Supporting
Information

Methods

Dataset

Choosing the dataset was a crucial part of the analysis, since we required pairs with high sequence identity, which can be readily compared and at the same time high confidence in the oligomeric state, i.e. the correct biological unit. We analysed ten SCOP (1) protein families, which, according to the 3DComplex database (2), have at least one dimer and one homologous tetramer or hexamer with the same dimeric binding mode and sequence identity higher than 40%. Homomeric tetramers and hexamers with dihedral symmetry are, as explained in the main text, the simplest protein complexes with more than one type of interface. Once a pair of such structures was found, other family members going down to 30% sequence identity were also analysed (Table S1). Note that on average, about half of structures will have a conserved oligomeric state at the level of 40% sequence identity, and this proportion grows drastically with large sequence identities (3).

In the case of the phosphoribosyltransferase family (SCOP family identifier: 53272), all members exist as either dimers or tetramers, but the binding mode changes, i.e. interfaces between them do not structurally overlap. Therefore, the members of the family were split into two paralogous groups: the PyrR and the uracil phosphoribosyltransferase family thus our dataset consists of eleven groups (subfamilies) of proteins belonging to ten SCOP families.

As a result of these dataset selection requirements, all but one selected subfamily contained only orthologues. The exception is the interleukin 8-like chemokine family. This high proportion of orthologues is not surprising, as paralogues are almost always more divergent in sequence than orthologues as a natural consequence of their functional divergence.

Biological units

Oligomeric state of the protein is decided on based on the annotation in the manually curated 3DComplex database. The biological unit files were obtained either from the biological unit file in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) as assigned by the authors, or from PISA (4), depending on which of them agreed with the 3DComplex database annotation.

Calculating geometric parameters

When comparing the crystal structures within a family, four protein regions were defined:

- (i) the dimeric interface the interface conserved in all of the homologues within the family, both dimers and tetramers/hexamers.
- (ii) the tetrameric (or hexameric) interface the interface which exists only in homologues with higher oligomeric state.
- (iii) the region on the surface of the dimeric homologue which corresponds to the residues involved in the interface in homologues of higher oligomeric state (tetrameric or hexameric).
- (iv) evolutionary core structurally conserved core of a protein subunit.

The subunit evolutionary core was defined by using sieve fit as defined by Lesk (5). In this method, all atoms (or in this case all residue backbone atoms) that superimpose with an RMSD lower than some threshold (here 0.5 Å) are referred to as the *subunit core* and only those are used for the structural fit. The 0.5 Å threshold is empirical and represents an error window for high-resolution crystal structures.

A schematic illustration of all the structural fits is provided in Fig. S1 .

First A' to A superposition was done using only residues which make dimeric interface contacts in all analyzed homologues of the family (common dimeric residues, shown in green in Fig. S2). The dimeric interface rotation angle (dRot) translation vector (dTrans) and RMSD (dRMSD) were defined by superimposing the same residues of the B subunits these parameters illustrate the contribution of local differences within the conserved (dimeric) interface to the overall structure geometry.

After superimposing the centres of mass of subunit evolutionary cores $(A'$ to $A)$ to an RMSD of approximately 0.5 Å, two types of translations were done. First, we translated and rotated subunit B to fit its evolutionary core. These geometric parameters (sRot and sTrans) show the difference in relative orientations of whole subunits around the dimeric interface. Secondly, after superimposing the whole subunit evolutionary core (A' to A) we translated and rotated only the tetrameric (or hexameric) interface residues of subunit A' to A. Tetrameric/hexameric interface rotation angle (tRot), translation vector (tTrans) and RMSD (tRMSD) yield the differences in position of the interface residues relative to the subunit evolutionary core.

Since all of the tetrameric and hexameric homologue structures are symmetric, the values we provide are for a chosen pair of A and B subunits. We have also calculated these values for other combinations of subunits, and values for RMSD vary by less than 0.05 Å, rotation angles by less than 1°, and translation vectors by less than 0.1 Å.

