

Docking and Post-Docking strategies

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A few starting points



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- J Comput-Aided Mol Des. Special Issue on 'Evaluation of Computational Methods', 2008, 131-265
- Moitessier N, Englebienne P, Lee D, Lawandi J, Corbeil CR. (2008) *Br J Pharmacol*, **153**: S7-26.
- Sousa SF, Fernandes PA, Ramos MJ. (2006) *Proteins*, **65**:15-26.
- Kitchen DB, Decornez H, Furr JR, Bajorath J. (2004) *Nat Rev Drug Discov*, **3**: 935-49.
- Brooijmans N, Kuntz ID. (2003) *Annu Rev Biophys Biomol Struct*, **32**: 335-73.
- Lengauer T. (2007) Bioinformatics - From Genomes to Therapies Volume 2 : Molecular Interactions (WILEY-VCH)
- Kubinyi H. (2006) in *Computer Applications in Pharmaceutical Research and Development*, S. Ekins, Ed.; Wiley-Interscience, New York, pp. 377-424.

Strategic importance of docking



Scientific reasons

1. Increasing number of interesting macromolecular targets (500 → 6,000)
2. Increasing number of protein 3-D structures (X-ray, NMR)
3. Better knowledge of protein-ligand interactions
4. Development of chem- and bio-informatic methods
5. Increasing computing facilities

Economic reasons

1. High cost of high-throughput screening (HTS): 0.2-1 € /molecule
2. Increase the ratio
$$\frac{\text{\textit{\# of active molecules (hits)}}}{\text{\textit{\# of tested molecules}}}$$

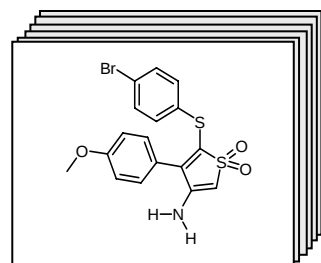
Applications

1. Identifying/optimize ligands for a given target
2. Identifying target(s) for a given ligand

Docking Flowchart

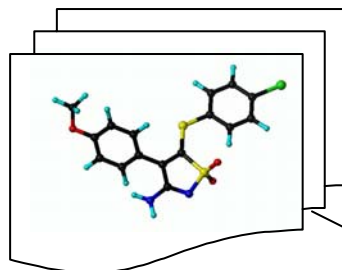


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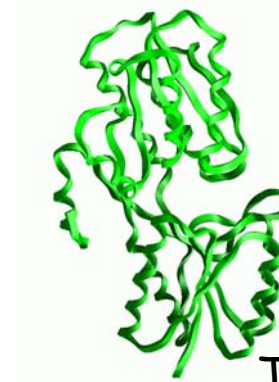


2-D Library

Filtering
Preparation

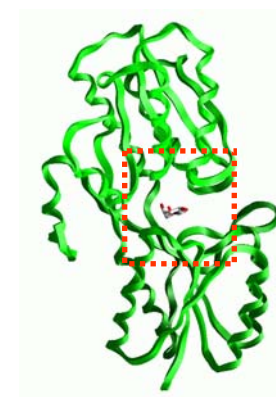


3-D Library



Target

Docking



Scoring

Mol #	ΔG_{bind}
11121	-44.51
222	-42.21
3563	-41.50
6578	-40.31
25639	-40.28
.	.
.	.
.	.
.	.
100000	22.54

Post-processing



Hitlist

Which Compound Library ?

Commercially-available screening collections are important sources for identifying hits by virtual screening (VS)

Supplier	Size	Website			
ACD Stock	87657	www.acdlabschem.com	Nanosyn Pharma	44000	www.nanosyn.com
Akos Lithuania	156140	www.akosgmbh.com	NCI DTP	126705	dtp.nci.nih.gov/docs/3d%5Fdatabase/dis3d.html
Akos Resynthetic	134465	www.akosgmbh.com			
Akos OWH	28600	www.akosgmbh.com	Otava Stock	104258	http://www.otava.com.ua
Asinex Platinum	129860	www.asinex.com	Peakdale	3770	www.peakdale.com
Asinex Preformed	14240	www.asinex.com	Pharmeks	84143	www.pharmeks.com
Asinex Gold	194032	www.asinex.com	Princeton BioMolecular Research Gold	204215	www.princetonbio.com
Bionet (Ryan)	35080	www.ryansci.com			
ChemStar	85981	www.chemstaronline.com			
ChemStar Plated	40000	www.chemstaronline.com	Ryan Intermediate	1136	www.ryansci.com
Chembridge DVS	30000	www.chembridge.com	Ryan Labo	59214	www.ryansci.com
Chembridge Express	321716	www.chembridge.com	Sigma-Aldrich L	13929	www.sigma-aldrich.com
Chemical Diversity Clab	175551	www.chemdiv.com			
Chemical Diversity IDC	110484	www.chemdiv.com	Sigma-Aldrich R	69238	www.sigma-aldrich.com
Comgenex	119247	www.comgenex.com	Sigma-Aldrich S	46284	www.sigma-aldrich.com
Enamine RS	109695	www.enamine.net			
			Sigma-Aldrich	58298	www.sigma-aldrich.com
Enamine S	124420	www.enamine.net			
			Specs Biospecs 10T	172469	www.specsnet.com
Evotec Lead Discovery	76817	www.evotecaoi.com	Timtec Stock	100276	www.timtec.com
Evotec Screening	122998	www.evotecaoi.com			
G&J (Ryan)	1867	www.ryansci.com	Timtec MaxiVerse	9600	www.timtec.com
IBS n	195899	www.ibscreen.com	Toslab collection + ugi	11743	www.toslab.com
			WorldMolecules	20401	www.worldmolecules.com
IBS s	172153	www.ibscreen.com			
IF Lab ltd	109400	iflab@iflab.kiev.ua			
Key Organics	34736	www.keyorganics.ltd.uk			
Maybridge (Ryan)	75142	www.maybridge.com			
MDPI	9367	www.mdpi.net			
Menai (Ryan)	4512	www.ryansci.com			
Nanosyn Explore	18613	www.nanosyn.com			

> 3,000,000 million compounds available
Sirois et al. *Comput. Biol. Chem.* (2005) 29, 55-67.

Commercially-available screening collections

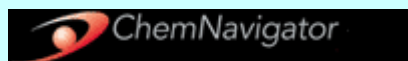


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● They cannot be directly used as such for VS because of some issues:

- ✓ redundancy (intra and inter-duplicates)
- ✓ diversity
- ✓ unknown drug- or lead-likeness
- ✓ unsuitable format (non-ionized, counter-ions, racemates)

● 'Unified' and filtered screening collections are available



<http://www.chemnavigator.com>

i-Research chemical Library

21 million samples
not ready to screen
not 'clean'
not free



<http://www.mdli.com>

MDL screening Compounds Directory

3.5 million structures
not ready to screen
± clean
not free



<http://blaster.docking.org/zinc/>

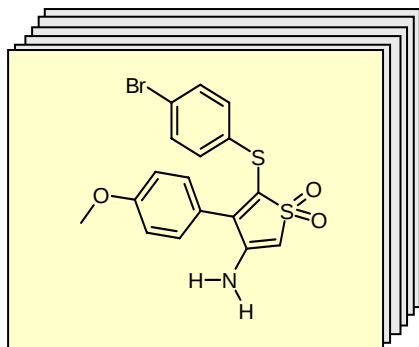
Zinc

3.3 million structures
ready to screen
relatively clean
free

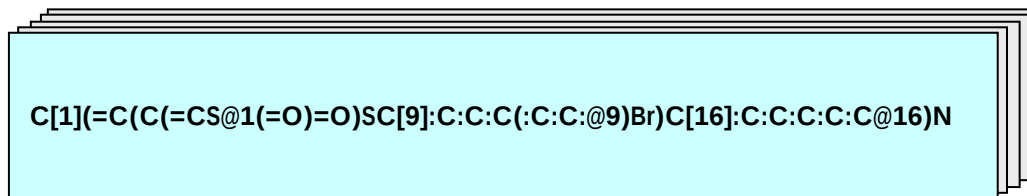
Library set-up



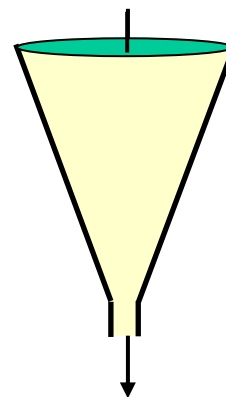
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2-D Lib.



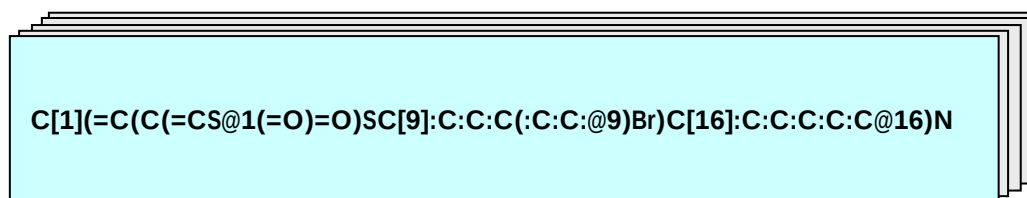
1-D Lib. (Full database)



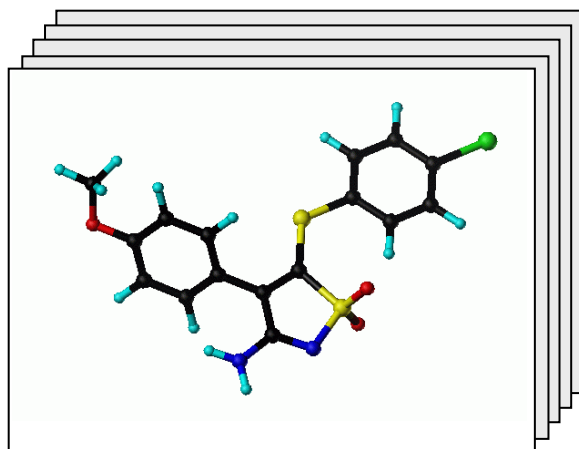
Filtering

- ✓ Chemical reactivity
- ✓ Physicochemical properties
- ✓ Pharmacokinetics
- ✓ Lead-likeness
- ✓ Drug-likeness

2D → 3D



1-D Lib. (Filtered database)



3-D Lib.

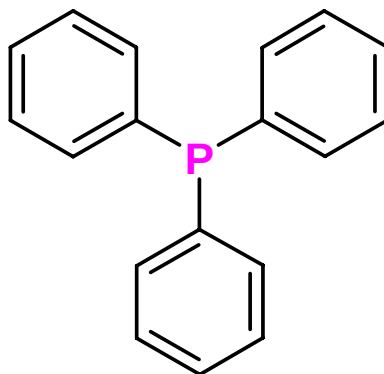
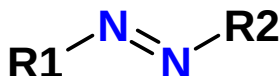
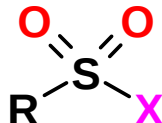
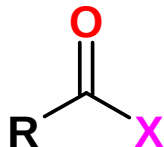
Hydrogens
Stereochemistry
Tautomerism
Ionisation

Chemical Filters

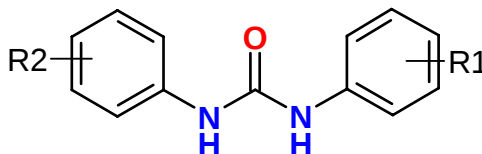
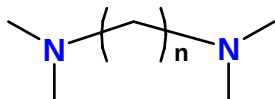


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✓ Remove any molecule bearing a chemically reactive moiety



Remove promiscuous binders (e.g. bis cations)



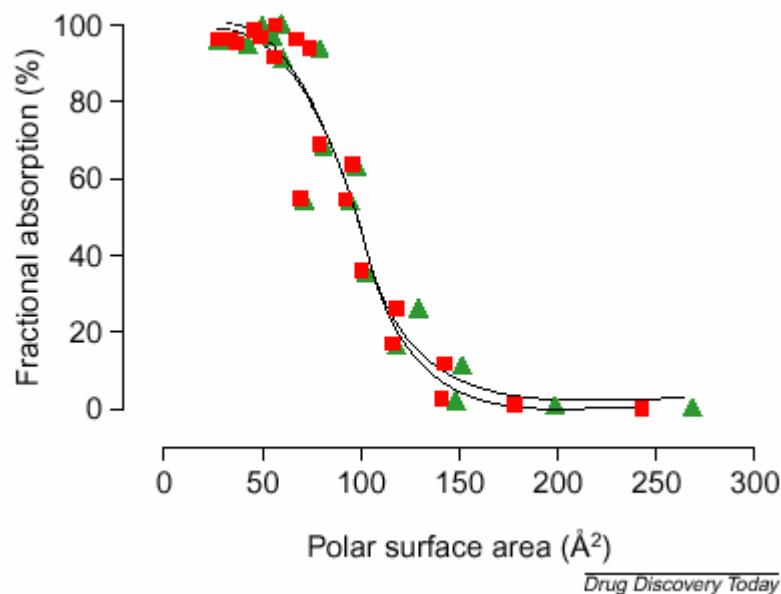
✓ Known fluorescent molecules (dyes)

Physicochemical descriptors favouring membrane permeation

- ✓ Molecular weight < 500
- ✓ $\log P_{\text{calc}} < 5$
- ✓ H-bond donors < 5
- ✓ H-bond acceptors < 10

Rule of 5 (Lipinski)
< 2 violations !!

- ✓ Polar surface area < 150 Å²



What are the differences between a lead and a drug ?

Drugs are generally ...

- larger ($\Delta MW = 100$)
- more hydrophobic ($\Delta clogP = 0.5$)
- more complex ($\Delta RTB = 2$, $\Delta RNG = \Delta HAC = 1$)
- less soluble ($\Delta logSw = -2$)

...than their corresponding leads.



Needle screening (Roche)

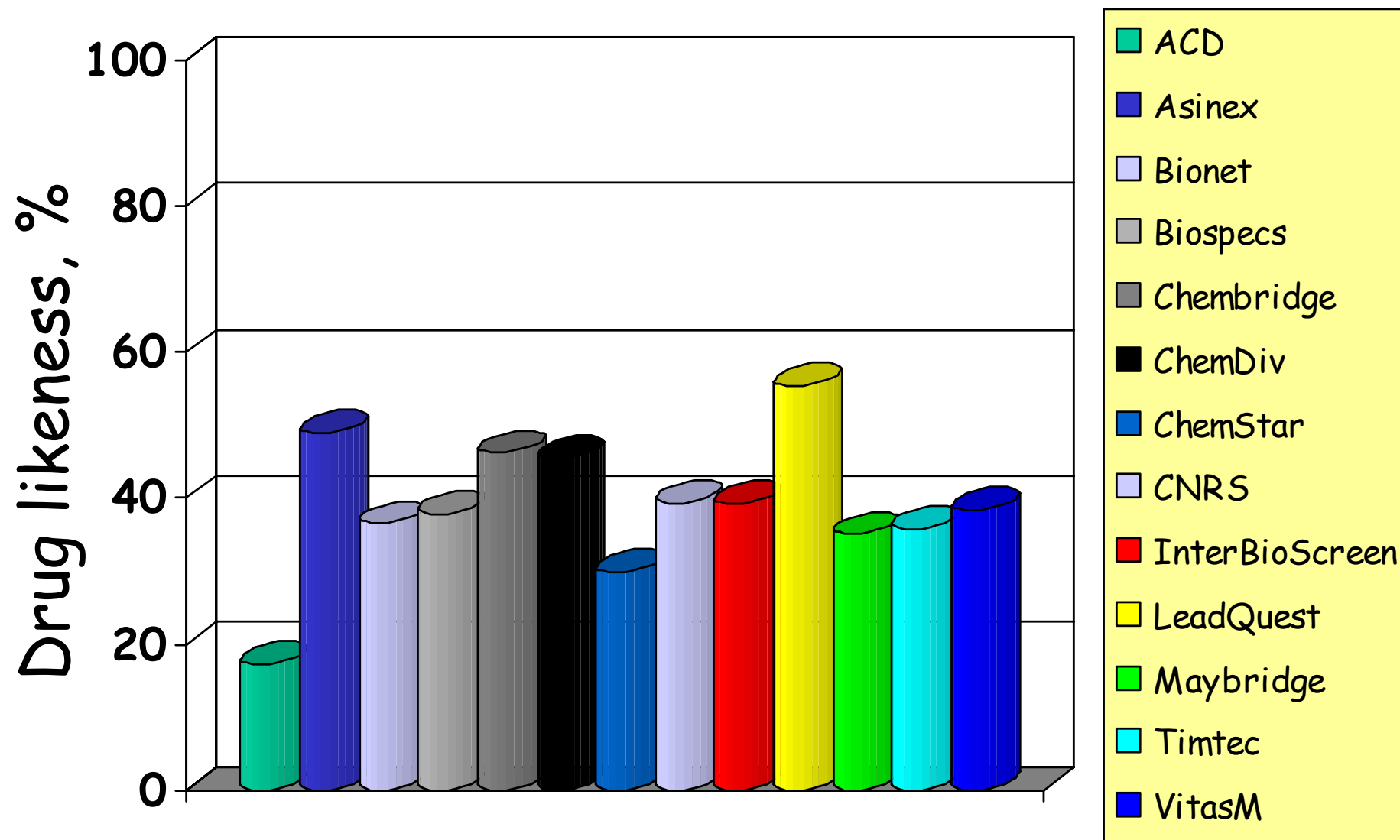
SAR by NMR (Abott)

