**Protocol Capture for RosettaGPCRPocketSize**

All files and examples are given at: <https://github.com/FabianLiessmann/RosettaGPCRPocketSize>

Rosetta Documentation main site: <https://www.rosettacommons.org/docs/latest/Home>

* RosettaCM Documentation
* [Hybridize mover documentation](https://www.rosettacommons.org/docs/latest/scripting_documentation/RosettaScripts/Movers/movers_pages/HybridizeMover)
* [RosettaScripts documentation](https://www.rosettacommons.org/docs/latest/scripting_documentation/RosettaScripts/RosettaScripts)
* [Constraint documentation](https://www.rosettacommons.org/docs/latest/rosetta_basics/file_types/constraint-file)

Notes: Paths are relative, the Rosetta software is needed and a general understanding of homology modeling. Two examples for RosettaGPCRPocketSize are provided (ADRB1\_example and CXCR4\_example). In each example, four directories for a step-wise approach are given, this is not necessary to run the scripts but recommended as it facilitates the execution of RosettaGPCRPocketSize and is helpful to get used to the whole pipeline. To summarize the pipeline: With this method you generate a Ballosteros-Weinstein numbering (BW) file, which correlates your residue numbers to the BW numbering. In the second step you generate receptor individual randomized constraints (two tetrahedral constraint sets), followed by executing RosettaGPCR with in Step2 generated updated RosettaCM.xml scripts. In the final step, the results are evaluated, and the best models based on total energy and pocket volume are selected.

Most scripts are written as jupyter notebook (\*ipynb). Necessary libraries are jupyter-notebook, Biopython, pandas, matplotlib, numpy, scipy and random. If Anaconda3 is installed, all libraries should be in the base environment, else use conda install -c anaconda jupyter, conda install -c conda-forge biopython, conda install -c conda-forge pandas…. To start the script in the respective conda environment with jupyter notebook \*.ipynb. A general anaconda documentation is given here:

<https://docs.anaconda.com/anaconda/install/index.html>.

All needed inputs are marked with several lines of ############# in the script.

**Necessary input from user:**

* RosettaGPCR preparation (setup\_RosettaCM\_updated.py instead of setup\_RosettaCM.py – provided in necessary\_input)
* Fasta sequence (either from RosettaGPCR or self-selected for your respective receptor target)

**Necessary input/scripts from RosettaGPCRPocketSize**

* A BW file will be generated in Step1 with BW\_assignment.ipynb, assignment.list and all\_gpcrdb\_num.data (or can be taken from gpcrdb.com)
* selected\_pairs.list with the tetrahedral distances and Make\_cst\_files.ipynb for generating constraint files in Step2
* Calculate\_volume\_and\_filtering.ipynb and selected\_res\_vol.list for the volume calculation and final filtering in Step4
* All jupyter notebooks are as single books and summarized in RosettaGPCRPocketSize.ipynb

**Supporting\_scripts:**

* requirements.txt with all respective python libraries
* example\_rosetta\_cm.xml contains an example script
* rosetta\_cm.xml is a general example with filler for constraint input
* rosetta\_cm(updated\_and\_commented).xml shows the difference between a RosettaGPCR and RosettaGPCRPocketSize Rosetta script for homology modeling

**Step 0: Prepare the input files as described in RosettaGPCR**

* Prepare templates, alignment, setup for RosettaCM (see setup\_RosettaCM\_updated.py) and span file
* Copy the target sequence as target.fasta into “Step1\_Generate\_BW\_assignment”

**Step 1: Generate a BW file assigning the residue numbers to BW numbering**

* Change into Step1\_Generate\_BW\_assignment and copy the following files to this directory: your receptor sequence as target.fasta, all\_gpcrdb\_num.data, assignment.list and BW\_assignment.ipynb
* The target sequence should include a >{receptor name} line
* assignment.list includes the UniProt and IUPHAR name of all class A GPCRs, check if your receptor name is included in the list. The second column is used for assigning the receptor (if your receptor name is not included, add a new line with “your {receptor name} from target.fasta” > “respective IUPHAR name found in all\_gpcrdb\_num.data”
* all\_gpcrdb\_num.data lists all human class A GPCRs with their BW numbering and respective residues. The script is optimized for human sequence but will work for other organisms as well. When this step provides errors, the BW assignment is not working or your receptor sequence is special, add your target BW from gcprdb (<https://gpcrdb.org/alignment/targetselection>)
* Run BW\_assignment.ipynb step-wise and produce your receptor BW file

