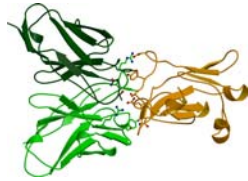


# Protein-Protein Docking



Jeffrey J. Gray  
Protein Bioinformatics, April 2006



Institute in  
Multiscale Modeling of Biological Interactions

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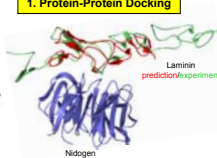
## Biomolecular & Nanoscale Modeling Lab

Jeffrey J. Gray, Ph.D. – [jgray@jhu.edu](mailto:jgray@jhu.edu) – <http://graylab.jhu.edu>

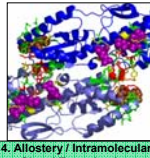
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering and Program in Molecular & Computational Biophysics



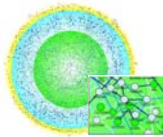
2. Therapeutic Antibodies



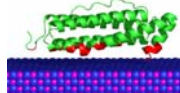
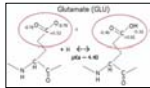
1. Protein-Protein Docking



4. Allosteric / Intramolecular Signal Transduction



3. Proteome Docking Predictions



5. Protein-Surface Interactions

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## Outline

- Motivation
- Docking Methods
- Results / Evaluation of Method
- Blind Prediction Challenge
- Recent Work: Flexibility & Ensembles

Goal: Demonstrate Current Methodologies & Capabilities in Protein-Protein Docking

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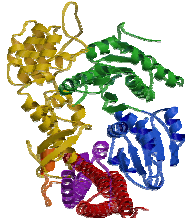
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## Cellular Function Depends on Protein-Protein Interaction

- Signaling
- Regulation
- Recognition
- Enzymes/inhibitors
- Antibodies/antigens



nSec1 + syntaxin1a

*Faulty interactions result in diseases*

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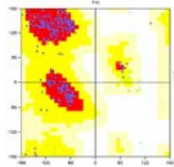
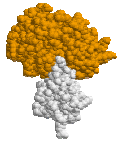
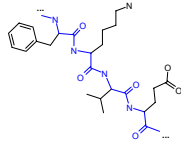
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## Protein docking tests our fundamental knowledge of biomolecular physics

- Conformational space
- Free energy functions
  - Water (solvation)
  - Hydrogen bonding
  - Van der Waals
  - Electrostatics



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## Computational protein docking could help elucidate biological molecular interactions on a genomic scale



Uetz, Fields, Rothberg et al. Nature 2000

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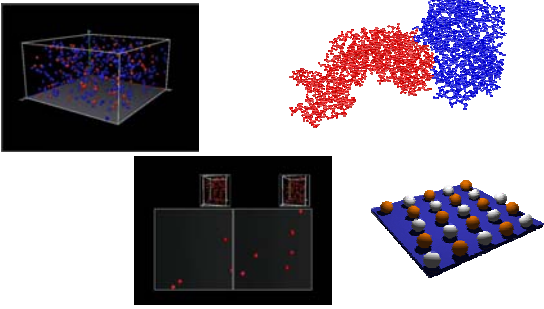
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Protein docking studies may teach us how to design complex devices capable of assembling themselves from nanoscopic (macromolecular) components




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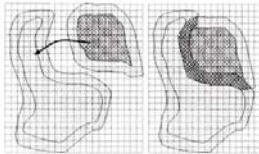
## FTDOCK: Fourier-Transform Docking (Rigid Body)

Katchalski-Katzir, Shariv, Eisenstein, Friesem, Afalo & Vakser 1992

- Discretize the protein shape:

$$a_{l,m,n} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{surface of molecule} \\ \rho = -15, & \text{core of molecule} \\ 0, & \text{outside of molecule} \end{cases}$$

$$b_{l,m,n} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{surface of molecule} \\ \delta = 1, & \text{core of molecule} \\ 0, & \text{outside of molecule} \end{cases}$$



Ackermann 1998

- And correlate the functions:

$$C_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} = \sum_l \sum_m \sum_n a_{l,m,n} \cdot b_{l+\alpha,m+\beta,n+\gamma}$$

- $l, m, n, \alpha, \beta, \gamma \rightarrow N^6$

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## FTDOCK

Katchalski-Katzir et al., 1992

- Use a Discrete Fourier Transform

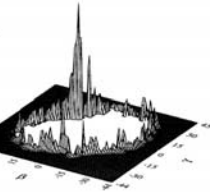
$$X_{o,p,q} = \sum_l \sum_m \sum_n \exp\left[\frac{-2\pi i}{N}(ol + pm + qn)\right] \cdot x_{l,m,n}$$

