

By following this tutorial the user will learn how to perform molecular docking by means of Autodock Vina program.

Docking assessment on a given experimental key/lock complex will be carried out by:

- 1) Evaluation of ligand docking starting from the experimental ligand conformation (experimental conformation re-docking ECRD)
- 2) Evaluation of ligand docking starting from a random generate ligand conformation (random conformation re-docking RCRD)

Then the binding mode of a molecule reported in an article will be evaluated.



Here is the sequence of minimal operation to set up a docking study.

First the target and its role has to be inspected.

Then a series of actions are to first validate the docking program and apply it



In this tutorial the reference article is here reported, where a series of selective NOS inhibitors are described. Reading the article it seems compound 17 is the most interesting one, so we will focus on that.



Further info can be gathered in the supporting information included in the article as external files. To get them let's search for the article in the www by googling its title. Then click on the results.

| Table Long Call (A) PubMed PubMed Advanced Advanced | Search |
|--|--|
| Abstract • Send to: • | Full fast links |
| <u>Med Chem</u> , 2015 Nev 12:56(21):8694-712. doi: 10.1021/acs.jmed:hem.5801330. Epub 2015 Oct 27. "henyl Ether- and Anliine-Containing 2-Aminoquinolines as Potent and Selective Inhibitors of Neuronal Nitric Dyide Synthese. | ACS Publications |
| Sinelli MA ¹ , Li H ² , Pensa AV ¹ , Kano S ¹ , Roman Lu ³ , Martàsek P ^{3,4,5} , Poulos TL ² , Silverman RB ¹ . | Save items |
| Author information | ☆ Add to Favorites ▼ |
| Excess mitric oxide (NO) produced by neuronal mitric oxide synthase (mNOS) is implicated in neurodegementative disorders. As a result, inhibition of NOS and neducition of NO levels is desirable therapeutically, but many nNOS inhibitors are poorly bioavailable. Promotising members of our reviously reported 2-aminoquinoline class of nNOS inhibitors, although orally bioavailable and brain-penetrant, suffer from unfavorable off-target inding to other CNS neceptors, and they resemble known promiscuous binders. Rearranged pheny (ether- and anline-linked 2-aminoquinoline tervatives were therefore designed to (a) disrupt the promiscuous binders. Rearranged pheny (ether- and anline-linked 2-aminoquinoline tervatives were therefore designed to (a) disrupt the promiscuous binders pharmacophore and diminish off-target interactions and (b) preserve otency, isoform selectivity, and cell perserve otency, isoform selectivity, and cell portexability. A series of these compounds was synthesized and tested against punfied nNOS, endotheial OS(eNOS) and inductibe NOS (NOS) enzymes. One compound, 20, displayed high potency, selectivity, and good human nNOS inhibition, and etained some permeability in a Caco-2 assay. Most promisingly, CNS receptor counterscreening revealed that this rearranged scaffold significantly educes off-target binding. | Similar articles Simplified 2-aminoquinoline-based scaffold for potent and selective neuron; [J Med Chem. 201 Aromatic reduced amide bond peptidomimetics as selective inhibitors of ne; [J Med Chem. 100 N-Phenylamidines as selective inhibitors of human neuronal nitic oxide [J Med Chem. 100 Rowson Design of selective neuronal nitic oxid synthase inhibitors for the [Acc Chem Res. 200 Rowson Progress in the development of selection artic oxide sun (Jour Phorm Des. 200 |
| Srant Support S | See reviews |
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Open up the pubmed page and then click on the ACS Publications icon.



... here is the article directly on the ACS web portal.



