PRosettaC: Rosetta based modeling of PROTAC mediated ternary complexes

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Supplementary Figures

Figure S1. Anchor distance sampling.

We assessed two methods to sample the distance distribution between the anchor atoms on the PROTAC target and E3 ligase ligand. **A.** The most straightforward way to sample the anchor distance, is to generate random conformations of the entire PROTAC, measure the distance between the two anchor points and sum up the conformations (in bins of 1Å) to generate the distance histogram. Here we show the distribution of 100 random conformations which undersamples the actual distance for PDB: 6BOY. **B.** The alternative approach we ultimately used to estimate the distance between the anchor atoms is the following: for each value starting from 1Å and in increments of 1Å we generate random 100 pairs of ligand positions with the anchor distance set to that value. Then, for each pair of ligands positions, we generate a random conformation of the entire PROTAC which incorporates the 'fixed' ligand positions. Due to geometrical constraints of the molecule, some of the pairs fail to generate a valid PROTAC conformation while others succeed. Once an orientation is generated, we re-measure the distance between the two anchors, to make sure it stays close to the distance set by the bin. We sum up the successfully generated PROTAC conformations for each distance bin to generate the histogram. Now the distribution covers the crystallographic distance. We select minimum and maximum distances for the protocol based on this distribution (see methods and Table S1). To assess the selection of the number of randomly generated conformations we show examples for the distribution with **C.** 200 trials **D.** 300 trials. **E.** 400 trials. The final protocol uses 200 trials to estimate the distance.

Figure S2. Selection of a clustering threshold.

Different clustering thresholds for final models of PDB: 6BOY. The threshold is the neighboring distance used in the DBSCAN clustering algorithm. We chose the desired clustering threshold prior to the hyper parameters optimization, such that the resulting clusters are coherent and represent the same binding mode. Here we only present the largest clusters, with at least five members. E3 ligase - CRBN is in green. Each cluster is presented in a different color. On the top is a side view on the protein-protein interaction, and on the bottom is a view from the bottom side of CRBN. **A.** Threshold=3Å. **B.** Threshold=4Å. **C.** Threshold=5Å. For the results reported in this manuscript we chose the threshold of 4Å.

For each of the four successful training examples we show a representative from each of the top three clusters. The representative is chosen as the model with the best final score within the cluster. Green: the native structure of the E3 ligase. Dark blue: the native structure of the target (BRD4) and the PROTAC. Cyan: representative of the first cluster. Magenta: representative of the second cluster. Yellow: representative of the third cluster. Since the E3 ligase chain is fixed in our models, only BRD4 and the PROTAC are shown for the cluster representatives.

Figure S4. Suggested macrocyclic PROTAC based on our prediction for PDB: 6BN7.

A. Our top prediction (light pink) shows a possibility for the linker of 6BN7 to exit out of the opposite atom of thalidomide than the one observed in the crystal structure (magenta). Thus, we propose it may be possible to merge these linkers into a macrocyclic PROTAC, like the one developed by Tesla et al. following a similar logic. **B.** The structure of the suggested macrocyclic PROTAC.

Figure S5. Energy landscapes of PROTAC mediated ternary-complexes.

For each of the five cases in our 'training' set (**A & B**) and 'test' set (**C & D**) we present a plot of the energy vs. the RMSD to the crystallographic pose for models generated by global docking (**A & C**) or for final models (**B & D**).

For global docking (rows A and C), red dots represent the top 1,000 scoring solutions that were chosen, for follow-up. In case there were more than 1,000 solutions, they are colored blue. For the final models (rows B and D), red dots represent the top 200 models according to interface score that were chosen for further clustering, out of the top 1,000 scoring models by total score shown in the plot.

Figure S6. Crystal packing of VHL/SMARCA2/4 complexes.

Crystal packing of symmetry mates (gray) of SMARCA domains (blue) in complex with VHL (green) may stabilize a specific binding conformation that is difficult for global docking to detect. **A.** PDB: 6HAX. **B.** PDB: 6HAY. **C.** PDB: 6HR2.