- Multiply in Fourier Space:

$$C_{o,p,q} = A_{o,p,q} \cdot B_{o,p,q}$$

- Invert:

$$c_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} = \frac{1}{N^3} \sum_o \sum_p \sum_q \exp\left[\frac{2\pi i}{N}(o\alpha + p\beta + q\gamma)\right] \cdot C_{o,p,q}$$



Then, search over rotation space:  $\{\theta, \phi, \psi\}$

- DFT  $\rightarrow N^3 \ln N^3$

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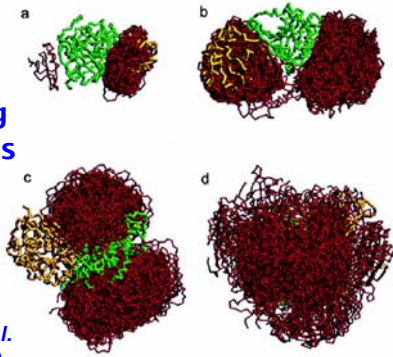
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## FT Docking Solutions



Vakser *et al.*  
PNAS 1999

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## A wide variety of methods have been developed since Katchalski-Katzir

- FFT/Grid (Eisenstein, Sternberg, Weng, Ten Eyck)
- Computer vision / matching knobs & holes / geometric hashing (Wolfson, Nussinov, Norel)
- Electrostatic and VdW filters (Weng, Camacho, Sternberg, Ten Eyck, many others)
- Spherical harmonic shape representations (Ritchie)
- Genetic Algorithm (Gardiner)
- MD (Mustard, Bates) and Minimization (many)
- NMR + docking (Bonvin)
- Residue conservation and co-variance/hotspots (Valencia, Kaznessis)
- Biological information (Sternberg, many others)
- Monte Carlo with physical potentials (Abagyan, USI)

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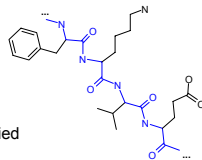
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## Protein Docking is Difficult!

- Proteins can be large (50-1000+ residues = 500-10,000+ atoms)
- Interactions mediated by *water*
- Proteins are **flexible**
  - Backbone
  - Side chains
- **Ions** can be present
- Proteins can be post-translationally modified
- Environment is crowded (other proteins, lipids, membranes, nucleic acids...)
- Multi-protein interactions (chaperones) could be important



 Need to simplify!!

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## Our Approach to Modeling Proteins

- Model **physical forces** when possible:  
van der Waals, solvation, hydrogen bonding, electrostatics, ...
- Use **statistics** from the *Protein Data Bank* to compensate for poor physical models
- Generate large numbers of plausible **decoys**
- Model only necessary degrees of freedom
- Employ **multi-scale models** for both breadth of search and accuracy of discrimination

Although the problem is tremendously complex, we believe that simple fundamental principles will emerge...



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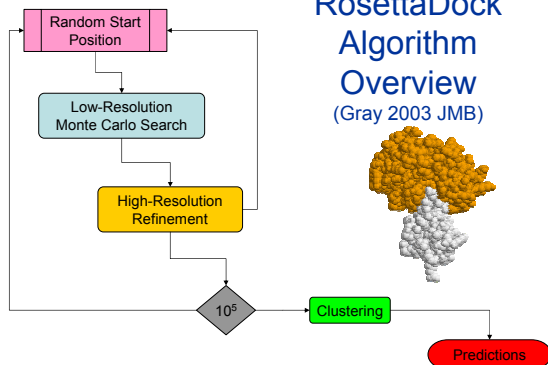
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## RosettaDock Algorithm Overview (Gray 2003 JMB)



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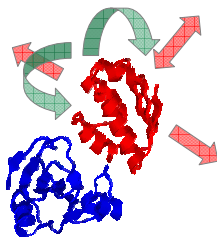
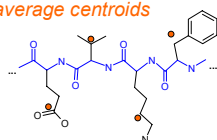
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## Low-Resolution Search

- Monte Carlo Search
- Rigid body translations and rotations
- Residue-scale interaction potentials

Protein representation:  
backbone atoms +  
average centroids



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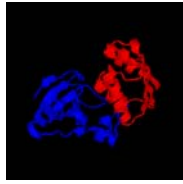
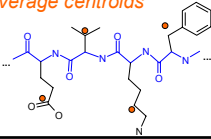
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## Low-Resolution Search

- Monte Carlo Search
- Rigid body translations and rotations
- Residue-scale interaction potentials