Let's scroll down it till supporting information appear



The «csv» file contains the smiles structures and other info



The «pdf» file contains others info

| | | | | | _ |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Data set 7 | nNOS-10 | nNOS-15 | nNOS-17 | nNOS-20 | _ |
| Data collection | | | | | _ |
| PDB code | 5AD8 | 5AD9 | 5ADA | 5ADB | - |
| Space group | P212121 | P212121 | P212121 | P212121 | - |
| Cell dimensions | 51.9 111.9 164.3 | 51.7 111.6 164.1 | 51.9 111.4 164.3 | 51.7 111.0 165.1 | - |
| a, b, c (Å) | | | | | |
| Resolution (Å) | 1.91 (1.93-1.91) | 2.30 (2.42-2.30) | 1.98 (2.05-1.98) | 2.05 (2.13-2.05) | 1 |
| Rmerge | 0.084 (>1.000) | 0.141 (2.111) | 0.097 (2.350) | 0.126 (3.719) | - |
| Rpim | 0.047 (>1.000) | 0.105 (1.541) | 0.066 (1.569) | 0.111 (3.276) | |
| CC ½ | n/a (0.348) | 0.995 (0.360) | 0.998 (0.506) | 0.997 (0.300) | |
| 1/01 | 22.3 (1.0) | 82(0.8) | 10.7 (0.7) | 8.0 (0.5) | - |

Scroll it down and stop to the table describing complex with compound 17 (5ADA)



Now turn to chimera and fetch the 5ADA pdb file through the File ightarrow Fetch



And the 17/NOS complex is then loaded. Note that therea re two copies of the protein complex, as the NOS act as a dimer (chain A + chain B).



We just need one chain and thus we can delete chain B. To do this first select chain B ...



Then open the command line tool ...



... and delete the selected chain B by issuing the «delete selection» command (it is also possible to use the «Action \rightarrow Atoms/Bonds \rightarrow Delete» command)



Now we have only one copy of the ${\bf 17}/{\rm NOS}$ complex



To prepare the complex for the geometry relaxation and the subsequent molecular docking runs it is advisable to remove all non standard residue not necessary for the study. Therefore we remove the crystallization water (solvent) and all not interesting ions and small molecules (in this case there is only the solvent to be removed).

Issue the command "select solvent" in the command line.



And the water moleculs should be selected by being highlighted in green.



Then check for all non standard residues by the "Select ightarrow all nonstandard" menu



The nonstandard residues must be displayed ("Action \rightarrow show")



Deselect everything («Select \rightarrow Clear Selection»)



And hide the ribbon



Select non standar residue again and focus on that selection

- 1) "Select \rightarrow Residue \rightarrow All nonstandard"
- 2) "Action \rightarrow Focus"
- 3) "Action \rightarrow Atoms/Bonds \rightarrow Show only"



There are several nonstandard residues, therefore we have to check on the PDB site for residue information

| Small Molecules | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Ligands (Stinger) | | | | |
| ID | Chains | Name / Formula / InChi Key | 2D Diagram & Interactions | 3D Interactions |
| 2SN Query on 2SN | A, B | 7-[[[3- [(dmethylamino)methyl]phenyl]amino]methyl]quinolin- 2- | 200 | Ligand Explorer |
| Download SDF File 🛞 | | C19 H22 N4 | 2 | Jona . |
| Download CCD File 🕲 | | KLVQNBMBSWDRJZ-UHFFFAOYSA-N | | |
| ACT | A, B | ACETATE ION | .0 | Ligand Explorer |
| Query on ACT | | C2 H3 O2 QTBSBXVTEAMEQO-UHFFFAOYSA-M | HJC - | JSmol |
| Download SDF File 🖲 | | | 0- | |
| Download CCD File (9) | | | | |
| H4B | A, B | 5,6,7,8-TETRAHYDROBIOPTERIN | | Ligand Explorer |
| Suery on Heb | | FNKQXYHWGSIFBK-RPDRRWSUSA-N | 10. | JSmol |
| Download SDF File @ | | | I.T | |
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| Query on HEM | A B | PROTOPORPHYRIN IX CONTAINING FE HEME (Synanym) | 25 | Ligand Explorer |
| Download SDF File (9) | | FEDYMSUPMFCVOD-UUXFSCMSA-N | SA | - Jamo |
| Download CCD File 🕲 | | | | |
| ZN | A | ZINC ION | | Ligand Explorer |
| Query on ZN | | Zn PTFCDOFLOPIGGS-UHFFFAOYSA-N | Zn ²⁺ | JSmol |
| Download SDF File 🛞 | | | | |
| Download CCD File @ | | | | |

In the PDB site, go to the 5ADA complex and scroll down to the "small Molecules" description section. Among all the small molecules the only not important residue is the acetate ion. Molecule 2SN is the inhibitor we are studying; H4B is a tetrahydrobiopterin acting as a co-factor, HEM is the active co-factor and Zn is a structural ion.



