	T	12	39	11	38	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	2.6	18.6	6	F	F	F	111.1	
L130	Yes	17.36	5.568	0.482	1	2.28	97	-0.69	T	13	51	13	42	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	4.2	18.99	6	F	F	F	166.7	
L131	No	17.09	4.068	-0.556	1	2.28	97	-0.69	T	13	62	14	56	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	1.2	20.49	7	F	F	F	166.7	
A132	No	20.34	3.873	-0.404	1	1.94	41	0.33	T	15	57	14	46	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	0	26.55	7	F	F	F	88.6	
V133	No	17.59	4.169	-0.746	1	1.99	76	-0.53	T	15	60	15	57	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	0	21.27	8	F	F	F	140	
H134	No	13.14	3.953	-0.283	0.7	-10.27	8	1.37	T	13	47	13	41	T	T	F	F	Sheet	T	F	F	48.9	16.72	6	F	F	F	153.2	
K135	Yes	8.98	4.196	0.396	0.4	-9.52	-23	1.81	T	10	45	7	40	T	F	T	F	Sheet	F	F	F	119.1	10.15	5	F	F	F	168.6	
T136	No	8.03	3.533	0.056	0.7	-4.88	13	0.11	T	9	31	9	32	T	T	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	38.1	11.13	7	F	F	F	116.1	
Q137	No	3.99	1.941	1.468	0.1	-9.38	-10	0.19	T	8	28	6	24	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	154.1	8.23	6	T	T	T	143.8	
D138	Yes	0.66	1.237	0.715	0	-10.95	-55	2.41	F	4	26	4	22	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	138.2	2.79	2	T	F	F	111.1	
V139	No	5.98	4.737	-0.769	0.9	1.99	76	-0.53	T	8	33	10	32	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	19.3	5.71	5	F	F	F	140	
R140	Yes	3.02	2.11	1.226	0.3	-19.92	-14	1	T	6	32	5	22	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	170	4.89	4	F	F	F	173.4	
N141	No	6.39	3.266	-0.454	0.5	-9.68	-28	0.43	T	8	29	6	22	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	78.7	9.12	6	F	F	F	114.1	
G142	No	4.76	2.694	-0.94	0.5	2.39	0	1.14	T	7	31	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	35	7.47	5	F	F	F	60.1	
Q143	No	7.91	3.013	-0.285	0.7	-9.38	-10	0.19	T	9	41	10	36	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	58.7	11.84	5	F	F	F	143.8	

