

# Analysis of a Protein-Ligand Complex (1c14)

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## Protein 1c14

### Part A

The structure of reference for this coursework is of the protein with PDB code '1c14' namely the Enoyl-ACP from Escherichia coli reductase-NAD<sup>+</sup>-triclosan complex and its structural classification is oxidoreductase. There are various kinds of oxidoreductases including peroxidases, hydroxylases, oxygenases, and reductases. Peroxidases are localized in peroxisomes, and they catalyze the reduction of hydrogen peroxide. Hydroxylases add hydroxyl groups to its substrates. Oxygenases incorporate oxygen from molecular oxygen into organic substrates. Reductases catalyze reductions, and in most cases, reductases can act as an oxidase. See Fig 1.

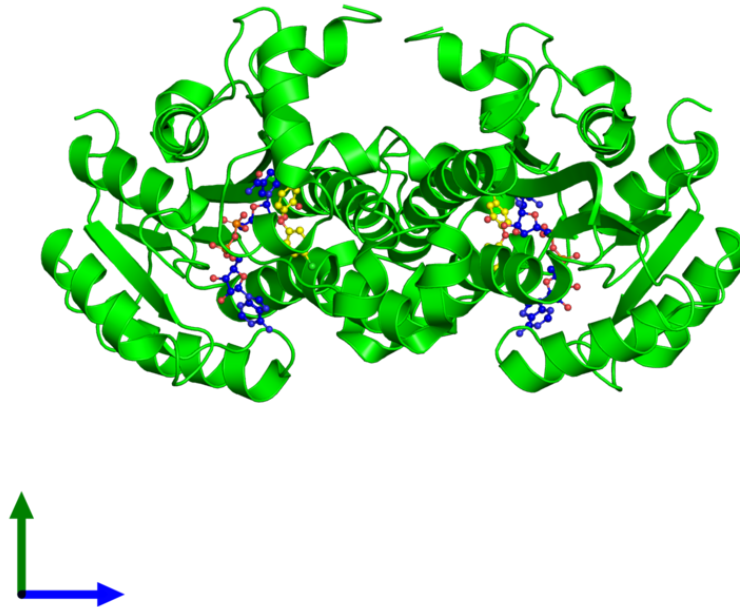
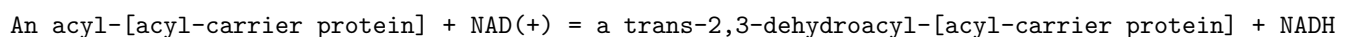


Figure 1: Protein 1c14

### Question a

Oxidoreductases specifically catalyze the transfer of electrons from one molecule (the oxidant) to another molecule (the reductant). Oxidoreductases catalyze reactions similar to this example:  $A^- + B \rightarrow A + B^-$  where A is the oxidant and B is the reductant. Oxidoreductases can be oxidases or dehydrogenases.

Here is the equation of the catalysed reaction:



Oxidases are enzymes involved when molecular oxygen acts as an acceptor of hydrogen or electrons. On the other hand, dehydrogenases are enzymes that oxidize a substrate by transferring hydrogen to an acceptor that is either  $\text{NAD}^+/\text{NADP}^+$  or a flavin enzyme.

### Question b

The structural classification of the protein is oxidoreductase. The lineage viewed from *the Structural Classification of Proteins* (SCOP) ([Conte, 2000](#)) database is as follows:

- Root: scop [the main database]
- Class: Alpha and beta proteins (a/b)
- Fold:  $\text{NAD(P)}$ -binding Rossmann-fold domains

- Superfamily: NAD(P)-binding Rossmann-fold domains
- Family: Tyrosine-dependent oxidoreductases
- Protein: Enoyl-ACP reductase
- Species: Escherichia coli

### Question c

Here is the generated secondary 1c14 structure chain and 256 residues shown in Fig 2.

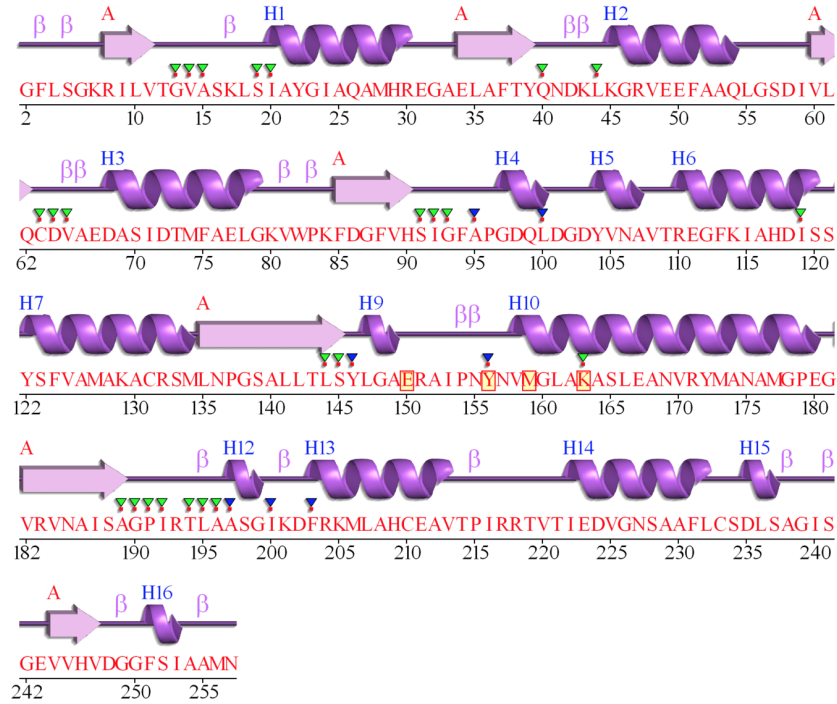


Figure 2: Chain and 256 residues

From the ProMotif (Dasgupta *et al.*, 2007) database it can be observed the following:

- 1 beta sheet
- 5 beta-alpha-beta motifs
- 1 beta bulge
- 7 strands
- 16 helices
- 22 helix-helix interaction, and
- 18 beta turns.

