

Molecular dynamics refinement and scoring in WISDOM virtual screening

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Protein Flexibility and Mobility

Structure-Based Drug Design

Classically Structure-Based Drug Design was based on the “lock and key” model

Many targets show significant flexibility upon ligand binding (e.g. local rearrangement of side-chains or small motions of loops)

Effective methods are available for docking a flexible ligand into a rigid target

nowadays there are efforts to consider protein flexibility and mobility in drug design approaches

one approach is based on molecular dynamics

y Molecular Dynamics?

provide the “gold standard” when used to describe flexible biomolecules

permit the simultaneous simulation of either target and/or ligands flexibly

simulations can take in account solvent contribution to the system energy

can be chosen to validate and refine the orientations of docked compounds and rescore them using a reliable scoring function

for these reasons MD can be chosen to validate and refine the orientations of docked compounds and rescore them using a reliable scoring function

to refine and rescore docking complexes using MM

Refinement and Rescoring procedure based on MM/MD and MM-PBSA has been designed and then validated

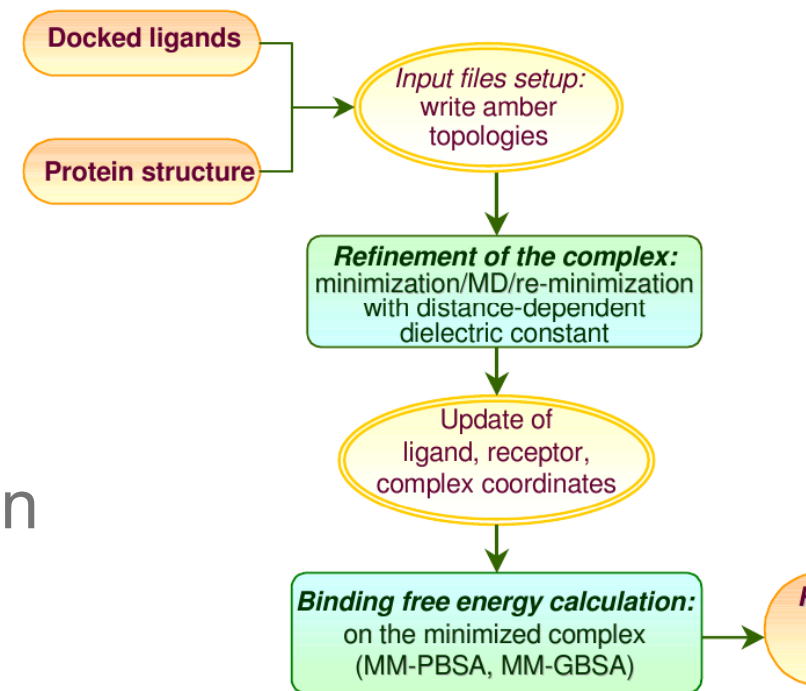
Multi-step protocol:

Minimization of ligand-target complexes

MD simulation of minimized complexes

Minimization of complexes after MD

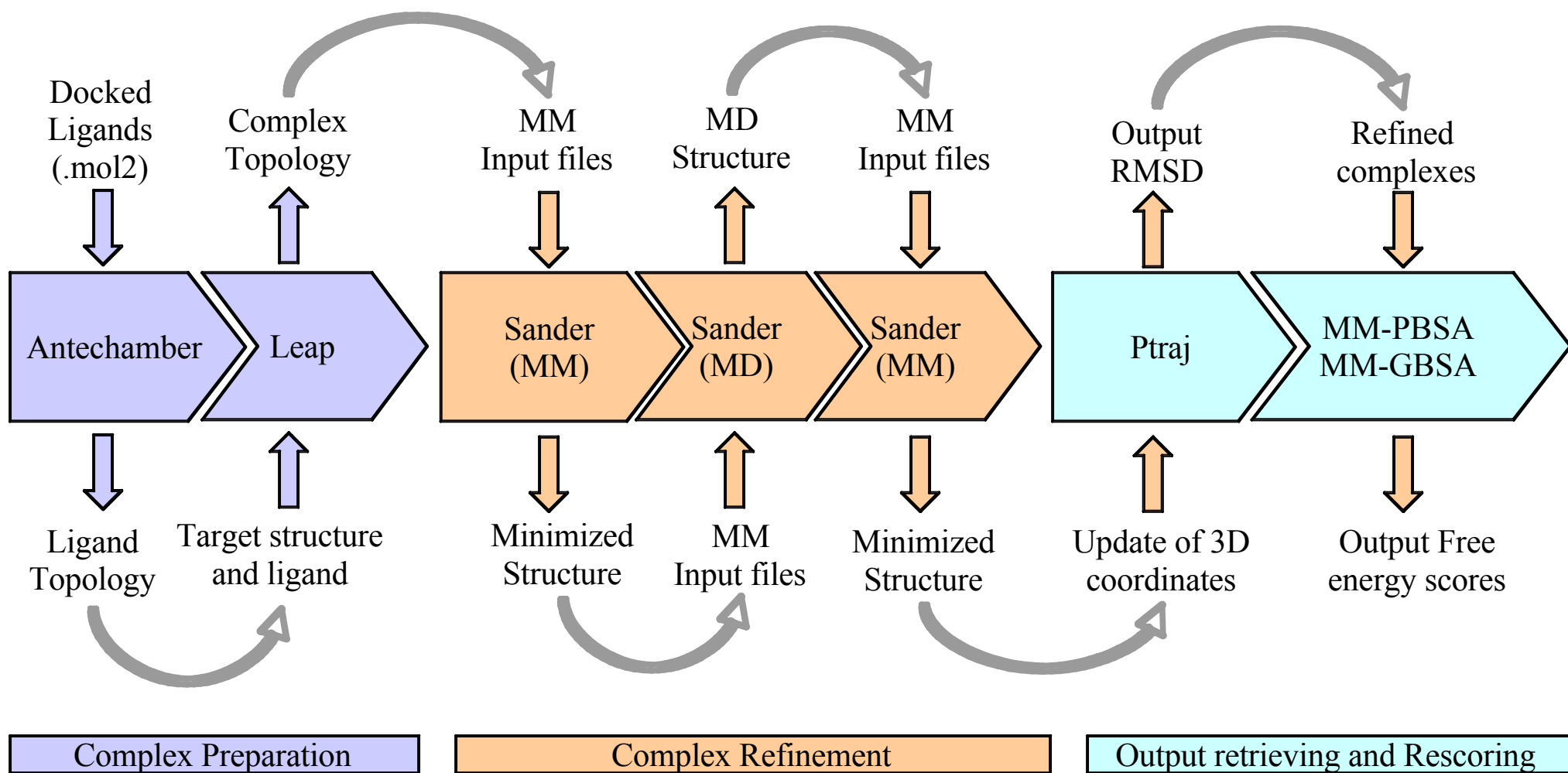
Free energy of binding (ΔG_{bind}) estimation with MM-PBSA and/or MM-GBSA



$$\Delta G_{\text{binding}} = \Delta E_{\text{MM}} + \Delta G_{\text{solv}}$$

ΔE_{MM} = interaction energy in vacuo

Procedure in a virtual screening?