All the dimeric interface parameters were calculated using the common set of interface residues for each of the families analyzed. Geometric parameters for the tetrameric/hexameric interface of a dimer/tetramer (or dimer/hexamer) pair were calculated by superimposing the tetramer/hexamer interface residues of one to the corresponding surface residues of the other. In cases where two tetramers (or two hexamers) were compared, interfaces were fitted from the perspective of both of the structures yielding two values for each of the parameters for these pairs. The hexameric Dribulose-5-phosphate 3-epimerase family analysed (SCOP identifier: 51372) has a cyclic, face-to-back type of hexameric interface. While dimeric and tetrameric interfaces in our dataset are all of the face-to-face type and consist of a single interface patch, hexameric interfaces consist of two distinct sets of residues, contacting different chains within the oligomeric structures. We have calculated all the parameters for the two halves of the hexameric interfaces separately – provided as A and B values in the Table S3. All the RMSD values are for backbone atoms only.

Hypothetical tetramers/hexamers and dDist

After superimposing evolutionary cores of the dimer and one half of the tetramer (or one third of the hexamer), the same was done for the other half (thirds). In this way, a hypothetical higher oligomer was constructed. This is by no means an attempt at docking, but rather a method to illustrate how geometry of the dimer influences the geometry of the tetramer/hexamer. It shows how symmetrical a structure of a dimer "forced" into a homologous tetramer (or hexamer) would be, without any kind of refinement.

We used another simple measure to illustrate this: the difference in distance, dDist (in \hat{A}) of interacting residues between subunits A' and C', and the corresponding residues of subunits B' and D'. Natural tetramers with dihedral symmetry have symmetric tetrameric interfaces, where corresponding residue pairs form contacts between subunits B and D, in the same way as between subunits A and C. Large differences in distance between A':C' and B':D' contact residues suggests that the homolog would require significant changes in the dimer geometry or form a tetramer via a different (although probably at least partially overlapping) surface.

Contact residues and protein interfaces

Interface residues are defined as all the residues making atomic contacts with residues from another subunit. Two atoms are considered to be in contact if the distance between them is equal to, or less than, the sum of their van der Waals radii plus 0.5 Å. The van der Waals radii used are defined in (6).

Accessible surface area

Accessible surface areas were calculated using the NACCESS algorithm (7). Protein regions – interior, surface and interface core, rim and support - were defined according to the thresholds described in (8).

Geometric parameter ratios and density plots

The ratios of geometric parameters per family in Fig. S5 for pairs of structures where oligomeric states are conserved versus where oligomeric has changed, are calculated as:

where P is the value of the parameter for either a pair of structures with oligomeric state changed or conserved and N is the total number of pairs.

Arel of homodimers

Relative accessible surface area (A_{rel}) is a ratio between a protein accessible surface area and the accessible surface area predicted for a protein of its molecular weight (9). Plotting molecular weight versus total accessible surface area (ASA) for a non-redundant set of

2748 homodimers, yields a simple power-law relationship of ASA and molar mass of the dimer (M). Calibration based on homodimers defined predicted ASA of a homodimer as:

 $ASA = 4.30M^{0.780}$.

Comparison of geometric parameters

Significant differences in intersubunit geometry are larger between homologues, than between different crystal structures of the same protein

Throughout this work, we calculate geometric variation between homologues and compare it to the variation between multiple crystal structures of the same protein wherever possible. This allows us to distinguish geometric variation that corresponds to functional allosteric changes or simply flexibility of a protein, from genuine variation in evolution across homologues.

For example, in the case of PyrR family homologues we compared six available crystal structures of two homologues - Bacillus subtilis PyrR (BsPyrR) and Bacillus caldolyticus (BcPyrR) (Table S5). Our data shows that although degree of geometrical change measured is influenced significantly by the crystallization conditions - both the crystal form and ligands bound - a clear difference can be seen when comparing different structures versus different homologues. A similar analysis for each of the eleven families is provided in Table S4.

Geometric and sequence conservation parameters and change in oligomeric state

In addition to the study of individual families, we have also evaluated each of the geometric and sequence parameters mentioned in the main text in the context of the whole dataset. Fig. S5 shows density plots for ratios of the sequence and geometric parameters between pairs which conserve and those which change their oligomeric state.

The density plots for ratios of the three sequence conservation parameters show how, for this set of high sequence identity homologues, sequence conservation presents a good predictor of oligomeric state change: in seven out of eleven families, the sequence identities of pairs of homologues with conserved oligomeric states are greater than those with different oligomeric states. However, the ratios are usually close around 1, so it is difficult to predict the sequence identity cut off based on which one could predict the oligomeric state. A similar conclusion holds for residue conservation of the dimeric interface. Tetrameric interface conservation has some larger ratios, and can be a good predictor of oligomeric state change, but only for some families (e.g. TIM or GABA aminotransferase-like family).

