



- 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<br>B. Choose the most suitable entry (or several entries)<br>C. Find, build and edit the pocket composition and geometry.

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- X-ray with up to 2.5-2.8A resolution is preferable over NMR
- MMR or homology models are only dockable by skillful operators
- Forget electron microscopy<br>• X-ray Resolution < 2.2 A is preferable.<br> (Structures with resolution > 2.3 A may have up to 30% peptide flips, the maps
- are not self-refinable)
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- Analyze symmetry if the pocket might be at the interface<br>- Analyze relative b-factors. B > 100. are not credible<br>- Pay attention to occupancies (in many cases pocket geometries of ligand<br>- Pay attentions/presence are pur
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- Analyze alternative positions<br>• Check orientations of His, Asn, Gln<br>• Check protonation states of Glu, Asp, His<br>• Analyze stongly bound water molecules, ions and co-factors .



## Preparations: occupancies, b-factors and alternatives Occupancies <= 0.5

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

**Occupancy:**<br>A fraction of atomic density at a<br>given center. It there are two equally<br>occupancies of 0.5<br>occupancies of 0.5<br>Normal value: 1. Range: 0.-1.

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



Problem: sometimes, when electron density is poor and/or ambiguous, crystallographers make things up (or it an arbitrary co **program** 

Goal: Identify fantasy atoms/groups

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

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













## Preparations: which waters to keep?

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



Definition: crystallographic water: an oxygen  $\sqrt{\frac{Q\mu}{Q\mu}}$ <br>placed by a crystallographer or a refinement  $\frac{Q\mu}{Q\mu}$ <br>General recommendation: get rid of all water modecules.<br>Keep only water molecules with three or four

Reason: keeping inappropriate water(s) will prevect correct docking, while dropping good waters <br>is usually tolerated.

However some tightly bound water molecules help docking and scoring and prevet from<br>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 <br>your model.

#### Preparations: cofactors and metals?





*Maiorov, Abagyan, 1998 Proteins, The 1000-times faster version: 2004*



# **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**



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

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

α**1 -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*;*<br>268: 15333-15335

# Predicting Protein interfaces

interface location oligomeric state orphan Interfaces sostreint enstdmenn



#### **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 atomic patches.<br>(Totrov, Abagyan, Biopolymers, 2002 - REBEL)<br>Totrov, Abagyan, J.Str.Bio. 1996 - Contour Build-up Algorithm for the analytical Connolly surface<br>construction

## **ICM Stochastic Global Optimization** • Full atom, selected internal coordinates for the area of interest

- Gradient local minimization after random moves
- $\cdot$  Optimally biased, designed, continuous group moves:
- $\cdot$  Double energy scheme  $\cdot$  Reactive history mechanism, stack  $P(\theta^{group}) \sim \sqrt{F^{obs}(\theta)}$
- Not simulated annealing (T=const), Not Monte Carlo (RHM, no local balance)







The only input for ICM-homology builder: a sequence and a template structure

*Side-Chain prediction: JMB 1993 Proteins, 1995, 1997 Marsden, Abagyan, submitted, 2003*





## 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<br>are not suitable for automated<br>conversion. They lack bond types,<br>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 is as a the conversion tool
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The conversion tool performs these steps:<br>• Adds hydrogen according for elements, bond orders and<br>formal charges<br>• Runs ICM MMFF atom type assignment routine<br>• Assigns rotatable torsions<br>• Assigns rotatable torsions<br>• Crea

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#### Preparing compound database for screening

#### **Background**

Preparation of the compound database depends on<br>software used. Some software requires rigid<br>conformations pre-generated. Some will generate 3D<br>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 aw.<br>file.

ICM just needs a mol/sdf file with correct drawings

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

Things to decide:

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







metabolome, can we identify the native substrate in-silico?











#### Receptor flexibility statistics • 1132 PDB complexes of **65** receptors with > 5 different ligands each analyzed **14 16 18 20**



**Average Number of sidechains in contact** 

- **Sidechains** • A ligand contacts with  $\sim$  10 side chains
- ~75% ligand contact atoms are s.c. (vs 50% in protein core) **with ligand**
- 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*



• ICM Flexibility tool



Pocket Conformations 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 ∆∆G=E<sub>x</sub>-E<sub>x</sub> for the mutation X-X' to the entire data<br>set without outliers (1768 values).<br>• 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.<br>• Residues with small side chains (*glycine, serine, and alanine*) most<br>destabilizing
- Most stabilizing residues are *tyrosine, isoleucine and leucine*. Agrees with<br>their high occurrence frequency in β sheets.<br>• 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™ 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

• Full atom global energy + global energy + densityFit optimization. Flexible backbones

 $\cdot$  Sampling strategy combines systematic grid and overlapping stochastic searches

 $\cdot$  Solvation models with specific geometry built through solvation maps.

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





# Protein Docking

Both receptor and ligand are pres

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



**GCN4 ab initio helix docking** (*JCC, 1994*)<br>Lysozyme-Antibody (Nature SB, 1994)

**Competitions.** Docking challenge (Nature SB 1995,96) **CAPRI Rounds 1:5**



# **Local Minimization**

**Nature, SB, 1994**<br>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 information<br>leads there we present a successful, accurate ab intrio profit.<br>increase the interaction of biological information of the present o













# **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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