-Refinement/Rescore Procedure Validation

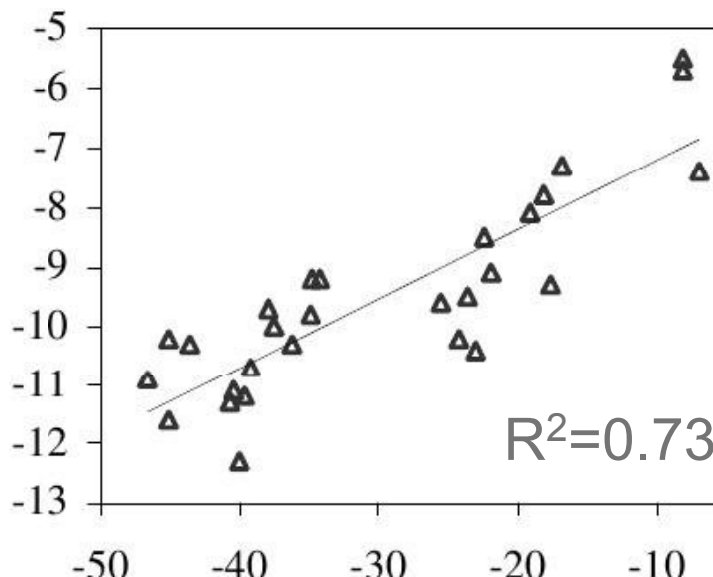
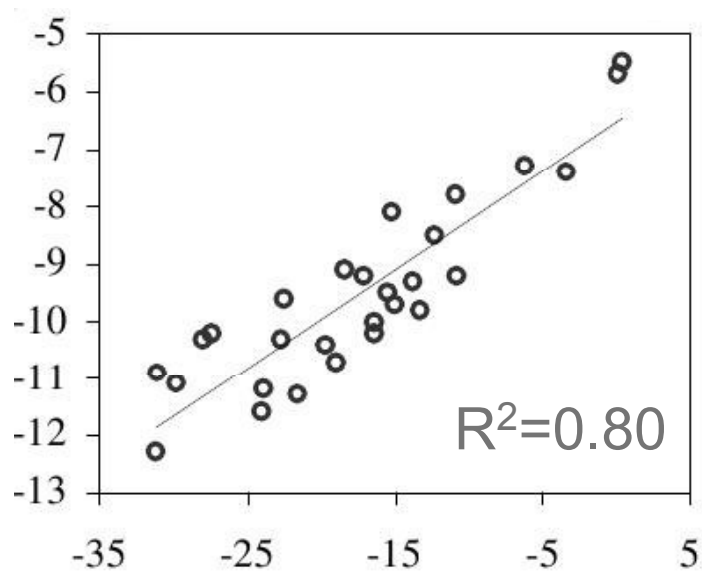
elli et al. *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry* - 15, 2007 (7865-7877)

get: Aldose reductase

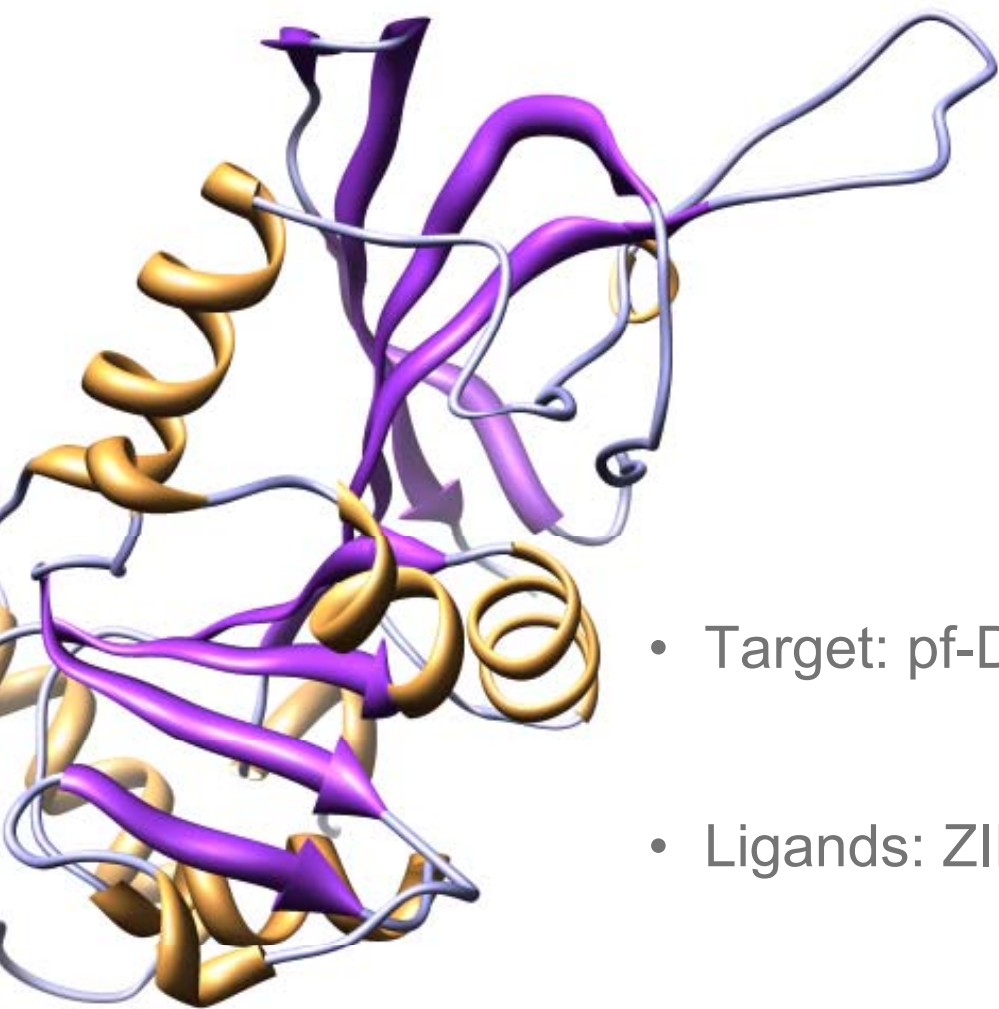
ands: 28 known inhibitors with measured activities and known binding
les