Figure S5B shows density plots for ratios of mean geometric parameter values. Parameters with ratios close to 0 could be used as predictors of oligomeric state change within a family. Tetrameric/hexameric interface parameters are in general better predictors of oligomeric state change than simple sequence conservation. In just over half of the families analysed (six out of eleven), subunit centre of mass rotation around the dimeric interface (sRot) correlates well with oligomeric state change.

In conclusion, no single parameter is entirely predictive of oligomeric state change. Rather, a combination of tetrameric/hexameric interface parameters and subunit centre of mass rotation correlate best with changes in oligomeric state.

Structural plasticity of protein complexes

Analyzing geometric changes in eleven families revealed large differences in plasticity across families. In other words, close homologues in one family can have larger geometric differences than distant homologues in another family. Thus, geometric changes easily accommodated in one family can imply a change in oligomeric state in another. To explore these differences in plasticity between families further, we compared their relative accessible surface areas (A_{rel}) (Table S6). Proteins with high A_{rel} in the bound conformation are predicted to undergo large conformational changes upon binding. Proteins with high A_{rel} in the free state are predicted to be more flexible than average (9). Families assigned to the direct model (IV) and geometric model (III) have average homodimeric A_{rel} values of 0.9 and 1.0, respectively. This means that the dimers from families assigned to the direct model IV have are less flexible and more conformationally constrained than the ones from families assigned to the geometric model III. The direct model IV families in turn exhibit larger interface sequence changes across homologues with different oligomeric states.

Supplementary Figures

A Sequence comparison of protein complex interfaces

B Geometric comparisons of protein complexes and interfaces

Supplementary Figure 1

(A) Scheme of pairwise sequence comparisons of interfaces. All members of a family (Table S1) were compared with each other. The dimeric interface (here and in the main text Fig. 1 in yellow) was defined as the one conserved between all the homologues, and the tetrameric/hexameric interface was the one forming in only some of the homologues. Dimeric homologues do not have tetrameric/hexameric interface residues, but corresponding surface residues can be defined from the sequence alignment. Interface conservation and overlap were calculated as percentages of conserved or overlapping residues from the perspective of each of the homologues.

(B) Geometric comparisons of homologous oligomeric structures.

Each pair of structures was superimposed in two ways, first by superimposing common dimeric interface regions (corresponding to green residues in multiple sequence alignments) and then by superimposing the evolutionary cores of subunits A and A'. After superimposing the common dimeric residues (A), dimeric interface rotation angle and translation vector were defined by superimposing the same residues of B subunits (shown in yellow). After superimposing subunit evolutionary cores (B), two types of translations were carried out: on the evolutionary core and on tetrameric/hexameric interface residues.

Supplementary Figure 2

(A) Sequence overlap of dimeric interfaces. Means of dimeric interface overlaps (black dots), with blue bars showing 0.95 confidence level for each of the eleven families. Dimeric interface overlaps range from 59% to 100%. Mean values range from 75% to 92% for D-ribose-5-phosphate isomerase and Fe,Mn superoxide dismutase family, respectively.

(B) Common dimeric interface residues bury, on average more surface than the variable interface residues. The mean values are 52 and 34 \AA^2 , respectively (p-value $< 2.2e$ -16, independent 2-group Mann-Whitney U test) as indicated by the two arrows.

(C) Sequence conservation (in the simplest conserved/non conserved form) of the dimeric interface residues. Each of the families analysed has a set of interface residues which are common for all of the dimeric interfaces (light green and green) and interface residues which make interface contacts in only a subset of the structures (light red and dark red). Interface residue pool of a family is a set of all the residues which make at least one interface contact in at least one of the structures, or a union of all the green and red residues. Green and dark red represent proportion of sequence conserved residues. The

proportion of common (both palegreen and green) residues represents 43% to 68% of the interface pool, depending on the protein family.

(D) The proportion of common residues represents from 60% to 81% of family's mean number of dimeric interface residues. Since common residues are on average more buried, they at the same time represent from 70 to 90% of the dimeric interface surface area. In addition, there is a small number of variable, often unique residues, which contribute to the remaining 10-30% of the buried surface.