In Fig 3 there is also depicted the Hera diagram of main chain H-bonds

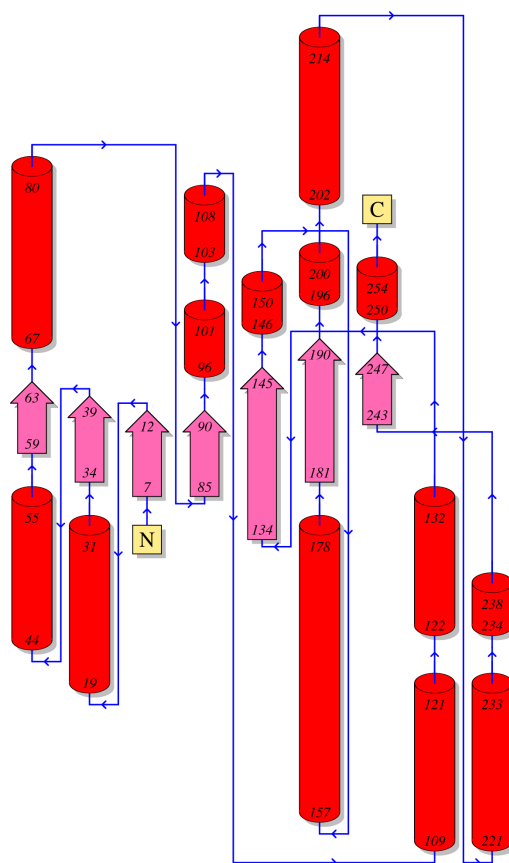


Figure 3: domain diagram of 1c14

## Question d

Is the structure of good quality? Three different ways have been explored using the ProSA website in order to calculate an overall quality score for the specific input structure.

### Z-Score

The  $z$ -score indicates overall model quality with its value displayed in a plot that contains the  $z$ -scores of all experimentally determined protein chains in current PDB. There are groups of structures from different sources (X-ray, NMR) which are distinguished by colouring. The Z-score can be used to check whether it is within the range of scores typically found for native proteins of similar size, which seems to be in our case (see Fig 4) with  $Z = -8.97$

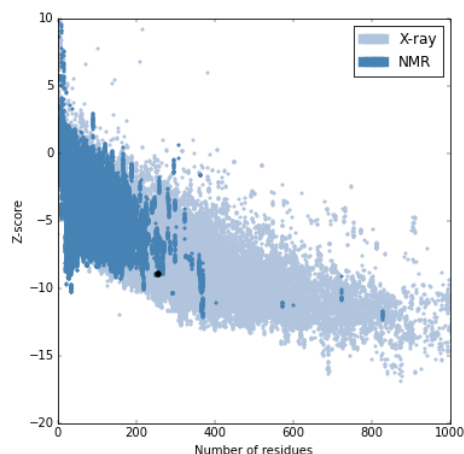


Figure 4: Z-score

### Plot of residue scores

Here is depicted the local model quality by plotting energies as a function of amino acid sequence position  $i$ . Positive values correspond to erroneous or problematic parts of the structure. A plot of single residue energies usually contains large fluctuations and is of limited value for model evaluation. Therefore the plot is smoothed by calculating the average energy over each 40-residue fragment  $s(i, i+39)$ , which is then assigned to the ‘central’ residue of the fragment at position  $i+19$ . A second line with a smaller window size of 10 residues is shown in the background of the plot.

### Interactive molecule viewer

ProSA-web visualizes (Bhargavi *et al.*, 2017) the 3D structure of the input protein using the molecule viewer Jmol. Residues are coloured from blue to red in the order of increasing residue energy.



Figure 5: Interactive energy related mol viewer

## Residue-property plots

These plots are drawn for all protein, RNA and DNA chains in the entry. The first graphic for a chain summarises the proportions of the various outlier classes displayed in the second graphic. The second graphic shows the sequence view annotated by issues in geometry and electron density. Residues are color-coded according to the number of geometric quality criteria for which they contain at least one outlier: green = 0, yellow = 1, orange = 2 and red = 3 or more. A red dot above a residue indicates a poor fit to the electron density ( $RSRZ > 2$ ). Stretches of 2 or more consecutive residues without any outlier are shown as a green connector. Residues present in the sample, but not in the model, are shown in grey.

## Ramachandran Plot

The statistics from the Ramachandran Plot depicted in Fig. 6 are shown on the table below:

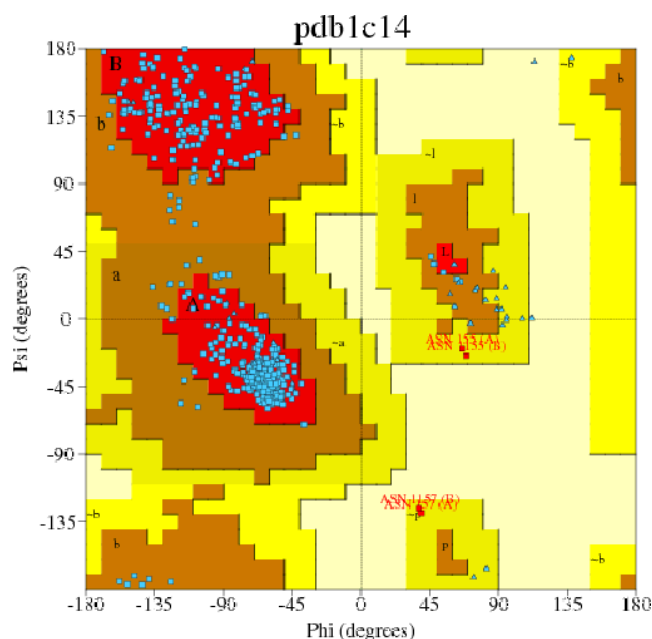


Figure 6: Ramachandran Plot of 1c14

		No. of residues	%-tage
		-----	-----
Most favoured regions	[A,B,L]	397	89.0%*
Additional allowed regions	[a,b,l,p]	45	10.1%
Generously allowed regions	[~a,~b,~l,~p]	4	0.9%
Disallowed regions	[XX]	0	0.0%
		----	-----
Non-glycine and non-proline residues		446	100.0%
End-residues (excl. Gly and Pro)		2	
Glycine residues		50	
Proline residues		14	
		----	
Total number of residues		512	

From the PROCHECK statistics and their analysis of 118 structures of resolution of at least 2.0 Angstroms and  $R$ -factor no greater than 20.0 a good quality model would be expected to have over 90% in the most favoured region.