dicted free energy of binding show good correlation with experimental

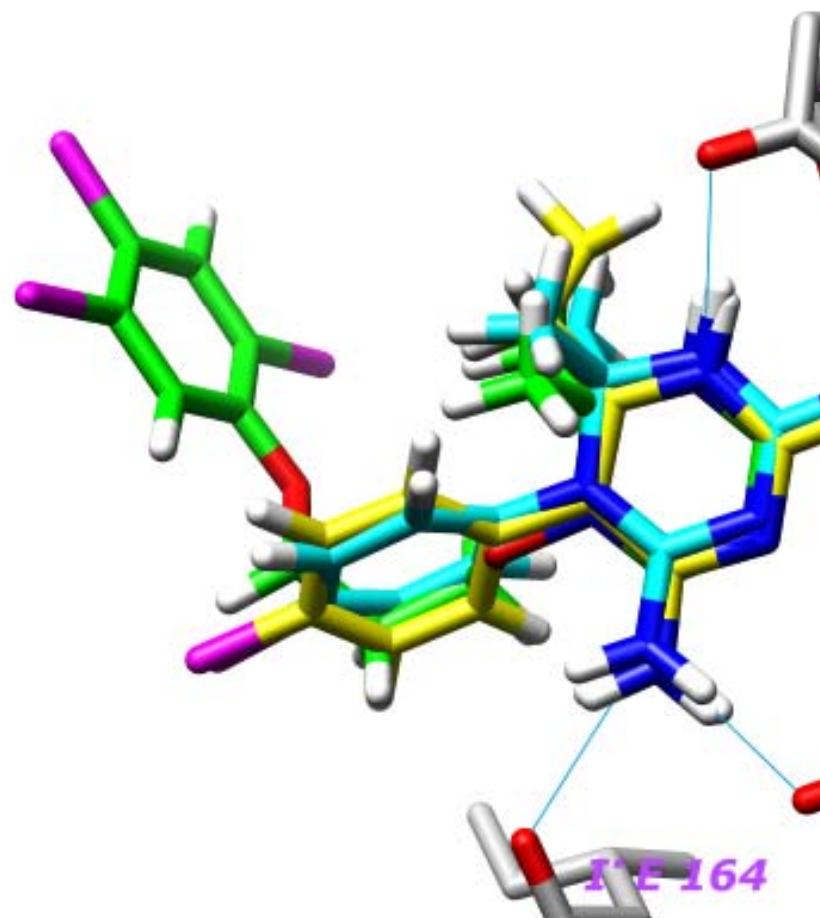
-PBSA estimated free energies of binding are the best correlating



practical example



- Target: pf-DHFR
- Ligands: ZINC-DB
- Docking: FlexX
- MD-Refinement

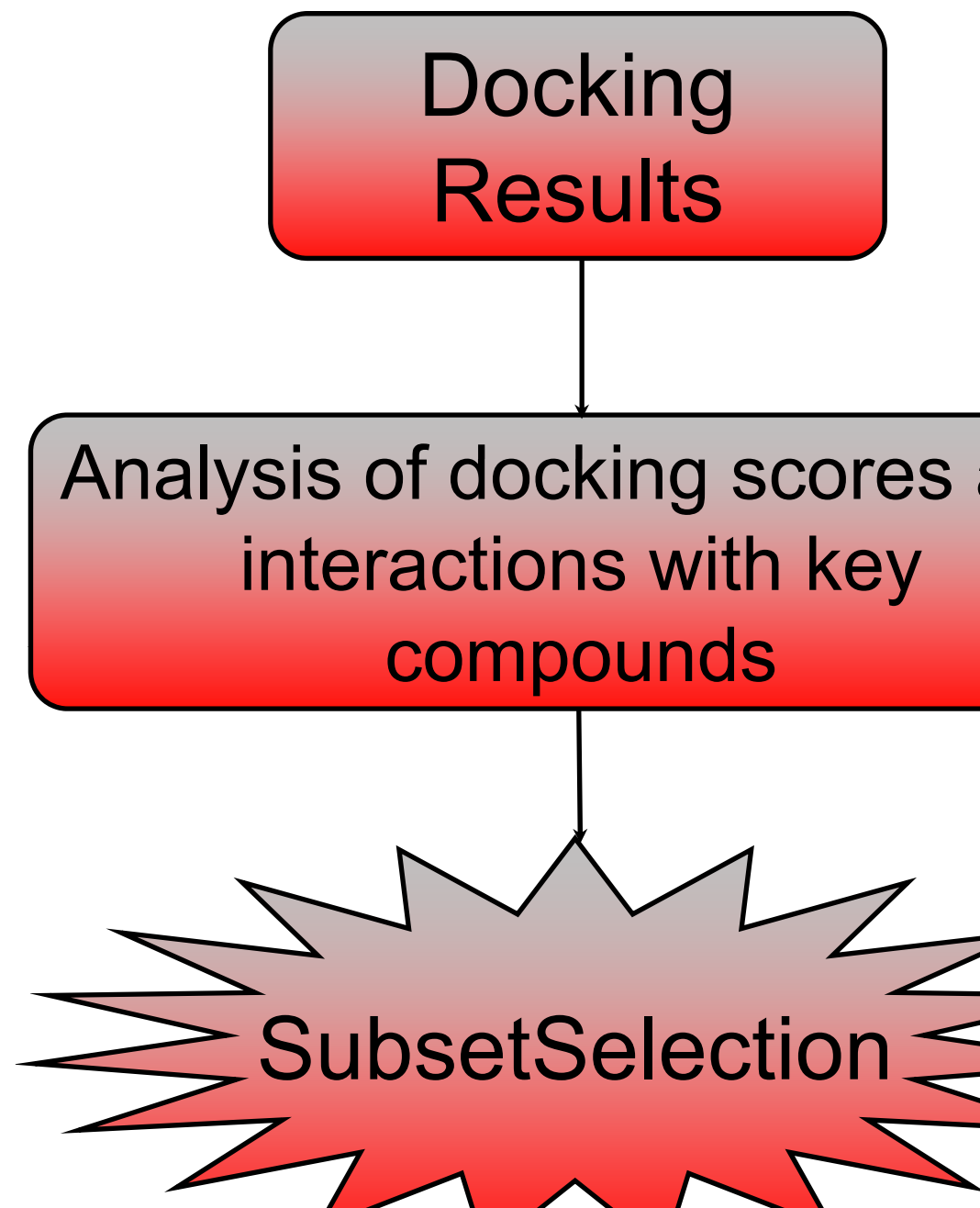


Docking Results Analysis

Compounds ranking based on docking energy score

Analysis of interactions established by each ligand with aminoacids of pf-DHFR binding site