Sample	No	Chosen for screen	Average Hydrophobic Gain	Average Hydrophobic Ratio	Conservation	Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	Hydrophobicity [1]	Hydrophobicity [2]	Hydrophobicity [3]	Long Range Order > 0	Cα within 8Å	Cα within 14Å	Cβ within 8Å	Cβ within 14Å	Total contact(s)	Side Chain H-bond(s)	Cation-π contact(s)	Polar contact(s)	Sheet	Secondary Structure	Similar to Tyr	Similar to Trp	Similar to Phe	Solvent accessible area	Surrounding Hydrophobicity	Surrounding Residues	Tolerance to Phe	Tolerance to Trp	Tolerance to Tyr	Volume
V144	No	11.44	3.979	-0.725	0.9	1.99	76	-0.53	T	10	57	11	49	T	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	0.8	19.97	11	F	F	F	140		
V145	No	17.23	4.738	-0.795	1	1.99	76	-0.53	T	14	58	14	51	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	0	19.74	11	F	F	F	140		
V146	No	16.15	3.958	-0.901	1	1.99	76	-0.53	T	14	66	15	59	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	0.4	20.05	11	F	F	F	88.6		
A147	No	13.18	2.703	-0.941	1	1.94	41	0.33	T	13	61	16	56	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	19.6	16.65	11	F	F	F	173.4		
R148	No	10.95	2.672	-0.71	0.9	-19.92	-14	1	T	13	50	14	45	T	T	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	16	10.53	10	T	F	F	166.7		
I149	No	10.64	4.5	0.057	0.9	2.15	99	-0.81	T	12	41	13	38	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	74.6	8.27	5	T	F	T	111.1		
D150	Yes	3.6	1.675	0.561	0.5	-10.95	-55	2.41	T	7	30	7	26	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	77.3	9.11	3	F	F	F	111.1		
D151	No	3.42	1.539	0.037	0.5	-10.95	-55	2.41	T	9	30	8	25	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	150.3	8.13	2	F	F	F	138.4		
E152	No	5.54	2.699	-0.625	0.1	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	7	37	7	33	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	44.2	11.88	2	F	F	F	140		
V153	No	10.48	4.205	-0.86	0.7	1.99	76	-0.53	F	9	53	11	45	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	64.5	18.36	5	T	F	F	173.4		
T154	No	6.81	2.126	-1.009	0.8	-4.88	13	0.11	F	8	62	12	52	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	24.2	12.79	2	F	F	F	116.1		
V155	No	11.89	3.684	-0.801	0.9	1.99	76	-0.53	F	10	71	15	54	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	13	14.45	2	F	F	F	140		
K156	No	18.44	4.718	-1.018	0.9	-9.52	-23	1.81	T	14	61	14	51	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	18.8	21.76	6	F	F	F	168.6		
R157	No	11.89	2.624	-0.567	0.7	-19.92	-14	1	T	12	50	11	39	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	64.5	18.36	5	T	F	F	166.7		
L158	No	13.83	3.397	0.1	1	2.28	97	-0.69	F	14	47	15	42	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	9.1	17.43	6	T	T	T	166.7		
K159	No	8.71	2.869	0.448	0.6	-9.52	-23	1.81	F	10	37	11	31	T	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	82.6	11.73	6	F	F	T	168.6		
K160	No	5.91	2.512	-0.018	0.4	-9.52	-23	1.81	F	8	33	7	28	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	111.9	8.18	5	F	F	T	168.6		
Q161	Yes	4.18	2.205	0.833	0.5	-9.38	-10	0.19	F	7	23	7	23	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	93.9	7.65	5	T	F	T	143.8		
G162	Yes	1.97	1.585	0.987	0.1	2.39	0	1.14	F	5	19	NA	NA	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	73.1	5.24	3	F	F	F	60.1		
N163	No	3.77	2.044	1.225	0.3	-9.68	-28	0.43	T	7	20	6	15	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	105.1	7.29	5	T	T	T	114.1		
K164	No	10.7	4.919	1.256	0.6	-9.52	-23	1.81	T	11	27	9	25	T	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	91.4	11.79	7	T	T	T	168.6		
V165	No	13.99	4.061	-0.148	1	1.99	76	-0.53	T	13	42	13	41	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	6.2	16.69	6	F	F	T	140		
E166	Yes	15.78	3.01	0.012	0.7	-10.24	-31	1.61	T	12	41	12	32	T	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	47.7	22.96	6	T	T	T	138.4		
L167	No	18.13	3.424	-0.991	1	2.28	97	-0.69	T	12	48	16	44	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	0.2	23.44	6	F	F	F	166.7		
L168	No	16.03	3.553	0.006	0.7	2.28	97	-0.69	F	11	41	10	39	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	49.9	20.14	5	T	T	T	166.7		
P169	No	15.08	3.957	-0.594	0.9	NA	-46	-0.31	F	11	43	13	37	T	F	F	T	Coil	F	F	F	21.2	17.41	5	F	F	F	112.7		
E170	No	13.17	3.582	-0.616	0.7	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	11	35	11	35	T	T	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	51.6	17.6	3	F	F	F	138.4		
N171	No	9.47	3.266	-1.008	0.9	-9.68	-28	0.43	F	10	27	11	28	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	12	13.56	3	F	F	F	114.1		
S172	Yes	1.71	1.398	0.632	0	-5.06	-5	0.33	F	5	21	5	15	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	117.8	5.94	3	F	F	F	89		
E173	No	0.67	1.143	0.459	0	-10.24	-31	1.61	F	4	16	5	17	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	171.4	4.67	2	F	F	F	138.4		
F174	Yes	7.27	2.412	-0.16	0.6	-0.76	100	-0.58	F	8	26	9	28	T	F	T	T	Sheet	T	T	T	89.9	9.55	2	T	F	T	189.9		
K175	No	6.65	1.703	1.267	0.2	-9.52	-23	1.81	F	7	27	5	22	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	174.9	14.47	2	T	T	T	168.6		
P176	No	10.55	2.107	-0.424	0.5	NA	-46	-0.31	F	8	32	10	30	F	F	F	F	Coil	F	F	F	65.9	17.31	2	F	F	F	112.7		
I177	No	8.16	2.001	-0.809	0.6	2.15	99	-0.81	F	7	40	11	39	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	65.9	13.16	2	F	F	F	166.7		
V178	Yes	8.22	1.973	0.802	0.5	1.99	76	-0.53	F	8	36	9	30	F	F	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	71.6	14.8	2	T	T	T	140		
V179	No	14.24	2.814	-0.149	1	1.99	76	-0.53	F	11	37	12	38	T	F	F	T	Sheet	F	F	F	0	20.22	4	F	F	F	140		
D180	No	4.26	1.63	1.424	0.9	-10.95	-55	2.41	F	9	26	9	22	T	T	F	F	Sheet	F	F	F	17.8	10.36	4	F	F	F	111.1		