Scaffold co-crystallisation (Astex, Plexxikon)

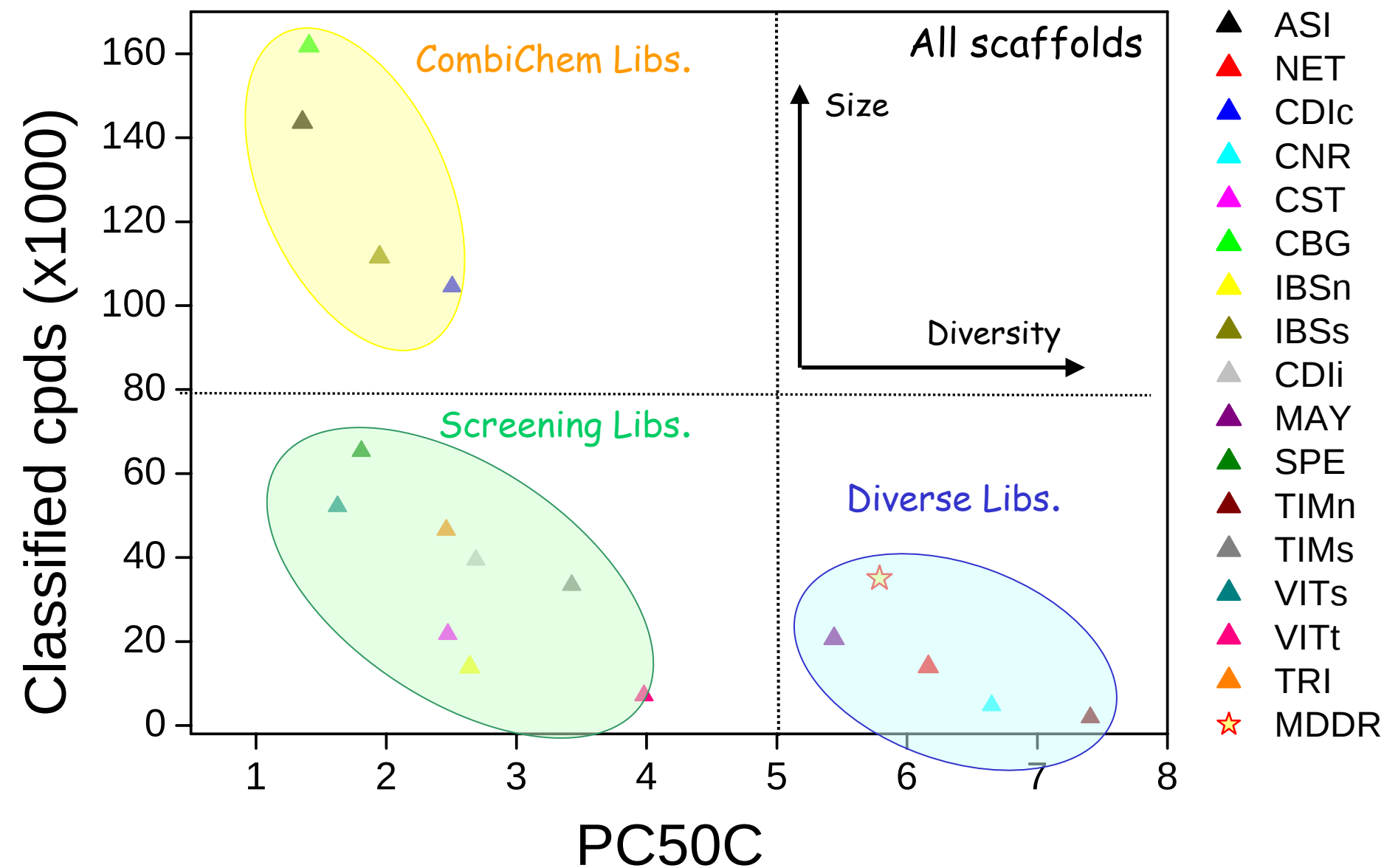
Commercially-available databases are not 'drug-like'



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Commercially-available databases are not 'diverse'



Which Ligand Conformation ?

Any low-energy conformer (1/2D→3D: Corina, Concord, Omega)

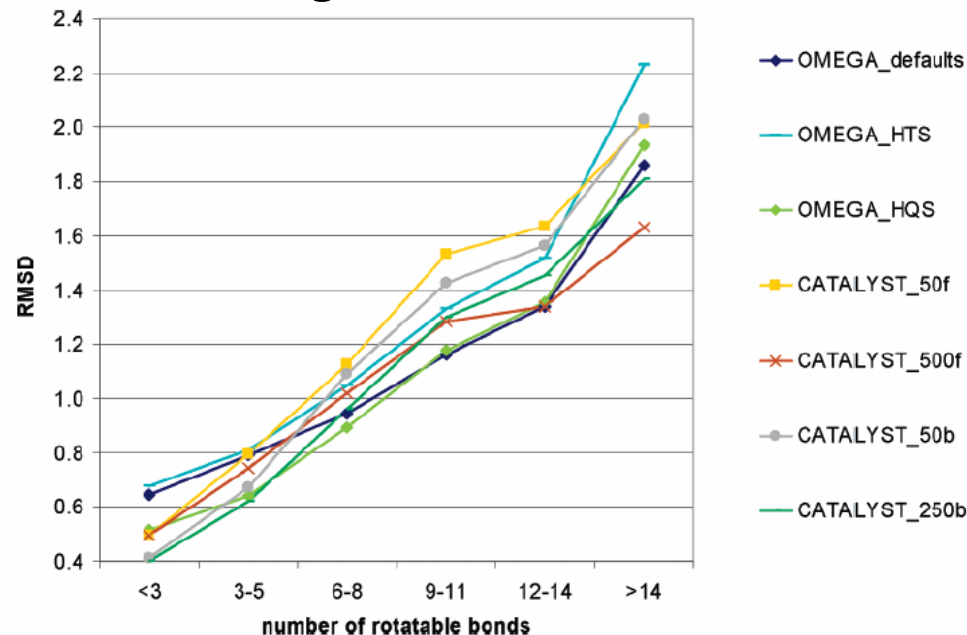
Most docking tools handle ligand flexibility on-the-fly (incremental building)

Issues : Seed structure, SMILES strings, Energy refinement

Conformers database, for rigid dockers (e.g. Fred)

- Many tools (Catalyst, Omega) predict bioactive-like conformers for most drug-like compounds

- Only has to be done once



rmsd to protein-bound X-ray coord. (n =778)

Which Protein coordinates ?

X-ray >> Homology models

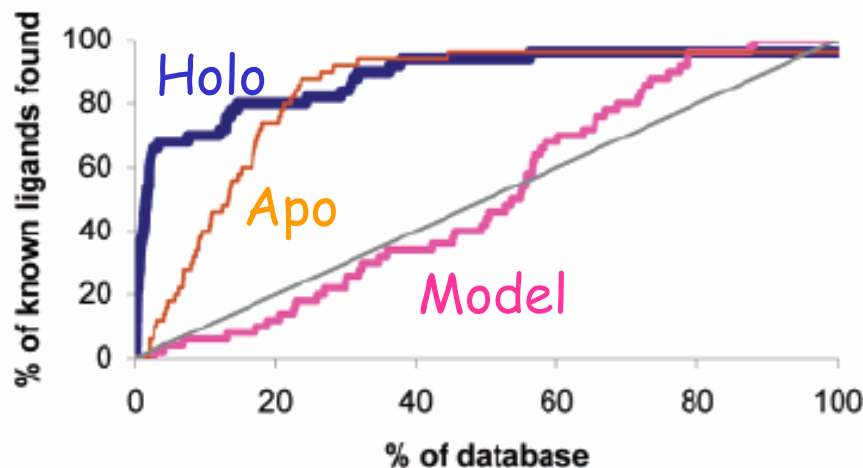
Table 1. Average Enrichment of Actives for Homology Models^a

target	crystal structure	sequence id >50%	sequence id <50%
factor VIIa	5.7	6.6	1.2 ^a
CDK2	4.5	3.1	3.5
both	5.1 ± 2.3	5.4 ± 3.2	2.1 ^a ± 1.3

Homology models acceptable if close to X-ray templates

Oshiro et al. *J Med Chem* (2004), **47**, 764-767

Holo >> Apo structures



Docking of 50 known GART Inhibitors
+ 95 000 MDDR decoys

McGovern et al. *J Med Chem* (2003), **46**, 2895-2905

Which Protein coordinates ?



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What to do if numerous X-ray structures of protein-ligand are available ?

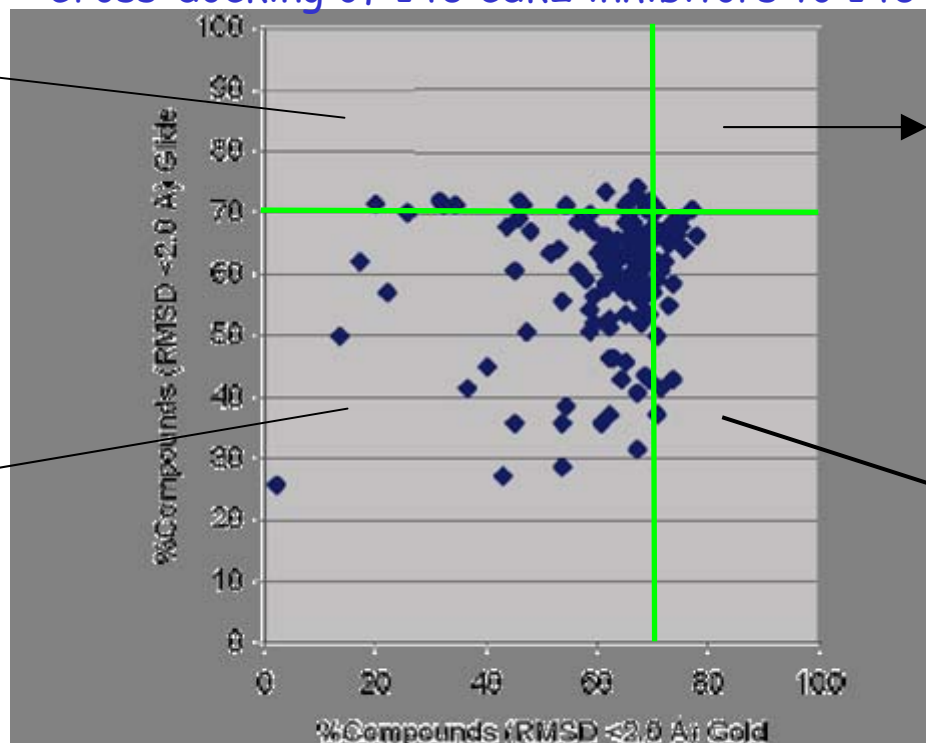
Cross-docking of 140 cdk2 inhibitors to 140 cdk2 PDB entries

✓ Glide

✗ Gold

✗ Glide

✗ Gold



✓ Glide

✓ Gold

✗ Glide

✓ Gold

Duca et al. *J Chem Info Model* (2008), **48**, 659-668).

Dock to any
single structure

Rigid

Check Binding
Site flexibility

flexible

Cluster
coords.

Dock to cluster
representatives

Which Docking Tool ?



Over 65 docking tools around

Which one to take ?

Which Docking Tool ?



Program	Reference(s)	Website	Search algorithm ^a
Affinity	N/A	www.accelrys.com/products/datasheets/i2_affinity_data.pdf	MC
ADAM	(Yamada and Itai, 1993; Mizutani <i>et al.</i> , 1994, 2006)	www.immd.co.jp/en/product_2.html	RBD
Autodock 4.0	(Morris <i>et al.</i> , 1998; Osterberg <i>et al.</i> , 2002)	autodock.scripps.edu/	GA
CDOCKER	(Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2003a)	N/A	MD-SA
CHARMM	(Vieth <i>et al.</i> , 1998b, a)	www.charmm.org/	GA and MC
CLIX	(Lawrence and Davis, 1992)	N/A	RBD
DARWIN	(Taylor and Burnett, 2000)	N/A	GA
DVALI	(Clark and Ajay, 1995)	N/A	GA
DOCK 6	(Oshiro <i>et al.</i> , 1995; Knegtel <i>et al.</i> , 1997; Kang <i>et al.</i> , 2004; Moustakas <i>et al.</i> , 2006)	dock.compbio.ucsf.edu/	IC
DockIt	N/A	www.metaphorics.com/products/dockit.html	N/A
DockVision 1.0.3	(Hart and Read, 1992)	www.dockvision.com/	MC
DoMCoSAR	(Vieth and Cummins, 2000)	N/A	SA
DragHOME	(Schafferhans and Klebe, 2001)	N/A	RBD
EADock	(Grosdidier <i>et al.</i> , 2007)	N/A	EA
eHiTs	(Zsoldos <i>et al.</i> , 2006)	www.simbiosys.ca/ehits/index.html	RBD of fragments followed by reconstruction
EUDOC	(Pang <i>et al.</i> , 2001)	N/A	RBD
FDS	(Taylor <i>et al.</i> , 2003)	N/A	MC
DAIM-SEED-FFLD	(Majeux <i>et al.</i> , 1999; Budin <i>et al.</i> , 2001; Kolb and Caffisch, 2006)	biocroma.uzh.ch/SDL/DAIM-SEED-FFLD_agreement.pdf	RBD
FITTED	(Corbeil <i>et al.</i> , 2007)	www.fitted.ca	GA
FlexX 2.2	(Rarey <i>et al.</i> , 1996)	www.biosolveit.de/	IC
FlexE	(Rarey <i>et al.</i> , 1999; Claußen <i>et al.</i> , 2001)		
FlipDock (formerly pyDock)	(Zhao and Sanner, 2007)	www.scripps.edu/~yongzhao/FLIPDock/	GA
FLOG	(Miller <i>et al.</i> , 1994)	N/A	IC
FRED	(McGann <i>et al.</i> , 2003)	www.eyesopen.com/products/applications/fred.html	RBD
FTDock	(Gabb <i>et al.</i> , 1997)	www.bmm.icnet.uk/docking/ftdock.html	RBD
GAMBLER	(Charifson <i>et al.</i> , 1999)	N/A	GA
GasDock	(Li <i>et al.</i> , 2004)	N/A	GA
GEMDOCK	(Yang and Chen, 2004)	N/A	EA
GlamDock	(Tietze and Apostolakis, 2007)	N/A	MC/SA
Glide 4.0	(Friesner <i>et al.</i> , 2004; Sherman <i>et al.</i> , 2006)	www.schrodinger.com/ProductDescription.php?mID=6&sID=6&dID=0	Hierarchical filters and MC

Abbreviation: N/A, not available.

^aDE, differential evolution; EA, evolutionary algorithm; GA, genetic algorithm; IC, incremental construction; MA, matching algorithm; MD, molecular dynamics; RBD, rigid-body docking; SA, simulated annealing; TS, Tabu search.

Which Docking Tool ?