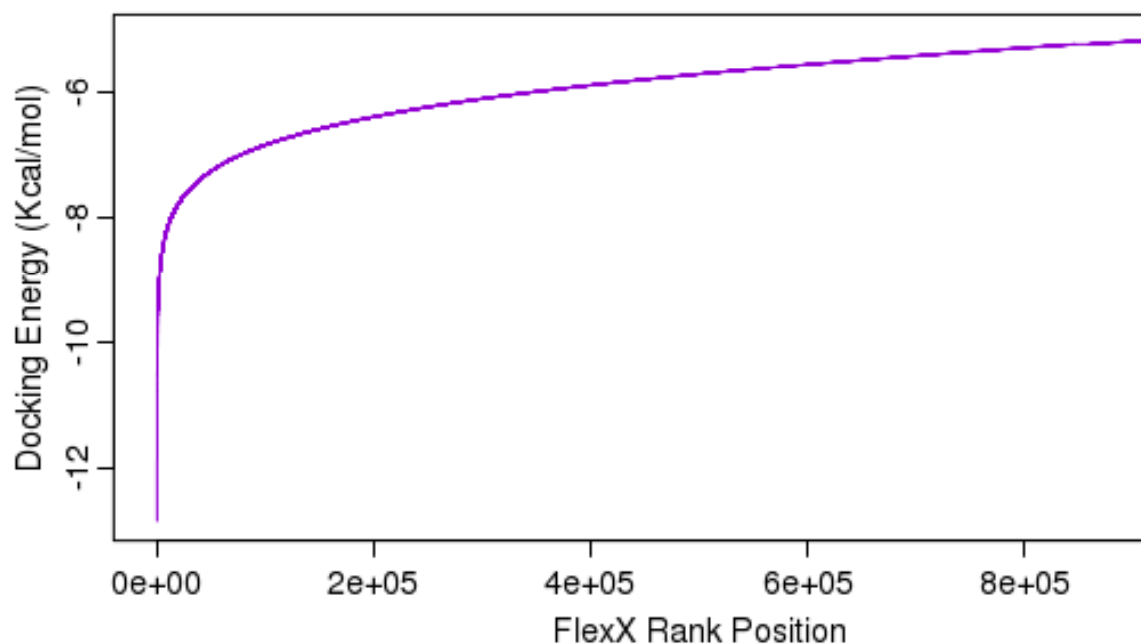
Selection of a subset of compounds to be refined using the MD-refinement procedure



Docking energy evaluation

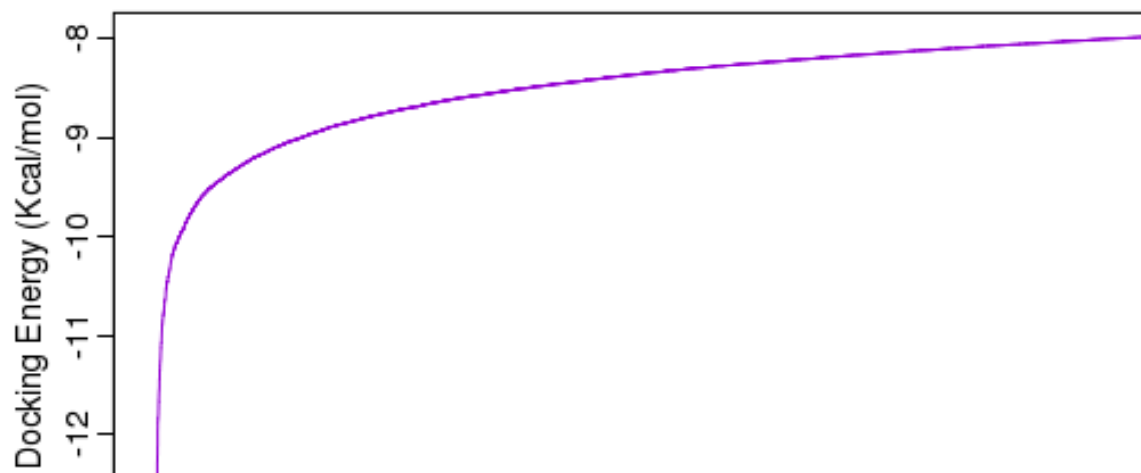
Analysis of Docking energy
of first million ranked
compounds

Docking Scores of first 1.000.000 compounds



Analysis of Docking energy
with a cutoff of ~ -8 Kcal
-1

Docking Scores of first 15.000 compounds



Analysis of docked compound interactions

Analysis of hydrogen bond among known inhibitors
target

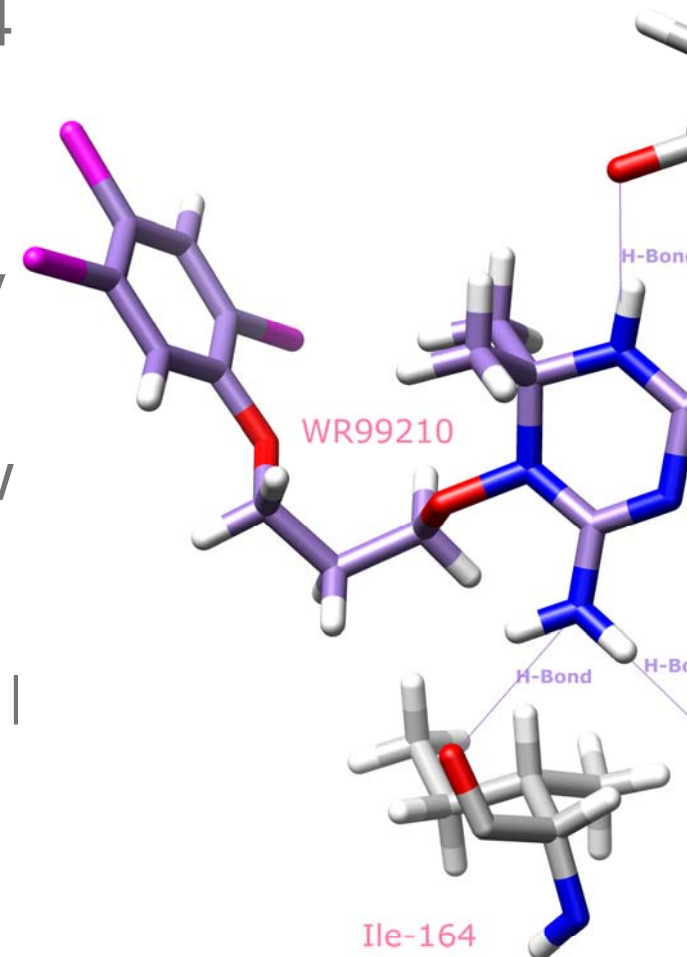
WR99210 establishes hydrogen bonds with Asp54
4 and Ile164

