

What Crystal Structure Databases Tell us about Conformations of Drug-like Molecules Martin Stahl, Roche Basel, June 2008





Conformational Energies Matter

Strained Bioactive Conformations Affect Binding Energy



bioactive conformation

global minimum In solution

- $\Delta G = 0.5 \text{ kcal/mol} \rightarrow$
- $\Delta G = 1.0 \text{ kcal/mol}$ -
- $\Delta G = 2.0 \text{ kcal/mol}$
- $\Delta G = 3.0 \text{ kcal/mol}$
- factor 2.3 affinity reduction
- \rightarrow factor 5.4 affinity reduction
- \rightarrow factor 30 affinity reduction
- \rightarrow factor 160 affinity reduction

Required Generalizations







Coverage of Relevant Substructures In Crystal Structure Databases





Cis or Trans? From Amides to Electrostatic Repulsion

Generalized Allylic Strain

The Sulfonyl Group

Properties of Aniline Derivatives

Project Example: New F.VIIa Inhibitors



Amides

Planar Systems with trans Configuration



Examples of Cis Amide Bonds *Protein-Ligand Complexes*





In both cases the cis amide conformation allows the formation of significant lipophilic contacts.

Examples of *Cis* **Amide Bonds** *Imides*



"normal" case: Note deviation from planarity









Acylated Aminopyrimidines

Cis Amide Conformations in the Absence of H-Bonds





Electrostatic Repulsion Determines Equilibria

Alkoxypyridines



with monomeric CDK2 (2c6t, green) and in CDK2/cyclin A complex (2c6m, cyan).



Electrostatic Repulsion Determines Equilibria

Benzylic ortho Substituents at Pyridines





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Preferred Conformations of Allylic Systems

Energy Minima at 120° to Double Bond



For 1-butene, the *skew* conformation is favored by ~0.2 kcal/mol over *syn* (gas phase).

ZIZCOA





Preferred Conformations of Allylic Systems

Allylic 1,3-Strain: Syn-Rotamer Strongly Avoided





Preferred Conformations of Allylic Systems

Allylic 1,2-Strain: Syn-Rotamer Preferred



Allylic Strain in Action *The Example of Mycophenolic Acid*





1jr1 (IMPDH Complex Structure)



MYCPHA



Mycophenolic Acid Analogs *Torsion Histograms of Alternative Linkers*





Translating Allylic 1,3-Strain to Related Systems *Amide Analogies*





Tertiary Amides

Substituents Point out of Plane



Acylated Piperidines



Enforcement of Axial Substituents





Acylated Piperidines and Related Structures *PDB Examples*



MQPA – thrombin complex (1etr)



DPPIV complex, J. Med. Chem. **2008**, 51, 589–602



Acylated Piperidines *Analogous Effects with Sulfonamides*



FKBP12 complex structure (1j4i)



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Sulfonamides are not Amide Isosteres!







Preferred Conformations of Sulfonamides

p Orbitals and Lone Pairs Bisect the O=S=O Angle





Aryl-Sulfonyl Compounds

Ortho Substituents Shift the Torsion Angle Distribution



Aryl-Sulfonyl Compounds *Extreme Cases of* ortho *Substitution*





PKA fivefold mutant model of Rho-Kinase complexed with fasudil (2gni, left) and an analog (2gnh, right).





Alternate Sulfonamide Conformations

Nitrogen Hybridization and Inversion





Aryl-Sulfonyl Compounds

Preferred S-N Torsion leads to Axial N Substituents





Sulfonamide Special Effects

Longer Bond Distances Allow Folding Back





Farnelyltransferase complex (1sa5)

Stromelysin complex (1ciz)



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Aryl Rings - Aniline Derivatives

Interplay between N Hybridization and Rotation







Aniline Derivatives *Varyin Degrees of Pyramidalization*



Cyclic Aniline Derivatives



Pyramidalization Strongly Affects Molecular Shape





Benzamides and Acylated Anilines

Planar or Nonplanar?



Local energy maximum at 0°, but PDB structures mostly planar Global energy minimum at 0°, PDB structures mostly planar



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Project Example: New F.VIIa Inhibitors

New F.VIIa Inhibitors *Design of a New Scaffold, First Iteration*



Roch

New F.VIIa Inhibitors



Conformations of Cabon and Oxygen Derivatives





Roche

New F.VIIa Inhibitors *Design of a New Scaffold, Second Iteration*



Roche

New F.VIIa Inhibitors *Confirmed Binding Mode of Mandelic Acids*



1.7 μM





Alkoxymethyl Amides – The General Case

Secondary Amides: Syn - Tertiary Amides: Trans





Alkoxymethyl Amides *PDB Examples*



HCV polymerase palm site complex (2qe5)

locked: 11bHSD-1 complex (2irw)

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