

AREsite proceedings


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TBI

AREsite



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AREsite is an online resource for the investigation of **AU-rich elements (ARE)** in vertebrate mRNA UTR sequences hosted at the [Institute of Theoretical Chemistry, University of Vienna](#). AREs are one of the most prominent cis-acting regulatory elements found in 3' vertebrate, untranslated regions of mRNAs. Various ARE-binding proteins that possess RNA stabilizing or destabilizing functions are recruited by sequence-specific motifs. This online resource allows detailed investigation of these functional elements by analysis of the **phylogentic conservation** and the **structural context** these motifs are embedded in. Moreover, AREsite provides information about experimentally validated targets from extensive literature search.

Note: You can get instant help by clicking the little  symbols. This web page works best in the free Internet Browser [Mozilla Firefox](#), which has native support for [SVG](#). If you use any other browser you might need to install the [Adobe SVG plugin](#) to use the full functionality of this site. If you have suggestions or ideas to improve this website, please, feel free to contact us at rna@tbi.univie.ac.at.

News

October 1, 2010 **AREsite 1.0 officially released.**

November 12, 2010 **AREsite manuscript officially published in Nucleic Acids Research.** doi: [10.1093/nar/gkq990](https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkq990)

[Search for a specific gene](#) 

[Select sequence motifs](#) 

AUUUU pentamer

WWAUUUUAW nonamer

WUAUUUUAUW nonamer

UUAUUUUAU nonamer

WWWAUUUUAWW 11-mer

WWUAUUUUAUW 11-mer

WWWUAUUUAWWW 13-mer

WWWUAUUUAWWW 13-mer

[Check all ARE motifs](#)

[Select species](#)

Species:

[Additional Options](#) 

do detailed analysis on **representative transcript** only

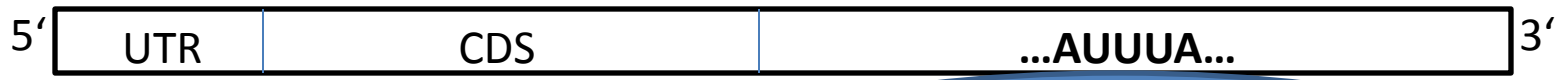
generate only static images (if your browser does not understand SVG)

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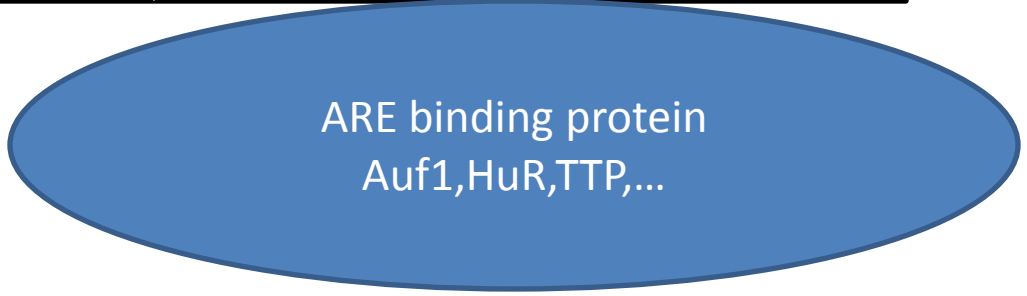
What is an ARE (good for?)

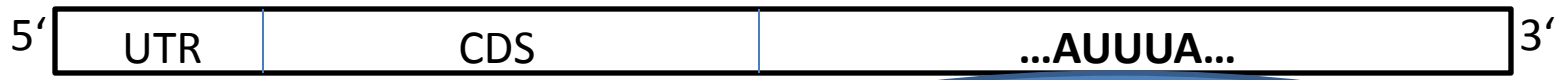
- AU rich element
- Cis-acting regulatory elements found at 3'UTR
- In ~7% of human protein coding genes
- Known to play a role in mRNA stability
- Core motif AUUUA