Selection of I14, D54, I164 as binding site key
residues and calculation of their relative frequency
of hydrogen bond with ligands

Hydrogen bond frequency were calculated using the follow
formula, where:

a_i = compound rank position

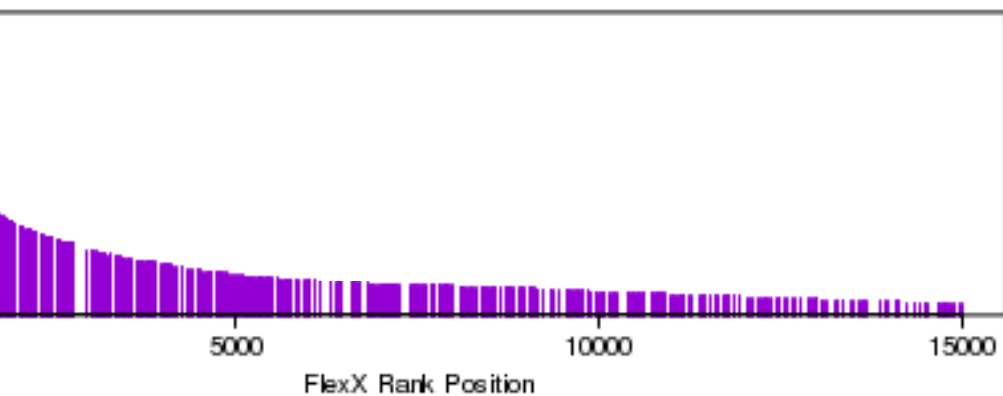
a_i = 1 or 0 whether compound i interact or not with I
residues



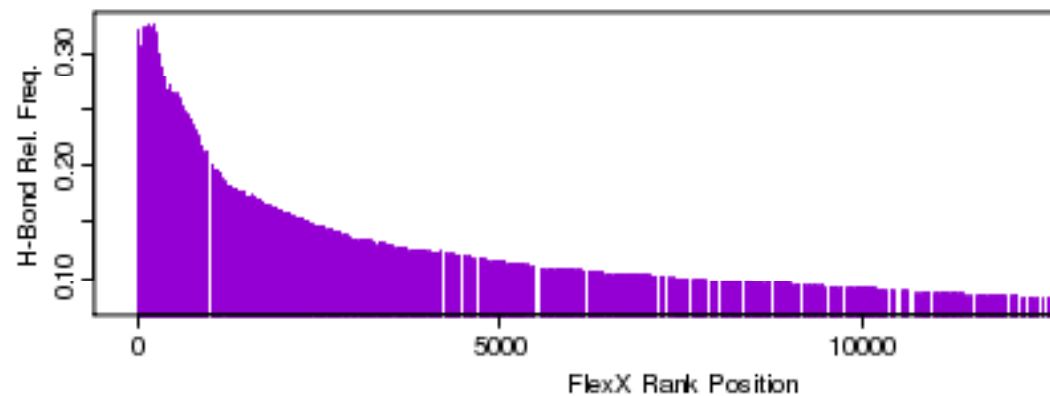
$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i$$

Hydrogen bond frequency analysis

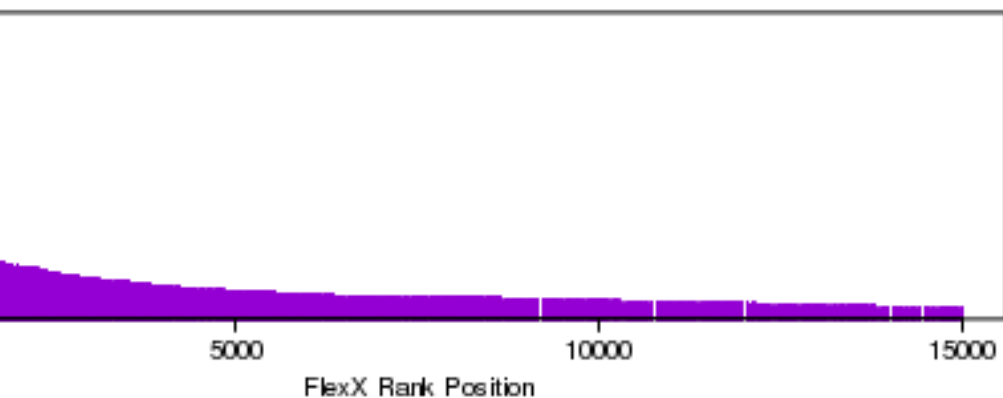
Ile14



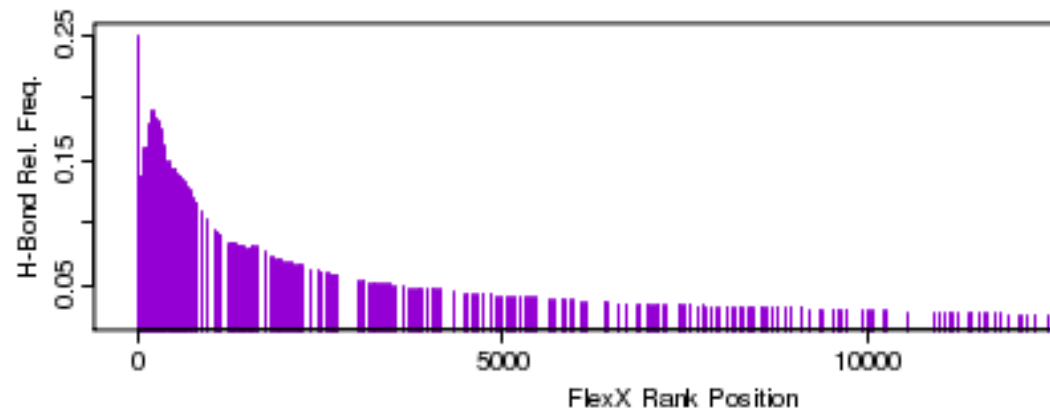
Asp54



Ile164



Ile14 + Asp54



Asp54 + Ile164



Ile14 + Asp54 + Ile164



Refinement preparation

Selection of first 15.000 compounds from the docking scores ranked list

Compounds partial charges calculation

Compounds separated by total charge (Insight)