Protein representation:  
backbone atoms +  
average centroids



- Mimics physical diffusion process

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## Residue-scale scoring



Score	Representation	Physical Force
Contacts	$r_{\text{centroid-centroid}} < 6 \text{ \AA}$	Attractive van der Waals
Bumps	$(r - R_{ij})^2$	Repulsive van der Waals
Residue environment	$-\ln(P_{\text{env}})$	Solvation
Residue pair	$-\ln(P_{ij})$	Hydrogen bonding electrostatics, solvation
Alignment	-1 for interface residues in Antibody CDR	(bioinformatic)
Constraints	varies	(biochemical)

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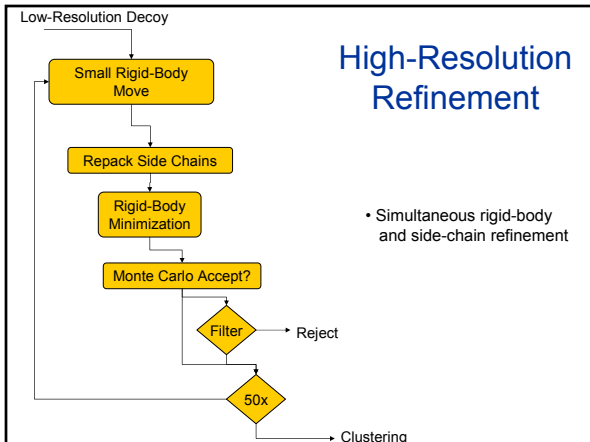
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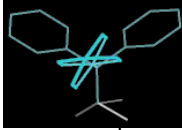
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## Side Chain Packing

- Build amino acid side chains
  - Choose side chains from Dunbrack's backbone-dependent rotamer library



Phenylalanine rotamers  
(Richardson, 2000)

- Vary  $\chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3, \chi_4$  angles
- Minimize a full-atom energy function w.r.t. all rotamer combinations
- With strict VdW parameters, extra angles are necessary (Chu Wang)

(Brian Kuhlman & David Baker, Nature Struct. Biol. 2001)

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## Rotamer Statistics

(Roland Dunbrack, Curr. Op. Struct. Biol. 2002)

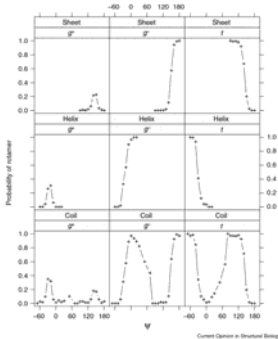


Fig. 1. Observed frequency of the *gauche*<sup>+</sup> ( $\chi_1$  +60°), *gauche*<sup>-</sup> ( $\chi_1$  -60°), and *trans* ( $\chi_1$  180°) rotamers of valine (horizontally, respectively) in sheet, helix, and coil regions (vertically, respectively) of proteins as a function of the backbone dihedral angle  $\psi$ . Data were taken from a list of 850 proteins, 1.7 Å resolution or better, and mutual sequence identity less than 50% (<http://www.fccc.edu/research/labs/dunbrack/culledpdb.html>). A B-factor cutoff of 40 was used as recommended by Lovell et al. [15].

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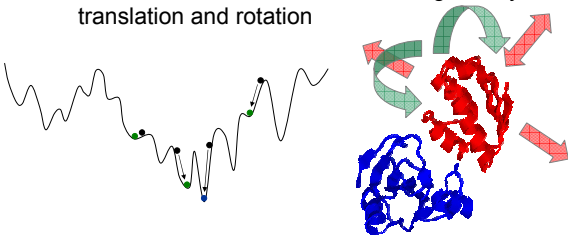
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## Minimization

- Full atom rigid-body minimization
  - Use a conjugate-gradient search to find the local score minimum relative to a rigid body translation and rotation



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## Refinement Cycle

- Simultaneous rigid-body displacement and side chain minimization




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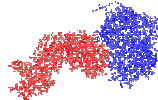
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## Full-Atom scoring

Score	Form / Source	Discriminatory z-value
Repulsive van der Waals	Modified Lennard-Jones 6-12	73.0
Attractive van der Waals	Lennard-Jones 6-12	45.0
Surface area solvation	Surface area (see Tsai 2003)	28.5
Gaussian solvent-exclusion	Lazaridis & Karplus, 1999	27.2
Rotamer probability	Dunbrack & Cohen, 1997	19.6
Hydrogen bonding	Empirical, Kortemme <i>et al.</i> 2003	14.9 & 6.8 (BB/BB)
Residue pair probability	Empirical, Kuhlman & Baker 2000	6.9
Electrostatics	Coulomb model with simple charges	0.4-15.1 (LR rep)