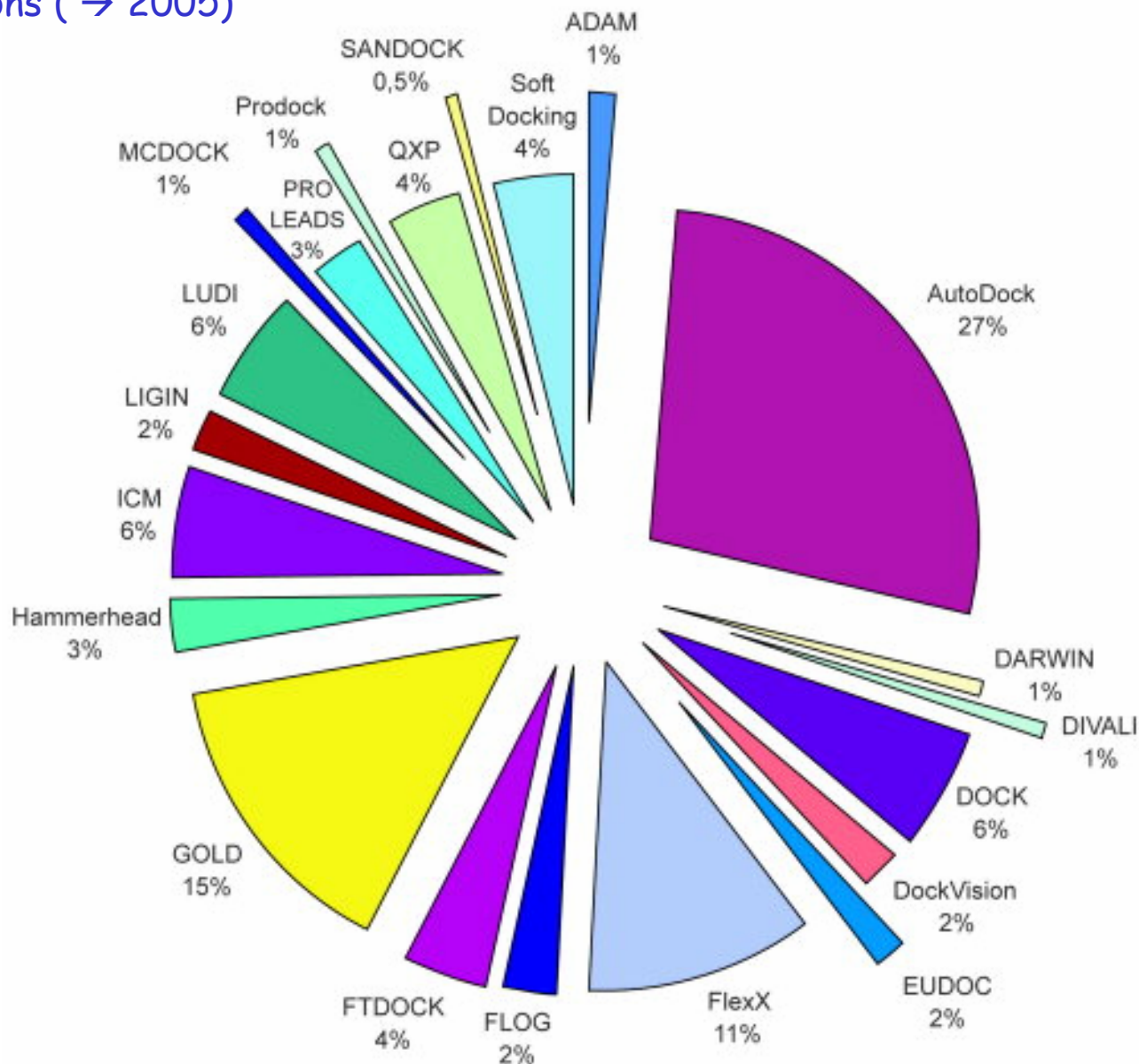
Program	Reference(s)	Website	Search algorithm ^a
GOLD 3.1	(Verdonk <i>et al.</i> , 2003, 2005)	www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/products/life_sciences/gold/	GA
Hammerhead	(Welch <i>et al.</i> , 1996)	N/A	IC
HADDOCK	(Dominguez <i>et al.</i> , 2003)	www.nmr.chem.uu.nl/haddock/	SA
HierDOCK/HierVLS	(Floriano <i>et al.</i> , 2004; Trabanino <i>et al.</i> , 2004)	N/A	IC
ICM	(Abagyan <i>et al.</i> , 1994b; Totrov and Abagyan, 1997)	www.molsoft.com/docking.html	MC
LibDock	(Diller and Merz, 2001)	N/A	MA
LIDAEUS	(Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2003b)	N/A	MA
LIGIN	(Sobolev <i>et al.</i> , 1996)	N/A	RBD
MacDOCK	(Fradera <i>et al.</i> , 2004)	N/A	IC
MCDOCK	(Liu and Wang, 1999)	N/A	MC
MolDock	(Thomsen and Christensen, 2006)	N/A	DE
MVP	N/A	N/A	IC
PatchDOCK	(Schneidman-Duhovny <i>et al.</i> , 2005)	N/A	Shape complementarity
PAS-Dock	(Tøndel <i>et al.</i> , 2006)	N/A	TS
PhDOCK	(Joseph-McCarthy <i>et al.</i> , 2003)	N/A	MA
Ph4DOCK	(Goto <i>et al.</i> , 2004)	N/A	MA
PIPER	(Kozakov <i>et al.</i> , 2006)	N/A	Fast Fourier transform
Plants	(Korb <i>et al.</i> , 2006)	N/A	Ant colony optimisation
Prodock	(Trosset and Scheraga, 1999)	N/A	MC
PRO_LEADS	(Murray <i>et al.</i> , 1999)	N/A	TS
ProPose	(Seifert, 2005)	N/A	IC
PSI_DOCK	(Pei <i>et al.</i> , 2006)	N/A	GA with TS
Q-fit	(Jackson, 2002)	N/A	MA
Quantum	N/A	www.q-lead.com/cnt/quantum	N/A
QXP/Flo +	(McMartin and Bohacek, 1997)	N/A	MC
RiboDock	(Morley and Afshar, 2004)	N/A	MC
ROSETTALIGAND	(Meiler and Baker, 2006)	N/A	MC
SANDOCK	(Burkhard <i>et al.</i> , 1998)	N/A	MA
SDOCKER	(Wu and Vieth, 2004)	N/A	Random walk
SUDE	(Schnecke and Kuhn, 2000; Zawodszky and Kuhn, 2005)	N/A	IC
SKELGEN	(Alberts <i>et al.</i> , 2005)	N/A	IC
SODOCK	(Chen <i>et al.</i> , 2007)	N/A	Swarm Optimisation
SG-DOCK/SP-DOCK	(Fradera <i>et al.</i> , 2000)	N/A	IC
Surflex 2.1	(Jain, 2003, 2007)	N/A	IC with MA
Yucca	(Choi, 2005)	N/A	MC

Abbreviation: N/A, not available.

^aDE, differential evolution; EA, evolutionary algorithm; GA, genetic algorithm; IC, incremental construction; MA, matching algorithm; MD, molecular dynamics; RBD, rigid-body docking; SA, simulated annealing; TS, Tabu search.

Which Docking tool ?

ISI citations (→ 2005)



Docking methods



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Docking means : Find **quickly** (< 1 min) :

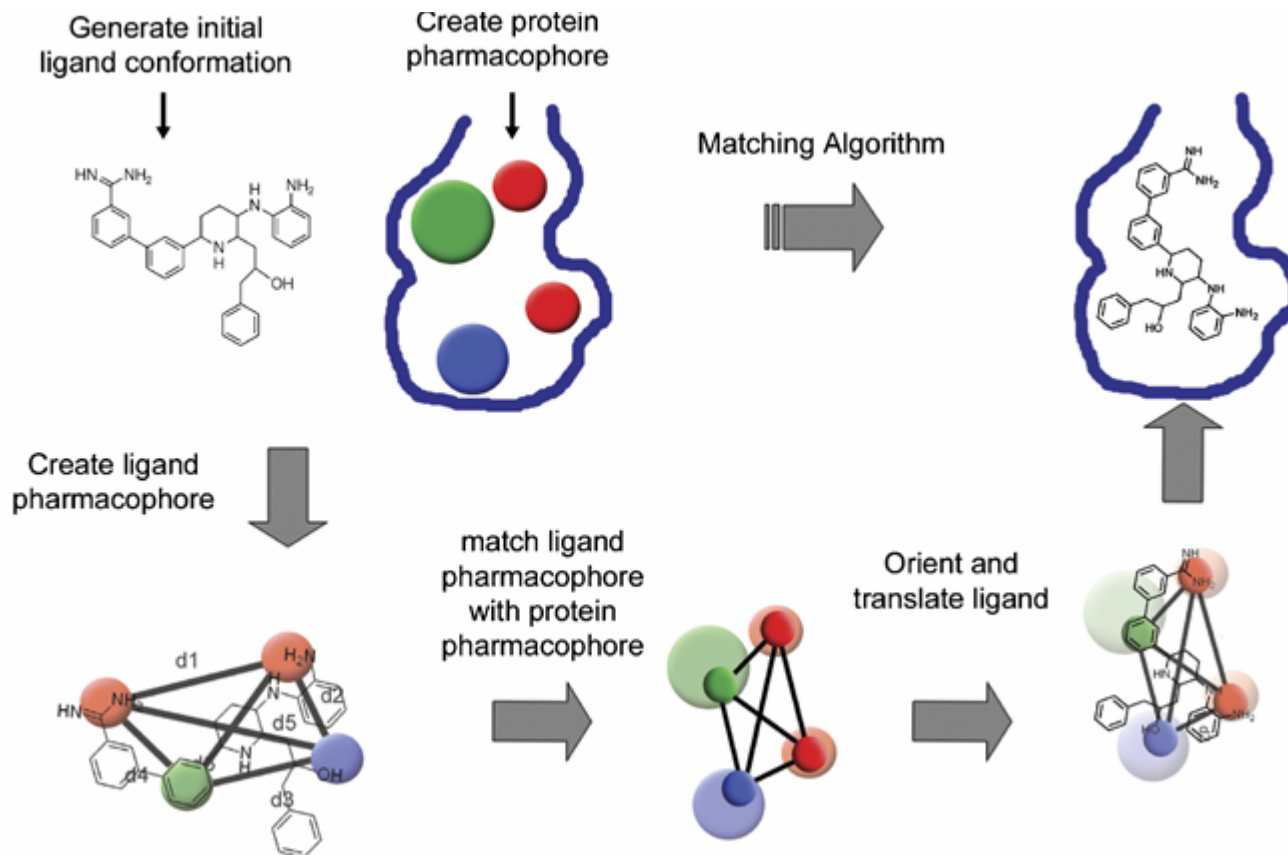
- the bound conformation of the ligand
- the respective orientation of the ligand v. protein

Pose

Step 1. Conformational sampling of the ligand in the protein, active site

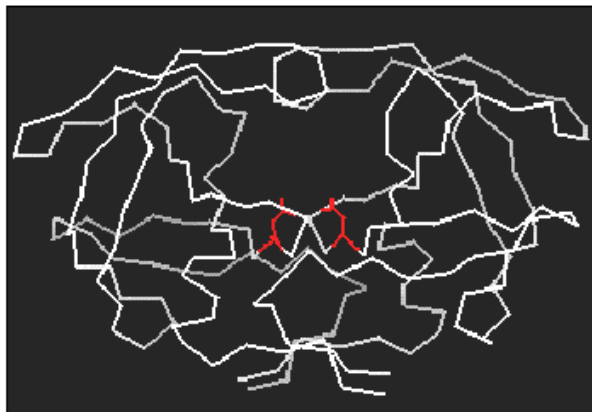
Step 2. Scoring each pose with a scoring function

1. Rigid body docking (DOCK, FRED)

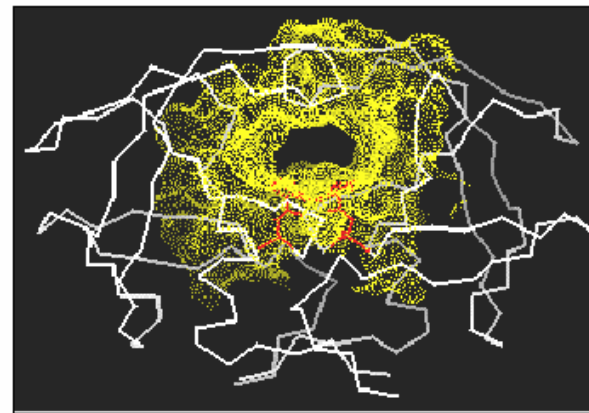


Conformational sampling methods

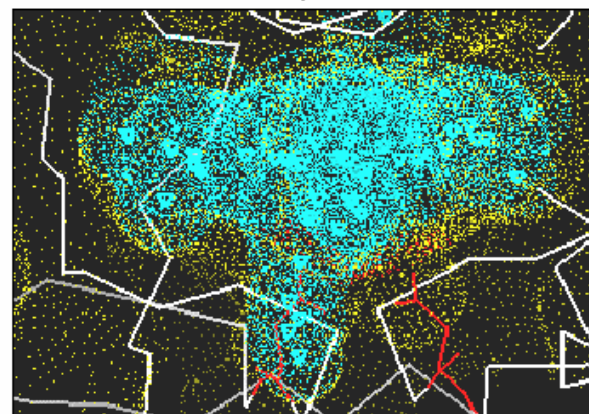
Surface-based orientation (e.g. DOCK)



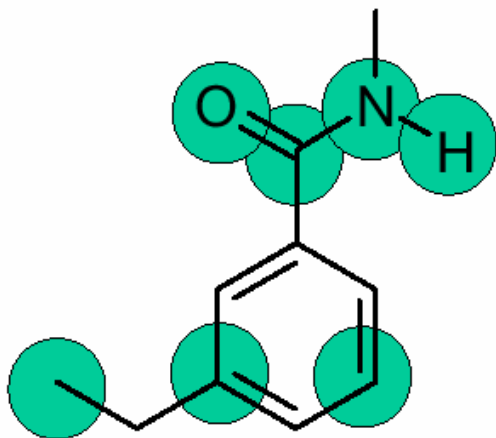
1. 3D structure



2. Molecular surface (active site)

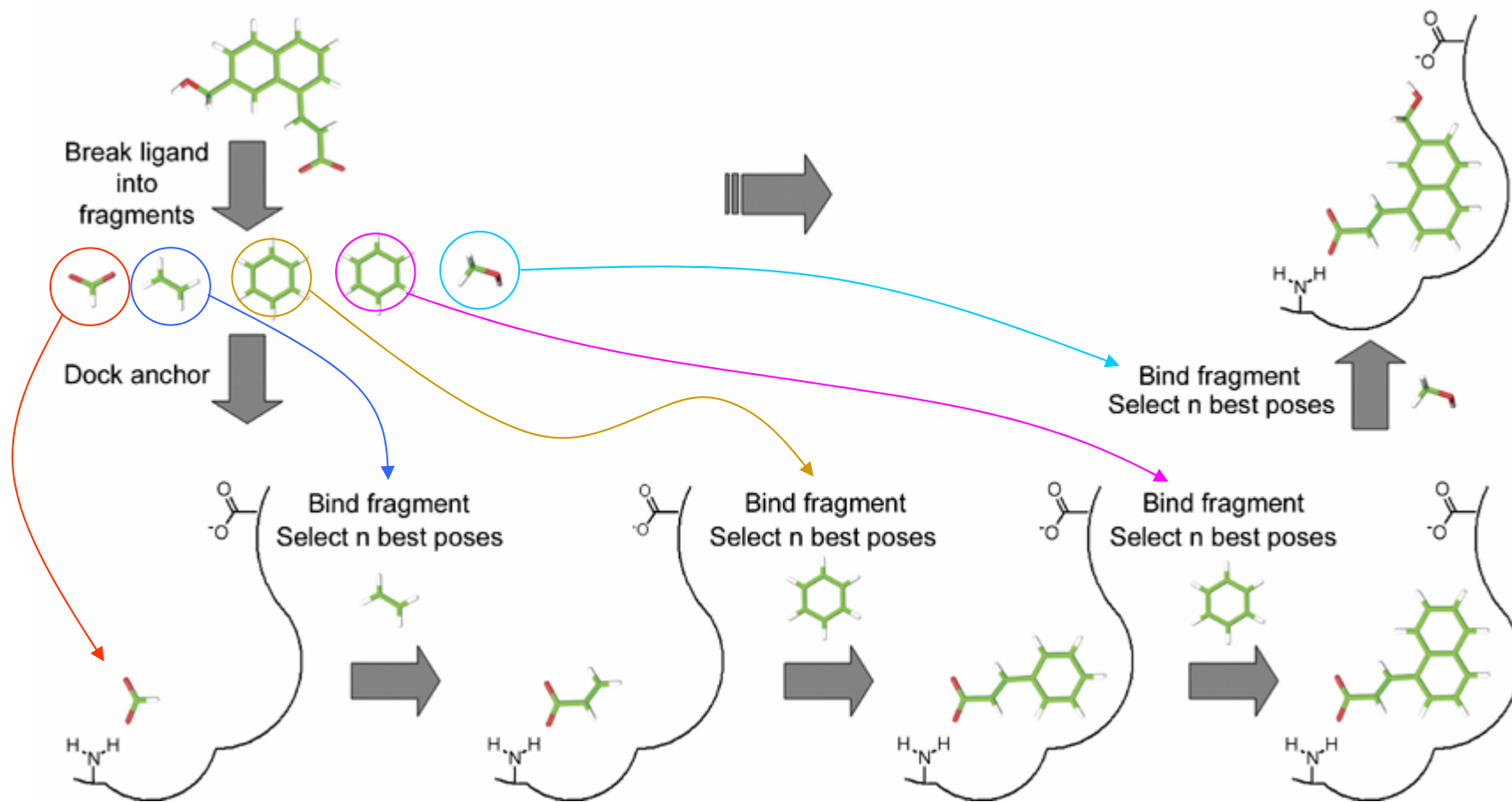


3. Filling the surface by overlapping spheres



4. Matching sphere centers with atoms

2. Incremental construction (Dock, FlexX, Surflex, eHITS)

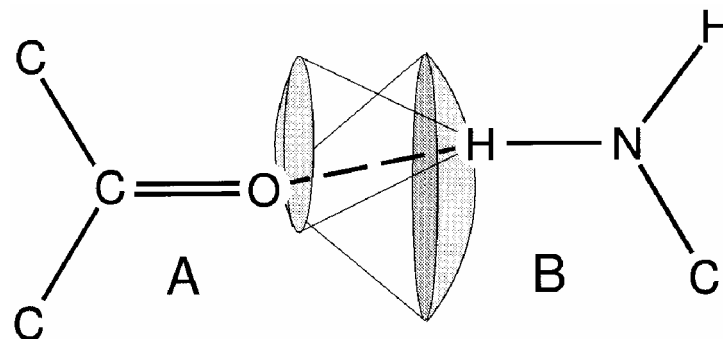


Conformational sampling methods

FlexX: Rarey et al. *J. Comp.-Aid. Mol. Design* (1996) **10**, 41-54

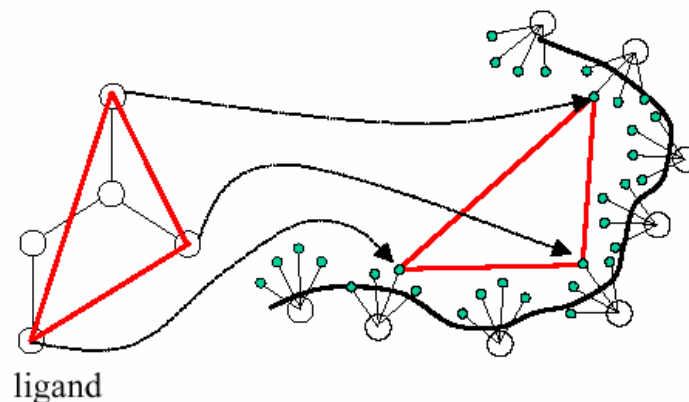
1. Interaction centers and interaction surfaces identified on both receptor (A) and ligand (B)