Seeking for tetrahydrobiopterin information it is possible to find information on its role.



Let's delete the acetate residue: "Select \rightarrow Residue \rightarrow ACT"





And delete it by issuing the "delete selection" at the command line



Make a copy of the clean complex with the "combine #0" command



Rename the two complexes as reported in the slide



At this point we can try to minimize the complex in area #1 ("Tools \rightarrow Minimize Structure")



Consecutive windows will pop up

| Complex Minimiz | zation |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Specify Net Charges Residue Net Charge 2SN +1 H4B +0 H4B +1 H4B +1 H4B +1 H4D +1 H4D +1 H4D +1 H4D +1 H4D +1 H4D +1 Polications aing AntECI-M4MER charges should | Assign Charges for Hinimize |
| Molecular Docking | Pagina 34 |



Unfortunately the minimization did not go thru! The program complains about a lysine residue.



To check we can display all the lysine residues ("select \rightarrow Residue \rightarrow Lys")



... "Actions \rightarrow show"



And zoom out to see all the lysines. In this slide we can se there is a smaller lysine residues. Most of the time this is the last residue of the protein sequence that normally is not complete



Unselect everything and zoom in to that residues and label all the residues ("Actions \rightarrow Label \rightarrow residue")



And the "LYS 717" label will appear.



Delete residue 717 by issuing the "delete :717" command



And try again to minimize "Structure Editing \rightarrow Minimize Structure"



The minimization starts and it will take some minutes to finish.

Select again all nonstandard residues



And focus on those. In this slide it is possible to observe that small movements occurred either in the ligand 2SN and the cofactors H4B and HEM. Note the Fe ion! This is actually an error due to the fact that molecular mechanics calculations are not very good in handle heavy metals.



Move on to prepare lock and key.

Issue the command "combine #1" twice and rename areas #2 and #3 as in the slide.



Delete residue 800 (the ligand) form area #2



Then make the reverse in area #3:

1) Issue the "select #3:800" command

2)



Then make the reverse in area #3:

- 1) Issue the "select #3:800" command
- 2) "Select \rightarrow Invert (selected models) \rightarrow "
- 3) Issue the "delete selection" command

Now we have in areas #2 and #3 the isolated lock and key, respectively



Let's try to perform a ECRD using Autodock Vina ("Structure/Binding Analysis \rightarrow Autodock Vina")



Set the parameters similar to shown in the slide and click OK.

Again there are problems. The program complains.

Very likely the problem is the fact that there are nonstandard residues embedded in the lock (H4B, HEM, Zn)



To workaround we can make the docking using the DOS terminal, but we need to save the molecules.

| Save SADA_key as PDB File | | Save SADA_lock as PDB File | _10] |
|---|---|--|---|
| der: [2:]DATTLavoro'Universita'[ChimicaFarmaceutica_BofF [coila [| maccuble \2015-2016\Esercita: | Folder: [2:/DATTI:Lavoro/Universita/OhimicaParmaceu | ica_BiofFarmaceutiche12015-2016/Esercita icwa.25.1 ilgand.pdb icwa.25.1 ilgand.pdb icwa.ECRD.ilgand.pdb icwa.ECRD.ilgand.pdb icwa.RCRD.receptor.pdb icwa.RCRD.receptor.pdb icwa.RCRD.receptor.pdb icwa.RCRD.receptor.pdb icwa.RCRD.pdgnd.pdb icwa.RD.receptor.pdb |
| name: [SADA_key.pdb | en ¥ | ▲] File name: [SADA_Jock.pdb IF Addpdb.suffix | if none given |
| (A) (a | A V | Save model: Save displayed atoms only Save selected atoms only | |
| Save relative to model: SADA_original (#0) | Keep datog up after Seve Save Close Help | Save relative to model: SADA_original (#0) | Li Keep Salog up after S Save Close Help |

Save both the lock and the key into pdb files



Check you have the files



Then use babel to convert the two molecules by issuing the following command.