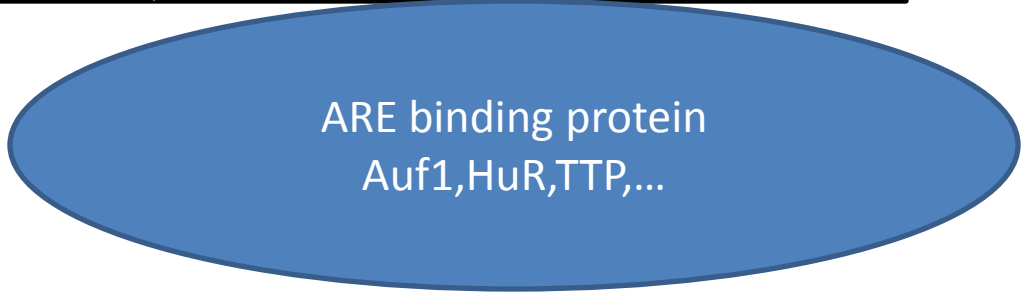


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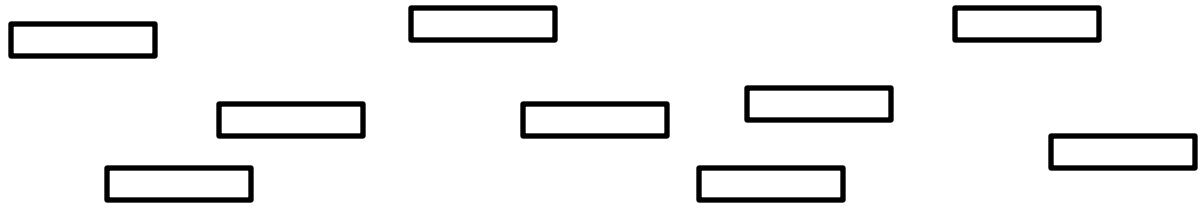




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**Degradation/
Stabilization**



ARE binding proteins

- TTP -> Kovarik Lab -> TTP ko mouse
- HuR, Auf1 -> best studied
- Most prominent target TNF α -> cancer

Making of

- Ensembl release 56 -> database in background
- Only genes from human and mouse with:
 - At least one transcript containing a 3'UTR
 - If more -> representing transcript ->
The one with the most AUUUA counts

Accessibility

- RNAPfold: standard settings ($w=80, L=40$) for structural context in direct neighbourhood
- Settings provided by Hakim ($w=240, L=160$) for mid-range context
- SVG: accessibility for core motifs

Phylogenetic analysis

- One2one orthologs
- Genomic alignments -> maf blocks from UCSC, do not know if same transcripts in other species
- On transcript level -> Ensembl gene orthology pipeline, less data
- Phylogenetic tree

Transcript ENST00000258743 (representative transcript)

Length 3' UTR: 415 nt

A+T content in 3' UTR: 0.71

RNAplfold output: [[opening energies](#) | [probabilities of being unpaired](#)] (whole transcript)

Download/Linkout: [[download as annotated Genbank file](#) | [Linkout to e!Ensembl](#)]