## G-factors

G-factors provide a measure of how unusual, or out-of-the-ordinary, a property is. Specifically, values below -0.5\* denote unusual properties while if they are below -1.0\*\* they are considered highly unusual.

Parameter	Score	Average Score
-----	-----	-----
Dihedral angles:-		
Phi-psi distribution	-0.11	
Chi1-chi2 distribution	-0.23	
Chi1 only	-0.05	
Chi3 & chi4	0.44	
Omega	0.47	
		0.12
		=====
Main-chain covalent forces:-		
Main-chain bond lengths	0.57	
Main-chain bond angles	0.32	
		0.42
		=====
OVERALL AVERAGE		0.25
		=====

In the specific case, the overall average is 0.25 which is much higher than the threshold for an unusual property value, which is another indication of the quality of the model.

Therefore from all the above sources, we can confidently conclude that the specific model has a quite good quality.

## Question e

The co-factor is Nicotinamide-Adenine-Dinucleotide (NAD) and the inhibitor-like ligand is triclosan, which is also depicted in Fig 8 and viewed from the top in Fig 7.



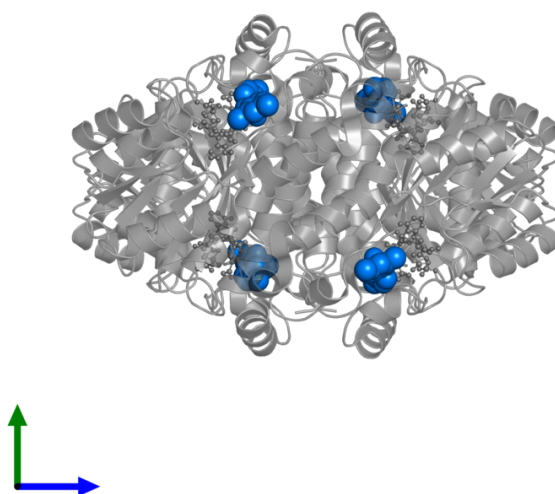


Figure 7: Triclosan viewed from the top (3D).

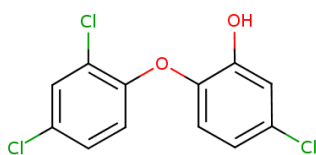


Figure 8: Triclosan

### Question f

In this part the EMBL/EBI Motif Tool ([Bateman \*et al.\*, 2002](#)) is used to fetch by ID (*1c14*) the protein and create the biological oligomeric state in order to identify which functional protein groups interact with triclosan and type of their interaction.

In Fig 9 there is the description of the formed Van Der Waals contacts with the depicted residues. Specifically, those are:

- GLY 1093B
- ALA 1095B
- TYR 1146B
- TYR 1156B
- PRO 1191B
- ALA 1196B
- ALA 1197B
- ILE 1200B

- with a hydrogen bond as expected with the NAD 1501B.



In Fig 10 it's shown the ligand plot generated using the open source software LeView from Pegase Biosciences.



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specific molecule. Therefore, in our specific case, the van der Waals interactions work additively to achieve stability, especially the ones which are closer to the residue (GLY 1093B, ALA 1196B, ILE 1200B, TYR 1146B, ALA 1197B, PHE 1203B).

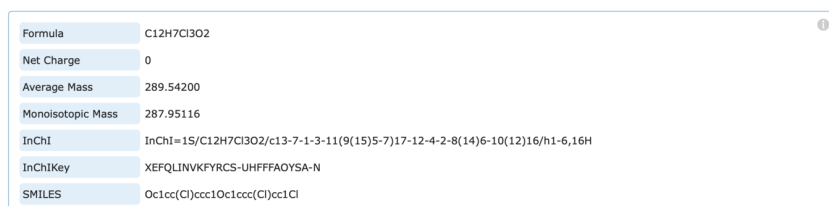
## PART B

### Question a

Looking up for the triclosan in the Drugbank ([www.drugbank.ca](http://www.drugbank.ca)) (Wishart *et al.*, 2017) database returns the following SMILES string of the triclosan (TCL):

| OC1=CC(Cl)=CC=C1OC1=C(Cl)C=C(Cl)C=C1

For cross-validation, a search was performed on the EBI ChEBi database as shown in Fig 11

A screenshot of a ChEBi search results page for triclosan. The page displays a table with chemical properties. The table has two columns: a label and a value. The labels are Formula, Net Charge, Average Mass, Monoisotopic Mass, InChI, InChIKey, and SMILES. The values are C12H7Cl3O2, 0, 289.54200, 287.95116, InChI=1S/C12H7Cl3O2/c13-7-1-3-11(9(15)5-7)17-12-4-2-8(14)6-10(12)16/h1-6,16H, XEFQLINVKFYRCS-UHFFFAOYSA-N, and Oc1cc(Cl)ccc1Oc1ccc(Cl)cc1Cl respectively.

Formula	C12H7Cl3O2
Net Charge	0
Average Mass	289.54200
Monoisotopic Mass	287.95116
InChI	InChI=1S/C12H7Cl3O2/c13-7-1-3-11(9(15)5-7)17-12-4-2-8(14)6-10(12)16/h1-6,16H
InChIKey	XEFQLINVKFYRCS-UHFFFAOYSA-N
SMILES	Oc1cc(Cl)ccc1Oc1ccc(Cl)cc1Cl

Figure 11: ChEBi results for triclosan

The SMILES result from Question a was saved in a text file, named as "*TCL.smi*". This was converted using OpenBabel to an *sdf* file to be used in the filtering later. Additionally, an *sdf* file with 3D optimised coordinates for Triclosan (*TCL-3D.sdf*). The resulting structure was optimized using the given forcefield and checked for the lowest-energy conformer using a Monte Carlo search.