1) First move in the correct path

```
cd Z:\DATI\Lavoro\Universita\ChimicaFarmaceutica_BiotFarmaceutiche\2015-2016\Esercitazioni\Docking
```

2) Convert the lock (this will take time!!):

```
"C:\Program Files (x86)\OpenBabel-2.3.2\babel.exe" -xrcp 5ADA_lock.pdb
5ADA_lock.pdbqt
```

3) Convert the key:

"C:\Program Files (x86)\OpenBabel-2.3.2\obabel.exe" -xp -ipdb 5ADA_key.pdb - opdbqt 5ADA_key.pdbqt



Check al the file are present



Then prepare a config file for Autodock Vina, Open the wordpad program



Insert the correct info (your number will be different !!)



Try to run the docking in the DOS terminal by issuing the following command:

Z:\DATI\Lavoro\Universita\ChimicaFarmaceutica_BiotFarmaceutiche\2015-2016\Esercitazioni\Docking>"C:\Program Files (x86)\The Scripps Research Institute\Vina\vina.exe" --receptor 5ADA_lock.pdbqt --ligand 5ADA_key.pdbqt --config config.txt

The program stops outputting an error is in the lock file



Open and fix it!

First remove the line containing the "ROOT" word at the beginning of the file

| and the second second | SADA_lock.pd | dbqt - Word | iPad | | | | | | | | | | -1 |
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| | | +0.000 | NA 2 | Ch | ARG | 1299 | 51,105 | -25.078 | =17.74 | 6 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | +0.000 | c | - Ch | 1110 | na 2 2 | 011100 | 201010 | | 0.00 | 0100 | | |
| | 1 | MOTA | 3 | C | ARG | A299 | 49.768 | -25.135 | -16.98 | 32 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | +0.000 | c | 1000 | | 1000 | 100 000 | 20 122 | | | 10.00 | | |
| | | ATOM | A 4 | 0 | ARG | A299 | 49.272 | -24.085 | -16.60 | 01 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | ATOM | 5 | CB | ARG | A299 | 50.927 | -24.838 | -19.26 | 56 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | +0.000 | c | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | ATOM | 6 | CG | ARG | A299 | 50.296 | -23.492 | -19.66 | 52 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | +0.000 | C | an | a D.C. | 1200 | 49 692 | -22 544 | -21 07 | 12 0 00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | +0.000 | c ' | CD | ARG | R233 | 17.032 | -23.344 | -21.07 | 13 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | MOTA | 8 | NE | ARG | A299 | 49.064 | -22.259 | -21.46 | 51 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | +0.000 | N | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | MOTA | 9 | CZ | ARG | A299 | 49.582 | -21.312 | -22.23 | 34 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | | | ~ | ~~ | - | | | | | | 0.00 | | |

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| | +0.000 HD ATOM 4116 HC +0.000 HD | 010 H4B A760 | 55.559 -11.610 5. | .908 0.00 0.00 | |
| | ATOM 4117 ZN +0.000 Zn ENDROOT TORSDOF 1677 | ZN A1717 | 57.038 -18.205 -4 | 4.744 0.00 0.00 | |

Then remove the ENDROOT and TORSDOF containing lines and correct the charge on the Zn atom!

