The Philosophy And Prospects Of Fragment Contribution Estimations In Drug Discovery

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current state and trends in DD

hard times - require versatile, lean and agile tools...



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[theoretical part]

which conceptions and tools support agile and lean iterations?

here come fragments

what is ~logP of an organic molecule?

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functional group based estimation!

basis: intermolecular interactions

works almost perfect for predicting many physico-chemical properties...

here come fragments

what is ~logP of an organic molecule?

functional group based estimation!

basis: intermolecular interactions

mists think in works almost perfect for predicting many and the

more broadly: module technology (LEGO like) - convenient and efficient

fragment-based drug discovery (FBDD)

small molecules/fragment

drug like molecules





fragment-based drug discovery (FBDD)



fragment-based drug discovery (FBDD)



it's the old story... where's something new?

let's reverse the direction

Reverse Fragment-Based Drug Discovery



Mend.Comm., 2021, 31(3), 291, doi: 10.1016/j.mencom.2021.04.004

 $\omega_i =$

 $E_j^{Scaled} = \omega_j \cdot \Delta E_{mol}$

fragment perception hysteresis



confusion... in terms of probability

 $\Delta G \sim \ln P$

R-FBDD FBDD

P(bind|rec, position) != P(bind|rec)

P(binding| position, receptor) = P(position| binding, receptor) * P(binding| receptor) / P(position| receptor)

NB: in (in silico) R-FBDD fragments are estimated in their position in the molecule under question

[practical aspects of the R-FBDD approach]



two main use cases

- 1. rational growth
- 2. ligand trimming (for subsequent growth)

use case I: ligand growth



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use case II: ligand trimming

MT3/QR2 example

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MT3/QR2 example



get rid of fragments 2 and 5

use case II: ligand trimming - using LE

Mycobacterium tuberculosis pantothenate synthetase

Experimental energy/structure fragment based optimization: Hung, A. W. et. al, 2016. Optimization of inhibitors of Mycobacterium tuberculosis pantothenate synthetase based on group efficiency analysis. *ChemMedChem*, *11*(1), 38-42. https://doi.org/10.1002/cmdc.201500414

In silico R-FBDD results in the same conclusions!



take care, but use!

- 1. the choice of position for P(bind|rec, position) depends on the Researcher
- 2. rapid testing of binding hypotheses
- 3. (re-)introduce the focus on ligand/group efficiency (LE/GE)
- 4. reasonable hit-to-lead and lead structure series -> Agile style iterations

thank you!

- we see prospects for the R-FBDD approach application in practice
- looking for the fruitful collaborations!

contacts

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[academic version]



[contract research/consultancy version]



alternative fragment contribution approaches

