

Computational Analysis of Binding Preferences of PICK1 for its PDZ Partners

by

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Abstract

Protein interacting with C kinase (PICK1), an evolutionarily conserved protein through animal kingdom, interacts with over 60 proteins, including receptors, transporters, kinases and ionic channels. It possesses a wide repertoire of functions, from regulation of subcellular targeting of proteins to scaffolding for assembly of multimeric protein complexes. Being a critical player in synaptic plasticity, development and neural guidance, it regulates the trafficking and posttranslational modification of its interacting proteins which take part in neuronal function. Correspondingly, the role of PICK1 in disorders such as epilepsy, pain, brain trauma and stroke, drug abuse and dependence, and schizophrenia has come into prominence with accumulating evidence from recent research.

This project concentrates on PDZ domain interactions of PICK1. Conventionally, PDZ domains fall either one of the three different subtypes, Type I, II and III, defined by the amino acid profile of the 4-residues peptides to the C-termini of their partners. PICK1 is rather unique since it interacts with both Type I and Type II partners besides atypical ones. To understand this behavior, PICK1-peptide complexes are constructed using peptides from known PDZ partners of PICK1 together with a set of artificially generated non-binding ones. Different protein-peptide assessment programs and energy functions, FlexPepDock, PepCrawler and XScore, are used to evaluate the complexes in search for consistency and correspondence with previous experimental studies. Through comparison of these different tools, peptides with higher binding affinities are aimed to be filtered. Additionally, analyzing both wild type PICK1 complexes and the ones with point mutations on critical residues of PDZ interactions, the unconventional binding behavior of PICK1 is investigated. This knowledge could be utilized by future studies on the identification of novel partners and druggability of PICK1.

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Özet

Protein Kinaz C- α bağlayan protein (PICK1) evrimsel olarak iyi korunmuş ve protein reseptörleri, taşıyıcı proteinler, kinazlar ve iyonik kanallar da dahil olmak üzere altmıştan fazla protein ile etkileşime giren bir proteindir. Bu proteinlerin hücre içi hedeflemesinin düzenlenmesinden multimerik protein komplekslerinin oluşumuna kadar çok sayıda farklı işleve sahiptir. Nöronal fonksiyona sahip proteinlerin trafiğini ve posttranslasyonel modifikasyonlarını düzenleyerek sinaptik gelişim, plastisite ve nöral rehberlikte rol alır. Buna bağlı olarak PICK1'nin epilepsi, ağrı, beyin travmaları, ilaç kötüye kullanımı ve bağımlılığı ile şizofreni gibi hastalıklardaki rolü son araştırmalar ile ön plana çıkmıştır.

Bu tez PICK1 proteininin PDZ yapısal bölge etkileşimleri üzerinde yoğunlaşmaktadır. Genellikle PDZ proteinleri, hedef proteinlerinin karboksil ucundaki 4 aminoasitlik peptitlerin profilleri tarafından tanımlanan üç farklı sınıftan birine düşer. PICK1 Tip I, Tip II ve atipik hedef peptitleri ile etkileşerek sıra dışı bir davranış sergiler. Bu davranışı anlamak için, bu çalışmada bilinen PICK1 hedef peptidleriyle birlikte bağlanmadığı bilinen peptitler de kullanılarak PICK-peptide kompleksleri oluşturulup incelenmiştir. FlexPepDock, PepCrawler ve XScore olmak üzere üç farklı protein-peptid kompleksi değerlendirme programı ve enerji fonksiyonu, önceki deneysel çalışmalarla tutarlılık arayışı içerisinde kullanılmıştır. Bu metodlar kullanılarak yüksek bağlanma afinitesine sahip peptitler filtre edilmeye çalışılmıştır. Ayrıca, vahşi tip PICK1 kompleksleri ve PDZ etkileşimlerinde kritik olduğu bilinen aminoasitleri mutasyona uğramış kompleksler analiz edilerek PICK1'nin PDZ etkileşimleri anlaşılmasına çalışılmıştır. Elde edilen bu bilgilerden, PICK1'in yeni hedef peptitlerinin keşfinde ve PICK1 PDZ yapısal bölgesi odaklı ilaç tasarımı çalışmalarında yararlanılabilir.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

PICK1 is a critical player in the cell interacting with more than 60 partners including GluR2, the mGluR7 metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype, Eph receptor tyrosine kinases and their ephrin ligands. Correspondingly, it possesses a wide repertoire of functions from operating of receptors, ion channels and enzymes to regulation of the subcellular localisation [1]. Though it could be seen in various pathways, most of the recent research focuses on its role in the central nervous system and related diseases, more specifically in synaptic plasticity in hippocampus. It takes part in long-term depression keeping the AMPA receptors internalized in the cell [2].

