Achieving high quality protein-ligand X-ray structures for drug design

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Structural Basis of Pharmacology: Deeper Understanding of Drug Discovery through Crystallography Erice 4th June 2014



Structure-guided drug discovery

- Relies on X-ray structure of protein ligand complex (XSPLC)
- Obtaining such a structure involves many stages.
- Mistakes made in any of the stages will adversely affect results.
- PDB is a data bank of "complete" structures
- Despite this, the PDB has entries showing mistakes for each stage.

Users of XSPLCs should have critical awareness

Steps involved in solving a XSPLC

See page 135 of the lecture notes for list of steps:

- a) Experimental X-ray data collection from a protein crystal with the ligand soaked or co-crystallized using synchrotron or an in-house diffractometer.
- b) Image integration and data processing to give space group, unit cell and structure factor amplitudes (SF).
- c) Molecular replacement to reposition the protein model for the cell and SF from (b).
- d) Initial refinement of model from *(c)* without a ligand.
- e) Assessment of whether the difference electron density (ED) for the model from *(d)* supports placing a ligand.
- f) Production of a molecular model and a restraint dictionary for the ligand.
- g) Fitting the model of ligand *(f)* into difference density and protein model from *(d)*.
- h) Refinement of combined protein and ligand model.
- i) Assessment of refined protein-ligand complex (h).
- j) If assessment shows issues then rebuild/refit protein, ligand and/or solvent and back to step (h).
- k) Deposition of the structure model, SF, maps and validation data to an in-house database (or the PDB).

We will look at each one in turn Slide are marked step (a), step (b) ...

before step (a)

Crystallization/soaking

Often ligands are dissolved in nasty solvents like DMSO. Using this to soak protein crystals can cause:

- Crystal cracking
- Unit-cell changes

 Reduction in the resolution limits of measurable diffraction data ...

X-ray data resolution

The further out spots go, the more information. Measure this in Å data resolution:



High resolution data but with "ice rings" (Rupp figure 8-25)

In practice diffraction is often more limited:



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lysozym_diffraction.png

Data resolution limit affects ligand electron density detail

Well placed/refined sucrose ligand at different data resolutions:



1ylt 1.2Å resolution *"atomic resolution"* 2Fo-Fc ED shows atoms as Individual blobs. Need higher resolution for hydrogen atoms



2pwe 2.0Å resolution Typical medium resolution for ligand studies. Can see ring pucker **2qqv 3.0Å resolution** Low resolution. Ligand placement unambiguous but fine detail cannot be seen

Electron density (ED)

- ED maps are as important as the model:
- 2Fo-Fc map indicates where electrons are (according to SF and model). Normally color blue or grey.
- Fo-Fc difference map:

green for positive difference: where the current model fails to place sufficient electrons

Red for negative difference: where the current model places too many electrons

Ligand electron density





2h7p.pdb: ED around ligand, as visualized in buster-report

2h7p.pdb: ED visualized in coot Notice difference density around ligand

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step (i) showing problems in step (a)

Data collection

• Mistakes here are serious (uncorrectable)

\circ For example <u>1t00</u>



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Data processing and integration



 GΦL tool <u>autoPROC</u> provides a robust, intelligent tool to go from images to intensities
 Uses XDS, ccp4 tools, GΦL tools ...

Important to exclude ice rings

LIST	OF R	EFLEC	TIONS						
0	0	3	11433.95 1067.97	470.53 23.85	11512.56 0.00	844.61 0.00	11398.58 1069.75	566.59 39.60	
0	0	6	3224.50 567.80	133.67 11.81	0.00 3097.33 0.00	182.53 0.00	3371.56 555.75	196.28 16.45	
0	0	9	41700.96 2036.07 2086.98	1612.14 39.70 54.62	39626.43 0.00 0.00	2283.65 0.00	43761.96 1985.15	2276.19 57.63	
0	0	12	6319.44 793.41 793.41	363.28 22.94 22.94	0.00 ? 0.00 2.00	? 0.00	6319.44 ?	363.28 ?	
0	0	15	33102.28 1811.78 ?	2280.71 63.11 ?	33102.28 0.00 1.00	2280.71 0.00	? 1811.78	? 63.11	



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step (b)

step (d) showing problems in step (b) Data processing problems revealed in BUSTER <u>RecipSCC</u> plot



