



- predict mutations, SNPs, post-translational modifications
- predict ligand docking for virtual screening and design







#### Preparing receptor coordinates

- PDB coordinates: imperfect interpretation of incomplete electron density.
- · Build a complete model (missing sidechains, loops etc.)
- Predict correct Asn, Gln, His orientations, protons, detect errors.



#### Preparing a pdb-structure for docking

A. Search for a pdb with the closest sequence to your protein of interest

- B. Choose the most suitable entry (or several entries)
  C. Find, build and edit the pocket composition and geometry.
- X-ray with up to 2.5-2.8A resolution is preferable over NMR
- NMR or homology models are only dockable by skillful operators
- Forget electron microscopy X-ray Resolution < 2.2 A is preferable. (Structures with resolution > 2.3 A may have up to 30% peptide flips, the maps
- are not self-refinable)
- are not seri-remaine) Analyze symmetry if the pocket might be at the interface Analyze relative b-factors. B > 100, are not credible Pay attention to occupancies (in many cases pocket geometries of ligand conformations/presence are pure fantasies of the authors!).

- Conformations/presence are pure raincastes of the automaty. Analyze alternative positions Check orientations of His, Asn, Gln Check protonation states of Glu, Asp, His Analyze stongly bound water molecules, ions and co-factors.



#### Preparations: occupancies, b-factors and alternatives

Glossary: B-factor (or temperature factor): mean-square displacement of atom from its position in the model Bi = 79\*<u2> (B of 80 means 1A dev.) Normal range: 5. - 50. A<sup>2</sup>.



Occupancy: A fraction of atomic density at a given center. It there are two equally occupied conformers, both will have occupancies of 0.5 Normal value: 1. Range: 0.-1.

Alternatives: If two or more alternative conformations for the same atom or group are discernable in the density, several alternative sets of coordinates are deposited.



Problem: sometimes, when electron d and/or ambiguous, crystallographers r just deposit an arbitrary conformation ansity is poor nake things up (or ation from a re program)

Goal: Identify fantasy atoms/groups

Warning signs: occupancies less than 0.5, b-factors larger than 60-80 A<sup>2</sup>. Tool: Color/label pocket atoms by occupancies/b-factors.

Recovery: Choose another entry, or refine with a lig or perform restrained minimization. Choose one of alternatives, or create alternative models









Recovery: ICM optimizeHisProAsnGin procedure.





#### Preparations: which waters to keep?

Example: 1eye dihydropteroate synthase, anti-mycobacterial/TB target. It binds to the buried Asp177 and improves electrostatic desolvation by ~10 units.



Definition: crystallographic water: an oxygen placed by a crystallographer or a refinement process to a blob of electron density. General recommendation: get rid of all water molecules, Keep only water molecules with three or four hydrogen bonds with the protein or ligand atom

Keep only water molecules with three or four hydrogen bonds with the protein or ligand atoms. Reason: keeping inappropriate water(s) will prevect correct docking, while dropping good waters

Reason: keeping inappropriate water(s) will prevect correct docking, while dropping good waters is usually tolerated. However some tightly bound water molecules help docking and scoring and prevet from erroneous placement of H-bond-rich ligand groups in water sites.

Recovery: Find interface waters with 3 or more protein/ligand neighbors and include them into your model.

#### Preparations: cofactors and metals?







#### Detecting Small Molecule Pockets from Structure

#### The problem

- We do not know the nature of the ligand
- Find the location and the extent / envelope of a pocket
- The Lennart Jones potential is short-range and does not predict the location of the small molecule site.

#### A Physical Idea:

• The CUMULATIVE potential integrated over a typical size of a ligand may predict the site location and extent



#### Benchmarking the Pocket Prediction Algorithm

- 95% of 11535 pockets in apo structures overlap >50% with a predicted pocket. (96.8% out of 5656 complexed entries)
- In 82.3% of apo-cases the predicted pocket covers > 80% of the ligand contact atoms!