Table S3: Measured total and soluble amounts of fluorescent LexA

	Total fluorescent protein (nM)		Soluble fluorescent protein (nM)		Soluble fraction of total protein	
Sample	Average	SD	Average	SD	Average	SD
A6	8.0 x 10 ²	5.3 x 10 ¹	3.9 x 10 ²	7.0 x 10 ¹	0.49	0.07
Q9	7.2 x 10 ²	8.8 x 10 ¹	3.5 x 10 ²	4.2 x 10 ¹	0.49	0.04
F12	1.3 x 10 ³	9.7 x 10 ¹	8.7 x 10 ²	1.3 x 10 ²	0.65	0.06
Q21	1.4 x 10 ³	1.5 x 10 ²	7.6 x 10 ²	1.2 x 10 ²	0.56	0.03
T22	1.6 x 10 ³	1.0 x 10 ²	1.0 x 10 ³	1.8 x 10 ²	0.64	0.10
Q33	1.8 x 10 ³	1.7 x 10 ²	6.7 x 10 ²	6.7 x 10 ¹	0.38	0.07
G36	1.4 x 10 ³	2.0 x 10 ²	5.2 x 10 ²	1.7 x 10 ²	0.37	0.08
F37	1.6 x 10 ³	1.8 x 10 ²	9.1 x 10 ²	1.2 x 10 ²	0.57	0.04
S60	1.9 x 10 ³	1.0 x 10 ²	1.3 x 10 ³	6.6 x 10 ¹	0.68	0.01
E74	1.4 x 10 ³	9.7 x 10 ¹	8.2 x 10 ²	1.8 x 10 ²	0.61	0.13
R81	2.5 x 10 ³	1.8 x 10 ²	6.8 x 10 ²	9.3 x 10 ¹	0.27	0.06
E86	3.2 x 10 ³	1.3 x 10 ²	7.2 x 10 ²	4.3 x 10 ²	0.22	0.12
H97	8.4 x 10 ²	6.7 x 10 ¹	5.1 x 10 ²	8.3 x 10 ¹	0.61	0.10
Y98	9.6 x 10 ²	9.0 x 10 ¹	6.6 x 10 ¹	2.8 x 10 ¹	0.07	0.03
L104	9.6 x 10 ²	4.9 x 10 ¹	7.5 x 10 ¹	2.8 x 10 ¹	0.08	0.03
F105	1.2 x 10 ³	1.0 x 10 ²	2.3 x 10 ¹	4.0 x 10 ¹	0.02	0.03
K106	9.1 x 10 ²	1.4 x 10 ²	2.2 x 10 ²	8.5 x 10 ¹	0.24	0.06
N108	1.1 x 10 ³	1.7 x 10 ²	1.9 x 10 ²	5.0 x 10 ¹	0.17	0.02
F111	7.5 x 10 ²	3.5 x 10 ¹	0.0 x 10 ⁰	0.0 x 10 ⁰	0.00	0.00
L130	1.3 x 10 ³	1.1 x 10 ²	2.4 x 10 ¹	4.1 x 10 ¹	0.02	0.03
K135	2.0 x 10 ³	3.4 x 10 ²	2.8 x 10 ²	1.1 x 10 ²	0.13	0.04
D138	2.2 x 10 ³	1.9 x 10 ²	4.2 x 10 ²	2.0 x 10 ²	0.19	0.08
R140	2.1 x 10 ³	1.5 x 10 ²	3.4 x 10 ²	5.4 x 10 ¹	0.16	0.02
D150	1.7 x 10 ³	2.3 x 10 ²	5.1 x 10 ⁰	8.9 x 10 ⁰	0.00	0.00
Q161	1.3 x 10 ³	8.8 x 10 ¹	3.6 x 10 ²	1.2 x 10 ²	0.28	0.07
G162	1.4 x 10 ³	2.1 x 10 ²	3.9 x 10 ¹	4.9 x 10 ¹	0.03	0.03
E166	9.7 x 10 ²	1.4 x 10 ²	2.4 x 10 ²	6.3 x 10 ¹	0.25	0.04
S172	1.3 x 10 ³	2.9 x 10 ¹	1.3 x 10 ²	3.7 x 10 ¹	0.10	0.03
F174	1.1 x 10 ³	3.4 x 10 ¹	1.4 x 10 ²	4.1 x 10 ¹	0.13	0.04
V178	1.3 x 10 ³	1.4 x 10 ²	2.0 x 10 ²	7.1 x 10 ¹	0.15	0.04
Q183	1.3 x 10 ³	1.5 x 10 ²	2.3 x 10 ²	6.3 x 10 ¹	0.18	0.04
F186	1.5 x 10 ³	1.4 x 10 ²	6.5 x 10 ¹	4.1 x 10 ¹	0.05	0.03