ATTA: **2.32** (mononucleotide) / **112.14** (dinucleotide) fold-enrichment

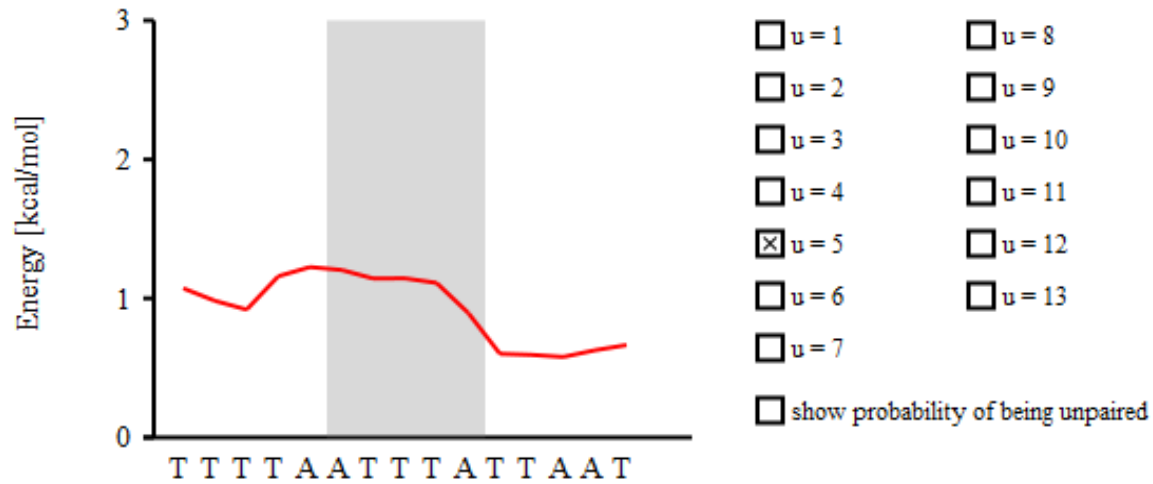
Site 894-898: ATTTA (ATTTA)

Opening energy for the core AUUUA pentamer: **0.60** kcal/mol (short range) / **0.94** kcal/mol (mid range)

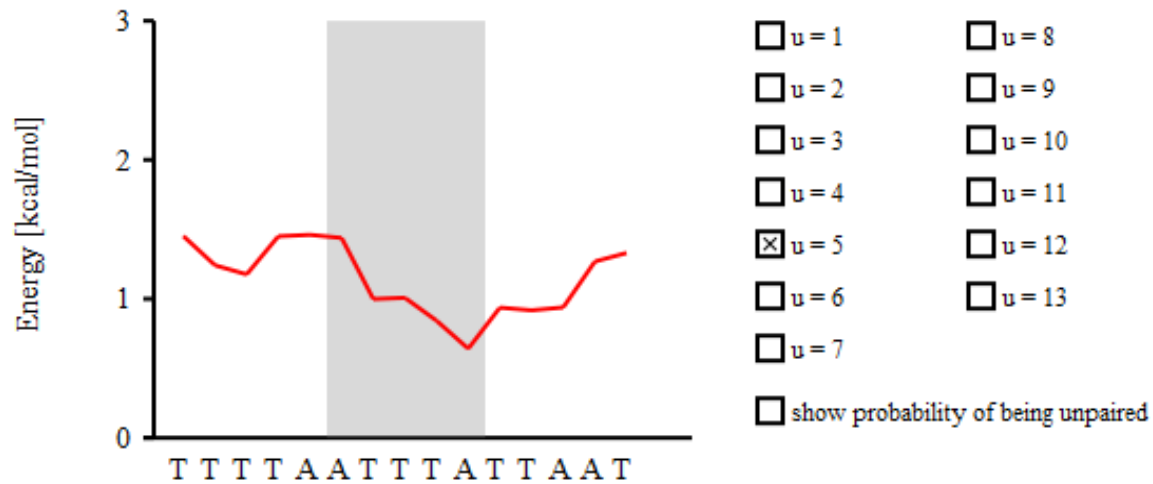
Probability of being unpaired for the core AUUUA pentamer: **0.38** (short range) / **0.22** (mid range)

[[Highlight](#) | [hide accessibility plot](#) | [show sequence logo](#) | [show alignment](#)]

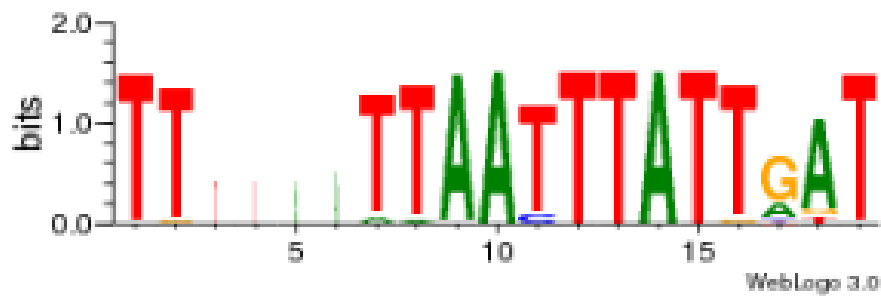
Short range interaction ($W = 80, L = 40$)