Partial atomic charges calculated with AM1-BCC (Antechamber)

Creation of 300 packages containing 50 compounds

Storage of created packages on SE

Copying of input files

Analysis of MD Refinement Results

Ranking of compounds according to MM-PBSA and evaluation of free energy of binding

Analysis of interaction focusing on H-Bond among ligands and residues Ile54, Ile14 and Ile164

Visualisation of best scoring compounds

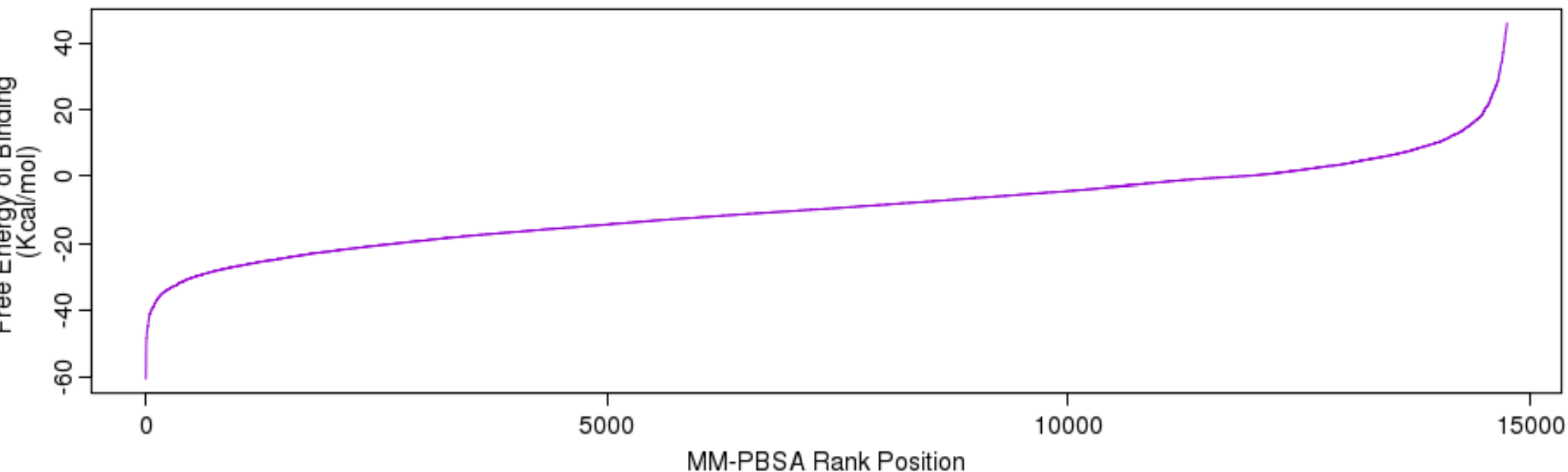
Evaluation of mobility after MD

Evaluation of binding orientation, comparison with WR99210

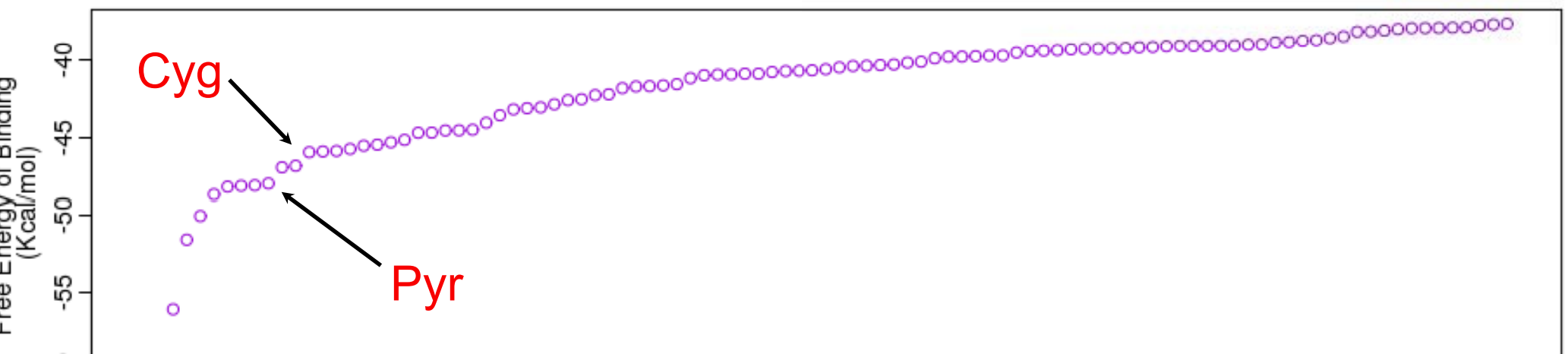
Evaluation of rank position difference between docking score and free energy of binding ranked lists

