

Keywords: refinement, high-resolution, subatomic

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Macromolecular model-building and validation using Coot

Paul Emsley

University of Oxford, Department of Biochemistry, Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, Dept. Biochemistry, South Park Rd., Oxford, OXON, OX1 3QU, UK, E-mail: pemsley@gmail.com

Coot [1] is a molecular graphics application for macromolecular model building against X-ray data. Coot provides a modern interface drawing from usability paradigms of popular desktop applications. In so doing, it has become increasingly popular [2], particularly in the UK and parts of Europe. Coot provides several tools which can be used to build, refine and protein structures and other models. In the last year, there has been more focus on developments to better handle lower resolution data, these include the fitting of alpha helices and beta strands for model building and the addition of extra restraints and modification of restraints when refining. Also to be discussed are the tools for validation for the detection of model-building errors and feature outliers.

[1] Emsley & Cowtan (2004) "Coot: Model-Building Tools for Molecular Graphics", *Acta Cryst D* 60, 2126-2132.

[2] But not close to the popularity of a more established application.

Keywords: map fitting, molecular graphics, model building

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Advances in automatic model building and structure completion in the context of ARP/wARP

Serge X Cohen¹, Krista Joosten¹, Wijnand Mooij¹, Victor Lamzin², Garib Murshudov³, Anastassis Perrakis¹

¹Netherlands Cancer Institute, Molecular Carcinogenesis, Plesmanlaan 121, Amsterdam, Noord Holland, 1066CX, The Netherlands, ²European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Hamburg, Germany., ³York Structural Biology Laboratory, Chemistry Department, University of York, Heslington, York, England., E-mail: s.cohen@nki.nl

Automated protein model building procedures are becoming better and better in building partial initial models with minimum user intervention. Manual interactive building is in many cases needed only in the final stages of model building. A natural trend for automatic building developments, is thus to spend more effort towards providing a more complete model. The ARP/wARP software suite is built around the concept of a hybrid model, a partial protein model supplemented by unrestrained atoms used to model the rest of the ordered electron density. The model is iteratively built by recycling the information contained in the restraints of the partial model to obtain better phases estimates through model refinement. Here we present three types of improvement to the automated model building procedure in ARP/wARP:

Improved procedures that allow sequence assignment to the main chain in a more effective manner, using pattern classification algorithms that use the free atoms and rotamer fit to the electron density;

Algorithms to assign conditional restraints to the free atoms (the ones that do not have chemical identity yet). The goal is to enhance further

model refinement by providing additional observation in the form of restraints and improve the derived electron density. This approach enables ARP/wARP to reach a more complete model faster;

A program that uses both statistical knowledge of protein main chain structure and electron density, to build missing loops connecting main chain fragments already docked in sequence. This algorithm uses hierarchical filtering and only considers local electron density as a loose selection criterion. That allows both for speed and makes the procedure relatively unaffected by partial disorder of the residues to build.

Keywords: model building, loop building, protein crystallography

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MAIN 2008: Real space model fitting - as good as it gets

Dusan Turk

Jozef Stefan Institute, Biochemistry and Molecular and Structural Biology, Jamova 39, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 1000, Slovenia, E-mail: Dusan.Turk@ijs.si

After an initial model of a macromolecular crystal structure has been generated it goes through cycles of refinement and manual corrections until the structure is done. In order to speed up this process cycling through visual inspection and manual manipulation of the model needs to be efficient and swift. When finalizing the MAIN 2008 release the combined use of automated model rebuilding tools and the user guidance were in focus. The conjugate gradient minimizer has been rewritten. Energy minimization in combination with rotational searches of side chain and main chain conformations, fragmented rigid body minimizations can now rebuild molecular models to correspond to electron density map to the level of an expert user and better, thus as good as it gets. The role of the user is to inspect the model (guided by validation tools or own choice) and trigger appropriate functions on appropriate model parts either using mouse clicks or keyboard shortcuts. With this the manual guidance of atoms and residues into desired positions during model rebuilding became essentially obsolete. It used to be that after model building step R-value increases, however, with the new MAIN real space fitting and minimization procedures, the R-value decreases after each model rebuilding cycle. Clearly the quality of the electron density maps defines the success of real space minimization, nevertheless properly configured procedures can be used at any resolution range at any stage of model building including the very initial stages. The current limitation of the toolbox is that it does not work with multiple conformations, but only chooses the "best" one at a certain density contour level. (See "http://www-bmb.ijs.si").

Keywords: automated model rebuilding, real space refinement, density fitting

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Beyond crystallographic refinement: Broader application of TLSMD to model protein dynamics

Ethan A Merritt

University of Washington, Biochemistry, Mailstop 357742, Seattle, WA, 98195-7742, USA, E-mail: merritt@u.washington.edu

TLS (Translation/Libration/Screw) models provide a useful