- Shows up ice rings
- Shows up problems with beam stop
- Shows up anisotropic diffraction
- We've tried to persuade people to look at it for years
- Now buster-report makes it hard to ignore!

step (c)

Phasing or Molecular Replacement

- For simple ligand soaks this is usually not a problem
- But sometimes unit-cell changes can be large
- The GΦL <u>Pipedream</u> tool automates limited molecular replacement using ccp4 <u>Phaser</u>

Initial Refinement of protein before ligand placement

- Model is adjusted to better fit density
- This is crucial because ED maps improve as model is improved, so poor initial ligand ED becomes interpretable
- Maximum-likelihood refinement is now universally used.
- \odot BUSTER maps are particularly good.

step (d)

BUSTER maps are bias-resistant



Example 2wfw 1.6Å resolution

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step (d)

step (d)

2wfw example 1.6Å resolution

	As deposited	After default refinement	After remediation	
Rwork	0.210	0.228	0.193	
Rfree	0.246	0.263	0.215	
Rotamer outliers %	4.70	3.69	1.78	
Ramach. outliers %	3.32	3.88	0.29	
Ramach. favoured %	94.5	93.35	98.3	
Molprobity score	2.55	2.27	1.28	
Molprobity percentile	12	26	97	

step (d)

Target restraints

- Use similarity restraints
 "LSSR" to an external fixed PDB structure.
- Useful for low resolution ligand complex with higher resolution apo/other ligand
- <u>3urp</u>, 3.2Å resolution poor data, <u>Acta Cryst D</u> (2012) 68:368-380



After initial refinement, need to assess ED difference density: is there any ligand bound?

step (e)



Figure 4. <u>Pozharsk et al. [2013]</u> classify the diclofenac ligand in PDB entry <u>3IBO</u> (1.4 Å resolution) as "absent". BUSTER-REPORT supports this classification: the ligand has high B-factors and a CC (2Fo-Fc) of 0.57 and as shown in panel (a) there is only a small amount of disconnected ED around it. Panel (b) shows COOT image of the result of BUSTER rerefinement of the protein after the diclofenac (purple "ghost") has been removed. The re-refinement included automated water placement and this shows the ED can be well modeled by three water molecules (red crosses) that form good hydrogen bonds.

step (e) and (f)

Fitting a protein-bound ligand

- $\odot~$ The task is to fit ligand into $\rm F_o{-}F_c$ and then refine complex
- Prior knowledge of ligand chemistry is needed to interpret density
- Use this prior knowledge
 - in ligand fitting step (g) to assess accessible low-strain conformations that the ligand can adopt
 - in refinement step (h) to keep ligand conformation realistic



step (f)

Prior knowledge is essential!

2bal kinase 2.1Å resolution.

Restraints: 2Fo-Fc real space CC 0.943



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step (f) 2h7p.pdb shows how the use of a poor dictionary leads to poor fit



- <u>2h7p.pdb</u> 1.86Å resolution shows nice density
- But ligand has poor geometry
 - > 5-membered saturated lactam ring is flat while it should be puckered
 - Bent amide group
 - "Unusual" cyclohexyl group conformation
 - Difference density shows X-ray data are unhappy with the modeled ligand²⁰

grade: ligand dictionaries based on CSD information where possible

 Use CCDC <u>Mogul</u> program to survey the <u>CSD</u> small-molecule structure database



- \circ GPL grade uses mogul in batch mode!
- Mogul is used as a *source* of information for restraints *not* for validation
- Uses CSD dihedral information for restraints on clear sp2-sp2 or sp3-sp3 torsions

step (f)

What if CSD has nothing to say?

- Use quantum chemistry
 - > as pioneered by eLBOW
 - normally use RM1 semi-empirical method as implemented in <u>dynamo</u> (Martin Field, IBS Grenoble)



step (f)

 Only used for particular restraints where Mogul does not provide CSD data.