### Question b

Using the babel and (Quirós *et al.*, 2018) OpenBabel software installed on a Google Cloud instance of 24 cores and 200GB RAM, running Debian Stretch. It was installed using the Debian *apt* package manager and thus the fingerprinting through the ChEMBL database was performed. The search on ChEMBL was filtered to Phenols as shown in the heatmap of Fig. 12

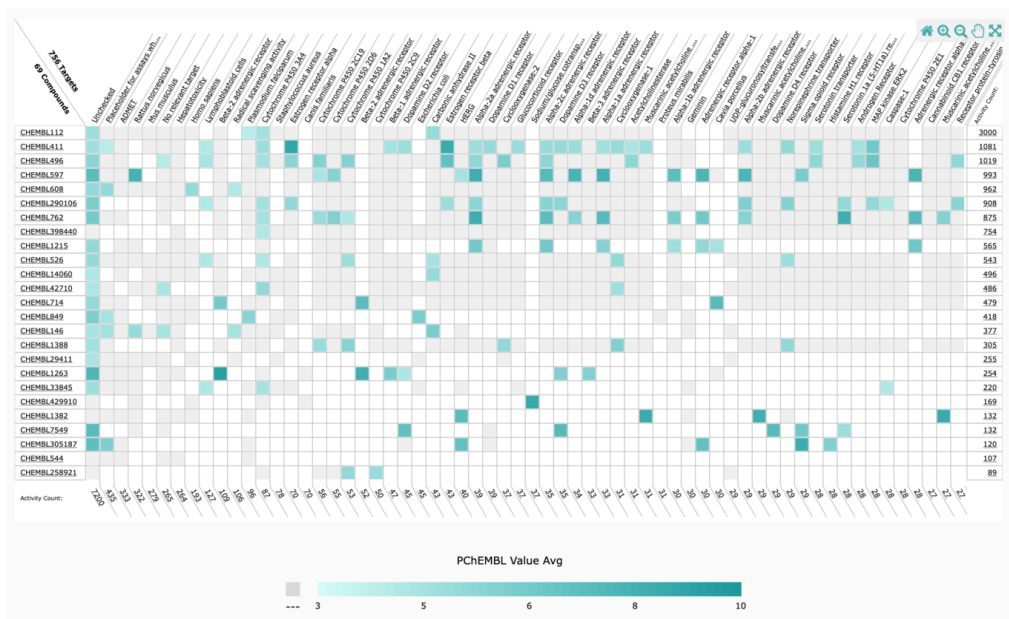


Figure 12: Chembl phenol drug search results

As the subset wasn't compatible with OpenBabel *sdf* parser, the whole drug database was downloaded as *sdf gzip'ped* file and it was randomised by importing it in R (and choosing random lines using a randomised function).

```
create_rsample = function(df,n){
  return(df[sample(nrow(df),n),])
}
```

### Question c

Using OpenBabel, the drug database and the SMILES and *sdf* file of Triclosan a database fingerprint performed and the requested values were generated. This was extracted using babel with the command:

```
babel TRC.smi drug_database.sdf -ofpt >> ioannis_app_drugs.txt
```

to a text file (*ioannis\_app\_drugs.txt*). A Python program was written to extract those data in a comma delimited file that was later imported to R in order to create histograms.

```
import re
```

```
def return_regex(txt):
    re='.*?' # Non-greedy match on filler
    re2='((?:[a-z][a-z]*[0-9]+[a-z0-9]*))' # Alphanum chars
    re4='([+-]?\\d*\\.\\d+)(?![-+0-9\\.])' # Float number

    rg = re.compile(re+re2+re+re4,re.IGNORECASE|re.DOTALL)
    m = rg.search(txt)
    if m:
        alphanum1 = m.group(1)
        float1 = m.group(2)

        return (alphanum1 + ',' + float1)
```

```
triclosan_dc = 'ioannis_app_drugs.txt'
```

```
ftri = open(triclosan_dc, 'r')
[print(return_regex(line)) for line in ftri]
```

Here is the histogram generated by the R plot:

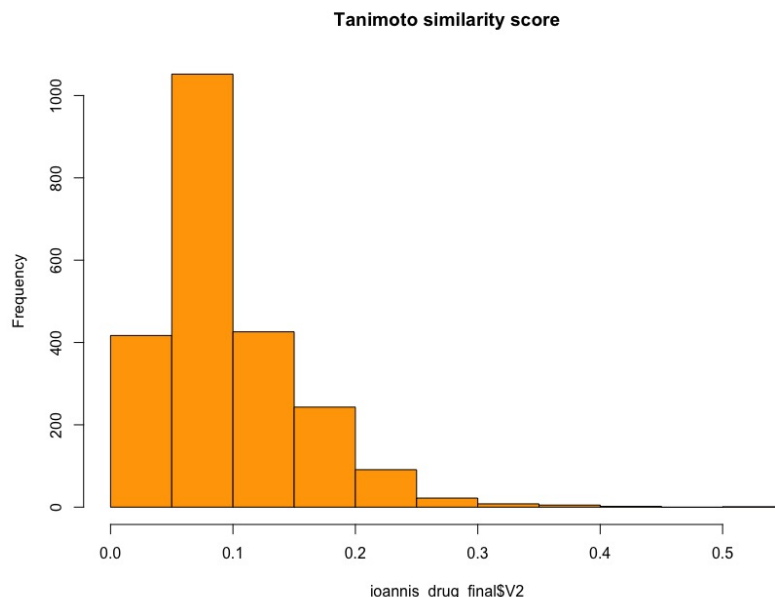


Figure 13: Tanimoto similarity score

Using the *summary* function in R the median = 0.083 and the mean = 0.096 and SD = 0.057

```
> summary(ioannis_drug_final$V2, na.rm=TRUE)
   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.     NA's 
0.01163 0.05789 0.08264 0.09644 0.12052 0.53226      61 
> sd(ioannis_drug_final$V2, na.rm=TRUE)
[1] 0.057
```

