

Tutorial on batch format conversion of receptors and ligands by MolAICal

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1. Introduction

Virtual screening and evaluation tasks require batch processing of receptor and protein formats. Therefore, a tutorial using MolAICal for batch conversion of receptor and ligand formats is introduced here. For more detailed MolAICal, please visit <https://molaical.github.io> or <https://molaical.gitee.io>.

2. Materials

2.1. Software requirement

- 1) MolAICal: <https://molaical.github.io> or <https://molaical.gitee.io>
- 2) UCSF Chimera: <https://www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera>

Notice: make sure the installation of MolAICal and Chimera is correct!

2.2. Example files

- 1) All the necessary tutorial files are downloaded from:

https://github.com/MolAICal/tutorials/tree/master/023-convert_rec_lig_batch

Part I. Batch converting of receptors and ligands

In this part, MolAICal supplies a script for converting the files of receptors and ligands in batches.

1. Batch converting of receptor files

1.1 Go to the virtual environment

Download material files: “023-convert_rec_lig_batch” from Github or Gitee, and go into the directory “023-convert_rec_lig_batch” as follows:

```
#> cd 023-convert_rec_lig_batch
```

And then:

In Windows system:

```
#> D:\MolAICal-win64\mtools\py\Scripts\activate.bat
```

In Linux system:

```
#> source /home/feng/tutorial/MolAICal-linux64/mtools/py/bin/activate
```

Note: Please replace “D:\MolAICal-win64” or “/home/feng/tutorial/MolAICal-linux64” with your **real path** of MolAICal.

If you go into the virtual environment, you will see a graph similar to the following:

```
(py) feng@feng-System-Product-Name:~/tutorial$ ls *dat
deal_rec_list.dat  lig_list.dat  lig_list_mol2.dat  rec_list.dat
(py) feng@feng-System-Product-Name:~/tutorial$
```

1.2 Getting receptors' and ligands' list

Here, the below command will get the ligands path list:

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -sd "batch_conv" -ds -ik "_ligand.sdf" >
lig_list.dat
```

Here, the below command will get the receptors path list:

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -sd "batch_conv" -ds -ik
"_protein.pdb" -nk "_protein.pdbqt" > rec_list.dat
```

Note: Please replace “MolAICal-xxx” with your **real path** of MolAICal. It should set your real path for “batch_conv” after “-sd”.

-ik: The keyword is for searching.

-nk: The keyword is excluded from the search.

For more detailed input parameters for commands, please see ‘Appendix’ in this document.

1.3 Converting in the batch of receptor files

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Option:

If you think your receptor files are not necessary to be further handled, please skip this step and go into next step. Sometimes, receptors contain unnecessary ions and water or the wrong hydrogens. In this option, MolAICal will be used to deal with receptor files in batches.

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -m -dr -cp "Chimera
1.15rc\bin\chimera.exe" -ir "rec_list.dat"
```

Note: Please replace “MolAICal-xxx” or “Chimera 1.15rc\bin\chimera.exe” with your **real path** of MolAICal or Chimera. “rec_list.dat” should be replaced with your real path.

The default dealing receptor name is “rec_deal.pdb”. If users want to use the handled results, please use the below command to obtain the paths of the handled receptor files:

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -sd "batch_conv" -ds -ik
"rec_deal.pdb" > deal_rec_list.dat
```

Note: If you use this step, please substitute “deal_rec_list.dat” for “rec_list.dat” in the following steps.

#####

If you **omit** the **above option**, convert in the batch of receptors as follows:

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -rc -ir "rec_list.dat" -irf "pdb" -orf "pdbqt"
```

1.4 Converting in the batch of ligand files

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -lc -il "lig_list.dat" -ilf "sdf" -olf "pdbqt"
```

Part II. Batch converting of receptors and ligands by MolAICal command

In this part, It calls the MolAICal command to convert the files of receptors and ligands in batch. However, this part tutorial has the limitation in the conversion formats for the files of ligands and receptors. For example, It cannot support the SDF format of ligands and receptors. You can choose to study part I or part II for your studies.

