Supplementary Information for Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics A unified scoring function for protein folding and drug-binding pocket recognition.

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SASA parameters optimization



FIG. S1: Correlation between the SASA of the moieties, obtained with the MLCPO algorithm (see the main text) and performed by the SURF tool of VMD. The atomic radius r_i and the P1 - P4 MLCPO parameters given in Tab.I of the main text have been varied to have a resonable Pearson correlation value (0.89).



FIG. S2: The coherence score defined as the fraction of moieties in a structure for which SURF and the MLCPO algorithm agree on the environmental class assignation (buried or exposed) as a function of the solvent exposure classification threshold on MLCPO. The SURF threshold is fixed at 1.5 Å. The maximum value (82%) is obtained at the threshold value $A_t = 5$ Å².



FIG. S3: (Left) In the Table we show how we partitioned in complementary subsets the CASP8/9 decoy sets in order to make the cross-validation. The partition in A, B, C allow including each decoy in a validation set. The parameters r_1, r_2, r_3 and r_4 entering in the definition of the class (see main text) are optimized on the 22 training decoy sets, indicated in the Table, by employing the L-BFGS-B algorithm and minimizing the sum of the normalized native rank; (Right, Left panel): the optimized ranks sorted by increasing value. (Right, Right panel): the ranks on the validation sets, sorted by increasing values.

The BACH-MOI class definition

In order to allow for a smooth change between the class around the distance thresholds we introduce a smoothing function $f(r_{ij})$ estimated for the distance r_{ij} between moiety i and moiety j.

$$f_{\alpha}(r_{ij}) = \frac{1 - \left(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_{\alpha}}\right)^n}{1 - \left(\frac{r_{ij}}{r}\right)^{2n}} \quad , \quad \alpha \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$
(S1)

Here, r_{α} represents one of the three distance thresholds r_1, r_2, r_3 for a moiety pair (r_4 is excluded, as there is no scoring class for $r > r_4$). We fixed the parameter n to 30 for r_1 and 50 for r_2 and r_3 . For each r_{α} threshold we calculated the two roots r_{α}^{\min} and r_{α}^{\max} for which $f_{\alpha} = 0.95$ and $1 - f_{\alpha} = 0.95$ respectively:

$$r_{\alpha}^{\min} = r_{\alpha} * \left(\frac{1-0.95}{0.95}\right)^{(1/n)} , \ r_{\alpha}^{\max} = r_{\alpha} * \left(\frac{0.95}{1-0.95}\right)^{(1/n)}$$

If $r_{ij} < r_{\alpha}^{\min}$ the pair of moieties is in class α ; if $r_{ij} > r_{\alpha}^{max}$ it is in class $\alpha + 1$; if $r_{\alpha}^{min} < r_{ij} < r_{\alpha}^{max}$ it is in classes α and $\alpha + 1$ respectively with a weight $f_{\alpha}(r_{ij})$ and $1 - f_{\alpha}(r_{ij})$. Classes α and $\alpha + 1$ have the same SASA exposure (either b/b, e/b or e/e), unless $\alpha + 1$ is the non-contact class, in which case each of the three classes in the range $r_2 < r \leq r_3$ mixes with the only class in the range $r_3 < r \leq r_4$.



FIG. S4: The smooth function gives the weight for the class assignment of a moiety pair. If r_{ij} is in the region represented with the colored box centered on r_{α} , the moiety pair belong to the adjacent classes with a weight given by $f_{\alpha}(r_{ij})$ and $1 - f_{\alpha}(r_{ij})$, while outside the colored boxes the class is assigned with probability 1.



FIG. S5: The score and RMSD correlation on 10 drug/protein complexes, the PDB entry of which is given in the label. For each complex the analysis was made with the BACH-MOI scoring function (black circle) and with VINA scoring function (red circle). The blue line highlights the score of the experimental structure.



FIG. S6: For each protein complex identified by the PDB code we report here the name and chemical formula of the ligand, as well as its 2D diagram in standard representation and in the moiety code representation (see Fig. 7 in the main text.)