In order to find the 5 most similar molecules, OpenBabel was used:

```
iris:data wizofe$ babel approved.fs mostsim.sdf -s triclosan.sdf -at5
5 molecules converted
140 audit log messages
```

To identify their similarity another run of OpenBabel:

```
iris:data wizofe$ babel triclosan.sdf mostsim.sdf -ofpt
>triclosan
>D00CSQ   Tanimoto from triclosan = 1
Possible superstructure of triclosan
>D06ZAY   Tanimoto from triclosan = 0.532258
>D0J5DC   Tanimoto from triclosan = 0.430769
>D09QDP   Tanimoto from triclosan = 0.428571
>D02VMJ   Tanimoto from triclosan = 0.369565
```

Ignoring the first match (as it is itself, Triclosan) the highest similarity is with the ligand haloprogin (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>4</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>IO) with a score of 0.53. This can also be validated with the histogram score above, as it is indeed the maximum value found using the R summary was 0.532, which is the D06ZAY.

## PART C

### Question a

The best way to identify a homologous structure is to perform an HMM comparison using HHpred of the MBI Bioinformatics Toolkit. The *FASTA* file was downloaded from UniProt and the comparison was performed as shown in Fig 14.

Hitlist

Show 25 entries

Search:

Nr	Hit	Name	Probability	E-value	SS	Cols	Target Length
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	1QSG_F	ENOYL-[ACYL-CARRIER-PROTEIN] REDUCTASE (E.C.1.3.1.9); ENOYL REDUCTASE, OXIDOREDUCTASE; HET: NAD, GLC, TCL; 1.75A {Escherichia coli} SCOP: c.2.1.2	100	4.7e-43	33.8	262	265
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	4D44_H	ENOYL-[ACYL-CARRIER-PROTEIN] REDUCTASE [NADPH] (E.C.1.3.1.10, 1.3.1.39); OXIDOREDUCTASE, SHORT-CHAIN DEHYDROGENASE/REDUCTASE SUPERFAMILY, FATTY; HET: JA3, MRD, NAP, GLU; 1.8A {STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS SUBSP. AUREUS N315}	100	2.9e-39	31.2	251	282
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	5I7S_A	Enoyl-[acyl-carrier-protein] reductase [NADH] (E.C.1.3.1.9); enoyl-ACP reductase, Burkholderia pseudomallei, diphenyl; HET: E9P, NAD; 1.595A {Burkholderia pseudomallei} SCOP: c.2.1.2	100	5.3e-39	31.4	250	276
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	4ZJU_A	Enoyl-[acyl-carrier-protein] reductase [NADH] (E.C.1.3.1.9); SSGCID, NADH-dependent enoyl-ACP reductase, NAD; HET: NAD; 1.2A {Acinetobacter baumannii} SCOP: c.2.1.2	100	3.4e-39	30.1	256	275
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	4M89_A	Enoyl-[acyl-carrier-protein] reductase [NADH] (E.C.1.3.1.9); Enoyl, acyl carrier protein, ACP; HET: TCL, NAD; 1.9A {Neisseria meningitidis} SCOP: c.2.1.2	100	1.8e-38	31.7	255	261
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	2PD4_D	Enoyl-[acyl-carrier-protein] reductase [NADH] (E.C.1.3.1.9); antibacterial target, Helicobacter pylori, type; HET: NAD, DCN; 2.3A {Helicobacter pylori} SCOP: c.2.1.2	100	2.3e-38	31.5	257	275

Figure 14: Results of HHpred homologue matching

In Fig 14 it can be seen the results and the chosen protein match (*4D44*) which has the lower e-value combined with the closest number of match columns in the HMM-HMM alignment (S-S hits). The specific protein is the Crystal structure of *S. aureus* FabI in complex with NADP and 5-ethyl- 4-fluoro-2-((2-fluoropyridin-3-yl)oxy)phenol.

### Question b

Now using both files doing a  $\alpha$   $\lambda$   $\sigma$   $\tau$   $\alpha$   $\lambda$   $\Omega$  sequence analysis between *4D44*, *1c14* and the results are shown in Fig .15

Number of sequences: 2

<input type="checkbox"/>	4D44:H PDBID CHAIN S	NKHHHHHPHSDVDIPTTENLYFQGAMVNLNKTYVINGIANKRSTAFGVAKVLDQLGAKLVFTYRKERSRKELEKLLLEQLNQPE
<input type="checkbox"/>	1C14:B PDBID CHAIN S	-----MGFLSGKRILVTGVASKLSIAYGIAQAMHREGAELAFYQNDKLGKRVEEFAAQLGSD-
<input type="checkbox"/>	4D44:H PDBID CHAIN S	AHLVQIDVQSDEEVIINGFEQIGKDVGNIDGVYHSIAFANMEDLRGRFSE-TSREGFLLAQDISSYSLTIVAEAKKLMPEGGSIV
<input type="checkbox"/>	1C14:B PDBID CHAIN S	-IVLQCDAEDASIDTMFAELGKVVPKFDGFVHSIGFAPGQLDGDVYNAVTRGFKIAHDISSYSFVAMAKACRSMLNPGSALL
<input type="checkbox"/>	4D44:H PDBID CHAIN S	ATTYLGGEFAVQNVNVMGVAKASLEANVKYALDLGPDNIRVNAISAGPIRTLAKGVGGFNTILKETEERAPLKRNVQVEVGK
<input type="checkbox"/>	1C14:B PDBID CHAIN S	TLSYLGAERAIPIVNVMLAKASLEANVRYMANANGPEGVRVNAISAGPIRTLAAASGDKFRKMLHCAEVTPIRTRVTIEDVGN
<input type="checkbox"/>	4D44:H PDBID CHAIN S	TAAYLLSGLSSGVGTENTHVDSGFHATK-----
<input type="checkbox"/>	1C14:B PDBID CHAIN S	SAAFLLCSGLSAGISGEVHVVDGGFSIAAMNELELK

Figure 15: Clustal $\Omega$  sequence alignment

Using Chimera the PDB entry *1c14* was used and added H-bonds. The Clustal alignment was opened in Chimera and was used in order to build the homology models using the Modeller API.