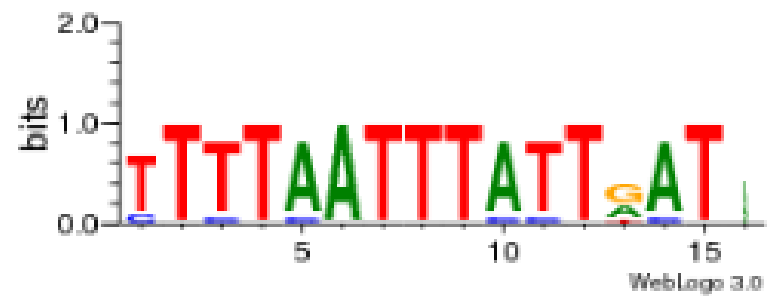
Mid range interaction ($W = 240, L = 160$)



Genomic alignment block extracted from 46-way MAF alignments (UCSC genome browser).



Alignment of transcripts based on the Ensembl orthology resources.



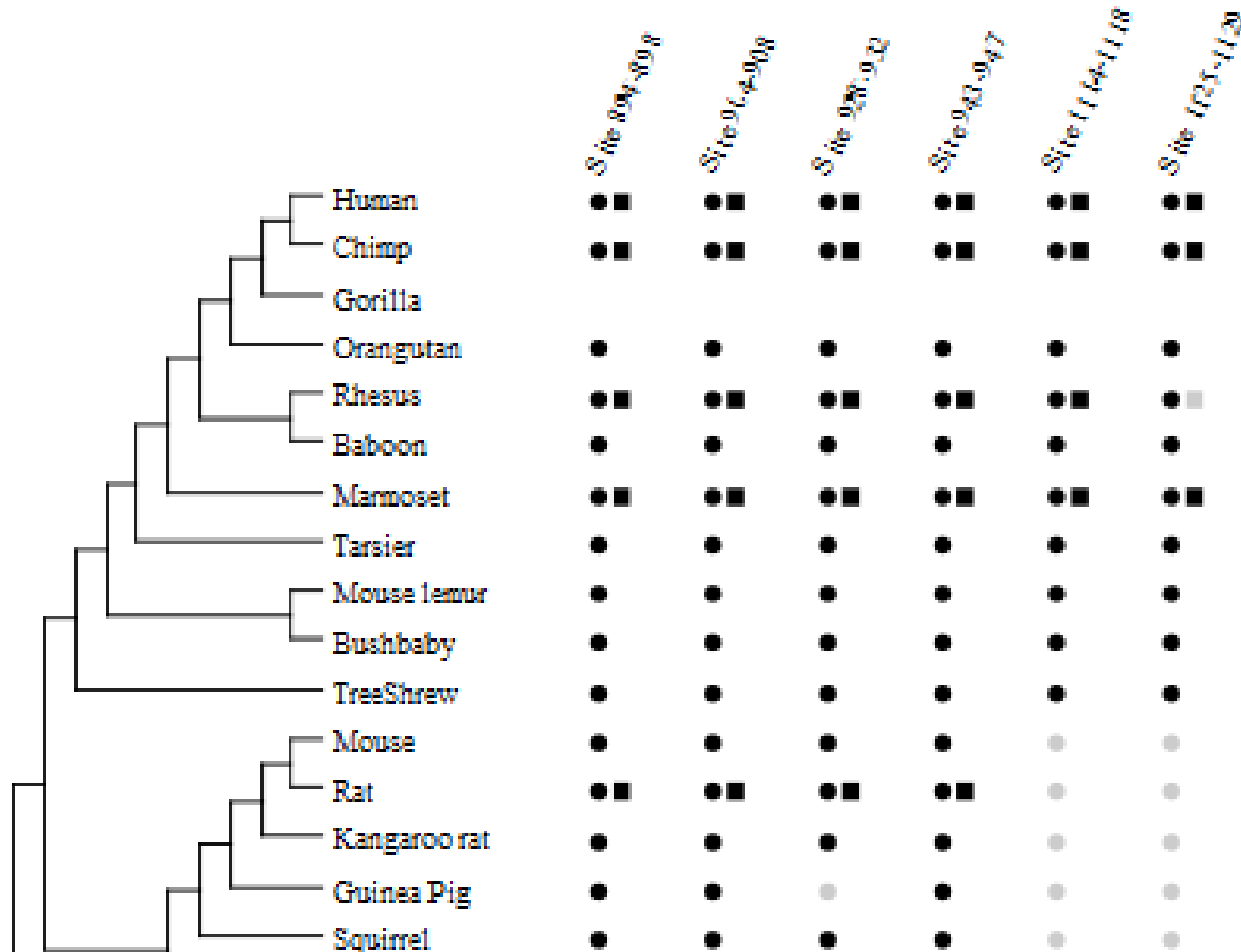
Genomic alignment block extracted from 46-way
MAF alignments (UCSC genome browser).

