# Computational Structural Methods for Ligand (Drug) Discovery

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Guest lecture for MSB 530 Bioinformatics

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## The hook: Why you should care

- Drugs impact human heath and quality of life!
- Drug discovery is a long and expensive process.
- Almost all recent drugs have been touch by computational methods: molecular graphics, molecular docking, free energy calculations ...

## Outline

- The binding event using a thermodynamic cycle
- Introduction to molecular mechanics
- Introduction to molecular dynamics
- Introduction to molecular docking
- Applications from my work
  - Large-scale docking
  - Receptor flexibility
  - Receptor desolvation

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## **Molecular Recognition**



- Understanding the binding event -- important for drug discovery
- Structure-based, Targeted drug discovery
- Computational methods

## Important molecular forces for ligand binding

- Electrostatics
- Van der Waals
- Hydrogen bond
- Dipolar interactions
- Quadrupole interactions
- Interactions with water (solvent)
  - Hydrophobic effect
- Entropy

#### Hydrogen bond



**Pi-stacking** 



By Emily ricq - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17057524

## Molecular Recognition



# Critical role of water in receptor-ligand binding

Thermodynamic cycle of the binding event



$$\Delta \Delta G_{bind} = \Delta G_{Gas} + \Delta G_{desolv}$$

## Water displacement and medicated interactions



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## Molecular Models

- Quantum Mechanics
  - physical, but expensive
  - Schrödinger equation:  $H \Psi = E \Psi$
  - wave functions defines electron density
- Molecular Mechanics
  - less physical --> empirical parameterization
  - cheap and accurate

## Molecular Mechanics Force Field



## Molecular Mechanics

- Every atom is a sphere with a radius (Lennard Jones)
- Point charge is located at each atomic center (Coulomb's law)
- Bonds and angles are held by springs to ideal lengths
  - e.g.  $V_{bond} = k_b (r r_0)^2$
  - Hooke's Law, K<sub>b</sub>: spring constant, r<sub>0</sub>: ideal length
- Dihedrals are represented by sigmoidal function which has energy wells at favorable angles.
- Improper torsions force atoms to be a defined angle to plane.

## The "Tinker-toy Model"



## Dihedral Term is a Sigmodal Function

$$V_{dihidral} = K_{\chi} (1 + \cos(n\chi - \delta))$$



p(3.14) radians = 180 degrees

Molecular Modelling Principles and applications, Leach Pearson Prentice hall second edition (chapter 4)

#### Lennard-Jones Equation



Molecular Modelling Principles and applications, Leach Pearson Prentice hall second edition (chapter 4)

## **Potential Energy Function**

$$\begin{split} V &= \sum_{bonds} k_b (b - b_0)^2 + \sum_{angles} k_\theta (\theta - \theta_0)^2 + \sum_{impropers} k_\varphi (\varphi - \varphi_0)^2 \\ &+ \sum_{dihedrals} K_\chi (1 + \cos(n\chi - \delta)) + \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=i+1}^N \varepsilon_{i,j} \left[ \left( \frac{R\min_{i,j}}{r_{i,j}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left( \frac{R\min_{i,j}}{r_{i,j}} \right)^6 \right] + \frac{q_i q_j}{\varepsilon r_{ij}} \end{split}$$

#### **Different Force-Field**

- CHARMM
- AMBER
- GROMOS
- OPLS

Parameterization

- Experimental observables
- Quantum Mechanical calculations

Interdependences among parameters

Molecular Modelling Principles and applications, Leach Pearson Prentice hall second edition (chapter 4) *Mackerell, Vol. 25, No. 13, Journal of Computational Chemistry* 

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#### **Molecular Dynamics**



## **Molecular Dynamics**

• Newton Equations

$$E(X_{\text{position}})$$

$$F = -\nabla E$$

$$X_{\text{position}}^{\text{new}} = \iint \frac{F}{m} \partial t^{2}$$

- Differential Eq. (velocity verlet algorithm)
  - propagate to get motion
- Energy functions:

$$E = E_{bonded} + E_{steric} + E_{elect}$$
$$E_{bonded} = E_{bond} + E_{angle} + E_{dihedra}$$



2 fs time step

## Simulate Binding of Ligand to Protein



4-µs simulation of dasatinib binding to Src kinase;

Binding occurs 2.5 µs into the simulation (in the 7th second of the movie)

2 fs = 1 time step

- $1s = 1,000,000 \ \mu s$
- $4 \mu s = 2$  billon time steps

Shan, Y; et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2011, 133, 24, 9181-9183

## Some Applications for Modular Dynamics



*Figure 1.* Four biomolecular processes that are governed by thermodynamic equilibria.