#### **Binding Site Prediction: Conclusions**

Pockets can be used to :Identify allosteric sites and alternative druggable pockets



• De-orphanize (pre-docking): Identification of ligand binding potential and site location for orphan receptors

• Evaluate druggability of protein-protein interaction inhibition by applying the icmPocketFinder to separated protein subunits and evaluating the "pocket" strength

# α1-Antitrypsin deficiency and pathological aggregation Calabration with David Lonas, Cambridg Constraint with David Lonas, Cambridge Constraint with David Lonas



- 1:1700 of North European Caucasians
- Risk of death from liver disease during childhood is 2-3%

- Low plasma  $\alpha_1\text{-antitrypsin}$  level (10-15, 85% retained in liver %), emphysema and higher risk of lung cancer

#### Z α<sub>1</sub>-antitrypsin: finding a polymerization inhibitor Collaboration with David Lomas, Cambridge

 $\alpha_{1}\text{-}antitrypsin is retained in ER and forms polymers in vivo$ 





Lomas *et al*, *Nature* 1992; 357: 605-607

Lomas *et al, J.Biol.Chem.* 1993; 268: 15333-15335

## Predicting Protein interfaces

interface location oligomeric state orphan interfaces membrane interface



#### The problem of predicting transient interfaces

- Proteins do not have open hydrophobic surfaces
- Previous efforts that looked are residue frequences were not sufficiently predictive
- We do not know the partner to look for complementarity

#### A physical idea: Desolvation & entropy

- The transient interaction patch may have lower desolvation energy and lower entropy loss upon association.
- Both terms can evaluated via atomic surface areas (Eisenberg&McLachlan, 1986, Abagyan, Totrov, 1994)





















Surface triangles into admin participation and intergulation and intergrouping of (Totrov, Abagyan, Biopolymers, 2002 - REBEL) Totrov, Abagyan, J.Str.Bio. 1996 - Contour Build-up Algorithm for the analytical Connolly surface construction

#### **ICM Stochastic Global Optimization**

- · Full atom, selected internal coordinates for the area of interest
- Gradient local minimization after random moves
- Optimally biased, designed, continuous group moves:
- Reactive history mechanism, stack Not simulated annealing (Transf) to the second stack

Not simulated annealing (T=const), Not Monte Carlo (RHM, no local balance)













#### **ICM Binding Score**

#### A COMPROMISE between physics and errors

Coordinate errors due to induced fit, charge errors, docking errors, etc.

 $S_{binding} = \Delta E_{VW \text{ int}} + \Delta E_{ligStrain} + T\Delta S_{tor} + \alpha_1 \Delta E_{HBond} +$ 

 $\alpha_2 \Delta E_{\text{HBDesol}} + \alpha_3 \Delta E_{\text{SolEl}} + \alpha_4 \Delta E_{\text{HPhob}} + \alpha_5 Q_{\text{Size}}$ 

- $\alpha_{1-5}$  were optimized on a benchmark
- Van der Waals truncated at 4kcal/mole
- Hbonds calculation is based on lone pairs
- Penalty for desolvated hydrogen bonding donors/acceptors
- Electrostatics by Poisson equation (boundary element)

#### Preparing pdb compounds for docking

Problem1: compounds/ligands in PDB are not suitable for automated conversion. They lack bond types, formal charges and chirality flags.

Problem 2: compound databases contain only 2D drawings. They need to be converted to 3D.

- To fix a PDB ligand follow these steps: Assign correct bond order manually Assign correct formal charges manually Assign chirality if necessary (less validated) Save is as a mol file or Run the conversion tool

The conversion tool performs these steps: • Adds hydrogen according for elements, bond orders and

- Fous injurges
   Fous Induces and
   formal charges
   Runs ICM MMFF atom type assignment routine
   Assigns partial electrostatic charges
   Assign rotatable torsions
   Creates a 3D model by full MMFF94 energy optimization

#### Preparing compound database for screening

Background: Preparation of the compound database depends on software used. Some software requires rigid conformations pre-generated. Some will generate 3D structures of ligands and sample them on the fly.

Typically, some kind of index is required to speed up access to the compounds in a very large compound file.

ICM just needs a mol/sdf file with correct drawings

Each molecule from a database will be converted on the fly and flexibly docked into a pocket. If the score is lower than a predefined threshold, it will be retained in the "answers" file.

Things to decide:

- 1) To keep (or not) the carboxyls neutral 2) To charge or not the amino/imidazole groups 3) Filters ( rotatable bonds, donors, acceptors, mass, etc.)







**Q:** given an empty pocket and the metabolome, can we identify the native substrate in-silico?











#### Receptor flexibility statistics

1132 PDB complexes of 65 receptors with > 5 different ligands each analyzed

#### Sidechains

- A ligand contacts with ~ 10 side chains
- ~75% ligand contact atoms are s.c. (vs 50% in protein core)
- 3 s.c. in 85% of receptors will move by > 1.5A
- But only 14% severe clashes with 1s.c. and 3% with > 1 s.c.