| 1 | SADA_lock.pdbqt - Wo | rdPad | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | +0.000 | 04 | 010 1 | 140 | A760 | 33.291 | -12.433 | 0.215 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | ATOM | 4110 | H3 1 | 14B | A760 | 47.471 | -11.079 | 8.958 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | +0.000 | HD | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ATOM | 4111 | H5 H | 14B | A760 | 52.150 | -10.585 | 9.001 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 1.0 |
| | +0.000 | HD | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ATOM | 4112 | H8 H | 14B | A760 | 51.097 | -15.056 | 7.627 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | +0.000 | HD 4113 | 821 1 | AR | 3760 | 46 756 | -14 296 | 7 950 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | +0.000 | HD | 121 1 | 140 | 100 | 40.750 | -14.330 | 1.950 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | ATOM | 4114 | H22 H | 14B | A760 | 46.099 | -12.886 | 8.514 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | +0.000 | HD | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ATOM | 4115 | H09 1 | 14B | A760 | 55.513 | -11.716 | 10.045 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| | +0.000 | HD | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ATOM | 4116 H | 1010 1 | 14B | A760 | 55.559 | -11.610 | 5.908 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| _ | +0.000 | HD | | | | F7 000 | 10.005 | | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
| _ | ATOM | 911/ 2 | SIN 4 | 6D 4 | A1/1/ | 57.030 | -18.205 | -9./99 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |
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Assume a charge of 2.0 for the Zn

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| | +0.000 N | | | | |
| | ATOM 4090 | NC HEM A750 | 37.991 -9.080 | 3.301 0.00 0.00 | |
| | +0.000 N | ND HPM 5750 | 40 750 -9 207 | 2 246 0 00 0 00 | |
| | +0.000 N | ND HER ATSU | 40.750 -5.507 | 3.246 0.00 0.00 | |
| | ATOM 4092 | FE HEM A750 | 39.502 -9.487 | 5.082 0.00 0.00 | |
| | +3.000 Fe | NI HAR A760 | 49,164 -13,702 | 8.126 0.00 0.00 | |
| | +0.000 NA | | | | |
| | ATOM 4094 | C2 H4B A760 | 48.129 -12.937 | 8.348 0.00 0.00 | |
| | ATOM 4095 | N2 H4B A760 | 46.880 -13.397 | 8.115 0.00 0.00 | |
| | +0.000 NA | | | | |
| | ATOM 4096 | N3 H4B A760 | 48.305 -11.630 | 8.788 0.00 0.00 | |
| | ATOM 4097 | C4 H4B A760 | 49.518 -11.036 | 8.938 0.00 0.00 | |
| | +0.000 C | | | | |
| | ATOM 4098 | 04 H4B A760 | 49.642 -9.932 | 9.382 0.00 0.00 | |
| | ATOM 4099 | C4A H4B A760 | 50.642 -11.959 | 8.563 0.00 0.00 | |
| | +0.000 C | | FA 444 44 444 | | |
| | ATOM 4100 | C8A H4B A/60 | 50.382 -13.239 | 8.164 0.00 0.00 | |
| | | | | | 100% 🕒 — (+ |

Fix also the charge on the Fe by setting to 3.0



Launch the docking and now it should go.



When it will be over

| Open File in Chimera Folder: 2:\DATT\Lavoro\LIniversita\ChimicaFarmaceutica_Biot | armaceutiche \2015-2016 \Esercitazioni/Docking | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| n for exploratory research and analysis.pdf hape and Electrostatic Potential.pdf for exploratory research and analysis.Balloon.pdf | ▲ SADA.py SADA.pv SADA.key.pdb SADA.key.pdb SADA.key.pdbt SADA.jock.pdb SADA.jock. | |
| 4 | O Type Selection | × |
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| | OK Cancel | |

Read in chimera the output file (5ADA_key_out.pdbqt) and instruct the program to consider the file as a normal PDB one



The docked conformations will appear in the chimera windows.



Ungroup them and hide all conformations except the first (7.1 here).

As you can see the yellow conformation (re-docked) is well superimposed on the experimental one. It is also possible to calculate the RMSD value by issuing the "rmsd #5 #7.1" command.

We have an RMSD value of 3.5, it is not very good but actually the trimethyl amino methyl side chain have space to move.



Indeed the second conformation is much better with an RMSD value of just 1.1! And it is only 0.4 kcal/mol away from conformation 1 (see slide 65)