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## Scoring Weights

Score	Weight (P)	Weight (M)	Weight (D)	z-value
Repulsive van der Waals	0.80	0.338	0.08	73.0
Attractive van der Waals	0.80	0.338	0.338	45.0
Surface area solvation	-	-	0.344	28.5
Gaussian solvent-exclusion	0.80	0.279	0.279	27.2
Rotamer probability	0.79	0.069	0.069	19.6
Hydrogen bonding	2.1	0.441	0.441	
SC/SC + SC/BB				14.9
BB/BB				6.8
Residue pair probability	0.66	0.164	0.164	6.9
Simple electrostatics				
Short-range repulsive	-	0.025	0.025	3.2
Short-range attractive	-	0.025	0.025	8.3
Long-range repulsive	-	0.098	0.098	15.1
Long-range attractive	-	0.0020	0.0020	0.4

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IBM BladeCenter  
Supercomputing Facility

60 CPUs  
0.5 TB storage  
1.5 GB RAM/node  
1 GB network

Capable of producing  
~10<sup>6</sup> protein structures/day

IBM Life Sciences

Chemical & Biomolecular

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## Benchmark Studies

Benchmark set contains 54 targets for which *bound* and *unbound* structures are known

<http://zlab.bu.edu/~rong/dock/benchmark.shtml>

- **Bound-Bound**
  - Start with bound complex structure, but remove the side chain configurations so they must be predicted
- **Unbound-Unbound**
  - Start with the individually-crystallized component proteins in their unbound conformation
- **Bound-Unbound (Semibound)**

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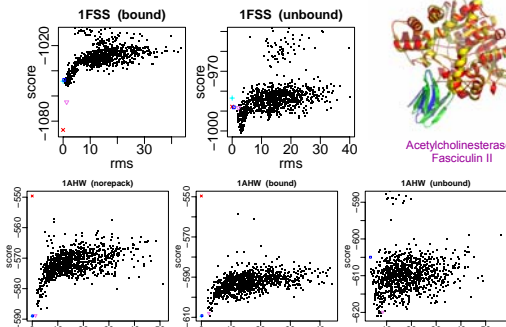
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## Binding Funnels



1FSS (bound)      1FSS (unbound)

1AHW (norepack)      1AHW (bound)      1AHW (unbound)

Acetylcholinesterase / Fasciculin II

Antibody Fab 5G9 / Tissue Factor

Decoys: [graylab.jhu.edu](http://graylab.jhu.edu)

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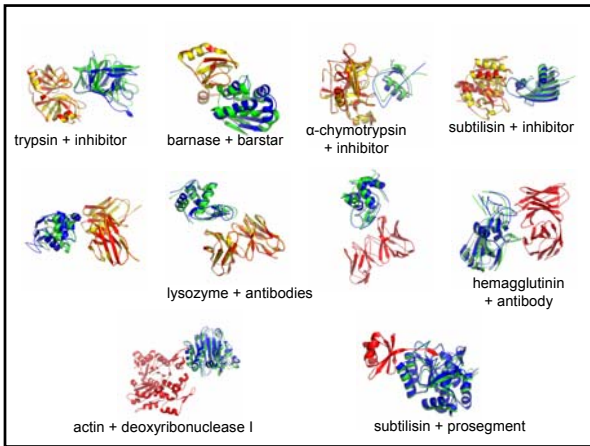
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## Benchmark Results

	Bound Perturbations	Unbound Perturbations	Global Searches
Enzyme/Inhibitor	21/22	18/22	17/22
Antibody/Antigen	10/16	9/16	8/16
Other	5/10	5/10	3/10
Difficult	6/6	0/6	0/6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42/54</b>	<b>32/54</b>	<b>28/54</b>

Number of successful dockings, starting from either bound or unbound protein backbones and searching either near the native structure or globally.

Benchmark set assembled by R. Chen *et al.*, see *Proteins* 2003

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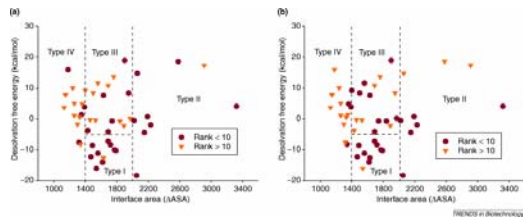
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## ZDOCK / RosettaDock (Vajda & Camacho 2004)




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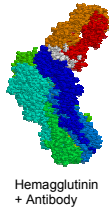
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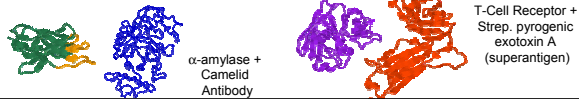
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## CAPRI: Critical Assessment of Protein Interactions

- International Blind Prediction Challenge
- 25-35 Participating Research Groups
- Organized by Janin, Wodak, Sternberg
  - Rounds 1-2: 2001-2002 (T1-7)
  - Rounds 3-5: 2003-2004 (T8-19)
  - Round 6-8: 2005 (T20-23)
  - Round 9: *NOW!* (T24-25)



- See Janin *et al.* 2003 *Proteins* **52**:2 and Mendez *et al.* 2003 *Proteins* **52**:51.