-PBSA Rescore Results

Free Energy of Binding of 15.000 refined compounds

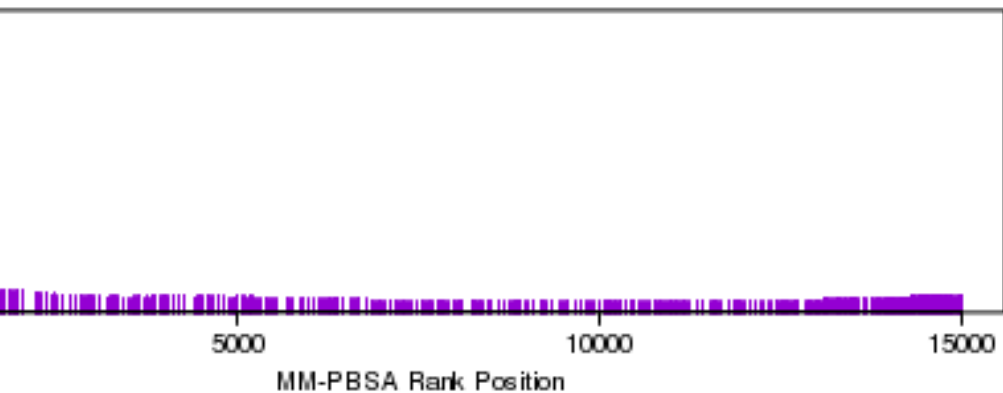


Free Energy of Binding of best 100 refined compounds

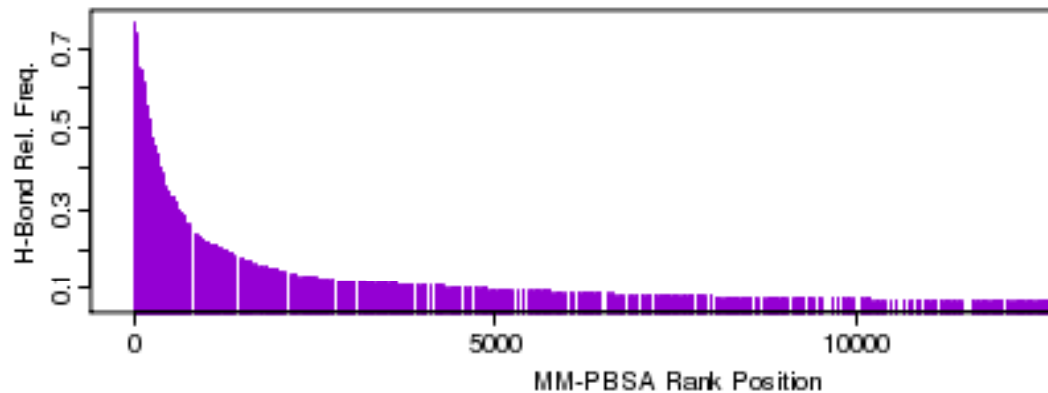


Interaction frequencies after MD-Refinement

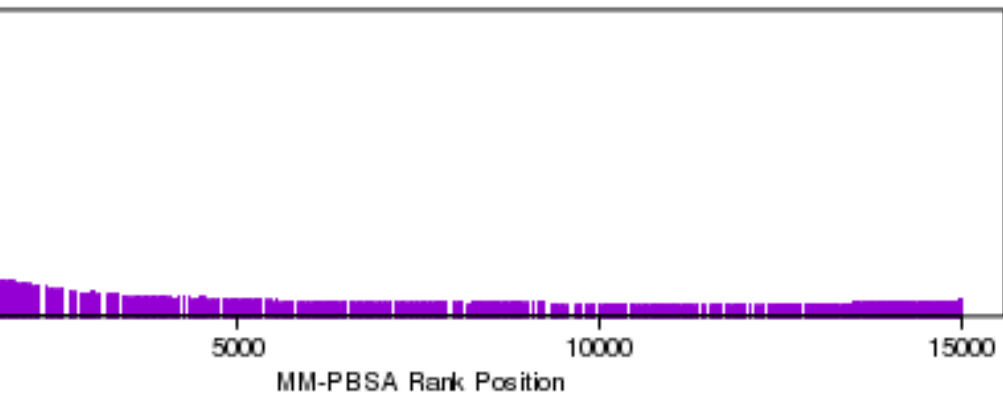
Ile14



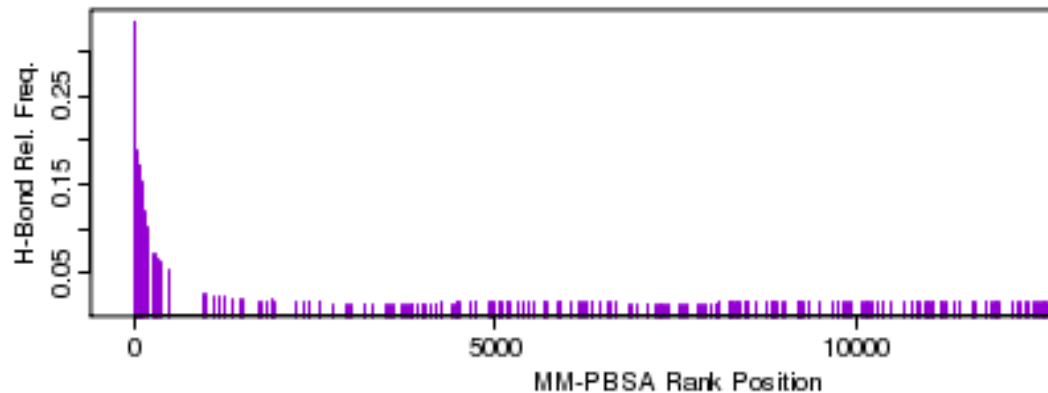
Asp54



Ile164



Ile14 + Asp54



Asp54 + Ile164



Ile14 + Asp54 + Ile164



Structure visualization analysis

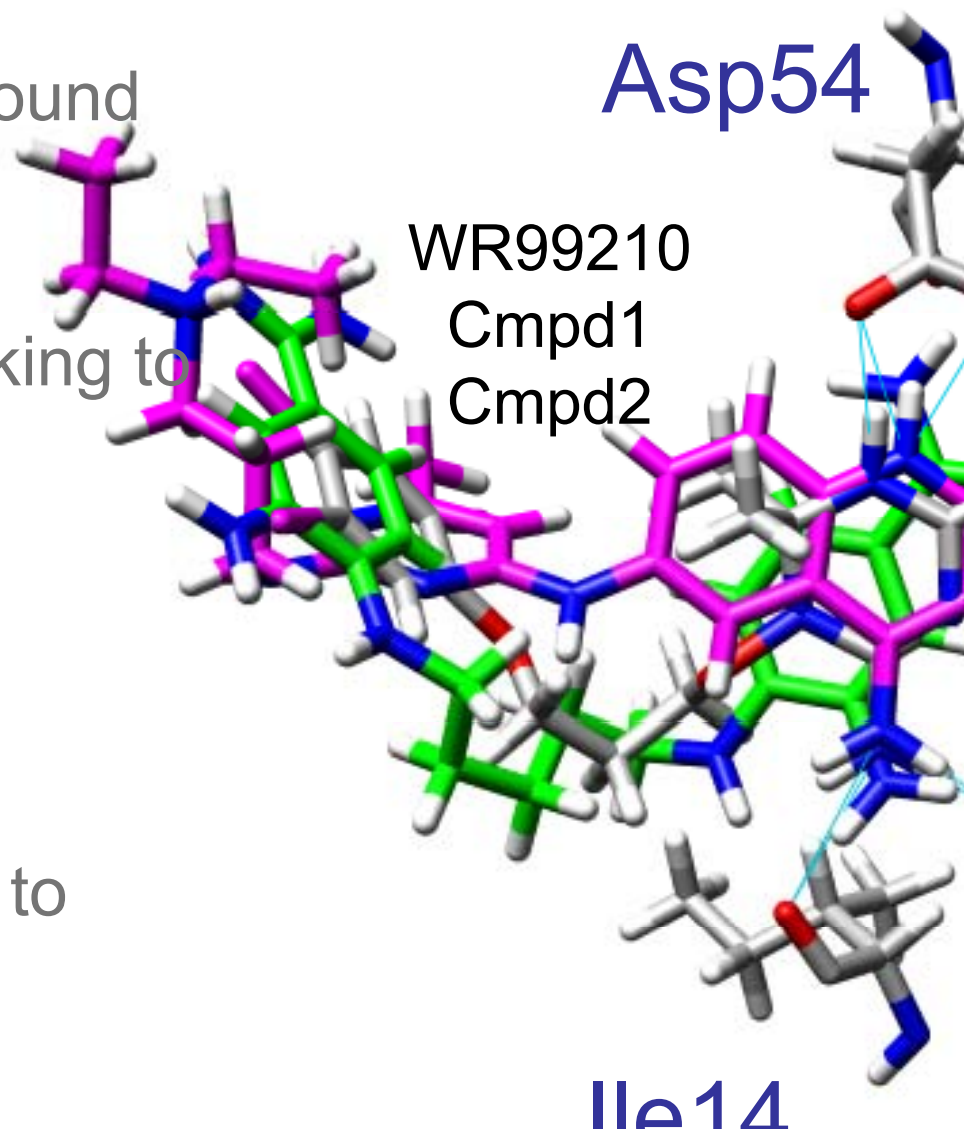
Complexes of first 100 compounds were analyzed