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2006, 45, 4064 – 4092

## Things to Consider for Molecular Simulations



*Figure 2.* Four basic choices in the definition of a model for molecular simulation.

Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2006, 45, 4064 - 4092

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## Docking is ligand discovery tool







#### **Docking Tasks**

- Sampling
- Scoring
- Balance of speed and accuracy

## Enrichment for positives through docking



J. Med. Chem., 2006, 49 (23), pp 6789-6801











Fully Grown Conformers

0

Branch (conformer)

5 internal Degrees of Freedom



## Six degrees for freedom



## How Sampling works (orientational)

A toy example illustrating the matching sphere orientational matching algorithm



Coleman, RG et al. PLoS One. 2013; 8(10): e75992.

## How DOCK 3.7 works

Preparation, Sampling, and Scoring



## How to evaluate docking methods

- Pose reproduction, reproduce the crystallographic poses
- Enrichment calculations, make sure ligand found in the top of the rank orders lists.
- Prospective testing on model cavities, make a predication, and test it!

## Pose Reproduction: RMSD Calculations

We can correct for molecular symmetry using the Hungarian algorithm

It is important that we are obtaining the correct binding mode. Right for the right reasons
# **Enrichment Background**



J. Med. Chem., 2006, 49 (23), pp 6789-6801

# Retrospective testing Enrich knowns over Decoys



# Computational Prediction vs. Experimental Evidenced

	activity	inactivity
predicted	True Positive	False Positive
activity	(selected actives)	(selected decoys)
predicted	False Negative	True Negative
inactivity	(removed actives)	(removed decoys)

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# Computational Prediction vs. Experimental Evidenced

		activity	inactivity
Dock Score	predicted activity	True Positive (selected actives)	False Positive (selected decoys)
	predicted inactivity	False Negative (removed actives)	True Negative (removed decoys)

# Computational Prediction vs. Experimental Evidenced

		wet lab ex	wet lab experiment	
		activity	inactivity	
Dock Score	predicted activity	True Positive (selected actives)	False Positive (selected decoys)	
	predicted inactivity	False Negative (removed actives)	True Negative (removed decoys)	

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Large-scale docking: Screen all of purchasable space

# **Irwin's law:** Docking libraries, crucial for chemical discovery, doubling every 2.5 years



John Irwin



#### Large scale docking flow



# AmpC β-lactamase

#### We docked <u>100M</u> molecules to **AmpC** $\beta$ -lactamase



### We bought new chemotypes







Isha Singh & Jiankun Lyu



### Crystal structure confirms docked pose and phenolate





D4 Dopamine receptor



# Bought 444 molecules to estimate the DOCKing hit rate curve for DRD4



444 molecules were picked automatically, with 35 to 40 molecules sampled at 12 energy windows from docking scores from -75 to -35 kcal/mol.

### Great hit rate of 25% at top, poor hit rate of 0% on right



Great hit rate of 25% at top, poor hit rate of 0% on right



# Among the 138 million molecule library there are calculated to be over 481,000 D4 active molecules



#### hit-rates fell almost monotonically with score

The 95% confidence: [209K,1,020K]

Matthew O'Meara

180 pM Gi-biased, selective, full agonist, among the most potent sub-type selective agonists known for this receptor

 $\label{eq:constraint} \begin{array}{l} ZINC621433144 \\ K_{i,DRD4} = 4.32 \ nM \\ K_{i,DRD2} > 10,000 \ nM \\ K_{i,DRD3} > 10,000 \ nM \\ cAMP \ EC_{50} = 0.18 \ nM \\ Tango \ EC_{50} = 57.3 \ nM \\ G_i \ BRET \ EC_{50} = 0.56 \ nM \\ Arrestin \ BRET \ EC_{50} = 2.3 \ nM \\ Bias \ factor = 17 \ to \ G \ protein \end{array}$ 

Tao Che, Bryan Roth



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# T4 lysozyme L99A



# How does T4-lysozyme bind a congeneric ligand series



Merski, Fischer, Balius et al 2015 PNAS 112(16):5039-44 Morton, et al. 1995 Biochemistry 34(27):8564–8575 Morton & Matthews 1995 Biochemistry 34(27):8576–8588

## T4 lysozyme L99A opens



# Probing receptor conformational change induce by ligand series



Is this response of the receptor to ligand size discreet or continuous?