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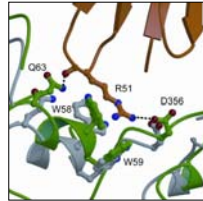
### Target 6 (Round 2, Mar 2002)

- α-amylase + VHH, model #1:
  - 48/65 contacts, distance 1.33Å, rotation 3°, rmsd 1.5Å

Orange—VHH



Blue—Native αA  
 Green—Predicted αA



Xtal by C. Cambillau, CNRS

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### Target 8 (Round 3, M. Daily, Jan 2003)

- Laminin + Nidogen, model #2:
  - 53% contacts, rmsd 4.6 Å, interface rmsd 0.66 Å



Blue—Nidogen

Red—Native laminin  
 Green—Predicted laminin

D800, N802, V804 constrained near interface

Xtal by T. Springer, Harvard

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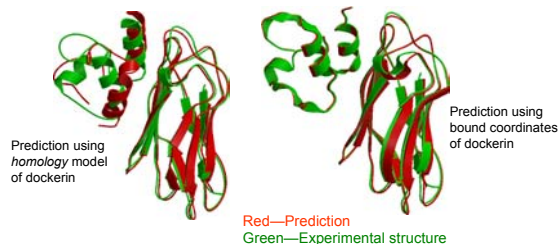
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## Docking a Homology Model (Round 4, Sep 2003)

CAPRI T11/12: **Cohesin + Dockerin**

Model #6 (T11): 42% contacts, 6.1 Å rmsd, 1.9 Å interface rmsd

- Dockerin coordinates *modeled by homology* via the *Robetta* server
- *RosettaDock* produced the *best model* by correct contacts



Xtal by Romao, Carvalho, Fontes et al., Lisbon

Prediction by *Mike Daily*  
*Methods in Gray et al. 2003 JMB*

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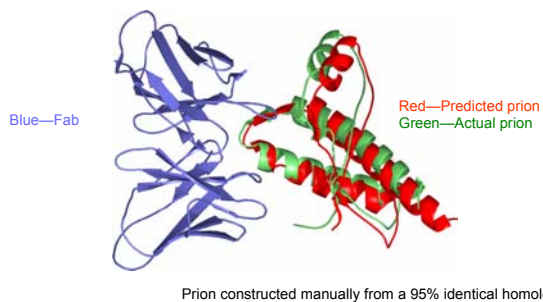
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## Target 19: **prion + Fab**, model #2

64% contacts, rmsd 3.64 Å, interface rmsd 1.27 Å



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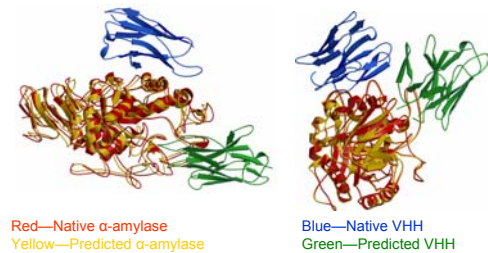
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## Targets 4 and 5 (Round 2)

•  $\alpha$ -amylase + VHH

- Incorrectly assumed binding occurs at CDRs



Xtal by C. Cambillau et al., CNRS

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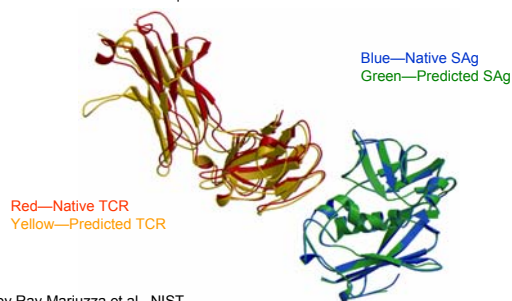
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## Target 7 – “Homology Target”

- Streptococcal pyrogenic exotoxin A (superantigen) + T Cell Receptor  $\beta$  chain
  - Predicted by overlaying 1SBB using Mastodon
  - Model #1: 22/37 contacts, distance 3.6Å, rotation 11°
  - Refinement did not improve model