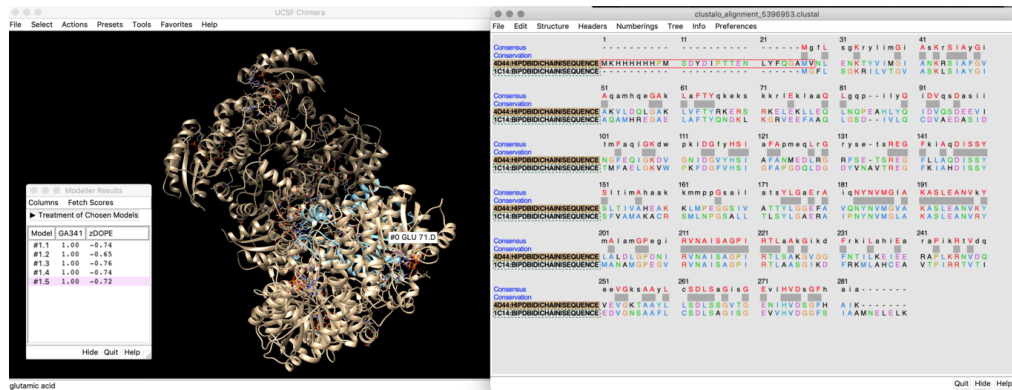


Figure 16: Z-dope score

The choice of the #1.3 model was performed based on the lowest Z-dope score of -0.76 as shown in Fig 16 and the final structure (excluding chains B-H) is shown in Fig 17.

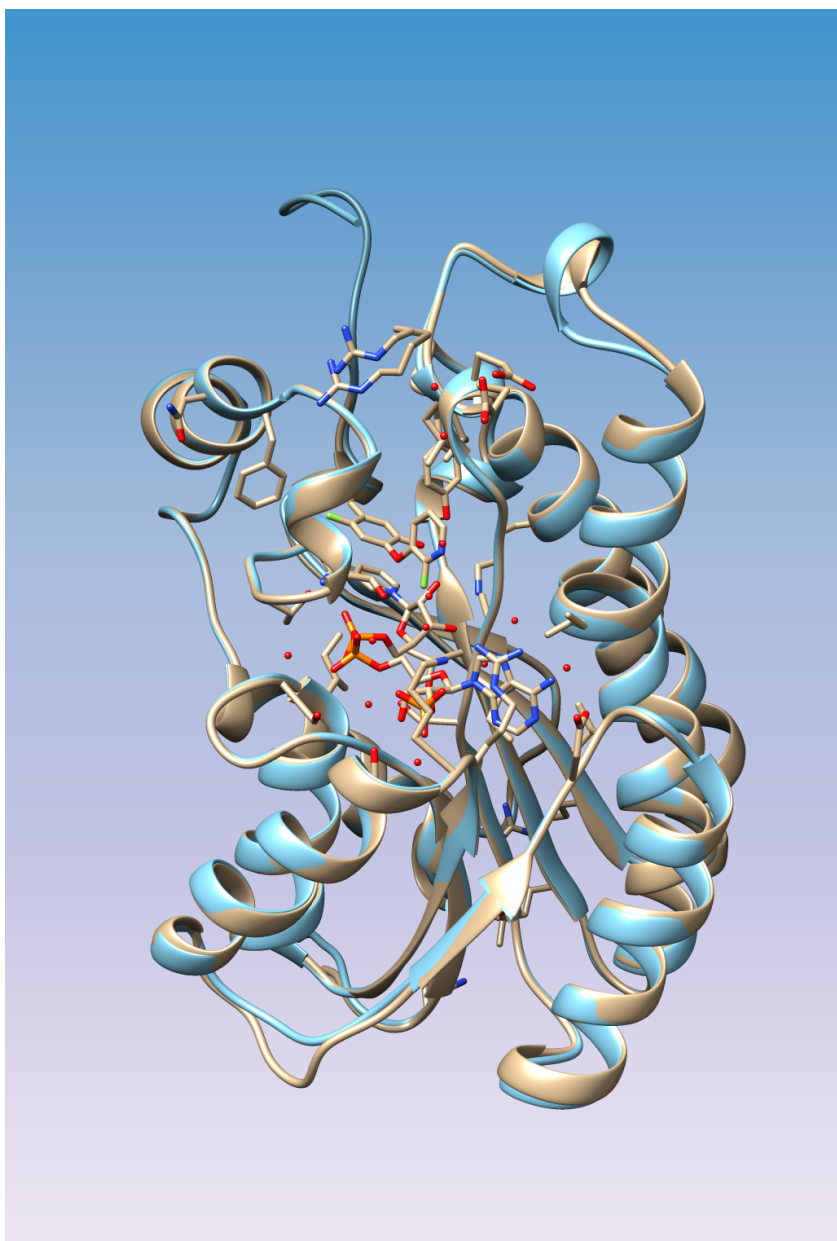


Figure 17: Final Chimera structure

To evaluate the stereochemical properties PROSA website is used and the results are shown in the following figures (Fig 18, Fig 19) Z-Score is -8.04 which seems to be on the range of scores typically found for the native structure (in fact the native was analysed above and was found to be -8.97, very similar indeed (see Fig 4).