Angles to H atoms (bond lengths taken from neutron data)

grade tool

Needs <u>CSDS</u> installation

○ Input:

- mol2 coordinates
- cif dictionary from other dictionary generators
- smi smiles string uses libcheck

o grade_PDB_ligand

- > tool for existing PDB ligands
- Fetches info from pdbechem or ligand_expo
- produces grade dictionary

\circ Produces cif restraint dictionary for use in

- BUSTER and rhofit
- ➤ coot
- refmac



In current BUSTER academic & consortium releases



step (f)

Let's look at one ligand-like example from CSD: EVIDUI



S (=0) (=0) (N1CCN (CC1)C) c1ccc (NC (=0)C) cc1



- Like ½ viagra with a amide attached
- CSD structure:
 - amide planar but not coplanar with phenyl ring
 - Both nitrogen atoms pyramidal
- Create dictionaries from smiles
- Score dictionary against CSD structure

EVIDUI – 3rd party dictionary



- dictionary from X, ideal coords
- Test the dictionary by "scoring" the CSD structure
- piperazine nitrogens exactly planar but should be ~tetrahedral
- \circ amide plane missed.
- rms bond deviation 0.048Å rms angle 5.0°

step (f)

step (f)

EVIDUI grade with mogul

	02	418				
H18 C6	NI		chir	nlane atom	i	
CI2		42	int	plane_acom	Evenined	
	-	Co P			Examineu	
C7		N2	C9	0.02		
C9 H12			75	0.02		
CS		C2	H10 H12	0.02		
N3		C5	H13	0.02		
	1		8 N3	0.02		
			7 C8	0.02		
			C9	0.02		
C11			C12	0.02		
717			<u>C9</u>	0.02		
			12	0.02		
U.I.S			<u>3 L</u>	0.02		Save Table
	XXX	tria_16	.9 m	0.02		Save and Convert to TNT
		csd 1	C11 C10 N3	0.02	r	
		lease 1	CTT CTA (M)	0.04	<u> </u>	

grade 'S(=0)(=0)(N1CCN(CC1)C)c1ccc(NC(=0)C)cc1'

Piperazine nitrogen atoms correct pyramidal
Amide group: torsions restraints hold trans.
rms bond 0.006Å rms angle 0.6°

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Grade Web Server

http://grade.globalphasing.org

- For good results grade requires mogul and so CSDS licence
- Grade Web Server
 - > By kind permission of CCDC
 - Launched in May 2012
 - Provides easy access to Grade for non-confidential compounds
 - Provides GOL with useful test examples for development
 - >3500 cif dictionaries produced to date (May 2014)
 - Dictionaries can be used in BUSTER, refmac, phenix.refine



Grade Web Serve

 $G\Phi L$ grade web server <u>http://grade.globalphasing.org</u>

Tom Womack (twomack@globalphasing.com) thank you for agreeing to the conditions of use Correct?)

Please select an input type:

SMILES string (for example from the Structure Editor at the <u>CACTVS Online SMILES Translator</u>)
 Run grade on mol2 file (must have <u>hydrogen atoms</u>, This option is useful for getting correct atom names <u>further details</u>)
 Produce dictionary for an existing PDB chemical component (for example "ATP") <u>further details</u>

Run grade Reset

For help and further details see Grade Web Server Help Page on the BUSTER wiki.

Please email *buster-develop@globalphasing.com* with any problems, queries or suggestions.



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step (f)

steps (f), (i), (j)

2h7p.pdb buster-report



2h7p.pdb 1.86Å resolution shows nice density

But ligand has poor geometry

- > 5-membered saturated lactam ring is flat while it should be puckered
- Bent amide group
- "Unusual" cyclohexyl group conformation
- Difference density shows X-ray knows better!

2h7p BUSTER re-refinement with grade dictionary fixes all problems



 Grouped occupancy refinement sorts negative density for chlorine atom

Very nice fit to density

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step (f)

Importance of providing correct chemistry to the dictionary generator.

- <u>1byk.pdb</u> *E. coli* trehalose-repressor in complex with trehalose-6-phosphate.
- From <u>Kay Diederichs</u> University of Konstanz
- 2.5Å resolution structure solved in 1998. They used β-glucopyranose as part of trehalose-6-phosphate rather than the correct α anomer
- PDB chemical components <u>T6P</u> propagates mistake.

steps (h) and (i)

<u>**1**byk</u> BUSTER re-refinement with incorrect T6P grade dictionary





ED and mogul show problem

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steps (j), (h) and (i)

<u>**1byk</u> BUSTER re-refinement with correct-chemistry T6P grade dictionary**</u>





Now working with Kay to deposit correction to PDB step (k)

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step (g)

Ligand fitting by hand

- Erice Workshop
- Will use as examples:
 ▶ 2h7p (Bob Stroud)
 ▶ 1pmq (Giovanna Scapin)

step (g)

Rhofit ligand fitter

- $\circ~G\Phi L$ Rhofit is our flexible ligand Fo-Fc fitter
- Uses cif restraint dictionary to describe ligand conformational properties.
- Works well with macrocycles
- Can automatically sample chiralities if these are unknown.