(A) Bi-partite dimeric interface in interleukin 8-like chemokine family

(B) Multipartite dimeric interface in triosephosphate isomerase family

Supplementary Figure 3. Evolution of multipartite interfaces comprised of several secondary structure elements. Protein interfaces can have significant residue overlaps, as a consequence of their common ancestry, but at the same time exhibit large geometric differences. This can be explained by the fact that interfaces often comprise two or more secondary structure elements. For example, large geometric differences between homologous interfaces with conserved binding modes in the chemokine family are enabled by its bi-partite structure. In the triosephosphate isomerase family, the dimeric interface comprises multiple secondary structure elements, but their relative positions are structurally conserved.

(A) Bi-partite dimeric interface in the interleukin 8-like chemokine family. The dimeric structure (PDB: 3IL8, in yellow) and the tetramer (PDB: 1PLF, in green) represent the homologous pair with the largest dRot value (31°) in the family. Common dimeric interface residues of chain A can be superimposed with an RMSD of 1.3 Å. The other half of the dimeric interface, from chain B, shows a large 31° rotation, which comes from a large shift of the helix in the bi-partite interface. The conserved Leu residue, marked with a star, best illustrates the large shift of the helix. When the geometric comparisons are done for each of the two parts of the interface (α helix and β strand) separately, one sees that the large shift comes from the α helix part of the interface, while the majority of common interface residues come from the β strand.

(B) The triosephosphate isomerase interface comprises multiple secondary structure elements. The dimeric structure (PDB: 1N55, in yellow) and the tetrameric (PDB: 1B9B, in green) represent the homologous pair with the largest dRot value (6.5°) in the family. The cartoon representation of the 1B9B structure in pink, with interface residues in green, shows the interface comprises residues from at least eight different helices and loops. Their relative arrangements are conserved, and the geometric difference between interfaces is an effect of cumulative small changes. For example, the four interface residues which superimpose worst between the 1B9B and 1N55 structures, belong to three different secondary structure elements (marked in the alignment). When each of those residues is excluded from the superpositions, the dRot value decreses slightly. When all four of them together are removed, the values add up and dRot goes down to 4.2°.

Supplementary Figure 4 Summary of main geometric parameters and interface conservation for each of the eleven families analysed.

We have assigned the *a priori* defined model (see main text, Fig. 1) to each of the eleven families based on the geometric parameters and interface conservation. We have compared ranges of geometric values (sRot and sTrans and tRot) between all pairs with different and ones with conserved oligomeric states within a family. Higher geometric variation between homologues with different (DIFF) oligomeric state, than the ones with conserved (CONS) oligomeric state indicates towards the geometric evolutionary model III.

We have also compared sequence conservation of both dimeric and tetrameric/hexameric interface between all pairs with different oligomeric states. Lower sequence conservation of the tetrameric, than the dimeric interface between pairs of homologues with different oligomeric state indicates the direct evolutionary model IV.

The patterns in geometric and sequence parameters lead us to conclude that three families follow the direct model IV, and four follow the geometric model III. For the remaining

four families it is not possible to make an unambiguous decision on the model since data either points towards both of the pathways (e.g. for GABA-aminotransferase like family) or not clearly towards either of them (e.g. UPRTase subfamily).

Supplementary Figure 5 Ratios of sequence and geometric conservation parameters between pairs which conserve and those which change their oligomeric state.

Panel A shows density plots for ratios of the three sequence conservation parameters between pairs which conserve and those which change their oligomeric state. Values are larger than 1 for families where sequence conservation is higher in pairs which conserve their oligomeric state. Spread of values is larger than for geometric parameters, which means that for some families sequence conservation, especially of the tetrameric/hexameric interface, can be a very good predictor of oligomeric state change. For some, though, oligomeric state change does not correlate at all with the sequence change.

Panel B shows density plots for ratios of mean geometric parameter values between pairs which conserve and those which change their oligomeric state. Ratio smaller than 1 for some families means geometric differences are on average larger in cases where oligomeric state has changed. Ratios of families which have geometric parameter ratios smaller and larger than 1, repectively are given in the legends below each plot.

How resolved the two modes of the plot are is more informative than the simple ratio of families. For parameters which have values significantly lower than 1, the value of this parameter could be used as a predictor of oligomeric state change within that family.

This holds true for four geometric parameters measured, emphised by an asterisk: Angle of rotation between centers of mass of the two subnits in the dimer (sRot) as well as for all three measures of the tetrameric/hexameric interface structural comparison parameters (angle of rotation (tRot), translation vector (tTrans) and tRMSD).