Supplementary Tables

Table S1. Statistics of distance constraints and number or models generated

The number of conformation ensembles generated is the number of local docking solutions, for which at least one constrained conformation was generated. For the rest of local docking solutions, for which no conformations were generated after 100 trials, we assume to be incompatible with the PROTAC distance constraints and discard it.

Table S2. Hyper parameter optimization.

For each condition and each of the five cases of our training set, we report the rank of the near native cluster. 'None' signifies that no near-native cluster was found.
^a In the first round of optimization we have explored three parameters: 1. The use of the E3 ligase monomer

or entire complex. 2. PatchDock clustering threshold $(2\text{\AA} / 4\text{\AA})$. 3. The number of local docking models generated for each global docking solution. (5 / 10). Other parameters (see third round below) were set to: 1,000 top scoring final models considered for clustering, 100 top models by interface score proceeding to clustering.

 b In the second round, we fixed the clustering threshold to 2\AA and the usage of the E3 monomer, and assessed if increasing the local docking sampling to 20, or 50 improved ranking, as it indeed has.

^c In the third round we optimized the number of top scoring final models considered for clustering (1000— 10,000) as well as the number of top models by interface score (50—1000) proceeding to clustering. These parameters were determined with the previously optimized parameters fixed (E3: monomer, PatchDock clustering threshold of 2Å, number of local docking decoys is 50). In all of these reported simulations, a clustering threshold of 4Å was used for the final clustering and ranking.

Table S3. Comparison between native and model protein-protein interactions.

We used the PIC server¹ to calculate the protein-protein interactions of both native and model (lowest RMSD structures in native cluster) ternary complexes, including hydrophobic interactions (within 5Å), hydrogen bond interactions, ionic interactions and aromatic interactions. Most of the native interactions were recapitulated by the models.

1. Tina, K.G., Bhadra, R. and Srinivasan, N., 2007. PIC: protein interactions calculator. Nucleic acids research, 35(suppl_2), pp.W473-W476.

Table S4. Comparison of PRosettaC to previously reported methods.

Drummond and Williams² reported percent of models with <10Å RMSD over the E3 ligase as the moving chain for various methods. To compare PRosettaC to their methods we realigned the final 200 chosen structures (by interface score) on the target chain, and then calculated the RMSD of the E3 chain. We report here the rank of the best cluster by PRosettaC as well as the percent of models with <10Å RMSD over the E3 ligase.

2. Drummond, M. L.; Williams, C. I. In Silico Modeling of PROTAC-Mediated Ternary Complexes: Validation and Application. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2019**, *59* (4), 1634–1644.

Table S5. Modeling a series of PROTACs against BTK.

^a We applied the PRosettaC protocol to BTK PROTACs **1—11** reported by Zorba et al.³. We report the number of final structures that were generated, before selection of top scoring structures for clustering. There is a clear distinction between PROTACs 1—4 which were inactive to PROTACs 6—11 which showed efficient degradation and formation of ternary complexes.

3. Zorba, A.; Nguyen, C.; Xu, Y.; Starr, J.; Borzilleri, K.; Smith, J.; Zhu, H.; Farley, K. A.; Ding, W.; Schiemer, J.; Feng, X.; Chang, J. S.; Uccello, D. P.; Young, J. A.; Garcia-Irrizary, C. N.; Czabaniuk, L.; Schuff, B.; Oliver, R.; Montgomery, J.; Hayward, M. M.; Coe, J.; Chen, J.; Niosi, M.; Luthra, S.; Shah, J. C.; El-Kattan, A.; Qiu, X.; West, G. M.; Noe, M. C.; Shanmugasundaram, V.; Gilbert, A. M.; Brown, M. F.; Calabrese, M. F. Delineating the Role of Cooperativity in the Design of Potent PROTACs for BTK. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **2018**, *115* (31), E7285–E7292.