Alignment of transcripts based on the
Ensembl orthology resources.

H. sapiens TT----TTAATTTATTAAAT
P. troglodytes TT----TTAATTTATTAAAT
P. pygmaeus abelii TT----TTAATTTATTAAAT
M. mulatta TT----TTAATTTATTAAAT
P. hamadryas TT----TTAATTTATTAAAT
C. jacchus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
T. syrichta TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
M. murinus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
O. garnettii TG----TTAATTTATTGAT
T. belangeri TT----TTAATTTATTAT-
M. musculus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
R. norvegicus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
D. ordii TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
C. porcellus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
S. tridecemlineatus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
O. cuniculus TT----TTAACTTATTAGT
O. princeps TT----TTAACTTATTGGT
V. paco TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
T. truncatus TT----ATAATTTATTGAT
B. taurus -----TTAATTTATTGAT
E. caballus TT----TTAACTTATTGAT
F. catus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
C. familiaris TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
P. vampyrus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
E. europaeus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
S. araneus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
L. africana TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
P. capensis T----ATTAATTTATTGAT
E. telfairi -----ATTTATTGAT
D. novemcinctus TT----TTAATTTATTGAT-
C. hoffmanni TT----TTAATTTATTGAT
M. domestica TTTTAATTAATTTAT----
O. anatinus TT----AAAATTTATTTAT

H. sapiens TTTTAATTTATTAAAT-
P. troglodytes TTTTAATTTATTAAAT-
M. mulatta TTTTAATTTATTAAAT-
C. jacchus TTTTAATTTATTGAT-
R. norvegicus TTTTAATTTATTGAT-
S. scrofa -TTTAATTTATTGAT-
B. taurus CTTTAATTTATTGAT-
C. familiaris TTTTAATTTATTGAT-
G. gallus -TCTCATTTCTTCTA

The tree below summarizes the conservation pattern of the detected ARE motifs. Circles indicate genomic MAF alignments, while boxes are used transcript alignments. Signs in grey indicate that the sequence is present in the alignment, but the corresponding ARE pattern was not detected.



So far

- Release 1 done
- Published in NAR

Gruber AR, Fallmann J, Kratochvill F, Kovarik P, Hofacker IL (2010).

"AREsite: a database for the comprehensive investigation of AU-rich elements.". *Nucleic Acids Res* **39** (Database issue): D66-9.

[doi:10.1093/nar/gkq990](https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkq990). [PMID 21071424](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21071424/).