#### Backbone

- ~ 30% receptors had substantial backbone movements: >1A backbone deviations leading to ligand clashes
- 8 elastic deformations, 8 loop, 1 secondary structure

Totrov, Barcelona 2006

### Evaluating side-chain flexibility

- Identify the sidechains of interest
- Perform an ICM simulation (~15min)
- Cluster and spacefilter (retain best Ei)
- Evaluate Boltzmannweighted RMSD for each sidechain atom
- $< D_i^2 \exp(-\Delta E_i/kT) >$
- ICM Flexibility tool



# Representing receptor by multiple static conformations















#### **Mutants and Mutations**



"Portrait of a Girl Covered in Hair By Lavinia Fontana (1552-1614)

#### We are all different at 0.1% level (almost every protein has one amino acid different)

8% of liveborns will suffer from a genetically based disorder by age 25

Spontaneous mutations occur continuously (smoking, tanning, eating, age)



#### Geometry, stability and functional effects of single point mutations

Growing volume of **SNP** and Pharmacogenetics data

Predicting the effect on

- geometry and dynamics
- stability changes bio-function and binding
- drug binding

"The Sistine Madonna" by Rafael (1513)

Look at Pope Sixtus IV



#### Stability prediction without structure

- Fit simple energy function  $\Delta\Delta G=E_{x'}-E_{x}$  for the mutation X-X' to the entire data set without outliers (1768 values). Buried residues: r=0.71 (std=1.21 kc/m); surface res.: r=0.55 (std=1.14 kc/m);
- Only includes residue energies: useful when no structure is available Residues with small side chains (*glycine, serine, and alanine*) most destabilizing .
- Most stabilizing residues are *tyrosine*, *isoleucine and leucine*. Agrees with their high occurrence frequency in  $\beta$  sheets. Also separately fit parameters for buried and surface residues Mutation from *Lys* to *Arg* stabilize protein by 0.5-1 kcal/mole .



# **Loop Prediction**

#### QuickTime<sup>™</sup> and a YUV420 codec decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Predicting and redesigning the 15 residues of the triosephosphate isomerase backbone to 8-res. loop Collaboration with the Wierenga group Structure, PNAS, Prot. Eng. 1993-2002







# 12-residue loops predicted by the ICM optimization after convergence

In most cases the prediction is virtually identical to the crystal structure!











#### EM-guided Atomic Models

Julio Kovacs, Mark Yeager

 Full atom global energy + densityFit optimization. Flexible backbones

• Sampling strategy combines systematic grid and overlapping stochastic searches

• Solvation models with specific geometry built through solvation maps.

• Benchmark reconstitutions for KcsA tetramer and MscL pentamer show about 1 to 2A RMSD for the contact residues.





# Protein Docking Procedure: • Both receptor and ligand are presented by atomic

models

- models Convergent Multistart ICM Stochastic Energy optimization with pseudo-Brownian moves (JMB, JCC, 1994) and side-chain minization Explicit simulaneous global optimization side-chain and 6 positional variables of candidate solutions



Benchmarks

GCN4 ab initio helix docking (JCC, 1994) Lysozyme-Antibody (Nature SB, 1994)

Competitions. Docking challenge (Nature SB 1995.96 CAPRI Rounds 1:5

#### **Local Minimization**

#### Nature, SB, 1994

Detailed ab initio prediction of lysozyme-antibody complex with 1.6 Å accuracy

Maxim Totrov and Ruben Abagyan

The fundamental event in biological assembly is association of two biological macromolecules. Here we present a successful, accurate ab initio previntion of the binding of ancomplexed lipsopre to the highed should with the bioderon-sould bioderonal distribution of the binding of ancomplexed lipsopre to the highed should with the bioderonaultition of the bioderonaultition and the bioderonaultition of the bioderonaultitic of the bioderonaultiti



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### Summary

- Accurate cross-docking to receptors represented by 'static' grid potentials works in most cases.
- Receptor flexibility can be predicted in advance
- A combination of ligand based methods with receptor structure methods can help to deorphanize receptors.
- Stochastic global optimization in internal coordinates is a powerful and general method for modeling membrane proteins.

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#### Former Group Members

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