Supplementary Table 1 All pairs of protein structures from ten SCOP families (11 subfamilies). Each familiy was selected from the 3DComplex database as having at least one pair of homologous dimers and tetramers (or hexamer) with the same dimeric binding mode and sequence identity higher than 40%. Pairs in the table are ordered by descending pairwise percent sequence identity. Code refers to the PDB identifier of each protein and sym defines the oligomeric state of the biological unit according to the 3DComplex database and literature. C2 and C3 are cyclic dimer and trimer and D2 and D3 are dihedral tetramer and hexamer, respectively. Crystal defines the space group in which the X-ray structure is crystallised. Family summary is the number of dimers and tetramers/hexamers analysed per family.

Supplementary Table 2 Sequence comparison parameters for all homologues pairs. Pairs within families are sorted by descending overall protein sequence identity (PID). Cells of the table are shaded according to the methods illustrated in Figure S1. Sequence comparison parameters are all provided twice, from the perspective of each of the two structures (represented by code1 and code2 PDB identifiers, respectively). Residue conservation for each of the interfaces is shown as percentage of identical residues. Interface overlap is defined as the intersection of the two sets of interface residues, and percentage overlap is defined as ratio of a number of residues in the intersection set and all of the interface residues. Code refers to the PDB identifier of each protein and sym defines the oligomeric state of the biological unit according to the 3DComplex database and literature. C2 and C3 are cyclic dimer and trimer and D2 and D3 are dihedral tetramer and hexamer, respectively.

Supplementary Table 2 – continued

Supplementary Table 3 Geometric comparison parameters for all homologous pairs. Pairs within families are sorted by descending overall protein sequence identity (PID). Cells of the table are shaded according to the methods illustrated in Fig. S1. Code refers to the PDB identifier of each protein and sym defines the oligomeric state of the biological unit according to the 3DComplex database and literature. C2 and C3 are cyclic dimer and trimer and D2 and D3 are dihedral tetramer and hexamer, respectively. dRot (angle of rotation), dTrans (translation vector) and dRMSD are obtained by superimposing a set of dimeric interface residues common for all analysed members of the family (coloured green in the family multiple sequence alignments). sRot and sTrans are obtained by superimposing the evolutionary core defined for each pair of proteins by the set of residues whose backbone atoms superimpose with an RMSD of 0.5 Å.
 Since,
 by definition, there is no common set of tetrameric/hexameric interface residues, tRot, tTrans
 and
 tRMSD
 are provided
 from
 the
 perspective of
 each
 of
 the
 tetrameric interfaces
in
the
pair.