Xtal by Ray Mariuzza et al., NIST

## RosettaDock correctly predicts binding sites in 6/10 non-difficult targets

Target	Complex	Type	Nres	Model	Fnat	L_rmsd	I_rmsd	Acc.
15*	Colicin D – immD	BB-BB	194	7	0.88	0.547	0.243	***
12	Cohesin-dockerin	U-B	196	1	0.87	0.99	0.51	***
11	Cohesin-dockerin	U-H	196	5	0.42	6.11	1.93	**
19	Ovine prion – fab	H-B	312	2	0.64	3.64	1.27	***
8	Laminin-nidogen	U-B	427	2	0.53	4.63	0.66	***
17*	GH11 xylanase - XIP	H-U	464	5	0.07	12.91	8.78	-
13	sag1-fab	U-B	474	NP	NP	NP	NP	-
18	GH11 xylanase - TAXI	U-B	552	NP	NP	NP	NP	-
16*	GH 10 xylanase – XIP	H-U	575	7	0.14	8.13	11.64	*
14	mypt1-PP1	U-B	600	NP	NP	NP	NP	-
9	LicT homodimer	U-U	412					
10	TBEV envelope trimer	U-U	1146					

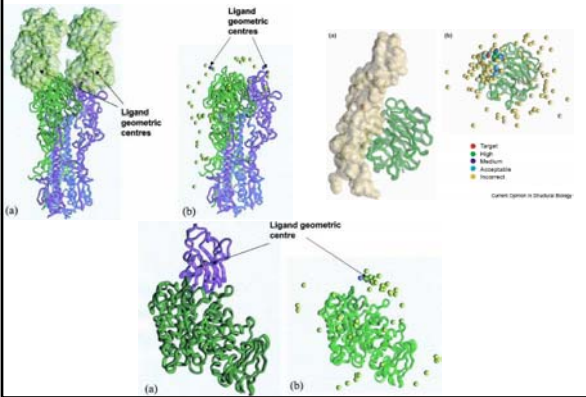
Standard targets; homology targets; not submitted  
NP: not predicted

## Many Docking Players (Vajda/Camacho 2004)

Table 1. Algorithms of some current protein-protein docking methods\*

Method (investigator)	Rigid-body search	Re-scoring, ranking, filtering and refinement	Accuracy of CAPRI 1 and 2 submissions*
ICM (Abagyan <sup>8</sup> )	Pseudo-Brownian Monte Carlo with grid-based energy function	Clustering and selection of 400 conformations. Flexible refinement of interface side-chains and re-scoring with a detailed free-energy function	One high and two medium
CuaPro (Camacho and Vajda [11])	Fast Fourier transform (FFT) correlation approach using the program DOT [16] with a shape complementarity scoring function	Re-scoring with empirical potentials and clustering. Refinement of the 25 largest clusters by the flexible docking method SmoothDock	Two high and one acceptable
Mofit (Eisenstein <sup>9</sup> )	FFT with a weighted shape complementarity target function	Clustering of good solutions, filtering using a priori information and small, local, rigid rotations around selected conformations	One high and two acceptable
3D-Dock (Sternberg [15])	FFT correlation docking using the program FTDOCK	Complexes re-ranked with a pairwise potential using RPScore. After clustering, side-chains in selected structures are refined using a mean-field approach by Multidock	One high and two acceptable
DOT (TenEyck [16])	FFT correlation approach with shape complementarity and electrostatics	None	One medium and two acceptable
(Gray and Baker [10])	Monte-Carlo search using simplified protein geometry and scoring function	Iterative re-packing of side-chains and rigid-body docking repeated until convergence. Final selection by clustering	One high and one medium
Hex (Ritchie <sup>10</sup> )	FFT correlation using polar coordinates and Gaussian density representation of protein shape	None	One high and one medium
ZDOCK (Weng [8])	FFT correlation with shape complementarity, electrostatics and desolvation	Clustering of conformations to avoid redundancies	Two medium
(Nusinov and Wolfson <sup>9</sup> )	Geometric matching using knob-hole representations of intersecting surfaces	None	One high and one acceptable
GAPOCK (Gardiner <sup>9</sup> )	Genetic algorithm with a shape-based test function	None	Two acceptable
GRAMM (Vakser <sup>9</sup> )	FFT correlation with simplified geometry using shape complementarity and hydrophobicity in	Clustering of conformations	One acceptable

## CAPRI Submissions (Mendez 2003)



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## RosettaDock Assumptions

- Rigid protein backbones
- Side chains in rotamer conformations
- Native structure is minimum (free) energy
- Entropy captured by clustering or convergence compensates for poor energy model
- Energy functions!
  - Linearly separable
  - Choice of contributions
  - Parameters...