- H bond
- Salt bridges
- Aromatics
- methyl-aromatics
- amide-aromatics



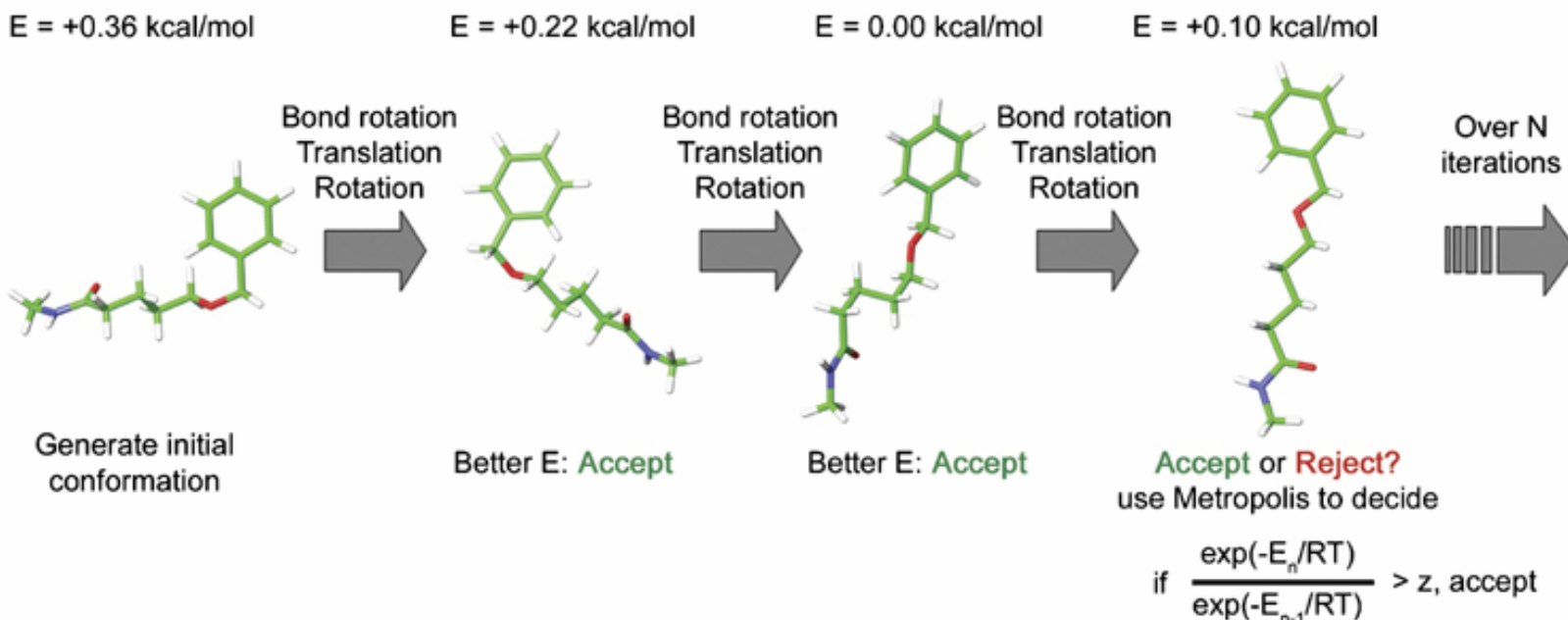
2. Match if overlap of complementary interaction centers/surfaces

3. Ligand placement using triangulation



3. Stochastic methods : MC, MD, GA

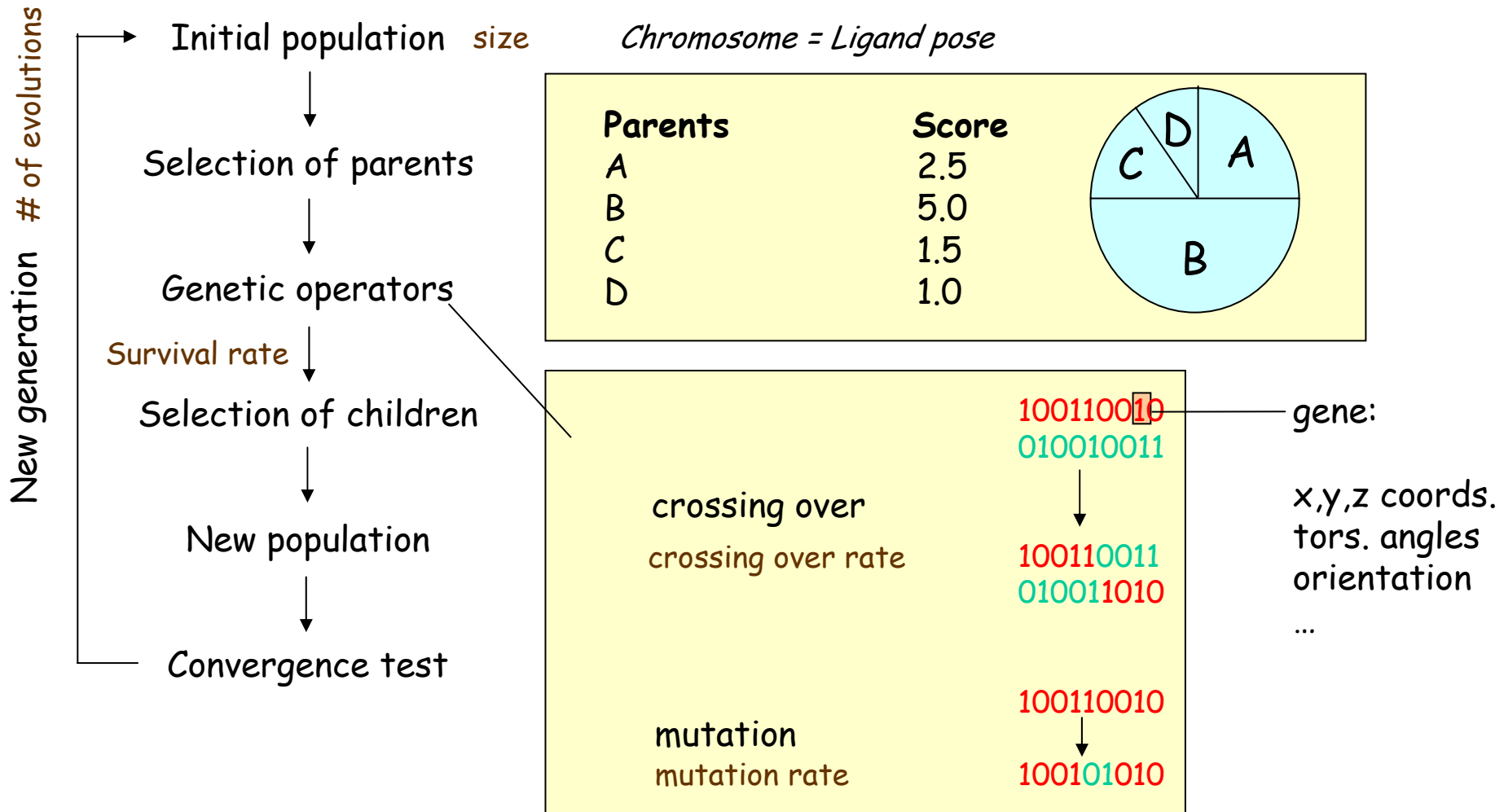
Monte Carlo (MC): Glide



Conformational sampling methods

3. Stochastic methods : MC, MD, GA (Gold, AutoDock, Glide)

Genetic algorithm (GA): Gold, AutoDock



Which Scoring function ?



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Over 30 scoring functions around

Which one to take ?

Which Scoring function ?



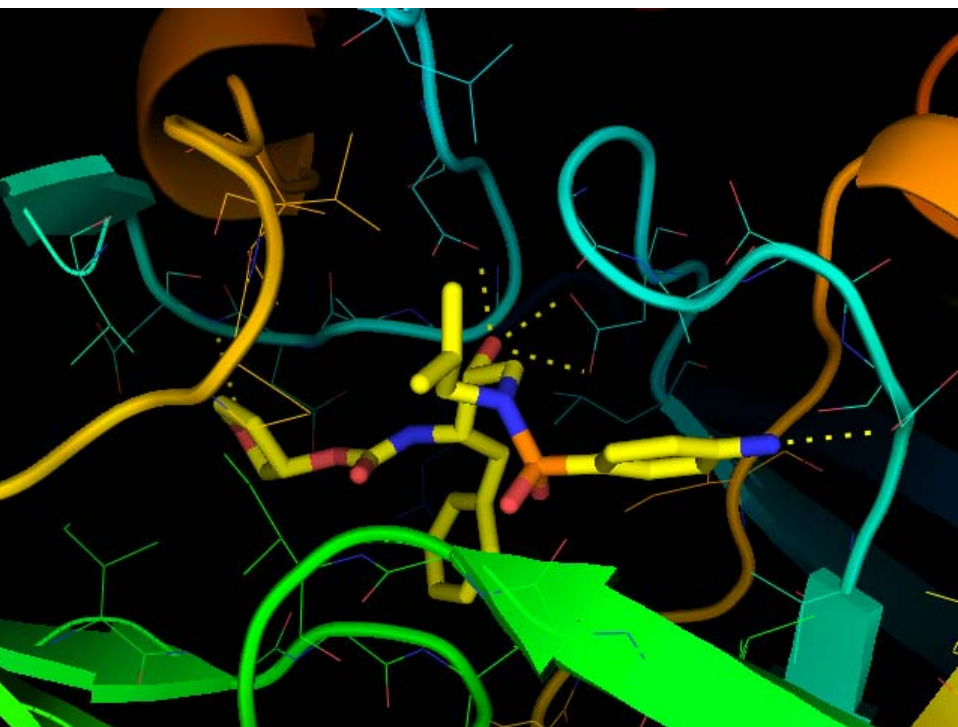
Scoring function	Software implementations	Class	Reference(s)
ChemScore	GOLD, FRED, CScore, PRO_LEADS	Empirical	(Eldridge <i>et al.</i> , 1997)
eHiTS SF	eHiTS	Empirical	(Zsoldos <i>et al.</i> , 2003)
FlexX SF	FlexX	Empirical	(Rarey <i>et al.</i> , 1996)
Fresno	<i>Standalone</i>	Empirical	(Rognan <i>et al.</i> , 1999)
GlideScore	Glide	Empirical	(Friesner <i>et al.</i> , 2004, 2006)
Hammerhead SF	Hammerhead, Surflex, LigandFit	Empirical	(Jain, 1996)
HINT	<i>Standalone</i>	Empirical	(Cozzini <i>et al.</i> , 2002)
LigScore	LigandFit	Empirical	(Krammer <i>et al.</i> , 2005)
PLP	LigandFit, FRED, DockIt	Empirical	(Gehlhaar <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
RankScore	FITTED	Empirical/FF	(Moitessier <i>et al.</i> , 2006a)
SAFE_p	<i>None</i>	Empirical/FF	(Sussman <i>et al.</i> , 2002)
SCORE	<i>Standalone</i>	Empirical	(Wang <i>et al.</i> , 1998)
SCORE 3.0	PSI-DOCK	Empirical	(Pei <i>et al.</i> , 2006)
SCORE1	LUDI	Empirical	(Böhm, 1994)
SCORE2	LUDI	Empirical	(Böhm, 1998)
ScreenScore	FRED	Empirical/consensus	(Stahl and Rarey, 2001)
SIE	<i>Standalone</i>	Empirical/FF	(Naim <i>et al.</i> , 2007)
SLIDE SCORE	SLIDE	Empirical	(Schnecke and Kuhn, 2000)
VALIDATE	<i>Standalone</i>	Empirical/FF	(Head <i>et al.</i> , 1996)
X-Score	<i>Standalone</i>	Empirical/consensus	(Wang <i>et al.</i> , 2002)
AutoDock SF	AutoDock, SODOCK	FF/empirical	(Morris <i>et al.</i> , 1998)
DockScore	DOCK, CScore	FF	(Meng <i>et al.</i> , 1992)
GoldScore	GOLD, CScore	FF	(Jones <i>et al.</i> , 1997)
HADDOCK Score	HADDOCK	FF	(van Dijk <i>et al.</i> , 2006b)
ICM SF	ICM	FF	(Abagyan <i>et al.</i> , 1994b)
QXP SF	QXP/MCDOCK	FF	(McMartin and Bohacek, 1997)
BLEEP	<i>Standalone</i>	Knowledge based	(Mitchell <i>et al.</i> , 1999)
DrugScore ^{CSD}	<i>Standalone</i>	Knowledge based	(Velec <i>et al.</i> , 2005)
DrugScore ^{PDB}	<i>Standalone</i>	Knowledge based	(Gohlke <i>et al.</i> , 2000)
M-Score	<i>Standalone</i>	Knowledge based	(Yang <i>et al.</i> , 2006)
PMF	CScore, LigandFit, BioMedCACHé, DockIt	Knowledge based	(Muegge and Martin, 1999; Muegge, 2006)
SMoG	SMoG	Knowledge based	(DeWitte and Shakhnovich, 1996; Ishchenko and Shakhnovich, 2002)

Abbreviations: FF, force field; SF, scoring function.

Scoring functions

Two aims:

- ✓ Rank docking poses by decreasing interaction energy
 - ✓ Predict the absolute binding free energy (affinity) of compounds
- ?