Pairwise geometric comparisons - Part 1

family	code1	sym1	code2	sym ₂	PID	dRot	dTrans	dRMSD	sRot	sTrans	tRot1	tTrans1	tRMSD1	tRot2	tTrans2	tRMSD2
54118	1F9S	D ₂	1PLF	D ₂	0.73	1.2	0.44	0.63	1.6	0.23	9.1	1.10	1.62	3.1	0.40	0.60
	1TVX	D ₂	1PLF	D ₂	0.56	10.7	1.76	1.18	8.6	1.15	12.3	0.51	1.58	2.3	0.19	0.79
	1TVX	D ₂	1F9S	D ₂	0.51	9.2	1.38	1.05	8.3	0.93	1.3	0.15	0.77	7.0	0.58	1.01
	1TVX	D ₂	3IL8	C ₂	0.45	21.9	1.58	0.80	21.0	2.39	7.1	0.57	0.91	$\sqrt{2}$	I	I
	1F9S	D ₂	3IL8	C ₂	0.34	30.3	2.65	1.10	16.3	0.33	9.5	0.49	0.99	\prime		
	1PLF	D ₂	3IL8	C ₂	0.33	31.6	2.99	1.33	18.3	0.38	9.0	0.55	1.41	1	7	
51751	1T ₂ A	D ₂	1DB3	C ₂	0.60	2.8	0.91	0.54	12.1	3.46	6.0	0.87	3.14	$\sqrt{2}$	\prime	
	1N7G	D ₂	1DB3	C ₂	0.57	1.3	0.47	0.56	8.7	2.99	4.5	1.05	3.44	7		
	1N7G	D ₂	1T ₂ A	D ₂	0.55	3.0	0.85	0.31	4.4	0.77	0.7	0.13	0.42	0.8	0.13	0.32
53255	1QHF	D ₂	1E58	C ₂	0.53	14.1	0.89	0.44	9.2	1.94	4.5	0.60	1.43	$\sqrt{2}$	I	
	1QHF	D ₂	2HHJ	C ₂	0.48	10.4	0.65	0.45	11.7	1.74	7.7	0.70	1.94			
	2HHJ	C ₂	1E58	C ₂	0.47	4.9	0.30	0.37	2.2	0.66	$\sqrt{ }$	$\sqrt{ }$	$\sqrt{ }$	1	1	
53272 2	1NON	D ₂	1A3C	C ₂	0.73	1.9	0.21	0.31	8.2	2.28	2.3	0.15	0.57	\prime	\prime	
	1W30	D ₂	1NON	D ₂	0.55	5.0	0.61	0.39	2.1	0.46	3.1	0.51	0.50	6.8	1.47	4.05
	1W30	D ₂	1A3C	C ₂	0.52	6.5	0.63	0.41	8.4	2.06	2.2	0.48	0.42	$\sqrt{ }$	\prime	T
53272_1	1050	D ₂	115E	C ₂	0.63	2.6	0.65	1.01	4.5	3.64	3.7	0.43	1.89	$\sqrt{2}$	\prime	
	1BD3	D ₂	115E	C ₂	0.37	16.5	1.47	1.82	15.2	5.17	2.9	0.79	1.09	7	\prime	
	1BD3	D ₂	1050	D ₂	0.36	14.2	1.02	2.01	15.9	5.59	2.6	0.64	1.54	3.0	1.02	2.17
53417	1EJI	D ₂	1RV3	D ₂	0.90	0.7	0.07	0.44	0.8	0.55	2.9	0.39	0.50	3.3	0.45	0.52
	1RV3	D ₂	1KKP	C ₂	0.47	0.6	0.81	1.42	1.4	0.33	6.6	0.89	0.74	$\sqrt{ }$	\prime	
	1EJI	D ₂	1KKP	C ₂	0.47	1.0	0.86	1.41	1.7	0.72	5.6	0.76	0.68	1	I	
51352	1KV ₅	C ₂	1N55	C ₂	0.70	1.4	0.09	0.18	3.0	0.95	\prime	\prime	\prime	\overline{I}	\overline{I}	
	1KV5	C ₂	1R2R	C ₂	0.51	1.4	0.18	0.82	2.4	0.70	\prime					
	1R2R	C2	1N ₅₅	C ₂	0.51	2.7	0.21	0.82	5.5	1.78	\prime					
	1B9B	D ₂	2BTM	C ₂	0.494	1.9	0.13	0.67	3.2	0.88	3.5	0.37	0.38			
	1N ₅₅	C ₂	2BTM	C ₂	0.453	5.9	0.64	0.78	8.2	3.16	$\sqrt{2}$	\prime	\prime			
	1B9B	D ₂	1N ₅₅	C ₂	0.426	6.5	0.57	1.03	7.1	2.56	4.3	0.37	0.38	1		
	1B9B	D ₂	1R2R	C ₂	0.421	4.6	0.41	0.79	1.4	0.55	5.1	1.04	0.38	7		
	1B9B	D ₂	1KV ₅	C ₂	0.418	5.1	0.51	1.01	4.2	1.30	3.3	0.26	0.43			
	1KV ₅	C2	2BTM	C ₂	0.409	4.5	0.58	0.73	4.9	2.11	\prime	\prime	\prime			
	2BTM	C ₂	1R2R	C ₂	0.392	3.6	0.52	0.72	3.1	0.76			\overline{I}			

Supplementary Table 3 - continued

Supplementary Table 4 Geometric parameters calculated by comparisons of different crystal structures (with different crystallisation space group and/or different ligands) of the same protein. For all eleven sub(families) at least one control pair was obtained. The aim of this type of control is to help distinguish geometric variation from real evolutionary differences between homologues of the family (values given in Table S3) and allosteric changes (in cases of different biological ligands) or structural flexibility of the protein (potentially sampled by different crystal forms). The quality of this control depends on the range of different structures in the PDB database, but from the available data we can conclude that, for each of the eleven (sub)families, geometric variations connected with evolutionary change in the oligomeric state are always larger than the geometric variations in its control set.

Supplementary Table 4 - continued

Part 2

Supplementary Table 5 Geometric differences between two homologues are larger than between different crystal structures (in different crystal forms and with different ligands) of the same protein. The table shows structural pairwise comparisons of all available crystal forms of the PyrR proteins from B. caldolyticus (in blue) and B. subtilis (in magenta). Pairs in the table have been ordered by increasing angle of rotation between subunits around the dimeric interface (sRot).