File	Chain	rhofit total score	Correl coeff	ligand strain score	LigProt contact score	Poorly fitting atoms	Chirals (s:swap) (k:keep)
Hit_00_000.pdb	A	-1679.2	0.8724	8.3	4.0	0/26	sks
Hit_01_000.pdb	A	-1645.1	0.8477	11.7	4.9	0/26	skk
Hit_02_000.pdb Hit_02_001.pdb	A A	-1610.8 -1608.9	0.8227 0.8148	20.2 13.3	8.9 10.4	0/26 0/26	ssk ssk
Hit_03_000.pdb Hit_03_001.pdb	A A	-1602.8 -1600.2	0.8336 0.8427	20.8 40.5	13.8 11.3	0/26 0/26	SSS SSS



Rhofit can handle a wide diversity of ligands



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steps (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), (h) and (i) Pipedream: an intelligent ligand screening pipeline

- Industrial crystallographers
 50+ structures per month.
- GΦL <u>Pipedream</u>: automated data processing, structure refinement, ligand fitting and post-refinement report
- Seamlessly links autoPROC, BUSTER, rhofit & buster-report
- Grade not included as it should be run before you go get images
- Automation is useful but human checking and intervention are essential!



Cc1c(C1)cccc1NC(=O)[C@@H]1CN(C2CCCCC2)C(=O)C1



step (i)



Summary statistics

All-Atom	Clashscore, all atoms:	3.63	99 th percentile [*] (N=					
Contacts	Clashscore is the number of serious steric overlaps (> 0.4 Å) per 1000 atoms.							
	Poor rotamers	28	6.64%	Goal: <1%				
	Ramachandran outliers	4	0.79%	Goal: <0.05%				
	Ramachandran favored	480	94.86%	Goal: >98%				
Geometry	MolProbity score	2.13		92 nd percentile [*] (N=				
	Cβ deviations >0.25Å	0	0.00%	Goal: 0				
	Bad backbone bonds:	2 / 2038	0.10%	Goal: 0%				
	Bad backbone angles:	8 / 2544	0.31%	Goal: <0.1%				
n the two column results, the left column gives the raw count, right column gives the percentage								

in the two column results, the left column gives the raw count, right column gives the percentage. * 100th percentile is the best among structures of comparable resolution; 0th percentile is the worst. For clashscore the comparative set of structures was selected in 2004, for MolPro * MolProbity score combines the clashscore, rotamer, and Ramachandran evaluations into a single score, normalized to be on the same scale as X-ray resolution.

For full MolProbity multichart with per-residue violation informat

Ramachandran plot



MolProbity is a great tool for assessing protein geometry issues.

buster-report

• Produce rich but concise report of a **BUSTER run** html, pdf, xml output O Including useful analysis like **MolProbity** and Mogul

Current work: use QM or force field in BUSTER refinement to assess ligand strain energy

step (i)

Protein & water & ions

Use a weighted QM or FF energy as part of the geometry function
 Conventional TNT+ geometry function:

X-ray BUSTER ML for everything!

Weighted QM or force field energy for ligand

PDB Ligand Conformational Energies Calculated Quantum-Mechanically

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ABSTRACT: We present here a greatly updated version of an earlier study on the conformational energies of protein—ligand complexes in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) [Nicklaus et al. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* 1995, 3, 411–428], with the goal of improving on all possible aspects such as number and selection of ligand instances, energy calculations performed, and additional analyses conducted. Starting from about 357,000 ligand instances deposited in the 2008 version of the Ligand Expo database of the experimental 3D coordinates of all small-molecule instances in the PDB, we created a "high-quality" subset of ligand



instances by various filtering steps including application of crystallographic quality criteria and structural unambiguousness. Submission of 640 Gaussian 03 jobs yielded a set of about 415 successfully concluded runs. We used a stepwise optimization of internal degrees of freedom at the DFT level of theory with the B3LYP/6-31G(d) basis set and a single-point energy calculation at B3LYP/6-311++G(3df,2p) after each round of (partial) optimization to separate energy changes due to bond length stretches vs bond angle changes vs torsion changes. Even for the most "conservative" choice of all the possible conformational energies—the energy difference between the conformation in which all internal degrees of freedom except torsions have been optimized and the fully optimized conformer—significant energy values were found. The range of 0 to \sim 25 kcal/mol was populated quite evenly and independently of the crystallographic resolution. A smaller number of "outliers" of yet higher energies were seen only at resolutions above 1.3 Å. The energies showed some correlation with molecular size and flexibility but not with crystallographic