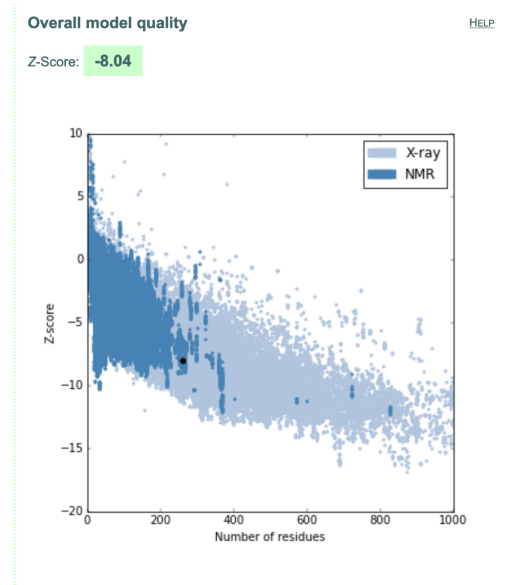


Figure 18: Z-score for modelled protein

The local model quality looks also satisfactory as it is compact and thus scored like shown.

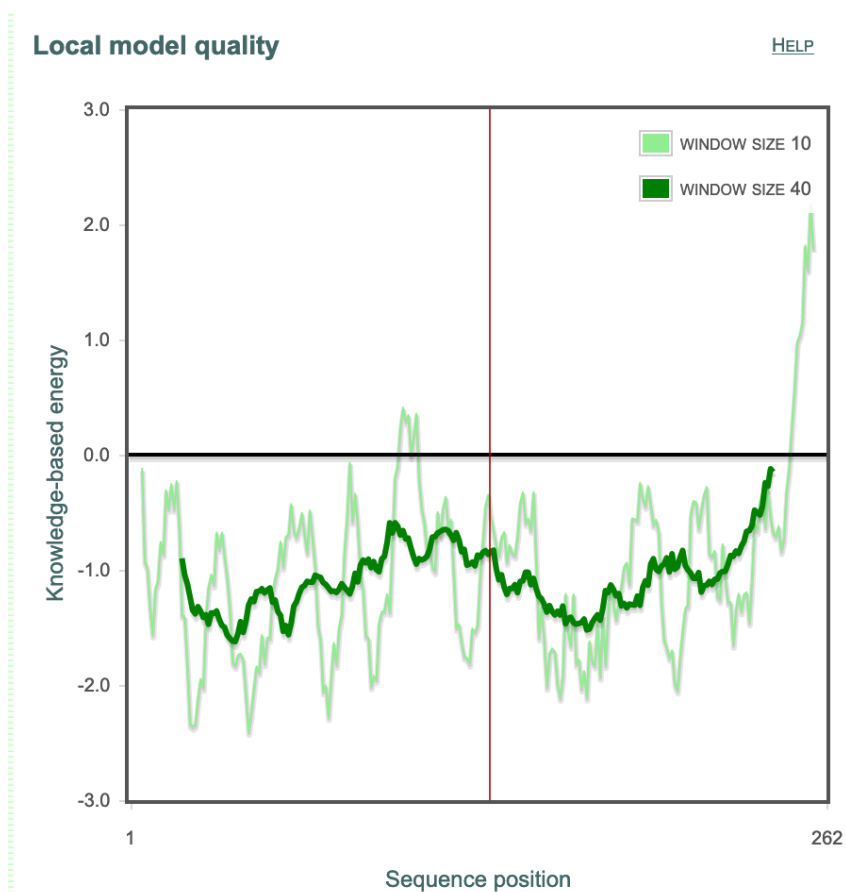


Figure 19: Local Model quality of modelled protein

### Question c

For this part, using Chimera the Triclosan (TCL) is deleted from the 1c14 protein and the result is super-imposed to the modelled protein using a Chimera's MatchMaker function which is shown in Fig. 20.

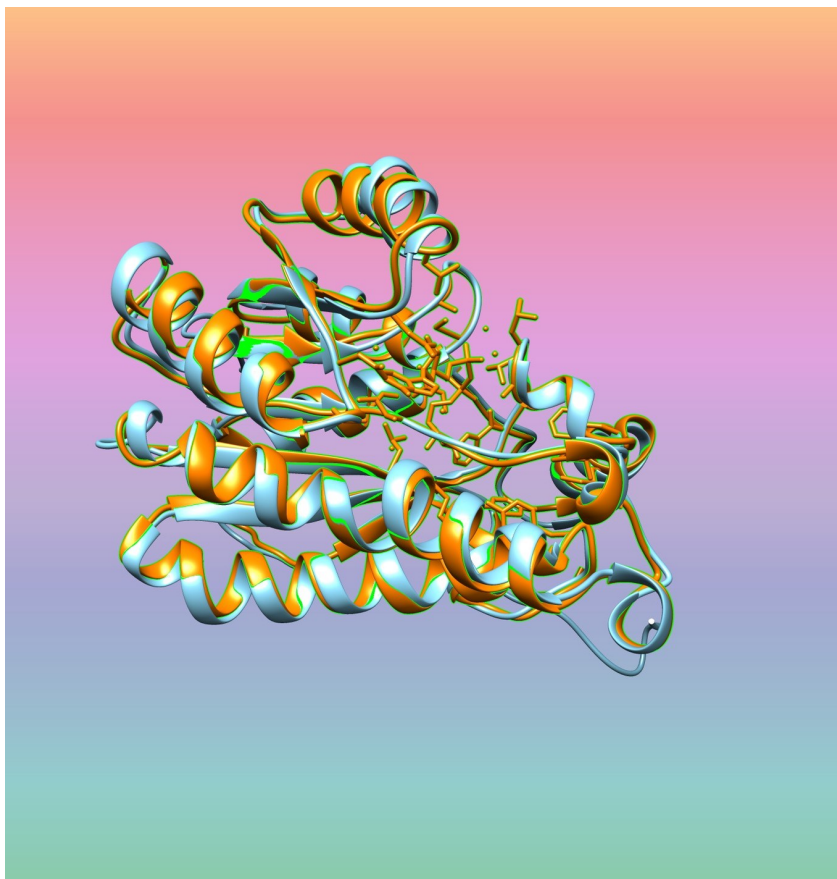


Figure 20: Super-imposed. Comparison of 1c14 minus TCL and modelled protein

A great similarity in the alignment of the sequences can be also seen in Fig. 21

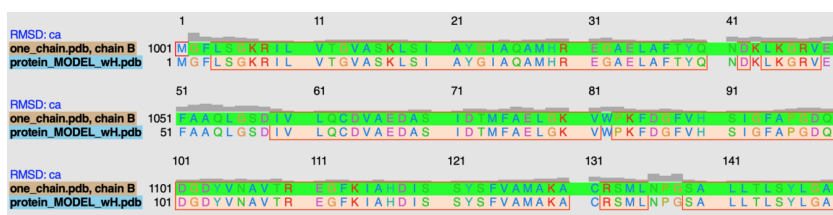


Figure 21: Sequence match between the two proteins

### Question d

In that step, a combination of Autodock (Sousa *et al.*, 2006) Vina was used on the Google Cloud online instance in combination with Autodock tools local installation on a Mac OS 10.14.

