Binding free energy: What did you learn?

Florentina Tofoleanu National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

D3R Workshop, La Jolla, March 11th 2016

Free energy calculation procedure



We iterated the binding free energy calculation step:

- 3 times for CBClip systems
- 3-12 times for OAH/OAMe systems



The Double-Decoupling Method (DDM)



Gilson, M. K., Given, J. A, Bush, B. L. & McCammon, J. A. Biophys. J. 72, 1047–1069 (1997) Boresch, S. et al., J. Phys. Chem. B. 9535–9551 (2003)



Ionic concentration

Na₃PO₄ ionic concentrations used experimentally:

- 20 mM @ pH 7.4 for CBClip
- 10 mM @ pH 11.5 for G1-G5 in OAH/OAMe G1-G5
- 50 mM @ pH 11.5 for G6 in OAH/OAMe

By using the ionic strength, we translated them into NaCl solutions:

- 50 mM NaCl
- 25 mM NaCl
- 165 mM NaCl



TI + Docking*





*Submission with the lowest RMS

BAR + Docking





TI + MD





BAR + MD



G3: consistently over-estimating the binding energy



What went right: G1



Predicted binding pose

	Binding affinity (kcal/mol)
Experiment	-5.84
Calculation (TI + DOCK)	-7.61 (0.75)



What went right: G9



Predicted binding pose

	Binding affinity (kcal/mol)
Experiment	-7.40
Calculation (TI + DOCK)	-7.85 (0.90)



What went wrong: G3



	Binding affinity (kcal/mol)
Experiment	-4.02
Calculation (TI + DOCK)	-9.78 (2.36)



What went wrong: G8



	Binding affinity (kcal/mol)
Experiment	-6.18
Calculation (TI + DOCK)	-2.71 (0.87)





Docking result

Gas phase simulation result





Docking result

Gas phase simulation result





Docking result

Gas phase simulation result







Docking result

Gas phase simulation result

CBClip has an open conformation.





Docking result

Gas phase simulation result

CBClip has a semi-open conformation.



RMS errors of all CBClip submissions



CBClip calculations performed by Dr. Juyong Lee, NIH/NHLBI.



Correlations for CBClip submissions





OAH&OAMe Binding energies

OAH/OAMe and guests



Host: charge -8 Guests: charged & neutral

lons: neutralized & ionic concentration ~ Na₃PO₄

Parameters: ParamChem CGENFF

Explicit solvent

Dry cavity (no water molecules within)

3-12 calculations for each system

K. Vanommeslaeghe, E. Hatcher, C. Acharya, S. Kundu, S. Zhong, J. Shim, E. Darian, O. Guvench, P. Lopes, I. Vorobyov, A. D. MacKerell Jr.,, J. Comput. Chem. 2010, **31**, 671-690



GalaxyDock: Protein-Ligand Docking Program





National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

W. -H. Shin, J. K. Kim, D. S. Kim, C. Seok, *J. Comput. Chem.* 2013, **34**, 2647

GalaxyDock-HG: Host-Guest Docking



Select three binding poses for each system -> simulate the lowest



National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Neutral G3 & G5





Tetramethyl-ammonium-hydroxide



Distance from QM calculations; courtesy of Frank Pickard

Assessing the guest protonation state in the complex



Binding free energy submissions for OAH



Binding free energies were under-estimated.

No NMR data for G4.





Errors for Binding free energy for OAH



Difference between experimental and each computed value.

Binding free energies were under-estimated. Highest errors for G4.

Best submission: TI, RMS values= 1.36/1.46



Binding free energy submissions for OAMe



Averaged Over all Runs



Errors for Binding free energy for OAMe



Difference between experimental and each computed value.

Binding free energies were over-estimated. Highest errors for G4.

Best submission: BAR, RMS= 0.87, 1.94 kcal/mol



Experimental vs Computational Data

Under-estimating energies



Binding energies were mostly under-estimated.

G4 had consistently high errors with respect to experiment. We suspect that either the Br ion needs re-parametrization, or the system is neutral (unlikely).



Comparison with others: OAH





Comparison with others: OAMe





In cavity vs Atop the cavity

OAH





 $\Delta G = -10.541 \text{ kcal/mol}$

 $\Delta G = -6.4 \text{ kcal/mol}$

Why did we get the worst results for G4?



Initial parametrization



QM calculation



Lonepair addition*

Analyzing only the charged species

OAH	TI: -7.84 -> -4.30 (kcal/mol) BAR: -4.89 -> -3.84 (kcal/mol)	Experimental value: -9.38 kcal/mol
OAMe	TI: -9.95 ->-0.08 (kcal/mol) BAR: -10.54 -> 1.55 (kcal/mol)	Experimental value: -2.38 kcal/mol



*Parameters from Alex MacKerell's group

Br is inside the cavity -> ΔG is more positive

OAH, G4+lonepair





Br is inside the cavity -> ΔG is more positive



Take-home messages

- CBClip: lowest errors for **small/rigid guests**
- Parametrization dictated the **open/close state** of CBClip
- **Ionic concentration** is important
- Treatment of **halogens** is important
- Further analysis of hydration



Acknowledgements

- Juyong Lee NIH/NHLBI
- Frank Pickard NIH/NHLBI
- Gerhard König NIH/NHLBI
- Jing Huang University of Maryland
- Chaok Seok Seoul National University





- Tim Miller NIH/NHLBI
- Richard Venable NIH/NHLBI

• Bernard Brooks



