

Notes on the workflow

1. Get Structure of receptor-agonist complex from Protein Data Bank

This is the crystal structure (5C1M) of the agonist interacting with the receptor protein. From this file we can obtain the structures of the receptor and the agonist.

2. Prepare the files for the ligand and the receptor.

Here we need to create the pdbqt files for the two structures. This file format is specifically needed by the docking software smina.

3. Run docking calculations on for the complex

Here we re-dock the agonist-receptor complex. We define the affinity of the agonist for the receptor.

4. Query PubChem for list of similar compounds

Here we want to search for new chemical compound with better affinity and therefore we create a similarity search job on PubChem.

Similarity Threshold: 75%

Default Similarity Algorithm:

5. Download Compounds and Smiles

Simply downloading, from PubChem, the compounds returned by the query jobs with their relative SMILES strings.

6. Run Docking Calculation for new compounds

Docking calculations for compounds downloaded from PubChem. The idea is to quantify the affinity for the receptor and check for potential lead compounds with better affinity.

7. Identify compounds with higher affinity

Pick compound(s) with best score for affinity. If desired repeat from query process (step 4) using the newly found ligand as input of the similarity search.

SMINA docking calculation options:

Version: smina 2020.12.10

--Autobox-ligand: Reference ligand for docking site definition: VF1 AGONIST

--Autobox-add

--Exhaustiveness: 8 (Default Value from SMINA)