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## What RosettaDock study tells us about Proteins

- Packing dominates free energy
- Solvation, hydrogen bonding also important
- Electrostatics not important?
- Energy function is closer to correct than past models
- A short list of probable best docking structures

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## What it *doesn't* tell you about Proteins

- *THE* energy function
- Unambiguously the “best” conformation
- How specificity is achieved
- Binding affinities

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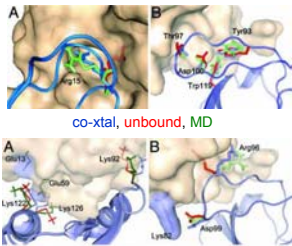
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## Side chain movement (Camacho 2004 PNAS)

- Most side chains do not change rotameric conformation upon binding (Weng)
- “Anchor” residue = deeply buried residue at center of interface, usually no conformational change
- “Latch” residue = peripheral interface residue, moves upon binding




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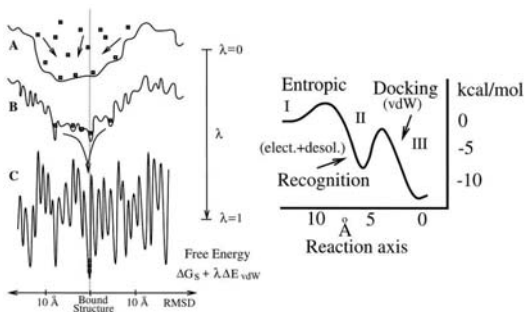
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Fig. 1. Shapes of the binding free energy landscape as a function of some arbitrary coordinate measuring the rmsd from the native conformation  
Fig. 2. Binding free energy funnel



Camacho, Carlos J. and Vajda, Sandor (2001) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 98, 10636-10641

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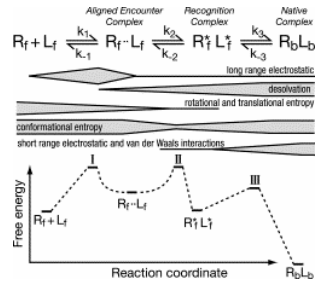
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## Three-step mechanism

Grünberg, Leckner & Nilges 2004 *Structure*



- I. diffusion
- II. free conformer selection (recognition)
- III. induced fit (refolding)

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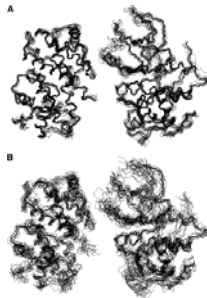
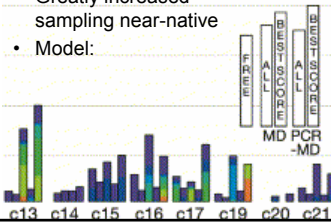
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## Docking Ensembles

Grünberg, Leckner & Nilges 2004 *Structure*

(similar ideas by Smith, Sternberg & Bates 2005)

- Sampled monomer conformations by MD and by PCR-MD (Principal Component Restrained)
- Greatly increased sampling near-native
- Model:




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## Loop Flexibility

- Currently exploring ways of moving loops during protein-protein docking to simulate an induced fit binding mechanism




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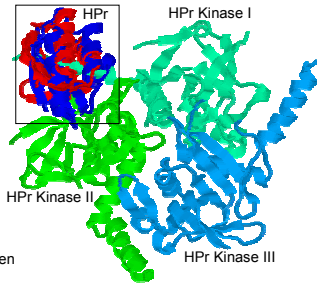
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## Target 1: HPr + HPr Kinase: (Round 1, Sep 2001)

- Model #8 among the closest:

2/52 contacts  
distance 2.6Å  
rotation 55°  
RMSD 8.8Å



Distance constraint between  
Ser157C and Asp46A

Xtal by Fieulaine et al., CNRS

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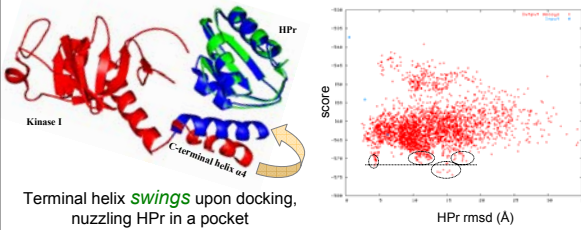
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## Backbone Conformational Change

CAPRI T01: HPr + HPr Kinase (Round 1, Sep 2001)



No energy funnel for binding the unbound components

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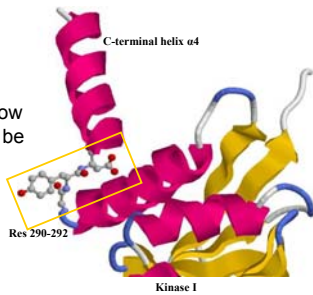
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## Torsion Angle Perturbation

Torsion angle movement in  
residues 290-292 would allow  
the correct conformation to be  
observed.