Supplementary Table 6 Relative accessible surface area (A_{rel}) of dimers and dimeric subcomplexes of all eleven families. A_{rel} is a ratio between a protein accessible surface area and the accessible surface area predicted for a protein of its molecular weight (9). Proteins with high (higher than 1) A_{rel} of bound conformations are predicted to have undergone conformational changes upon binding and proteins whose unbound conformations have high A_{rel} values are predicted to be more flexible than average.

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- 9. Marsh Joseph A & Teichmann Sarah A (2011) Relative Solvent Accessible Surface Area Predicts Protein Conformational Changes upon Binding. *Structure*19(6):859‐867.

Family Alignments

Fe, Mn superoxide dismutase (MnSOD)

- 1GV3 EINRRTQASRQSNSHHHHHH
- 1JR9 EV----------AAQYSQAA

GABA-aminotransferase-like

- 1RV3 PGLPGF
- 1EJI <mark>PGL</mark>PD<mark>F</mark>

Phosphorybosyltransferases (UPRTase)

- 1050 R<mark>T</mark>K
- 1I5E GTK

Class I aldolase

D-ribulose-5-phosphate 3-epimerase

1H1Y S--

Interleukin 8-like chemokines

- 1PLF PL<mark>Y</mark>KKI<mark>I</mark>KRL<mark>L</mark>KS-----
- 1F9S PL<mark>YK</mark>KI<mark>IKKLLES-----</mark>

Cofactor-dependent phosphoglycerate mutase

1DB3 GWKPEITLREMVSEMVANDLEAAKKHSLLKSHGYDVAIALES-------

1N7G HPRSPYAASKCAAHWYTVNYREAYGLFACNGILFNHESPRRGENFVTRKITRALGRIKVG 1T2A YPRSPYGAAKLYAYWIVVNFREAYNLFAVNGILFNHESPRRGANFVTRKISRSVAKIYLG 1DB3 YPRSPYAVAKLYAYWITVNYRESYGMYACNGILFNHESPRRGETFVTRKITRAIANIAQG

1N7G LQTKLFLGNLQASRDWGFAGDYVEAMWLMLQQEKPDDYVVATEEGHTVEEFLDVSFGYLG
1m2A OLEGESLGNLDAKRDWGUAKDYVEAMH MLQNDEDEVLLAMGEVUSVDEEVEKSELULG

1T2A RSSSFNTGRIEHLYKNPQAHIEGNMKLHYGDLTDSTCLVKIINEVKPTEIYNLGAQSHVK 1DB3 RASSFNTERVDHIYQDPHTCNP-KFHLHYGDLSDTSNLTRILREVQPDEVYNLGAMSHVA 1N7G VSFEIPDYTADVVATGALRLLEAVRSHTIDSGRTVKYYQAGSSEMFGSTPP-PQSETTPF

1T2A ISFDLAEYTADVDGVGTLRLLDAVKTCGLI--NSVKFYQASTSELYGKVQEIPQKETTPF 1DB3 VSFESPEYTADVDAMGTLRLLEAIRFLGLE--KKTRFYQASTSELYGLVQEIPQKETTPF

1N7G RSSNFNTQRINHIYIDPHNVNKALMKLHYADLTDASSLRRWIDVIKPDEVYNLAAQSHVA

1T2A ----MGSSHHHHHHSSGRENKYFQGHMRNVALITGITGQDGSYLAEFLLEKGYEVHGIVR 1DB3 ---------------------------SKVALITGVTGQDGSYLAEFLLEKGYEVHGIKR

1N7G MASENNGSRSDSESITAPKADSTVVEPRKIALITGITGQDGSYLTEFLLGKGYEVHGLIR

Tyrosine-dependent oxidoreductases

Phosphorybosyltransferases (PyrR)

1A3C VQLDEVDQNDLVAI------YENE

D-ribose-5-phosphate isomerase

1M0S DVHNFSILNPVEIEKEL<mark>NNVAG</mark>VVTNGIFALRGADVVIVGTPEGAKVID-

Triosephosphate isomerase

- 1KV5 LKPE-FVDIIKATQ----
- 1B9B LKES-FIELARIMRGVIS
- 2BTM LEPASFLQLVEAGRHE--

LEGEND