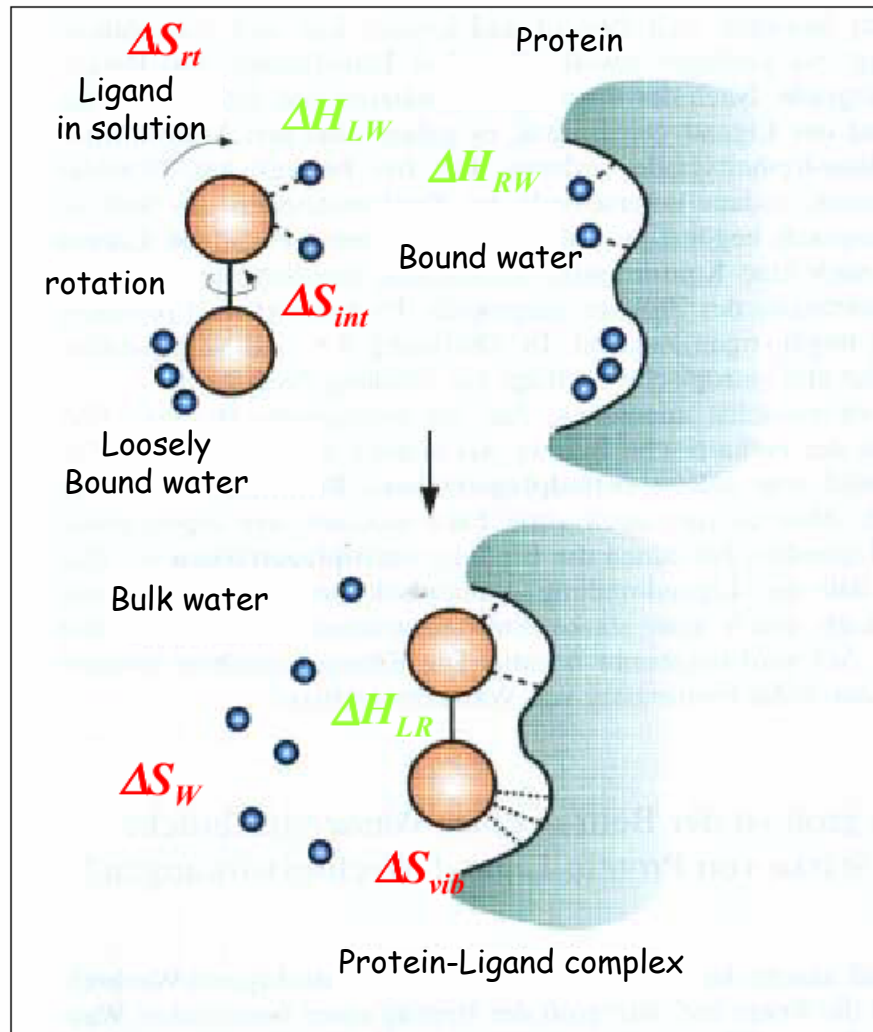
$$\Delta G_{\text{binding}} = RT \cdot \log K_D$$

Binding free energy

*Equilibrium
dissociation
constant*

$$\Delta G_{\text{binding}} = f(\text{Interactions})$$

Scoring ΔG_{bind} is extraordinarily difficult



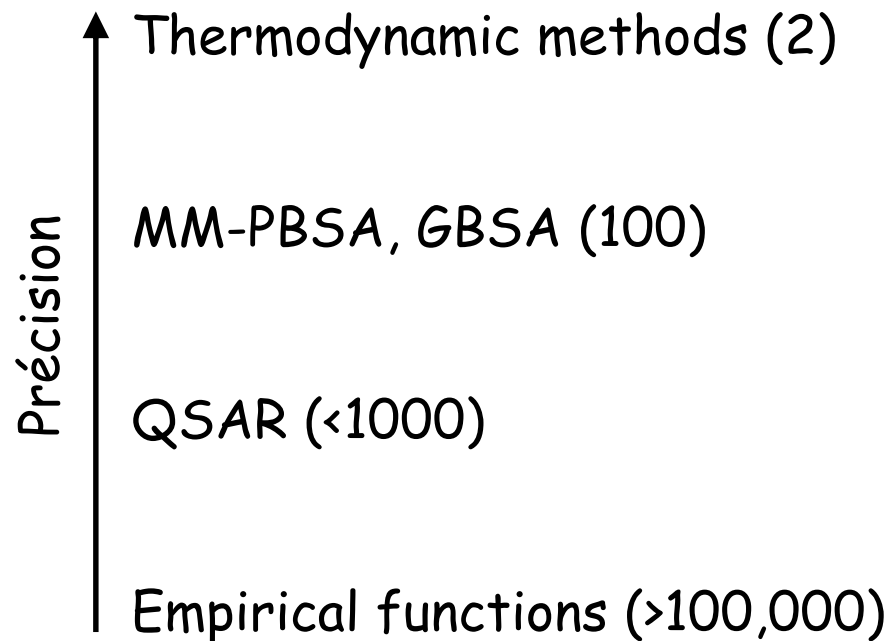
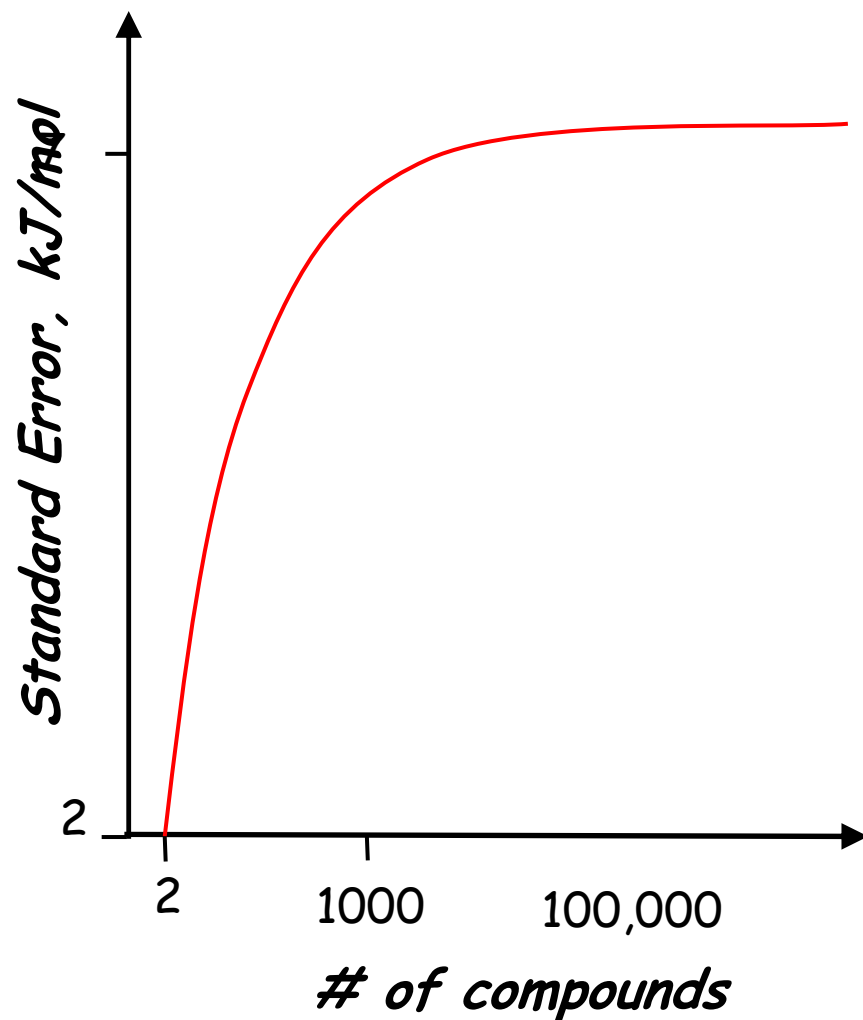
Binding free energy

$$\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$$

↓ Entropy

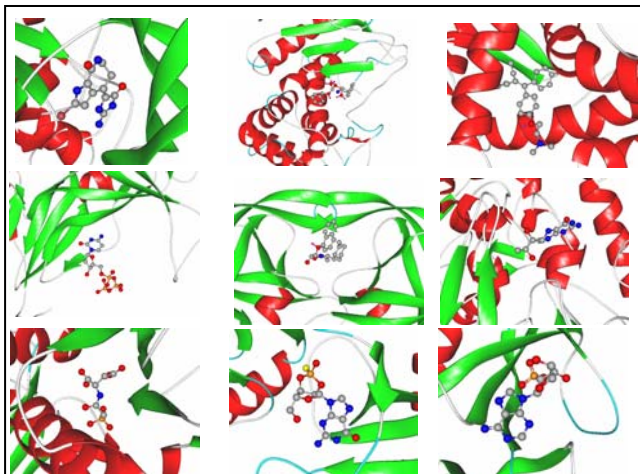
↓ Enthalpy

Predicting binding free energies

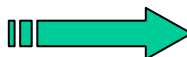


Empirical Scoring functions

Ludi, FlexX, Glidescore, Chemscore, Fresno, PLP



Protein-Ligand complexes (PDB)



$$\Delta G_{bind} =$$

$$\Delta G_0$$

$$+ \Delta G_{hb} \sum_{hb} f(\Delta R, \Delta \alpha)$$

H-bond

$$+ \Delta G_{ionic} \sum_{ionic} f(\Delta R, \Delta \alpha)$$

Ionic

$$+ \Delta G_{lipo} \sum_{hb} |A_{lipo}|$$

Lipophilic

$$+ \Delta G_{rot} NROT$$

Rotation

ΔG_0 : constant term $\Leftrightarrow$ entropy lost

ΔG_{hb} : contribution of one perfect H-bond

$f(\Delta R, \Delta \alpha)$: penalty for bad geometry

ΔG_{ionic} : ionic contribution

ΔG_{lipo} : lipophilic contribution

A_{lipo} : lipophilic contact surface

ΔG_{rot} : lost of free energy due to internal rotation

$Nrot$: number of rotatable bond



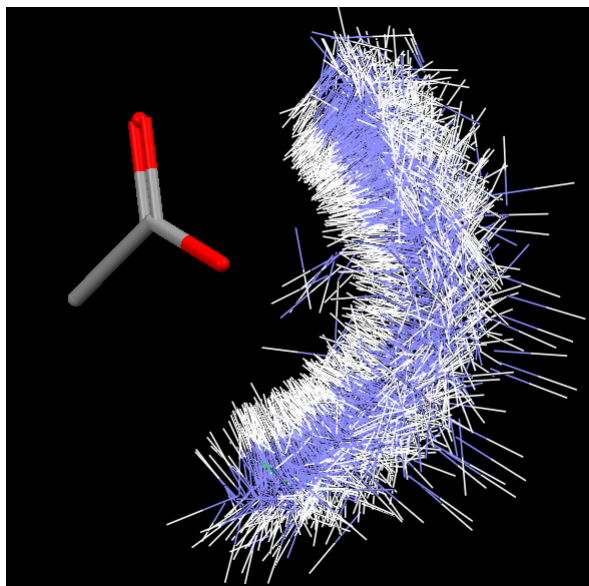
- ✓ fast
- ✓ Implicit inclusion of many effects



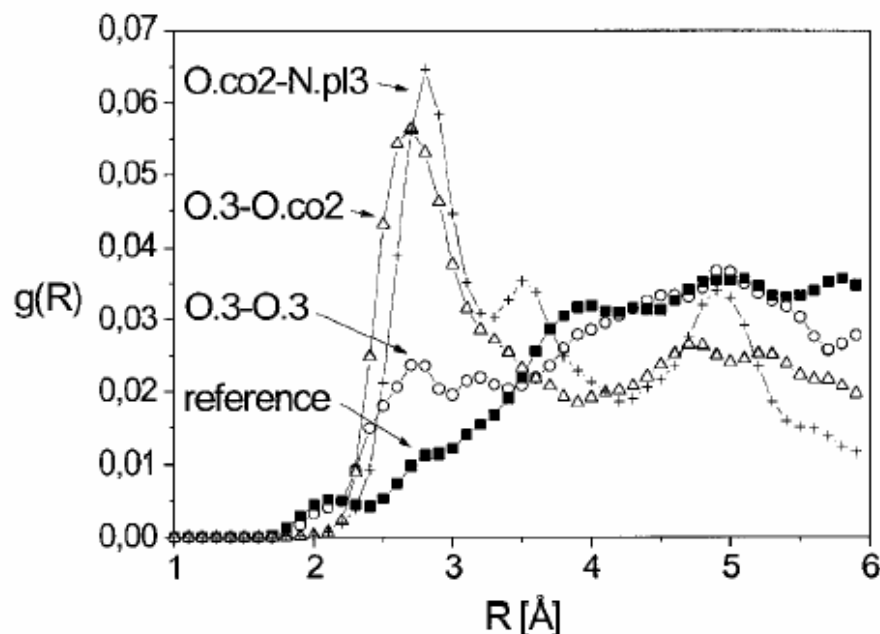
- ✓ Strongly depends on training set
- ✓ No penalty for repulsive interactions

Potentials of mean force

PMF, Drugscore, Bleep, Smog



Pairwise atomic contacts
(O.co2, NH⁺)



No parametrization/fit to experimental values



No intra-molecular contribution

$$A(r) = -K_B T \ln g_{ij}(r)$$

Helmholtz free energy
(atom pair)

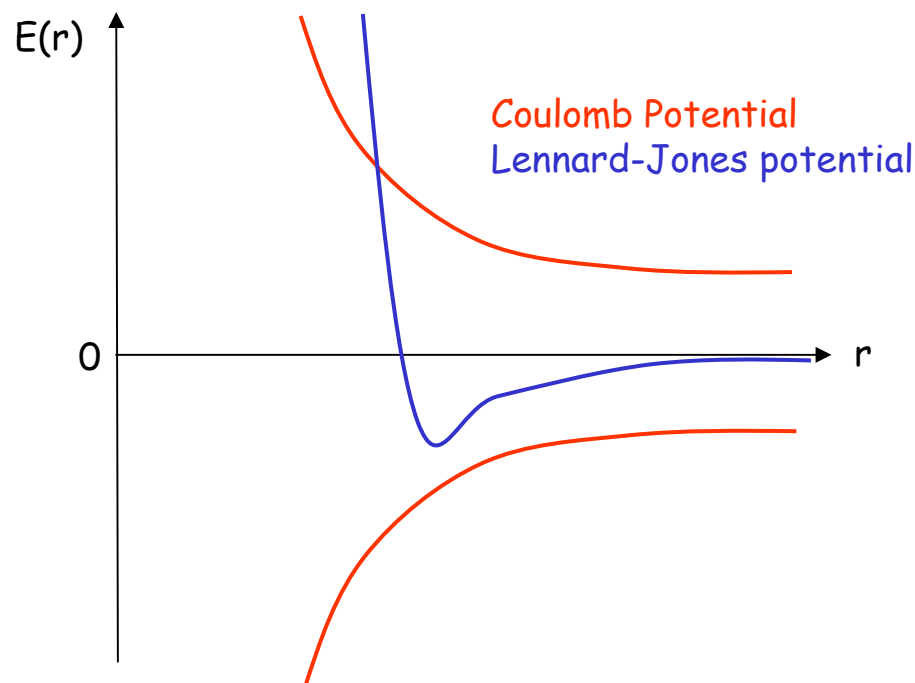
Radial distribution
for distance r

$$\text{Score} = \sum_i \sum_j A(r_{ij})$$

Dock, AutoDock, Goldscore

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^{lig} \sum_{j=1}^{rec} \left[\frac{A_{ij}}{r^{12}} - \frac{B_{ij}}{r^6} + 332 \frac{q_i q_j}{Dr_{ij}} \right]$$

Describes only non-covalent interactions
(Coulomb, Lennard-Jones)



✓ independent of training set

✓ stringly depends on ligand size
(increasing number of interactions)

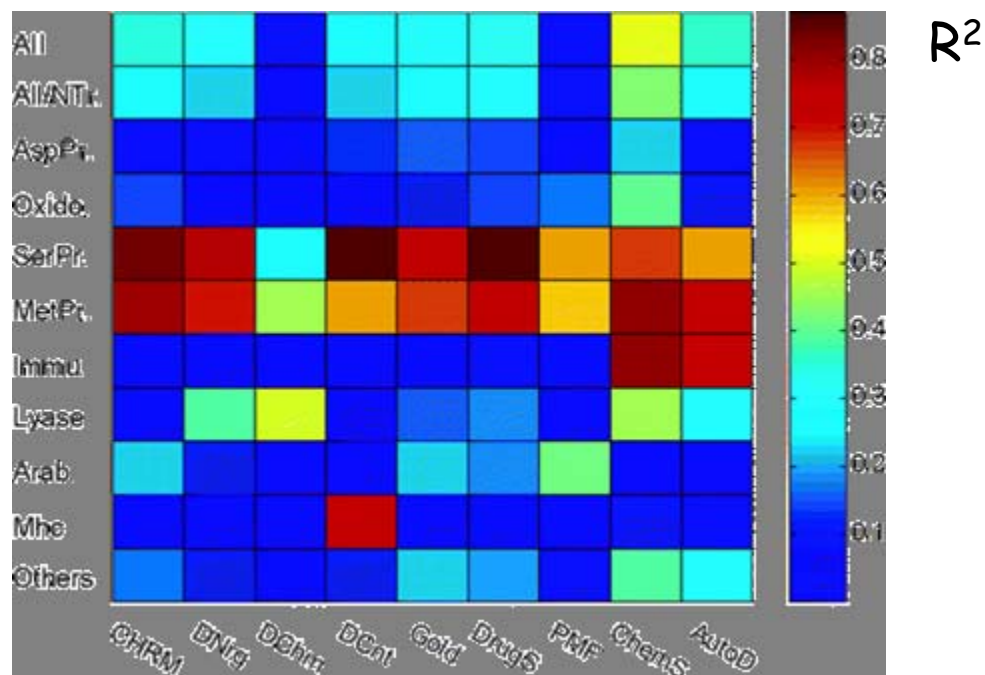
✓ force field accuracy, difficulty to set
parameters