Comparison among WR99210 and compound orientations

Analysis of compounds mobility from docking to post-refinement complexes

Analysis of interactions with binding site residues

Which part of compounds interact similarly to WR99210



Analysis of rank position variations

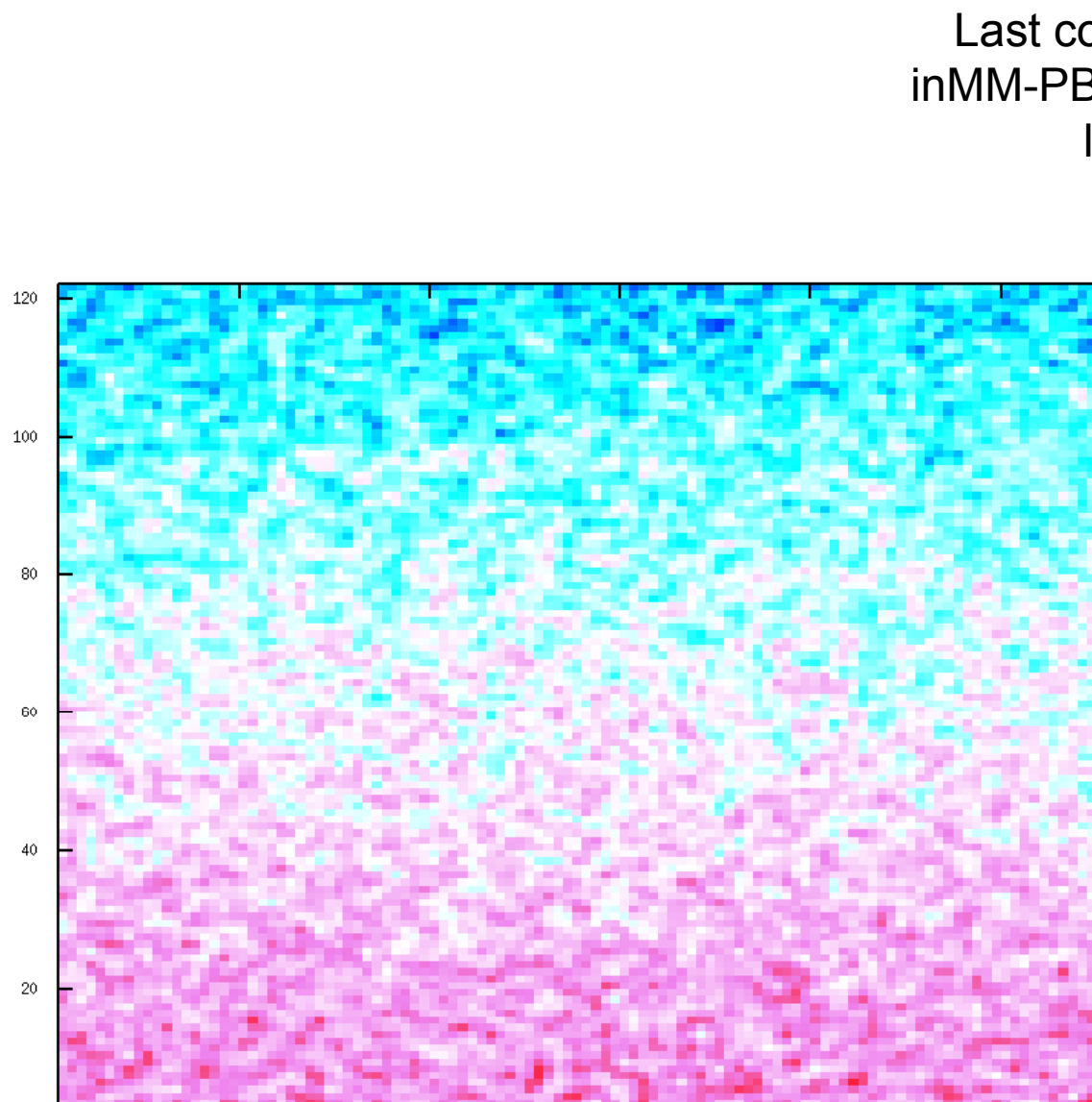
Matrix of compound rank position variations from docking to MM-PBSA

Position = #MM-PBSA - #Dock

Results have been plotted following the order of MM-PBSA ranked list

Matrix was filled by column from left to right starting at the bottom

High values mean compounds on top of the MM-PBSA list but on the bottom of the FlexX list



Conclusions

Molecular dynamics efficiently refined the orientation of docked compounds

MM-PBSA rescoring permitted to estimate the free energy of binding of the docked compounds

Applying the MD-refinement/rescoring procedure, some compounds were recovered from the tail of docking ranked list, while others moved from the head to the tail of MM-PBSA ranked list

Interesting molecules were retrieved among the first 100 best scored compounds, and several of these will be selected for in vitro activity assays

Knowledge

SDOM Collaborators

achart Sirawaraporn from Mahidol University (Thailand) for in-vitro te

F. Giulio Rastelli

t. Miriam Sgobba

t. Anna Maria Ferrari



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