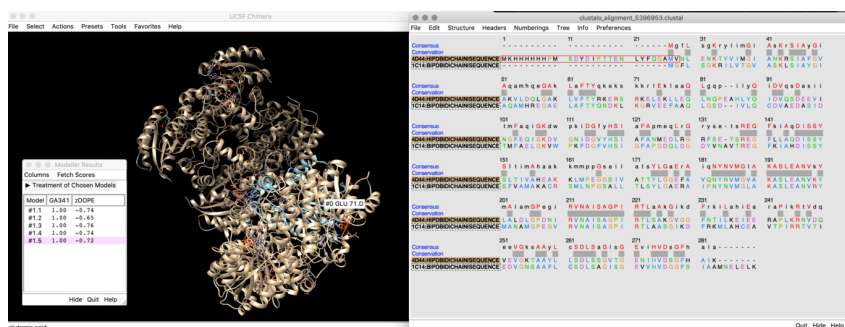


Figure 22: Chimera ligand binding site prediction

The docking was performed by analysing in the most possible location of the ligand docking in Chimera, inputting those values in the Autodock Tools and using the settings to create a config file, for the command line docking, as shown in Fig 22 and Fig 23.

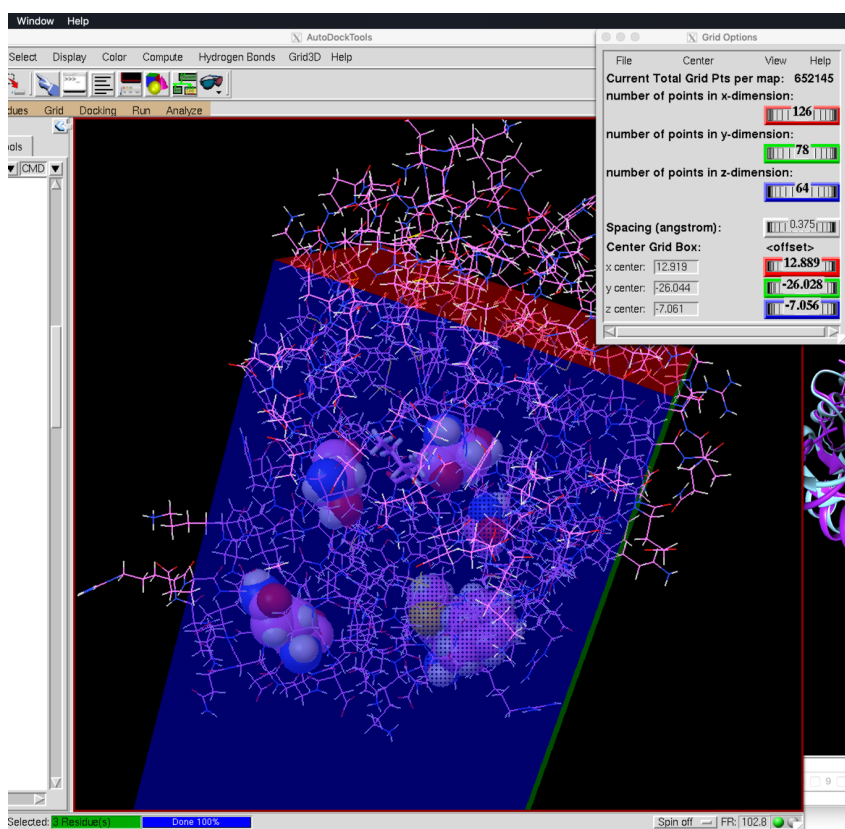


Figure 23: Autodock tools set-up

Both of the ligand and protein files had to be converted in the *pdqtp* file format using Autodock tools. The Autodock Vina was then executed from the command line using the following configuration file and commands,

```
code@instance-1:~/ioannis$ cat conf.txt
receptor = protein.pdqtp
ligand = ligand.pdqtp

center_x = 12.919
```

```
center_y = -26.044
center_z = -7.061
```

```
size_x = 126
size_y = 78
size_z = 64
```

```
exhaustiveness = 10
```

while the command line options given are shown here:

```
code@instance-1:~/ioannis$ ../bin/vina --config conf.txt --log outlog.log
```

That results is depicted in the output of the following table.

Using that table, the lowest affinity is -7.7 which presents the best fitting ligand to be docked in the requested protein model.

mode	affinity (kcal/mol)	dist from rmsd l.b.	best mode rmsd u.b.
1	-7.7	0.000	0.000
2	-7.6	1.312	5.879
3	-7.6	2.257	5.935
4	-7.0	2.280	2.988
5	-7.0	1.794	2.477
6	-6.7	14.552	16.153
7	-6.6	3.913	7.340
8	-6.2	10.032	11.737
9	-6.2	14.666	16.480

## References

Current Protocols in Bioinformatics (2002) John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Bhargavi,M. *et al.* (2017) Identification of novel anti cancer agents by applying insilico methods for inhibition of TSPO protein.. *Comput Biol Chem*, **68**, 43–55.

Conte,L.L. (2000) SCOP: a Structural Classification of Proteins database. *Nucleic Acids Research*, **28**, 257–259.

Dasgupta,B. *et al.* (2007) Enhanced stability of cisPro-Pro peptide bond in Pro-Pro-Phe sequence motif. *FEBS Letters*, **581**, 4529–4532.

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