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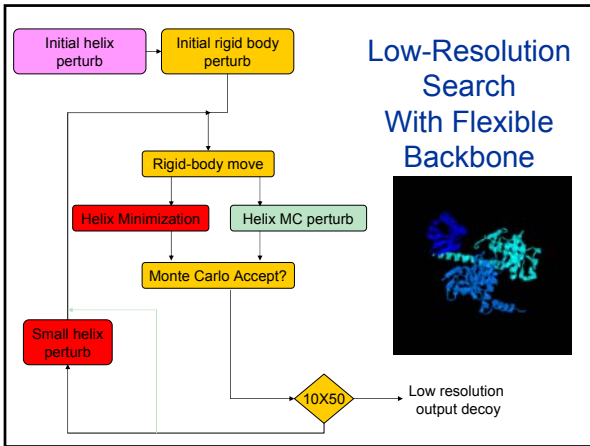
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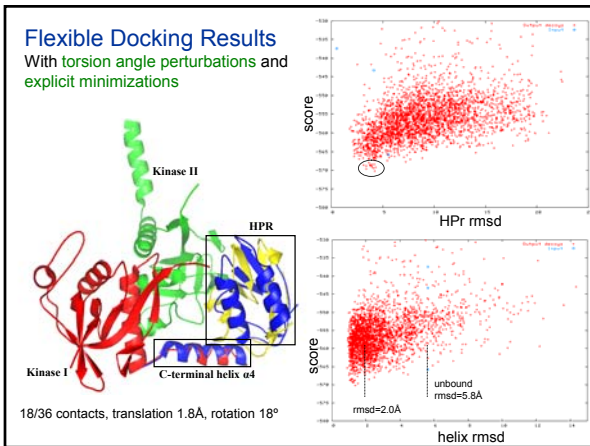
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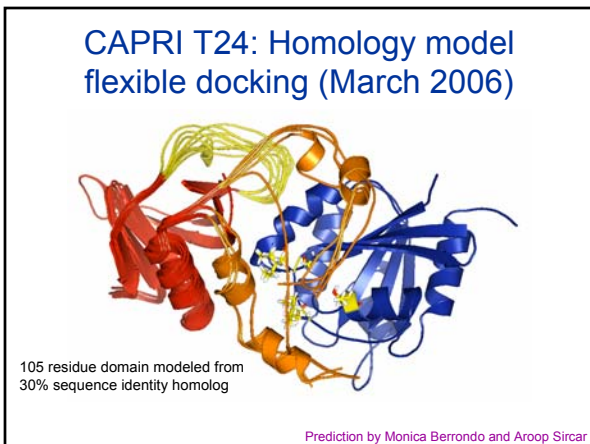
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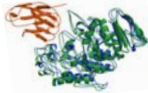
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## Summary



- A variety of protein-protein docking techniques have been developed combining advanced techniques in applied mathematics and biophysics
- Benchmark and CAPRI performance is encouraging – but work remains
- Significant challenges persist in sampling (particularly for flexible backbones and large targets) and correction of the energy function
- RosettaDock Software & Decoys:
  - [graylab.jhu.edu](http://graylab.jhu.edu)
  - Gray et al., *JMB* **331**:281, 2003
  - Gray et al., *Proteins* **52**:118, 2003



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## Recommended References

1. "Protein-protein docking with simultaneous optimization of rigid-body displacement and side-chain conformations," Gray, Moughon, Wang, Schueler-Furman, Kuhlman, Rohl & Baker, *J. Mol. Biol.* 2003 **331**, 281-299.
2. "Complementarity of structure ensembles in protein-protein binding," Grunberg, Leckner & Nilges, *Structure* 2004 **12**, 2125-2136.
3. "Prediction of protein-protein interactions by docking methods," Smith & Sternberg, *Curr. Op. Struct. Biol.* 2002 **12**, 36-40.
4. "Assessment of CAPRI predictions in rounds 3-5 shows progress in docking procedures," Mendez, Leplae, Lensink & Wodak, *Proteins* 2005 **60**, 150-169.

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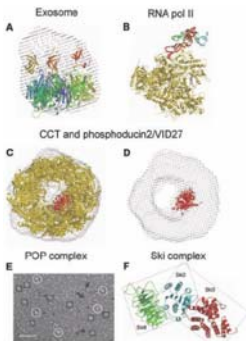
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## Docking into EM maps

(Aloy, Bork, Serrano, Russell, et al. *Science* 2004)



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