Merski, Fischer, Balius, et al 2015 PNAS 112(16):5039-44

#### Binding affinity is less than hydrophobic burial



Merski, Fischer, Balius, et al 2015 PNAS 112(16):5039-44



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# Adding a Term to the Scoring Function



Meng, et al J. Comput. Chem. 1992, 13, 505–524 Mysinger and Shoichet J Chem Inf Model. 2010, 50(9):1561-73

# Calculating Water Energetics with Receptor



T. Lazaridis, J. Phys. Chem. B, 1998, 102, 3531-3541. T. Lazaridis, J. Phys. Chem. B, 1998, 102, 3542-3550 C.N. Nguyen, et al, J. Chem. Phys. 2012, 137, 044101

# Combining GIST Grids



# Testing DOCK+GIST Using a Model Cavity

- Model systems are simple engineered cavities
- They are dominated by 1-2 interaction terms, allowing us to disentangle various energetic contributions in docking

#### Cytochrome c peroxidase gateless mutant:

- Mutations/deletions result in solvent-exposed binding site (~8 water molecules)
- Alternative loop conformations (residues 186-194)
- Contains one anionic residue (Asp233)
- Almost exclusively binds small monocations
- Straightforward binding assay and crystallography



## **Prospective Screens**

We make a computational prediction and test it experimentally
# Selecting Molecules to Test with Differences

- We screened up to 1.8 million fragment molecules to the CcP-gateless mutant
  - Preformed 2 screens: Non-GIST and GIST
  - We are interested in differences
    non-GIST
    Gist
    333
    667
    333
    1333
- Comparing GIST to standard screening, molecules were chosen based on:



• 17 compounds (14 pro-GIST and 3 anti-GIST) have been bought and tested

## We Tested 17 Molecules

14 pro-GIST, 3 anti-GIST



# **Experimental Assay to Detect Binding**



## We determined Affinities for 12 molecules

Affinities range from  $1\mu M$  to 3.5mM



# 9 Crystal Structures for Pose Comparisons



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## Prospective Summary



# Extra slides.

# CMP 2: Binder, GIST Pose is Right

name	GIST	nonGIST	logrankdiff	rmsd
ZINC000006557114	664	740	0.047	4.62



# CMP 3: Water-Mediated, Weak Binder

name	GIST	nonGIST	logrankdiff	rmsd
ZINC000004705523	13	249	1.28	0



## CMP 9: binder, wrong pose

name	GIST	nonGIST	logrankdiff	rmsd
ZINC000020357620	98	745	0.88093	0



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### CMP 11: best binder



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### GIST has little effect on retrospective analysis of 25 DUDE systems



# **DOCK: A History**



Rizzo Group

# Docking is Important in Ligand Discovery

#### Applications of docking

- Virtual Screening: given a protein and database of molecules find those that bind.
- Pose prediction: given a molecule and a protein predict how that they bind

### **Docking Tasks**

- Sampling
  - generate all the possibilities including finding the correct geometry
- Scoring
  - of all the possibilities, rank the correct pose first
  - also, rank the binders better than decoys
- Balance of speed and accuracy, docking has to be fast.

#### How to evaluate docking methods

- Pose reproduction, reproduce the crystallographic poses
- Enrichment calculations, make sure ligand found in the top of the rank orders lists.
- Prospective testing on model cavities, make a predication, and test it!



$$E = \sum_{i \in L} \left( \sqrt{A_{i,i}} \sum_{j \in R} \frac{\sqrt{A_{j,j}}}{r_{i,j}^{a}} - \sqrt{B_{i,i}} \sum_{j \in R} \frac{\sqrt{B_{j,j}}}{r_{i,j}^{b}} + 332q_{i} \sum_{j \in R} \frac{q_{j}}{Dr_{i,j}} \right)$$







http://dock.compbio.ucsf.edu/DOCK\_6/dock6\_m anual.htm#Grid

$$E \approx \sum_{i \in L} \left( \sqrt{A_{i,i}} \operatorname{interp}[G_{av}(p_1), \cdots, G_{av}(p_8)] \right) \\ + 332q_i \operatorname{interp}[G_{es}(p_1), \cdots, G_{es}(p_8)]$$

# Interpolation



Trilinear: for a cube, perform 7 linear interpolations: 4 to calculate red (from the cyan); 2 to calculate green (from red); and 1 to calculate the atomic approximation (from green)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trilinear\_interpolation

# **ROC** curves

$$TP_{Rate} = Se_{subset} = \frac{ligands_{selected}}{ligands_{total}}$$

$$FP_{Rate} = (1 - Sp)_{\text{subset}} = \frac{decoys_{\text{selected}}}{decoys_{\text{total}}}$$

Se - Sensitivity, Sp - Specificity







# **Example ROC Curves**