2.1 Converting in the batch of receptor files with the MolAICal command

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -m -rc -ir "rec_list.dat" -mp "MolAICal-xxx\molaical.exe"
```

Note: Please replace “MolAICal-xxx” with your **real path** of MolAICal. "rec_list.dat" should be replaced with your real path.

2.2 Converting in the batch of ligand files with the MolAICal command

In this part, the MolAICal command does not support the SDF format, so the mol2 or PDB format is selected for conversion. Here, Getting the list of ligand files in mol2 format as an example:

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -sd "batch_conv" -ds -ik "_ligand.mol2" > lig_list_mol2.dat
```

Then, converting in batch of ligand files:

```
#> python MolAICal-xxx\scripts\rec_lig_con_batch.py -m -lc -il "lig_list_mol2.dat" -mp "MolAICal-xxx\molaical.exe"
```

Note: Please replace “MolAICal-xxx” with your **real path** of MolAICal. "lig_list_mol2.dat" should be replaced with your real path. It should set your real path for "batch_conv" after “-sd”.

Appendix

1. Advance (Option):

If users want to improve the conversion speed, users can split the input file by the “split” command in Linux, and then submit the splitted output files. The split command is as follows:

```
#> split -a 3 -d -l 10 --additional-suffix=.txt lig_list.dat test-
```

-a 3: use “000” for nomenclature, users can modify it according to the requirement.

-d: use digit for nomenclature.

-l 2: split file every 2 lines, users can modify it according to the requirement.

--additional-suffix=.txt: the suffix for the output file.

lig_list.dat: input file.

test-: the prefix of the output file.

For Windows:

Users can split files in Linux, and download the output files in the Windows OS System.

Besides, users can use the “split” command on Windows OS system by installing Gnuwin32 or Git:
<https://getgnuwin32.sourceforge.net> or <https://git-scm.com>

2. Detailed parameters:

The parameters in MolAICal for batch format conversion of receptor and ligand files are as follows:

-ir: The file of receptors list.

-or: Output names of receptors.

-irf: The format for inputted receptor. The format name is the suffix of the molecule, for example, “test.mol”, “test.pdb”, or “test.sdf” should use the letters “mol”, “pdb” or “sdf” after the parameter “-irf”.

-orf: The format for outputted receptor. The format name is the suffix of the molecule, for example, “test.mol”, “test.pdb”, or “test.sdf” should use the letters “mol”, “pdb” or “sdf” after the parameter “-orf”.

-il: The file of ligands list.

-ol: Output names of ligands.

-ilf: The format of inputted ligand.

-olf: The format of outputted ligand.

-rc: Whether convert receptor format, if input “-rc” only, it means True to convert receptor format.

-lc: Whether convert ligand format, if input “-lc” only, it means True to convert ligand format.

-ds: Whether search files with appointed characters, if input “-ds” only, it means True to search files

with appointed characters.

-sd: The directory for searching.

-ik: The keyword is for searching.

-nk: The keyword is excluded from the search.

-fn: The file contains different keywords for searching.

-dp: The depth of searching directories, the default value is "None" which represents searching all the directories. It can be 0, 1, 2... that represent the current, 1, 2...level directories.

-mp: The absolute path of MolAICal executable file.

-cp: The absolute path of UCSF Chimera executable file.

-m: Whether run the MolAICal command for molecular format conversion, if input "-m" only, it means True to run the MolAICal command for molecular format conversion.

-dr: Whether run MolAICAl for dealing with the receptor files. For example, delete ions, and water, and modify hydrogen. If input "-dr" only, it means True to run MolAICAl for dealing with the receptor files.

-rn: The writing receptor name.

-ah: Whether delete hydrogen for receptor. If input "-ah" only, it means True to add hydrogen for receptor.