Table S4: Summary statistics of linear regression models for categorical properties with LexA

Parameter	R ²	Adj R ^{2, A}	F-statistic ^B	DF	DF residuals	p-value ^C
Domain	0.53	0.53	106.67	5	91	0.00
Secondary Structure	0.47	0.45	40.54	2	94	0.00
Hydrophobic contact(s)	0.06	0.05	5.91	3	93	0.02
Tolerance to Trp	0.04	0.03	3.97	2	94	0.05
Long Range Order > 0	0.04	0.03	3.55	2	94	0.06
Tolerance to Tyr	0.03	0.02	2.58	2	94	0.11
Similar to Trp	0.02	0.01	2.02	2	94	0.16
Similar to Phe	0.02	0.01	2.02	2	94	0.16
Polar contact(s)	0.01	0.00	1.41	2	94	0.24
Total contact(s)	0.01	0.00	0.93	2	94	0.34
Cation/Pi contact(s)	0.00	-0.01	0.10	2	94	0.75
Similar to Tyr	0.00	-0.01	0.09	2	94	0.76
Side chain H-bond(s)	0.00	-0.01	0.00	2	94	0.98
Tolerance to Phe	0.00	-0.01	0.00	2	94	0.98

^A Adj R² = adjusted R², which is the R² value adjusted for the number of parameters in the model

^B F-statistic = ratio of variance explained by model to the variance explained by residuals

^C Probability of F-statistic for an F-distribution with indicated degrees of freedom (DF)

Table S5: Summary statistics of linear regression models for numerical properties with LexA