ToDo

- Generate some (relevant) information
 - Statistics on my data
 - Influence of already bound proteins or miRNA on accessibility -> constraint folding with RNAplfold
 - Literature search for proteins with ARE binding domains, which, where and how much
 - Have a look at crystal structures to see how they bind, may be similar motifs -> HuR seems to simply bind U-oligos

Efficient use of accessibility in microRNA target prediction

- Published online 30 August 2010 Nucleic Acids Research, 2011, Vol. 39, No. 1 19–29
- doi:10.1093/nar/gkq768
- Ray M. Marín and Jirí Vaníček

Hypothesis

- ARE binding proteins bind to single strand motifs
- Higher accessibility means better target
- Implement algorithm of Marín and Vaníček to get one comparable number for accessibility and count of motif sites

Summary

- Partial complementarity sufficient
=> target prediction non-trivial

Strategies so far:

- Hybridization energy
- Conservation among 3' UTRs
- Accessibility

Hybridization energy

- Selection of strongest interaction
- Strongest physical interaction is most likely to be functional?

Conservation

- If important -> conserved
- Sometimes not enough, miRNAs can act on non conserved regions

Accessibility

- Without (partial) accessibility no interaction
- TotalFreeEnergy TFE = opening + hybridization
- Does not incorporate protein – RNA energy contributions to interactions -> ToDo?!

New approach

- Rank of motifs according to their over – representation and accessibility

$$P_{SH} = \sum_{i=c}^{l-n+1} \binom{l-n+1}{i} P^i (1-P)^{l-n+1-i}$$

Where:

P = prob to find n -mer by chance at least c times \rightarrow MM based on composition

l = length of 3' UTR

n = number of nucleotides in the seed (= motif length)

c = occurrence of the motif

the **p-value** is the probability of obtaining a test statistic at least as extreme as the one that was actually observed, assuming that the null hypothesis is true

$$P_{SH} = \sum_{i=C_{access}}^{t_{access}} \binom{t_{access}}{i} P^i (1-P)^{t_{access}-i}$$

C_{access} = occurrence of accessible motifs ($u_5 < 1\text{kJ}$ now)

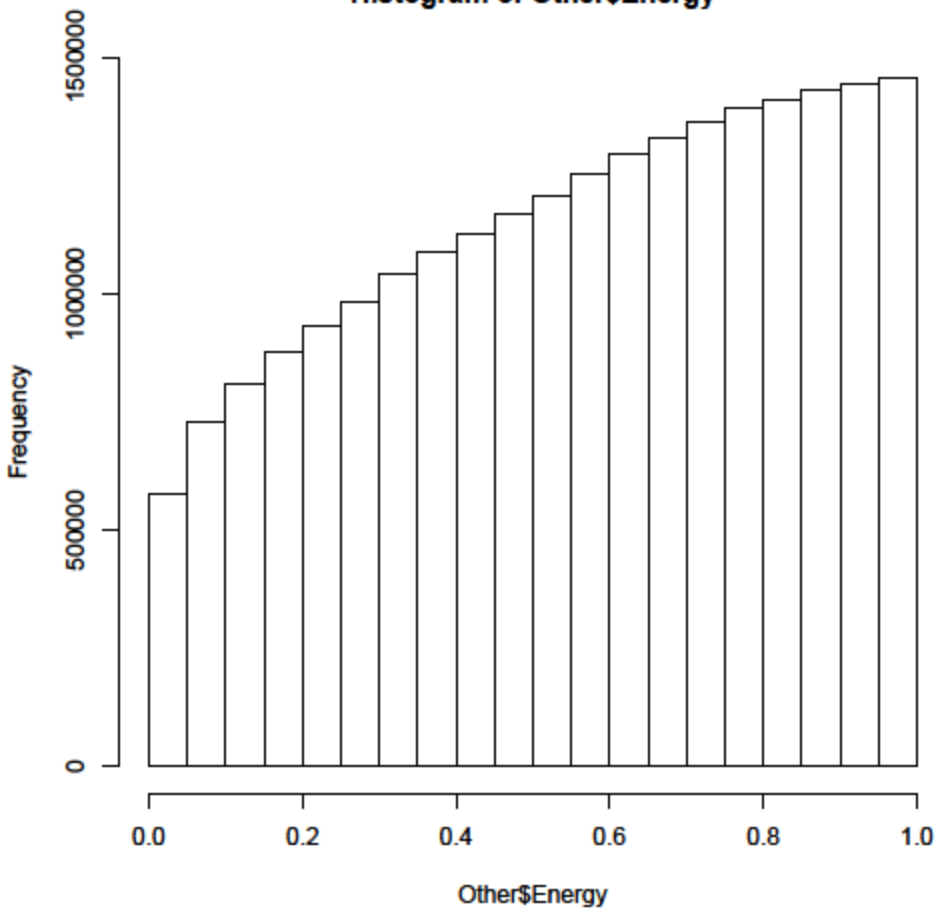
t_{access} = total number of accessible nucleotides with $u_5 < 1\text{kJ}$