✓ no account for entropic contributions



Predicting ΔG_{bind} is very difficult

Prediction of ΔG_{bind} from 189 high-resolution PDB structures

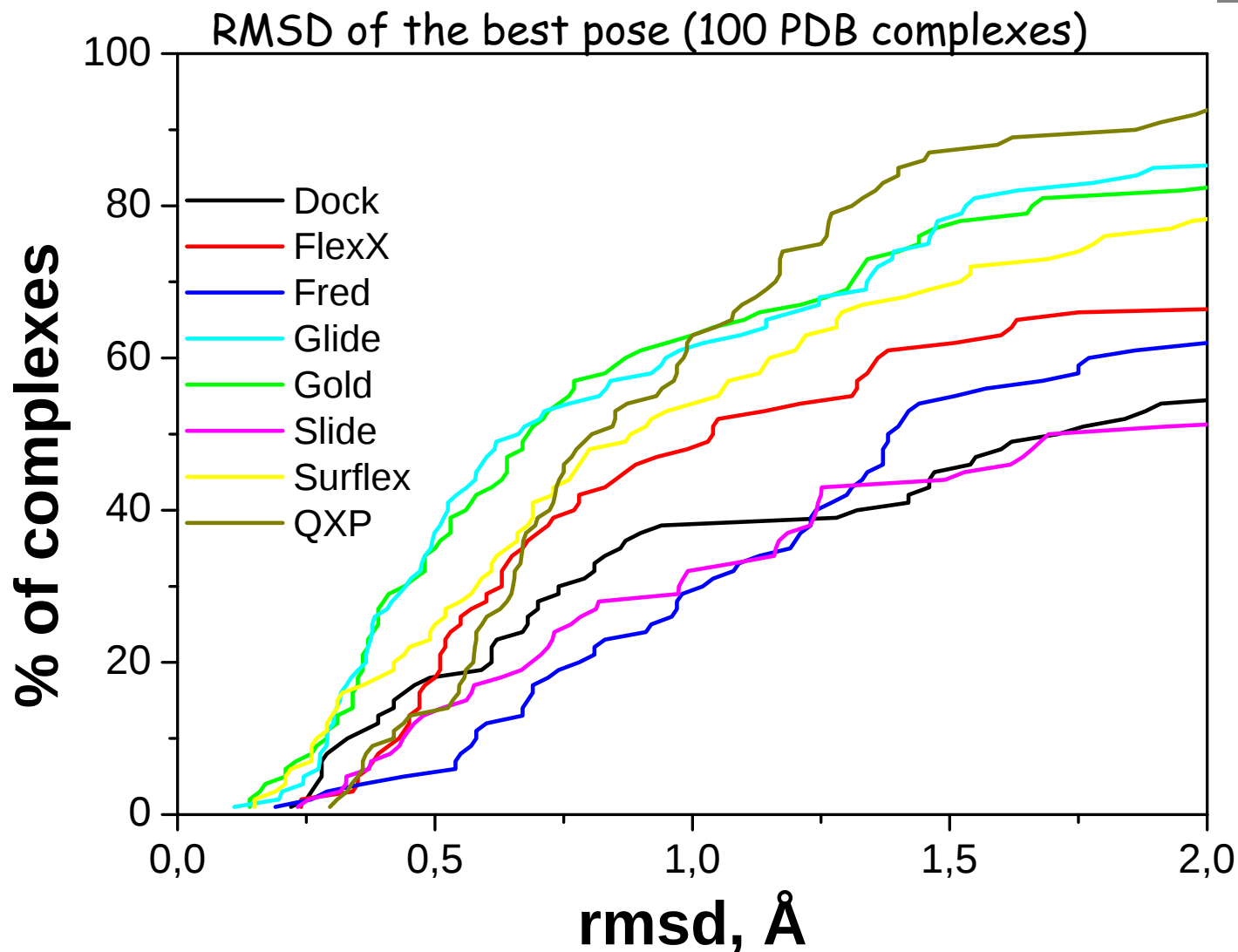


- ✓ High-throughput prediction of ΔG_{bind} is still a challenge
- ✓ Current accuracy : 7-10 kJ/mol (nM - μ M - μ M)
- ✓ Tends to work better for some target families (e.g. proteases) and a set of congeneric ligands

Docking Accuracy

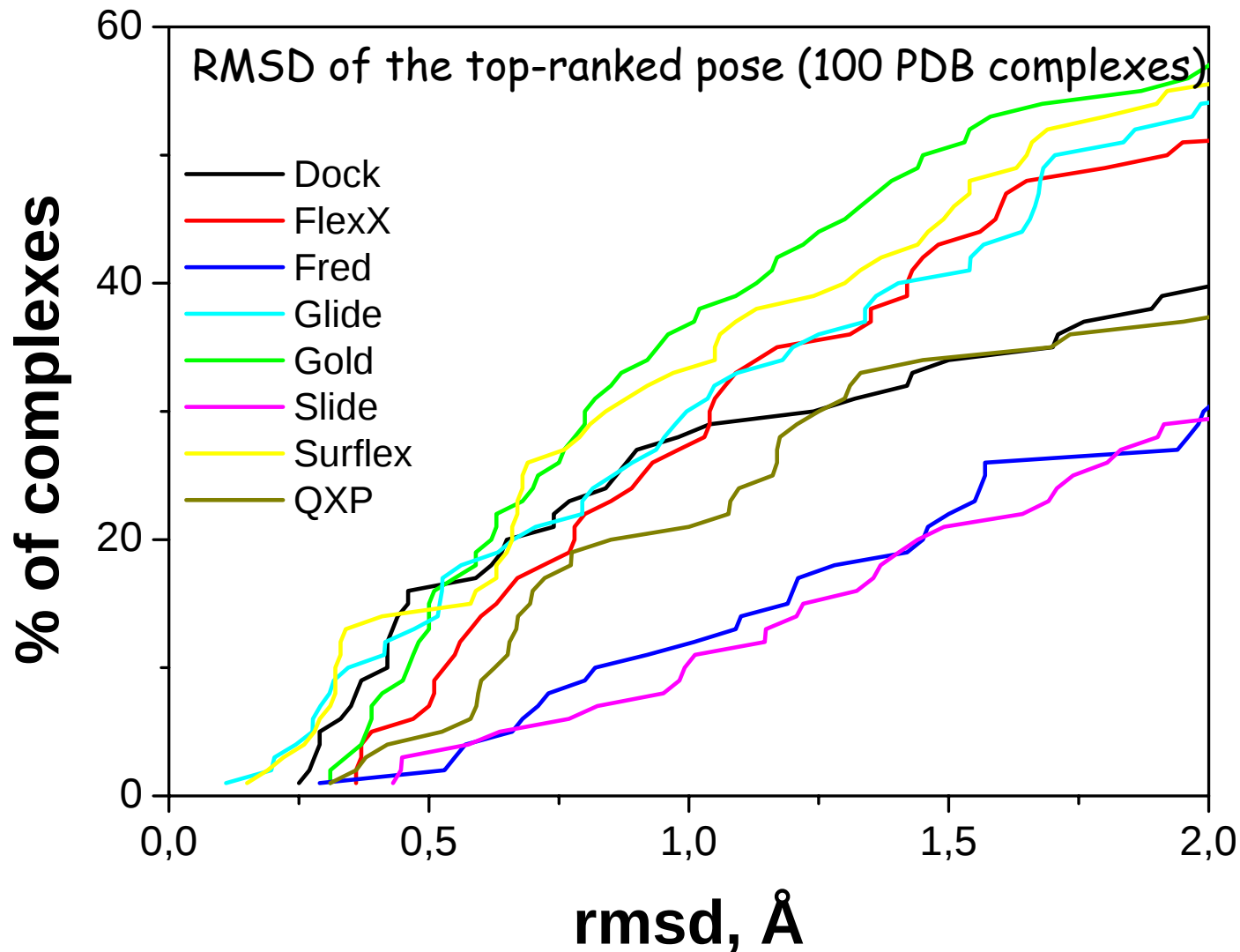


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Finding a reliable pose out of a set of 30 solutions is feasible !

Ranking accuracy



Ranking the most reliable solution at the top of the list is still an issue !

Source of Docking Errors

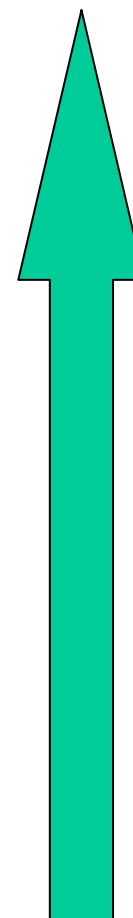


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Nature of the active site
(flat vs. cavity)

Protein flexibility
Missed influence of water
Inaccuracy of the scoring function
Unusual binding mode/interactions
Ligand flexibility
Ligand symmetry

Inadequate set of protein coordinates
Wrong atom typing



Impossible ?

Difficult



Easy

Work-around

Pros and Cons of docking codes



Program	Pros	Cons
DOCK	small binding sites opened cavities small hydrophobic ligands	flexible ligands highly polar ligands
FLEXX	small binding sites small hydrophobic ligands	very flexible ligands
FRED	large binding sites flexible ligands small hydrophobic ligands high speed	small polar buried ligands
GLIDE	flexible ligands small hydrophobic ligands	ranking very polar ligands low speed
GOLD	small binding sites small hydrophobic ligands	ranking very polar ligands ranking ligands in large cavities
SLIDE	sidechain flexibility	sensitivity to input coordinates
SURFLEX	large and opened cavities small binding sites very flexible ligands	low speed for large ligands
QXP	optimising known binding modes	Sensitivity to input coordinates

Simplify output

Automated selection of hits (by rank, by score)

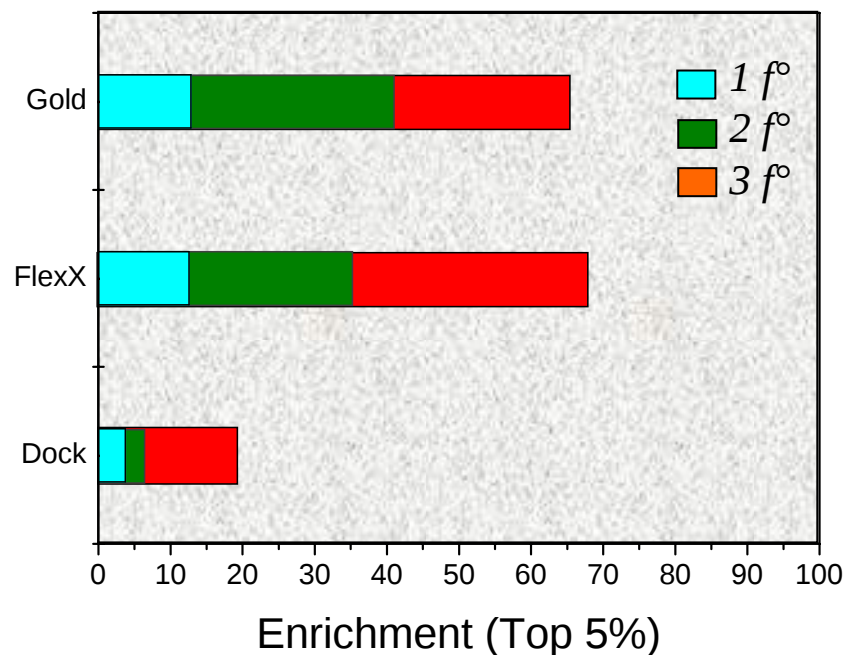
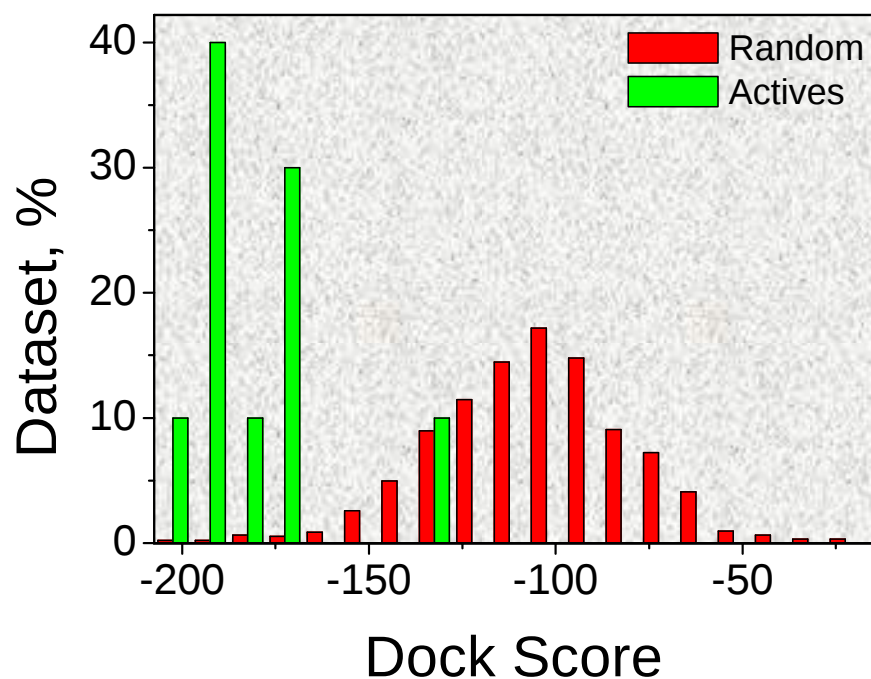
Remove false positives

1. **by consensus scoring** (Charifson et al. *J. Med. Chem.*, **42**, 5100 (1999))
2. by efficient post-processing
3. by analysis of molecular diversity (descriptors, scaffolds)
4. by human inspection (3-D visualisation)

Consensus scoring

Target: LBD Domain of the $\text{E}\alpha$ receptor

Library: 10 known antagonists + 990 randomly-chosen drug-like cpds



Bissantz et al. *J. Med. Chem.*, **43**, 4759 (2000)

The mean value of repeated samplings tends to be closer to the reality

(Wang et al., *JCICS*, 2001, 41, 422-426.)

Simplify output

Automated selection of hits (by rank, by score)

Remove false positives

1. by consensus scoring
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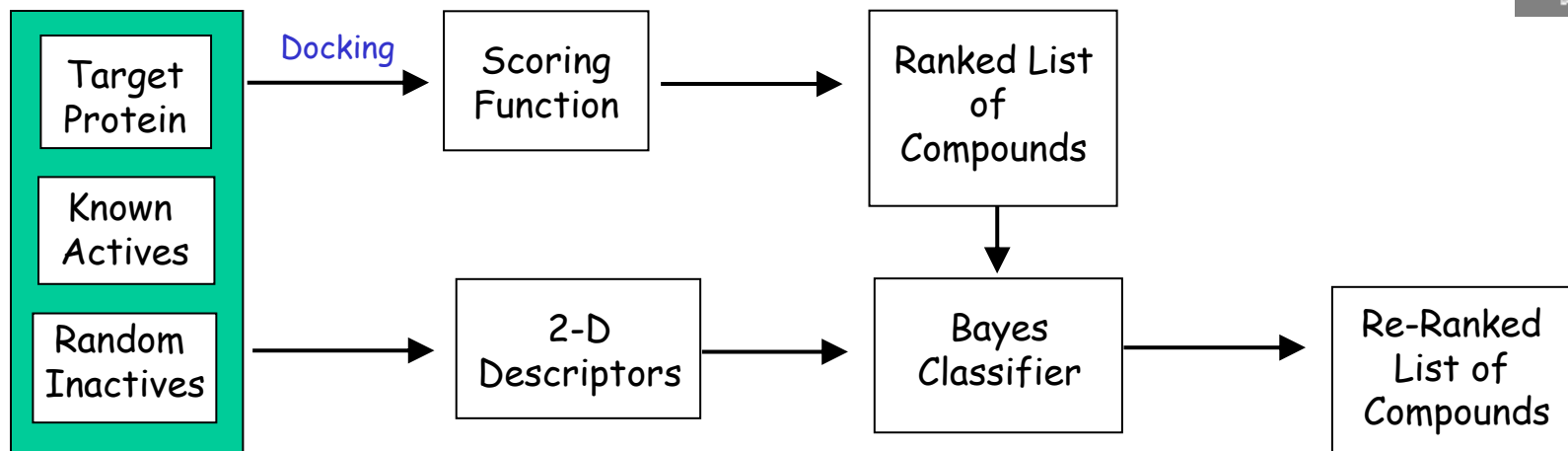
the most investigated area for HTVS:

- challenging virtual hits for consistency of topological and energetical descriptors in order to remove false positives
 - ✗ buriedness of ligand (Stahl et al. *J Mol Graph Model*. 1998)
 - ✗ holes along the protein-ligand complex (Stahl et al. *J Mol Graph Model*. 1998)
 - ✗ Protein side chain entropy (Giordanetto et al. *JCICS*, 2004)
- combining computational methods
 - ✗ Docking + QSAR (Klon et al. *J. Med. Chem.* 2004)
 - ✗ Refining docking poses by MM-PB(GB)/SA (Page et al. *J Comput Chem* 2006)
- using consensus docking (Paul et al. *Proteins*, 2002)
- using a multi-conformers description of the protein (Vigers et al. *J Med Chem*, 2004; Yoon et al. *JCICS*, 2004)
- using a topological scoring function (Marcou et al. *JCIM* 2007)

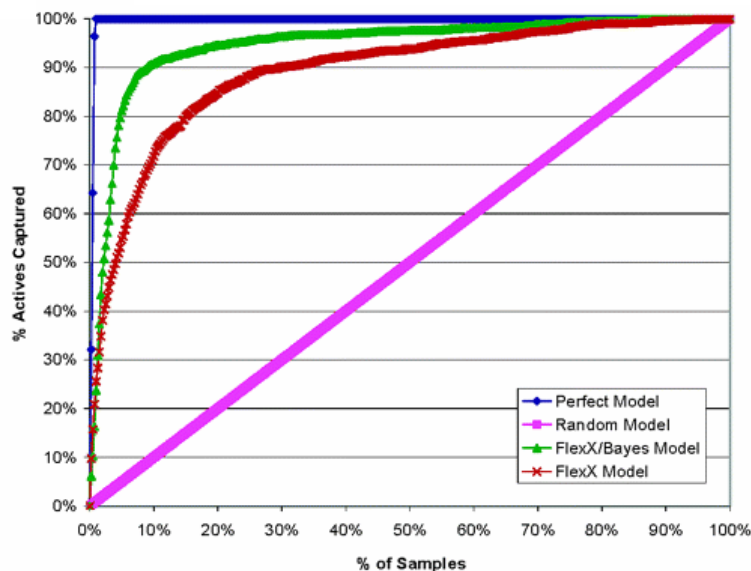
Docking + QSAR



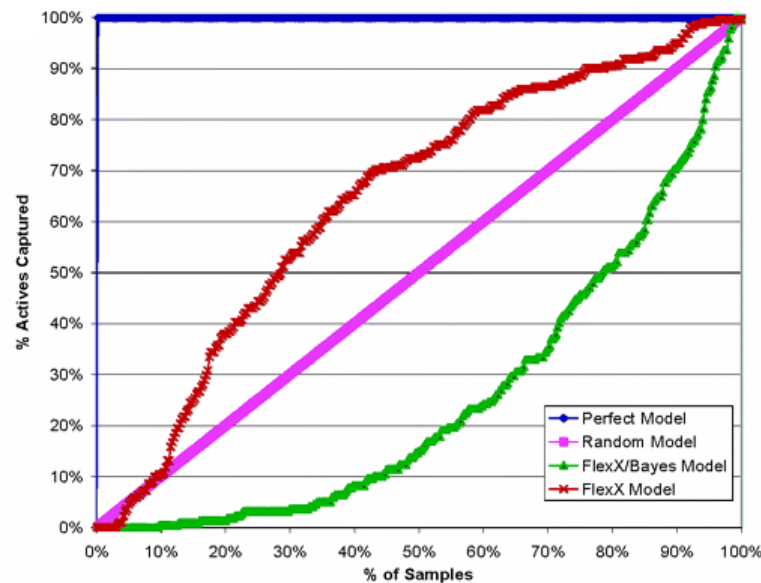
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PTP1B docking with FlexX



PKB docking with FlexX

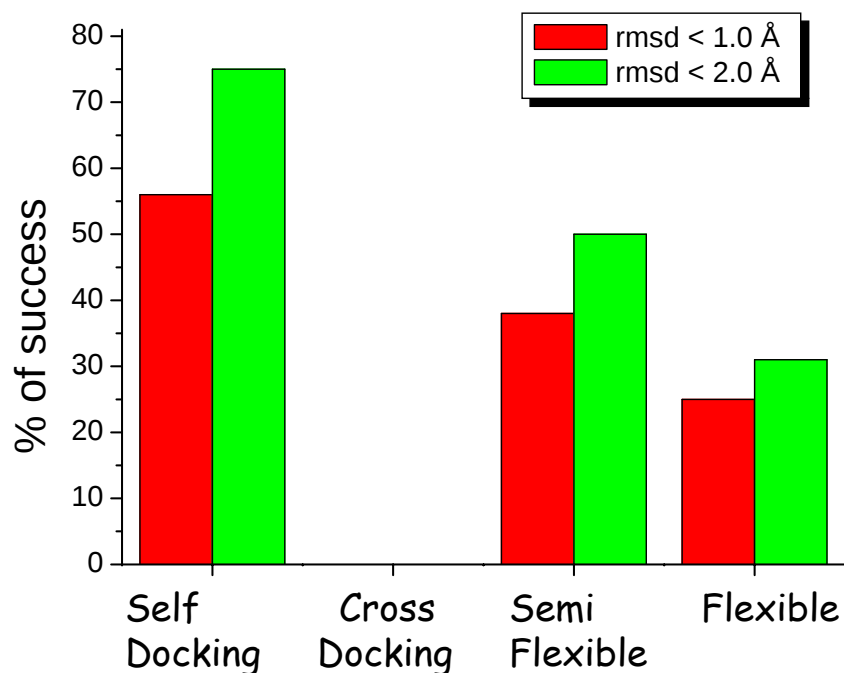


QSAR post-processing is efficient if the docking scores already provide some enrichment !

Flexible Protein-Flexible ligand docking

- Use of soft potentials (e.g. Glide)
- Generate/use several coordinates of the same target (Ensemble docking) & Merge results
e.g. FlexE, AutoDock, FITTED
- Full flexibility (MD, MC, GA) e.g. FLIPDock

Docking of HCV Polymerase inhibitors



Full flexible docking enhance
false positives rate

Ensemble docking is sensitive to
the choice of templates

A minimum of three templates
seem to be mandatory

Alternative treatment of electrostatic interactions

$$\Delta G_{binding} = G_{complex} - G_{protein} - G_{ligand}$$

$$G = E_{MM} + G_{polar} + G_{nonpolar} - TS_{MM}$$

Poisson-Boltzman Eqn
Generalised Born Eqn

~ SASA

G : average free energy

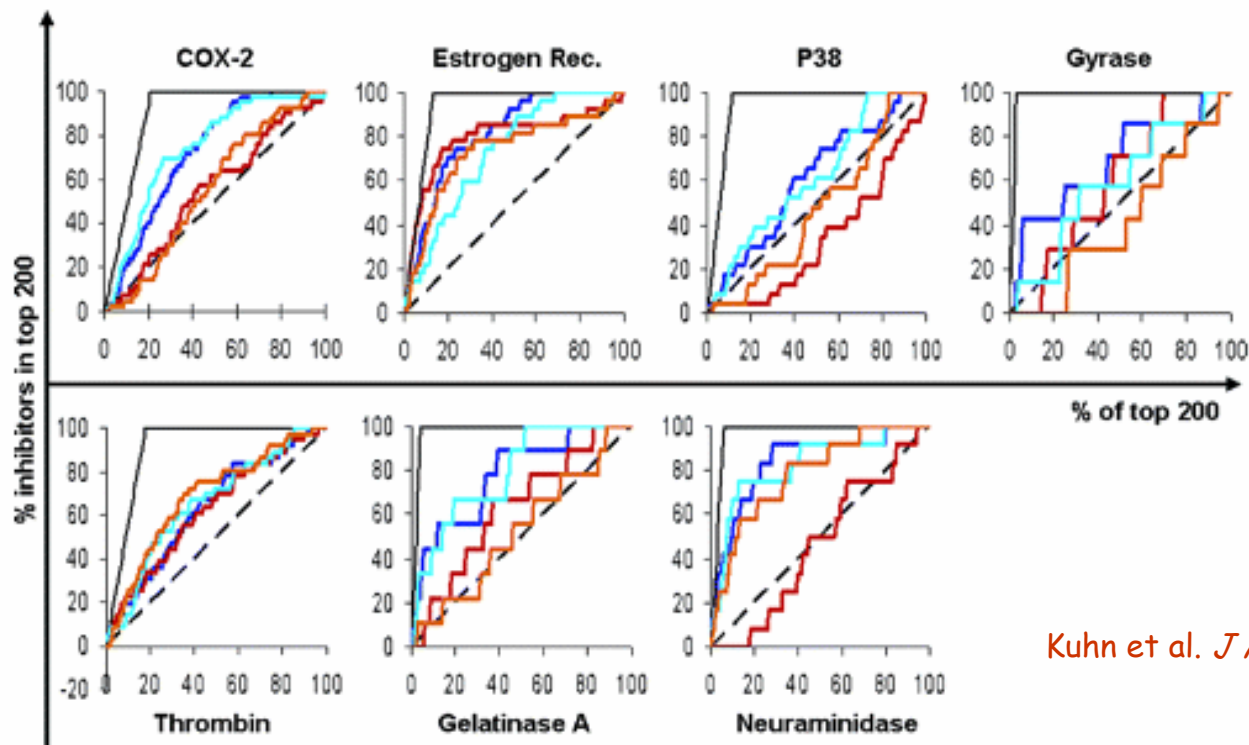
E_{MM} : average sum of molecular mechanical energy terms

($E_{bond} + E_{angle} + E_{torsion} + E_{vdW} + E_{electrostatic}$)

$G_{polar} + G_{nonpolar}$: free energy of the solvent continuum

TS_{MM} : Entropy of the solute (MD, NM)

Refining docking poses par MM-PB/SA, MM-GB/SA



Ranking

Fred/Chemscore
MM (MAB*)
MM(MAB*)-PB/SA
MM(GAFF)-PB/SA

Kuhn et al. *J Med Chem*, 2004, 48,4040-4048

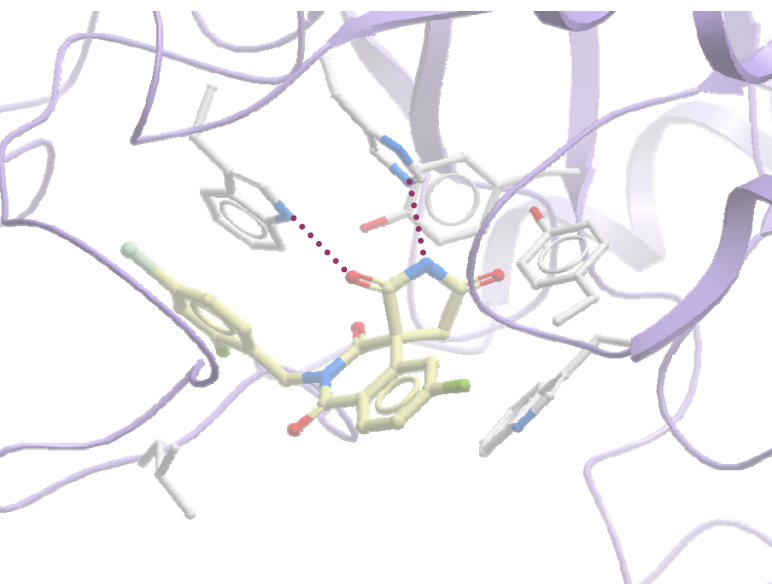


Better treatment of solvation effects
Penalize polar-apolar mismatches
Fast enough for a few hundreds of ligands
ok for a set of highly congeneric cpds



MM-PBSA benefit is target-dependent
Still unsuitable for chemically diverse ligands

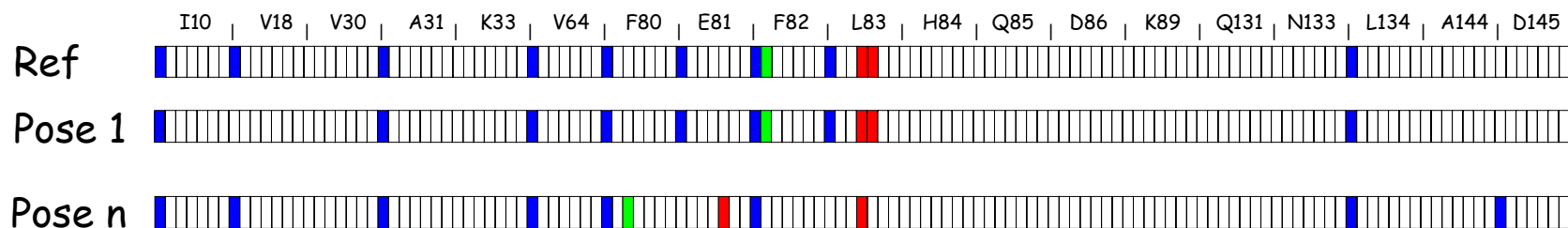
Use of topological scoring functions



OEChem

Molecular Interactions

1. Hydrophobic
2. Aromatic/aromatic (face to face)
3. Aromatic/aromatic: (edge to face)
4. H-bond (acceptor → donor)
5. H-bond (donor → acceptor)
6. Ionic interaction (neg → pos)
7. Ionic interaction (pos → neg)
8. Weak H-bonds (acceptor → donor)
9. Weak H-bonds (donor → acceptor)
10. Pi-cation interactions
11. Metal complexation

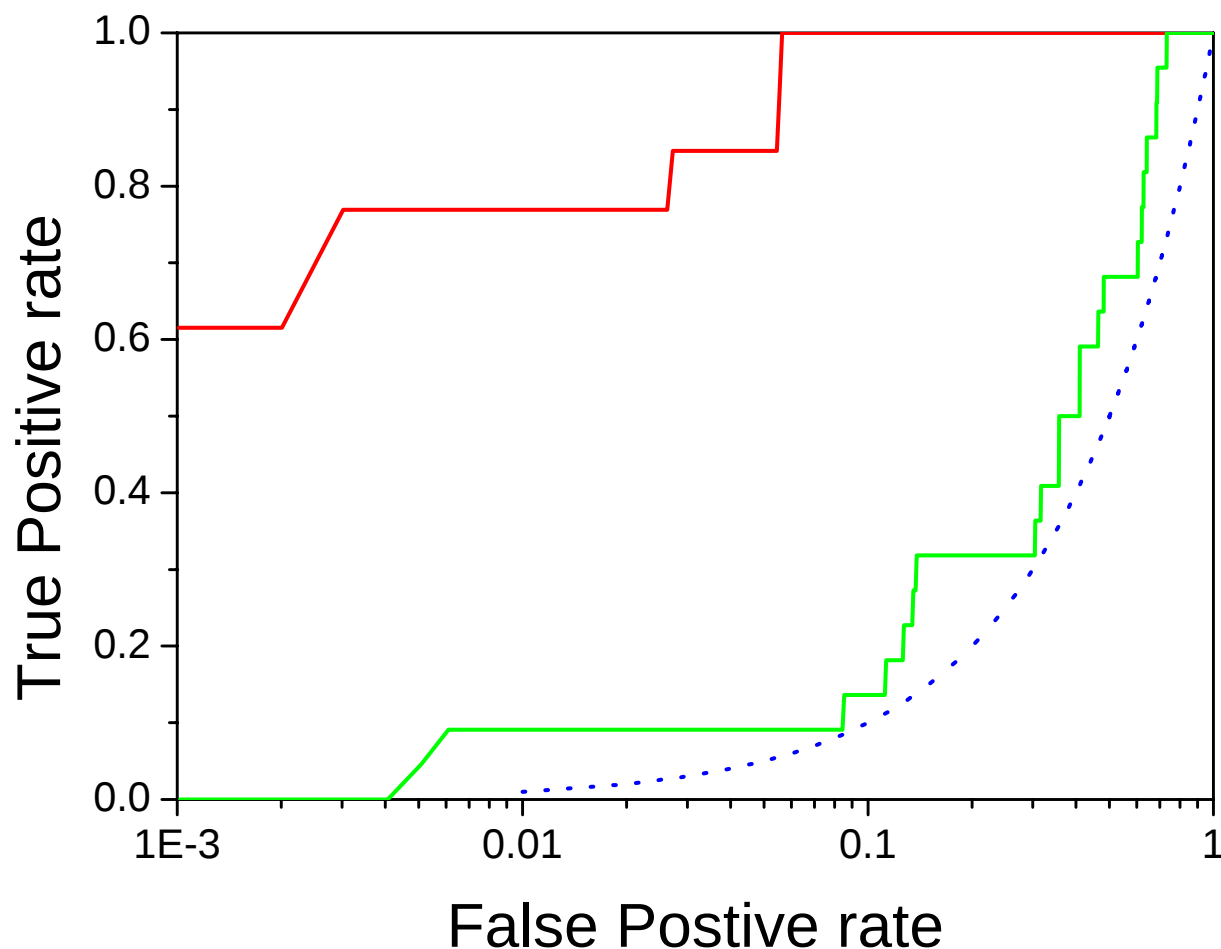


Rank poses by decreasing
IFP similarity (IFP-Tc)