J. Chem. Inf. Model. 2012, **52**, 739-756

BUSTER Refinement with QM or Force Field for ligands

- PDB ligand structures reported by Sitzmann *et al.* to have high local strain energy using DFT
- Select 19 examples
 - Refine in BUSTER with DFT or MMFF94
 - Determine local strain energy
- BUSTER + DFT results
 - Low strain energy (<5 kcal/mol)
- BUSTER + MMFF94 results
 - strain compares to DFT
 - CPU requirements: DFT days, MMFF94 negligible



GODA GODA Global Phasing Limited

M. Sitzmann et al., JCIM, 52, 739 (2012).



I) _L

kral/mol)

Use QM or force field in BUSTER refinement to assess ligand strain energy

- Conformational strain energy provides an additional method of ligand validation
- Well fitted/refined structures have strain energies
 < 5kcal/mol
- \circ FF suitable for general use.
- QM suitable for difficult cases.
- Links refinement to computational modelling
- \circ Indications of strain agree with Mogul
- Joint work with John Liebeschuetz (CCDC) and Greg Warren OpenEye

step (i) Identification of mis-fitted ligand using ligand strain & difference density



4bki DDR1 Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor PDB entry fitted as per design, but the ligand geometry is strained 42

4bki re-refinement with BUSTER reduces strain and reveals mis-fit



indolin-2-one ring flip required

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step (i)

BUSTER re-refinement after ring flip



indolin-2-one ring happy improve C=O H-bond

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step (j)

Corrected PDB entry 4CKR

ACS Chem Biol. Mar 21, 2014; 9(3): 840. Published online Feb 14, 2014. doi: <u>10.1021/cb5000949</u> PMCID: PMC3971954

Correction to Discovery of a Potent and Selective DDR1 Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor

Hyung-Gu Kim, Li Tan, Ellen L. Weisberg, Feiyang Liu, Peter Canning, Hwan-Geun Choi, Scott Ezell, Zheng Zhao, Hong Wu, Jinhua Wang, Anna Mandinova, Alex N. Bullock,* Qingsong Liu,* Sam W. Lee,* and Nathanael S. Gray*

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This corrects the article "Discovery of a Potent and Selective DDR1 Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor" in ACS Chem Biol, volume 8 on page 2145.

In the reported X-ray cocrystal structure of the DDR1 kinase domain in complex with the inhibitor DDR1-IN-1 (PDB code 4BKI), the indolin-2-one moiety was modeled with two hydrogen bonds to the kinase hinge residues Met704 and Asp702. Subsequent analysis of the electron density has revealed that the indolin-2-one group is flipped allowing only a single hydrogen bond to Met704. The amended coordinates have been released with the new PDB code 4CKR. The corrected Figure <u>2</u>A is shown, together with the updated refinement statistics (Table <u>5</u>) reported in Supporting Information Table 5 of the <u>original paper</u>. This change does not otherwise affect the scientific integrity of the article. We thank Oliver Smart, Global Phasing Ltd., for drawing our attention to the error.



Figure 2

Binding information of DDR1-IN-1/2 against DDR1. (A) X-ray cocrystal structure of DDR1-IN-1 with DDR1 kinase. step (k)

Deposition to in-house database or PDB

- Deposition minimum:
 - ➢ Model (₽₽₿, mmcif)
 - Structure factors (mtz)
- \odot Ideally should include:
 - ➢ Diffraction images! For 1byk Kay Diederichs kept these. Completeness 1998: 67.5% → 2014: 99.4%
 - Ligand chemistry and restraint dictionaries
 - Final map that the crystallographer saw
 - > Validation information (buster-report pdf output)

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Ideas, Feedback,... 🦻

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- Claus Flensburg
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- Tom Womack
- Clemens Vonrhein

Global Phasing Consortium Users BUSTER users CCDC

- John Liebeschuetz
- Colin Groom
- OpenEye
 - Greg Warren
 - Brian Kelley

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PDB & depositors

Thanks to all depositors of structures used.

"We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience." John Dewey