**Step 2: Generate several constraint file and update the RosettaCM script**

* Change into “Step2\_Generate\_CST” and copy the generated BW file to here
* Copy and check if selected\_pairs.list is in the same directory as the BW file and Make\_cst\_files.ipynb. selected\_pairs.list contains the distance pairs (in BW numbering) and the respective distances. Six distances equal one tetrahedron, two tetrahedrons are selected, based on these, constraints are generated
* Update the number of desired constraint files (in the example for the sake of simplicity, only 10 are generated, in reality 100-1000 are a good option). For RosettaCM several hundred to a few thousand homology models are best (when using RosettaGPCRPocketSize for generating a pocket ensemble with relax, 100-300 are a good number), change your constraint file number accordingly (constraint file number ≜ desired model number; or: x-times the constraint file number ≜ desired homology model number 🡪 -nstruct in flags.options defines the number of models generated for each RosettaCM run)
* Run Make\_cst\_file.ipynb block-wise to generate the constraint files
* In the notebook a #Bonus-block will prepare a copy\_cst\_and\_xml.sh script. This script facilitates copying the generated constraint files in the next directory and also, to build the respective xml scripts for the constraint file: each constraint file is addressed by a different xml script, the #Bonus-block will add a bash script with sed to change “input/constraint\_number” to “input/{receptor\_name}\_{constraint\_file\_number}.cst”, an example can be seen in the Supporting\_scripts as rosetta\_cm.xml
* Before running the bash script, check your rosetta\_cm.xml from Step 0: Have you used the setup\_RosettaCM\_updated.py and does your xml script include ConstraintSetMover and FastRelax? Compare to rosetta\_cm.xml in Supporting\_scripts

**Step 3: Run RosettaCM/RosettaGPCR accordingly**

* Change in Step3\_RosettaGPCR and check that you prepared and copied all needed inputs and files: Two directories input and output, in input:
  + threaded template pdbs
  + disulf.txt (if necessary for your target)
  + flags.options
  + {receptor\_name}\_{constraint\_file\_number}.cst (Several constraint files)
  + rosetta\_cm{number\_of\_constraint\_file}.xml (Several xml files according to the number of constraint files)
  + span.txt
  + weight files (stage1\_membrane.wts, stage2\_membrane.wts and stage3\_rlx\_membrane.wts)
* If everything is present, run Rosetta\_scripts and include a -parser:protocol rosetta\_cm{number}.xml flag as well as @flags.options, example: /PATH/TO/ROSETTA/main/source/bin/rosetta\_scripts.static.linuxgccrelease -parser:protocol rosetta\_cm1.xml @flags.options
* Depending on your set-up (workstation with 24 cores vs. cluster with slurm script), write a bash script that loops to run all scripts, for homology modeling several hundreds – thousands models are necessary, for relax only several hundred

**Step 4: Evaluate the pdbs, their volume and score**

* Change into Step4\_Filtering and copy all in Step3 generated pdb files to Step4\_Filtering and also, the following files: Calculate\_volume\_and\_filtering.ipynb, the BW File (from Step 1) and selected\_res\_vol.list
* selected\_res\_vol.list contains ten residues for the volume calculation
* Run Calculate\_volume\_and\_filtering.ipynb block-wise, here the relevant residues for volume calculation are assigned based on BW numbering, the cartesian coordinates of the Cα atoms are extracted and saved as {file\_name.pdb}.xyz, based on the ten residues the volume is calculated and saved {file\_name.pdb}.xyz.vol
* These files are for debugging when there is an error with the volume
* In the final step, all volumes are concatenated in one file (all\_vol.list) and the score is extracted from the pdbs (score.list) (when another scoring application was used afterwards, change this respectively)
* In the end, the script will merge the score from score.list and the volume from all\_vol.list, calculate the median volume, select the pdbs within a specific bandwidth of ±200A3 and the best five models according to the score. The number of best models and the volume bandwidth can be changed

**Further notes/tips:**

* Check the best models in PyMOL, Chimera or any other visualization tool 🡪 are the models well made? Is the helical bundle destroyed and the pocket too big? How does the binding pocket look like – is the geometry destroyed, the pocket collapsed or enlarged?
* Check the volume of the best models and also, the median volume – is it expected (lipid GPCRs are around 2,200-2,600A3, most GPCRs are around 2,600A3, some with large binding pockets go up to 3,200A3)
* Doublecheck with gpcrdb.com your BW numbering, is everything alright?
* If your receptor has a known smaller or bigger binding pocket, change the distances in selected\_pairs.list. An overview with all inactive determined class A GPCRs and their respective pocket distances is given in S1\_all\_inactive\_distances.ods. Family related or specific receptor distances can be selected
* If you are unsatisfied with the results, change the constraint parameter selection in Step2. Currently the distance is increased by 3-7% to counter the collapse during relax, the constraint weight is increased to 2-4 and the constant bonus is between -1 and -10. Increase the weight or change the distance if necessary. Compare your target with known distances from related receptors in S1

**Additional Material:**

* [High-Resolution Comparative Modeling with RosettaCM](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0969212613002979) (doi 10.1016/j.str.2013.08.005)
  + Original paper describing method
* [Protocols for Molecular Modeling with Rosetta3 and RosettaScripts](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.biochem.6b00444)
  + Tutorial paper giving overview of Rosetta, primary methods, and associated tutorials
* [Original RosettaGPCR paper](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7652349/) Improving homology modeling from low-sequence identity templates in Rosetta: A case study in GPCRs (doi 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1007597)
  + Paper describing the method and input, preparing the templates
  + The full preparation is available at [www.rosettagpcr.org](http://www.rosettagpcr.org/) and [www.github.com/benderb1/rosettagpcr](http://www.github.com/benderb1/rosettagpcr).
* [MeilerLab Tutorials (comparative modeling and more)](http://meilerlab.org/index.php/rosetta-tutorials) and [Constraint Tutorial](https://new.rosettacommons.org/demos/latest/tutorials/Constraints_Tutorial/Constraints)