Cluster poses by IFP diversity

Use of topological scoring functions

GOLD docking of $\beta 2$ full/partial agonists in an 'early active state model of the $\beta 2$ receptor



IFP score (ROC=0.99)

Goldscore (ROC=0.61)

Random picking

Simplify output

Automated selection of hits (by rank, by score)

Remove false positives

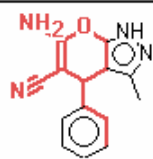
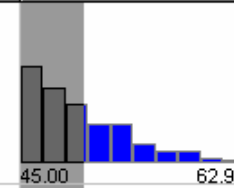
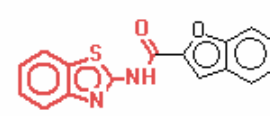
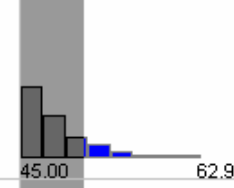
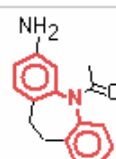
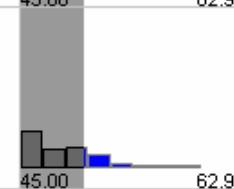
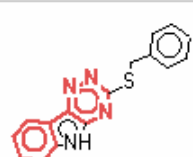
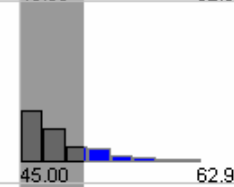
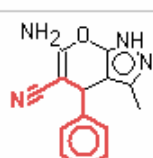
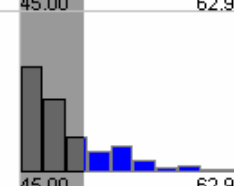
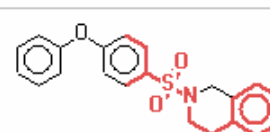
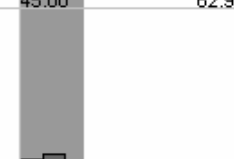
1. by consensus scoring
2. by efficient post-processing
3. by molecular diversity (descriptors, scaffolds)
4. by human inspection (3-D visualisation)

- Virtual hits sharing the same scaffold and the same pose tends to be true positives
 - Individual numerical values are less important than their distribution in ligand space
-
- scaffold enrichment in virtual hits
 - Distribution of docking scores among classes
 - Applicable to any dataset (vHTS, HTS) independently of prior knowledge

Post-processing by molecular diversity



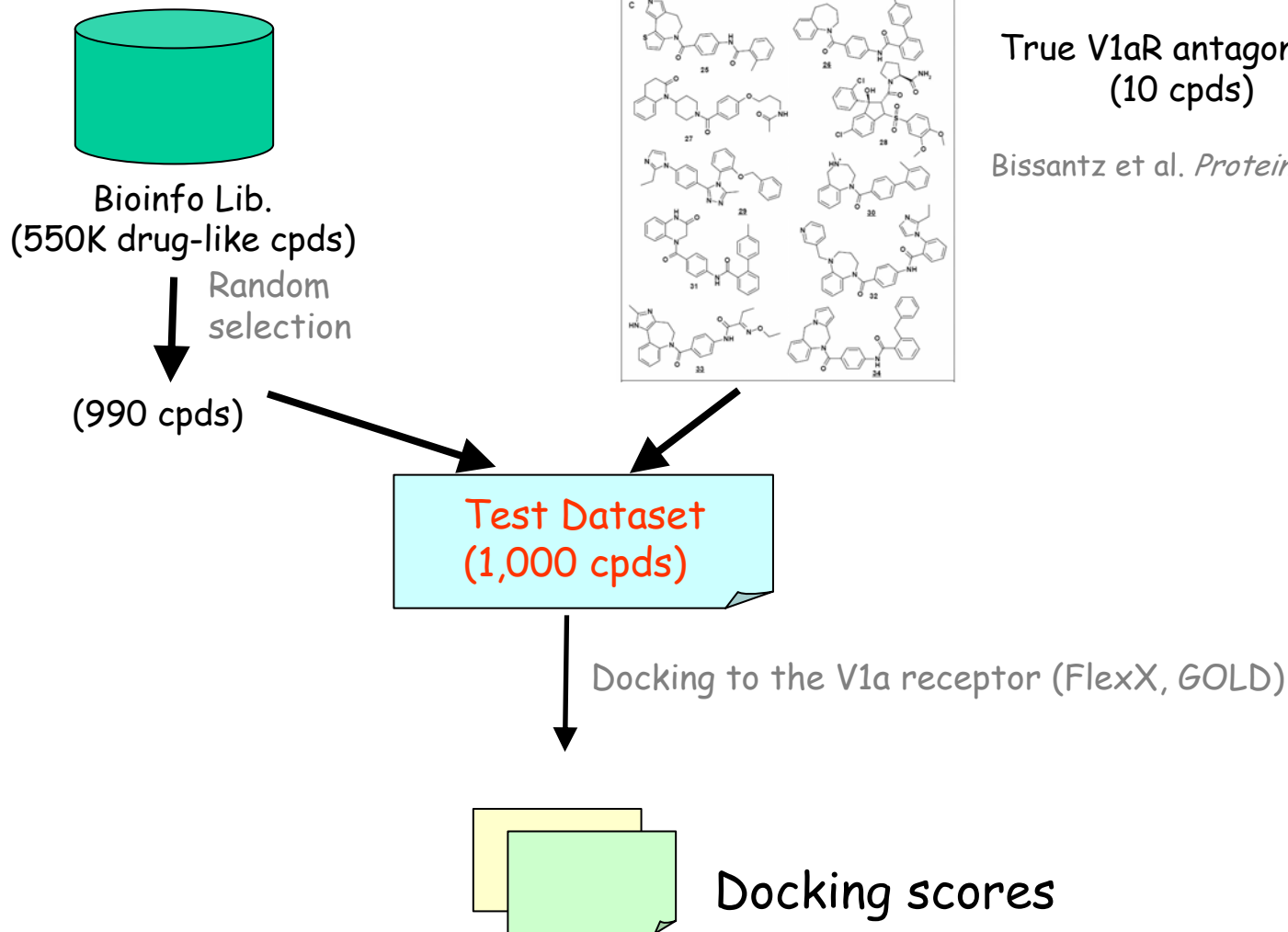
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Bioreason ClassPharmer										
File Edit List View Window Help										
Find Compound ID:		Search...		Find Substructure:		Search...				
Classes Compounds Attributes										
Class	ID	Scaffold	Compounds	Mdn(Gold_Score)	Dst(Gold_Score)	Avg(Gold_Score)	PrbDst(Gold_Score)	%Rng(Gold_Score)	Max(Gold_Score)	
Class	1		429	48.9		49.95	1.0	40	62.96	
Class	6		196	47.08		48.08	0.59	22	59.24	
Class	11		128	48.1		48.61	1.0	28	58.53	
Class	16		161	47.68		48.45	0.97	26	59.2	
Class	17		348	47.82		49.11	1.0	31	62.91	
Class	38		57	47.99		48.89	1.0	29	59.59	

Post-processing by molecular diversity

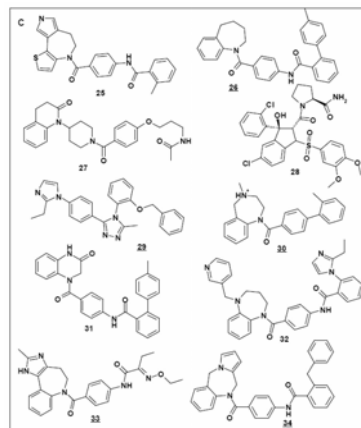


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True V1aR antagonists.
(10 cpds)

Bissantz et al. *Proteins*, **50**, 5-25 (2003)

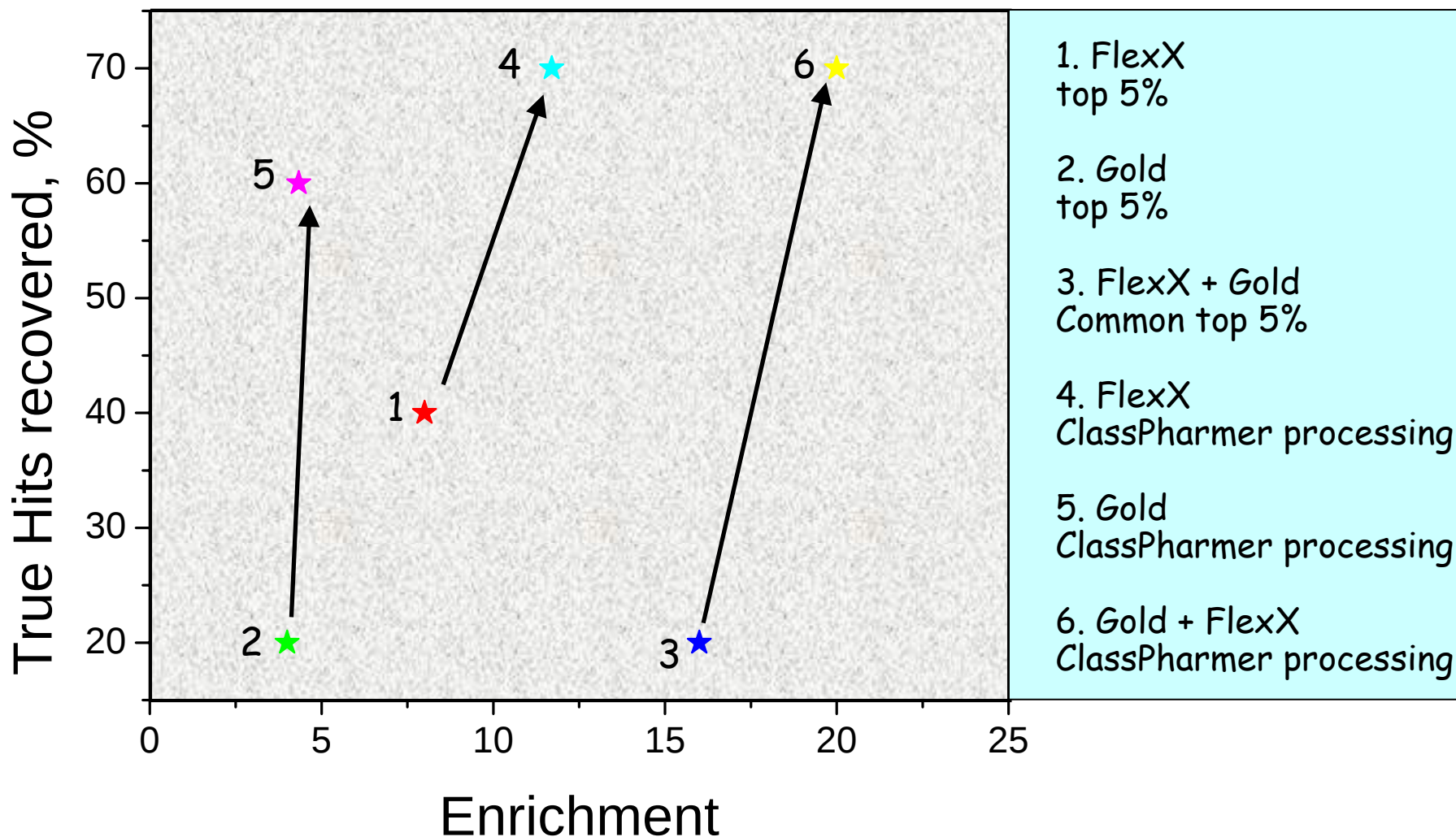


How to prioritise the selection of true hits ?

Post-processing vHTS results



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Enrichment: Enrichment in true hits over random picking

Simplify output

Automated selection of hits (by rank, by score)

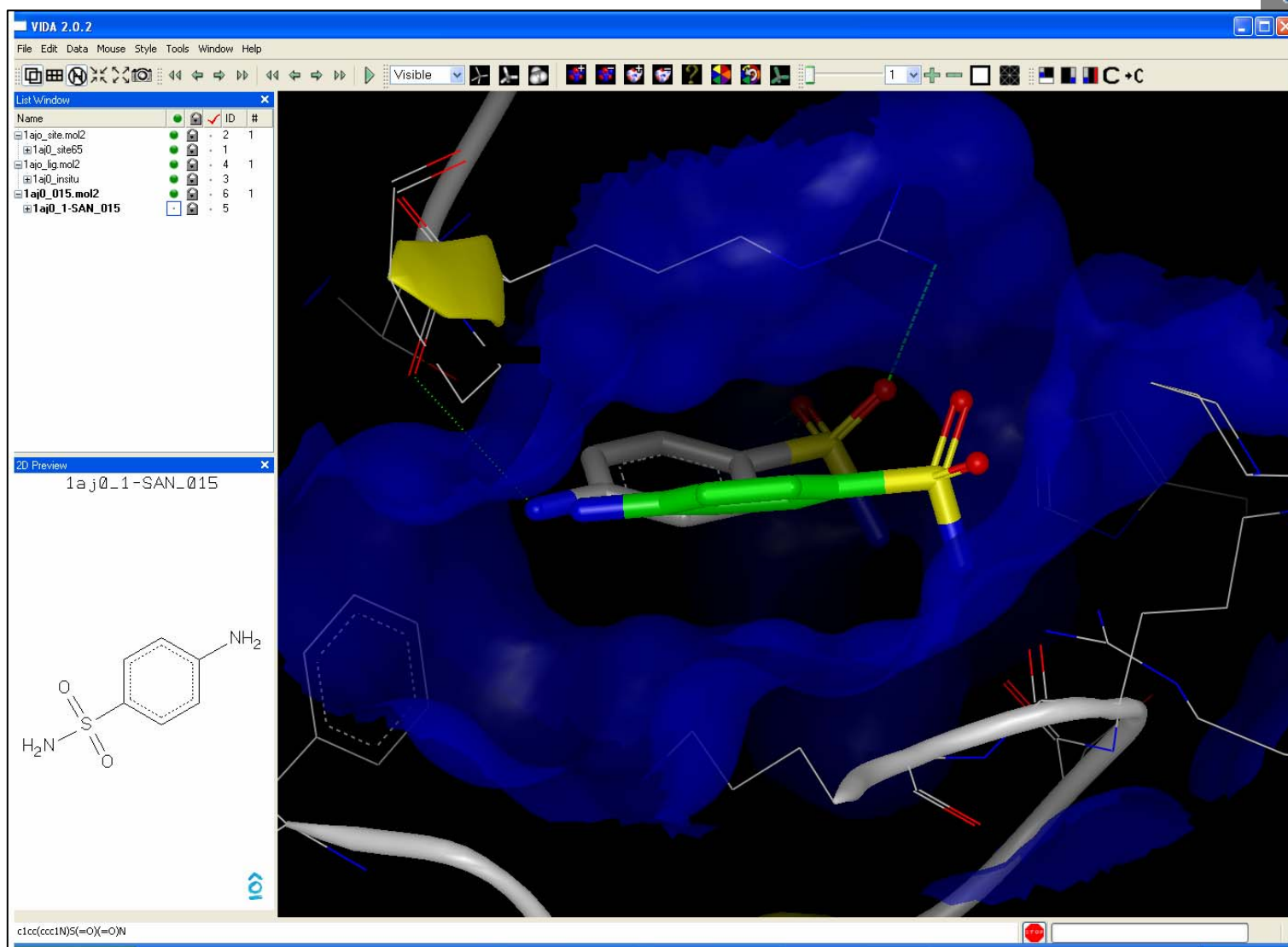
Remove false positives

1. by consensus scoring
2. by efficient post-processing
3. by molecular diversity (descriptors, scaffolds)
4. by human inspection (3-D visualisation)

Post-processing: Visual Inspection



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No post-processing tool outperforms the brain of an experienced computational chemist !

What is possible ?

- ✓ Discriminate true hits from randomly-chosen drug-like ligands
- ✓ Achieve true hit rates of ca. 10%
- ✓ Retrieving about 50% of all true hits
- ✓ Prioritizing ligands for synthesis and experimental screening
- ✓ Using virtual screening for hit finding

What remains to improve ?

- ✓ Use of homology models
- ✓ Predicting the exact orientation ($\Delta \text{rmsd} : 2\text{\AA}$)
- ✓ Predicting the absolute binding free energy ($\Delta G = 7\text{-}10 \text{ kJ/mol}$)
- ✓ Discriminating true hits from "similar inactives"
- ✓ Catching all hits
- ✓ Protein flexibility, screening multiple targets
- ✓ Using virtual screening for lead optimization
- ✓ Pre and post-processing of vHTS