Parameter	R ²	Adj R ^{2, A}	F-statistic ^B	DF	DF residuals	p-value ^C
Position	0.53	0.53	106.60	2	94	0.00
C_α within 14 Å	0.06	0.05	5.62	2	94	0.02
C_α within 8 Å	0.05	0.04	5.21	2	94	0.02
Conservation	0.05	0.04	5.16	2	94	0.03
C_β within 8 Å	0.05	0.03	4.20	2	88	0.04
Surrounding Hydrophobicity	0.04	0.03	4.10	2	94	0.05
Avg. Hydrophobic Gain	0.04	0.03	4.02	2	94	0.05
C_β within 14 Å	0.04	0.03	3.31	2	88	0.07
Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	0.03	0.02	2.98	2	94	0.09
Accessibility	0.03	0.02	2.87	2	94	0.09
Volume	0.03	0.02	2.47	2	94	0.12
Hydrophobicity [2]^D	0.02	0.01	2.28	2	94	0.13
Surrounding Residues	0.01	0.00	1.26	2	94	0.26
Hydrophobicity [1]^E	0.01	0.00	1.10	2	94	0.30
Avg. Hydrophobic Ratio	0.00	-0.01	0.09	2	94	0.76
Hydrophobicity [3]^F	0.00	-0.01	0.02	2	94	0.89

^A Adj R² = adjusted R², which is the R² value adjusted for the number of parameters in the model

^B F-statistic = ratio of variance explained by model to the variance explained by residuals

^C Probability of F-statistic for an F-distribution with indicated degrees of freedom (DF)

^D Hydrophobicity index¹¹

^E Hydrophobicity index¹⁰

^F Hydrophobicity index¹²

Table S6: Categorical property coefficients for two-factor linear regression models with LexA

Parameter	Coefficient ^A	Std. Error	NTD samples ^B	CTD samples ^C	p-value ^D
Tolerance to Trp	0.15	0.03	2	9	0.00
Polar contact(s)	0.22	0.05	0	3	0.00
Tolerance to Tyr	0.09	0.03	5	14	0.00
Hydrophobic contacts(s)	-0.12	0.04	1	4	0.01
Similar to Trp	-0.08	0.04	2	5	0.03
Similar to Phe	-0.08	0.04	2	5	0.03
Tolerance to Phe	0.07	0.03	5	17	0.06
Cation-π contact(s)	-0.04	0.04	2	4	0.30
Side chain H-bond(s)	-0.02	0.05	1	2	0.67
Long Range Order > 0	0.00	0.03	2	12	0.92
Total contact(s)	0.00	0.03	3	11	0.96
Similar to Tyr	0.00	0.04	2	6	0.98

^A Estimated coefficient for indicated parameter in two-factor linear regression model

^B Number of samples in NTD for which the value of the indicated parameter is TRUE

^C Number of samples in CTD for which the value of the indicated parameter is TRUE

^D Probability of rejecting null hypothesis using t-distribution (parameters not shown)

Table S7: Numerical property coefficients for two-factor linear regression models with LexA

Parameter	Coefficient ^A	Std. Error	p-value ^B
Conservation	0.07	0.02	0.00
Hydrophobicity [1]^C	-0.01	0.00	0.00
Position	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accessibility	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cβ within 8 Å	-0.02	0.01	0.00
Hydrophobicity [3]^D	0.05	0.02	0.01
Hydrophobicity [2]^E	0.00	0.00	0.01
Cα within 8 Å	-0.01	0.01	0.03
Fractional Loss of Accessible Area	-0.10	0.05	0.04
Cβ within 14 Å	0.00	0.00	0.05
Surrounding Residues	-0.02	0.01	0.06
Surrounding Hydrophobic Residues	0.00	0.00	0.16
Avg. Hydrophobic Gain	0.00	0.00	0.21
Cα within 14 Å	0.00	0.00	0.23
Avg. Hydrophobic Ratio	-0.01	0.01	0.66
Volume	0.00	0.00	0.79

^A Estimated coefficient for indicated parameter in two-factor linear regression model

^B Probability of rejecting null hypothesis using t-distribution (parameters not shown)