Results

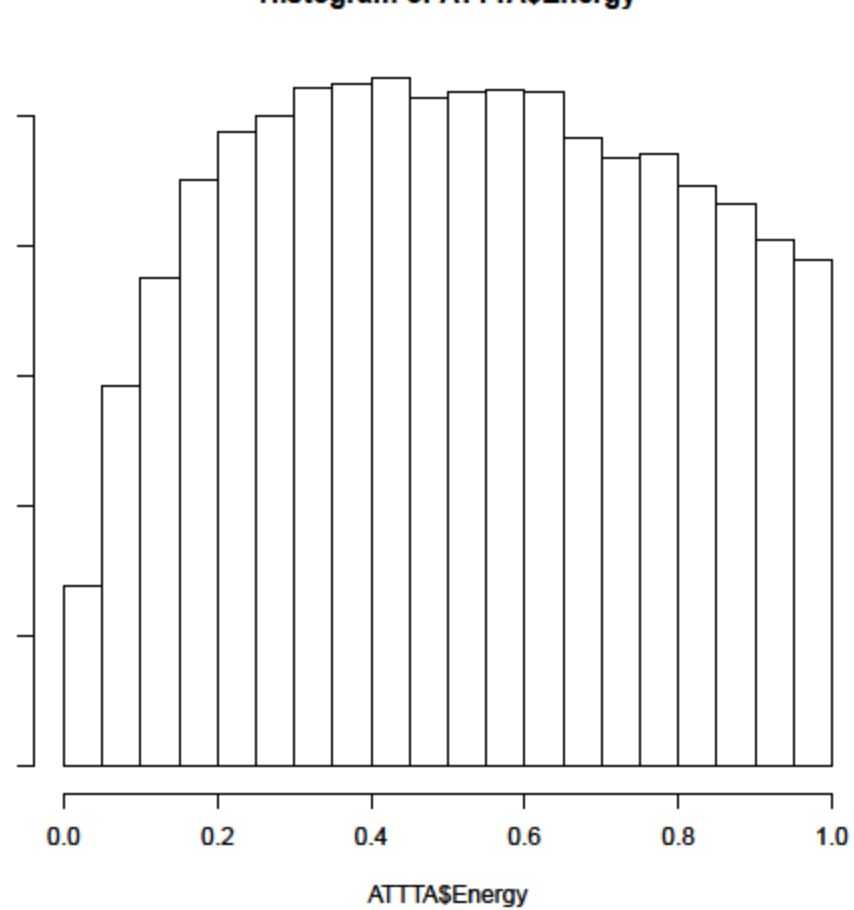
- We get a ranking of transcripts
- Low P_{SH} should mean highly regulated by AREs

- A lot of statistics to do

Histogram of Other\$Energy



Histogram of ATTTA\$Energy



Thanks to

- you
- Andreas Gruber for ongoing support
- Ivo, Xtof & The TBI crew
- Greetings to all from Andreas