^C Hydrophobicity index¹⁰

^D Hydrophobicity index¹²

^E Hydrophobicity index¹¹

Table S8: Measured total and soluble amounts of fluorescent RecA

	Total fluorescent protein (nM)		Soluble fluorescent protein (nM)		Soluble fraction of total protein	
Sample	Average	SD	Average	SD	Average	SD
E4	9.7 x 10 ³	1.2 x 10 ³	2.4 x 10 ³	2.7 x 10 ²	0.25	0.06
R33	7.4 x 10 ³	9.8 x 10 ²	7.4 x 10 ³	1.0 x 10 ³	1.00	0.03
Y65	6.3 x 10 ³	1.1 x 10 ³	3.7 x 10 ³	4.2 x 10 ²	0.60	0.08
R85	7.2 x 10 ³	1.7 x 10 ³	6.1 x 10 ³	1.6 x 10 ³	0.86	0.06
E86	6.6 x 10 ³	1.4 x 10 ³	5.4 x 10 ³	1.3 x 10 ³	0.81	0.06
I102	4.0 x 10 ³	6.4 x 10 ²	2.7 x 10 ³	2.0 x 10 ²	0.67	0.06
T121	7.0 x 10 ³	9.7 x 10 ²	5.5 x 10 ³	5.7 x 10 ²	0.79	0.05
Q124	7.4 x 10 ³	1.2 x 10 ³	6.0 x 10 ³	9.6 x 10 ²	0.81	0.03
R134	4.5 x 10 ³	6.7 x 10 ²	2.5 x 10 ³	2.3 x 10 ²	0.56	0.06
T150	5.8 x 10 ³	1.0 x 10 ³	2.1 x 10 ³	3.6 x 10 ²	0.36	0.05
E156	6.2 x 10 ³	1.6 x 10 ³	3.4 x 10 ³	1.0 x 10 ³	0.54	0.03
M197	5.8 x 10 ³	1.5 x 10 ³	5.4 x 10 ³	1.7 x 10 ³	0.93	0.07
P206	6.0 x 10 ³	5.8 x 10 ²	4.4 x 10 ³	6.9 x 10 ²	0.73	0.05
N213	5.2 x 10 ³	7.4 x 10 ²	2.5 x 10 ³	4.7 x 10 ²	0.47	0.03
E233	1.2 x 10 ³	2.2 x 10 ²	7.7 x 10 ²	1.5 x 10 ²	0.66	0.11
E266	4.1 x 10 ³	4.5 x 10 ²	2.2 x 10 ³	2.2 x 10 ²	0.05	0.05
L277	4.9 x 10 ³	6.4 x 10 ²	2.2 x 10 ³	2.7 x 10 ²	0.45	0.02
D311	3.7 x 10 ³	4.3 x 10 ²	1.6 x 10 ³	1.5 x 10 ²	0.44	0.01
K321	5.4 x 10 ³	9.5 x 10 ²	1.4 x 10 ³	2.2 x 10 ²	0.26	0.06

Table S9: Summary statistics of linear regression models with RecA

Parameter	R ²	Adj R ^{2, A}	F-statistic ^B	DF	DF residuals	p-value ^C
Domain	0.26	0.23	9.51	3	54	0.00
Position	0.19	0.17	12.80	2	55	0.00
Tolerance to Trp	0.17	0.15	11.00	2	55	0.00
Hydrophobicity [3]^D	0.12	0.11	7.77	2	55	0.01
Tolerance to Phe	0.11	0.09	6.79	2	55	0.01
Secondary Structure	0.13	0.09	3.51	3	48	0.04
Accessibility	0.09	0.07	5.02	2	49	0.03
Volume	0.04	0.03	2.47	2	55	0.12
Conservation	0.04	0.02	2.02	2	55	0.16
Hydrophobicity [2]^E	0.04	0.02	1.99	2	52	0.16
Hydrophobicity [1]^F	0.02	0.00	0.99	2	55	0.33
Tolerance to Tyr	0.00	-0.02	0.09	2	55	0.77
Similar to Trp	0.00	-0.02	0.00	2	55	0.96
Similar to Phe	0.00	-0.02	0.00	2	55	0.96
Similar to Tyr	0.00	-0.02	0.00	2	55	0.96

^A Adj R² = adjusted R², which is the R² value adjusted for the number of parameters in the model

^B F-statistic = ratio of variance explained by model to the variance explained by residuals

^C Probability of F-statistic for an F-distribution with indicated degrees of freedom (DF)

^D Hydrophobicity index¹²

^E Hydrophobicity index¹¹

^F Hydrophobicity index¹⁰

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