PICK1 has a single PDZ (PSD-95/Discs-large/ZO-1 homology) domain responsible for many of its interactions. PDZ domains are found in thousands of proteins and are encountered in many species from bacteria to animals. They carry out fundamental functions as in protein trafficking and construction of multiprotein signaling complexes. The interfaces where PDZ interactions occur generally involve the C-termini four residues of the PDZ partners. Furthermore, the classification (Type I, Type II, and Type III) of the interactions is done based on the properties of those residues [3]. What makes PICK1 interesting to study is its promiscuous behavior that its partners are not confined to a specific Type. It is found to interact with both Type I and II, and atypical partners as well. However it does not necessarily bind any peptide belonging to either one of these classes maintaining an unusual mode of specificity.

In this work, 69 PICK1-peptide complexes are evaluated using FlexPepDock [4] and PepCrawler [5], which are two different computational methods used for structure refinement and energy scoring. Each has its own scoring function that outputs binding energy values for the protein-peptide complexes. Binding affinity of PICK1 for the different peptides in the dataset is investigated utilizing these tools. Additionally, the change in the binding behavior of PICK1 is studied upon point mutations of the critical residues involving in the protein-peptide interaction. The complexes are further analyzed with a different scoring function, X-

Score [6]. Binding trends exhibited by PICK1 under these three scoring schemes are compared within and with each other. Peptides with highest and lowest binding affinities and the energy terms most contributing to this behavior are tried to be identified. Computational results are tried to be verified by comparing them to the experimental data when available. Through this way, the energy function best represent the experiments tried to be identified and modified to better suit for PICK1 and PDZ partners.

Literature review related to the subject is provided in Chapter 2. In this section, background information involving the structure and function of PICK1 and PDZ domains are given and recent experimental and computational studies in the field are reviewed.

In Chapter 3, dataset is given and each of the assessment and scoring tools, FlexPepDock, PepCrawler and X-Score, are explained in the methods. The scoring functions, contributing energy terms, modifications to the energy functions and selection of parameters are explained in this part.

Chapter 4 represents the results obtained with each tool and includes the discussion regarding the ranking of the peptides based on energy scores, featured energy components, prominent interactions identified by each tool and their possible structural reflections. Comparison of the tools with each other is also provided here. Performances of the tools are evaluated through resemblance to the experimental data which comprises the last section of this chapter.

Lastly, a brief summary of the work can be found in Chapter 5.

Chapter 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 PICK1 (Protein Interacting with C-Kinase 1) protein

PICK1 is a peripheral membrane protein first identified as a protein interacting with protein kinase C- α (PKC α) from a yeast two-hybrid screening [7]. It is also characterized as a scaffold protein regulating the trafficking or the activity of more than 40 proteins in mammals, including neurotransmitter receptors, transporters, enzymes or channels within the central nervous system (CNS).

Being around 400 residues in length, from 415 in humans to 504 in *Drosophila*, it is present in many animal species and conserved from *Caenorhabditis elegans* to humans [1]. Mainly expressed in brain and testis, it also was found in heart, lung, liver, spleen, kidney and muscle in smaller amounts. In most of these tissues, it is dispersed in the cytosol, more densely around the nucleus, whereas in neurons it is localized in synapses [2]. Structurally, PICK1 is unique bearing both highly conserved PDZ (post synaptic density-95 (PSD-95)/Disc large/Zonula occludens-1) domain (~90 aa) and a BAR (Bin-amphiphysin-Rus) domain (~200 aa). There are three regions separating these domains: an acidic N terminal region of 18 aa, a 40 aa linker portion in between two domains and a C-terminal region composed of acidic residues. Despite being the most diversified region, the acidic nature of C termini is a conserved characteristic through all species [1].

Being essentially a lipid binding domain, BAR domain is encountered in proteins involved in membrane trafficking, mostly endocytosis. Crystallographically it is showned that BAR domain exists as a crescent-shaped dimer, composed of six helical bundles. A complete and functional BAR domain is formed when joined by another BAR domain. Two located at the ends of the dimer and two on the concave faces, there are four positively charged groups on the structure binding the negatively charged lipid molecules [8]. PICK1 also binds to lipid molecules using this domain, generally negatively charged phosphoinositides. Other regions of PICK1 can regulate this interaction either positively or negatively. BAR domain's lipid

binding is enhanced by the PDZ domain and the linker region whereas it is inhibited by the C-terminal. Indeed, this ability is shown to be required for the synaptic targeting of PICK1, trafficking of AMPA receptors, and synaptic plasticity. Apart from lipid binding, PICK1 interacts with several other proteins, like SNAP (soluble NSF attachment protein), GRIP (glutamate receptor interacting protein) and the membrane proximal region of GluR δ 2, which are also involved in functions mentioned above [9].

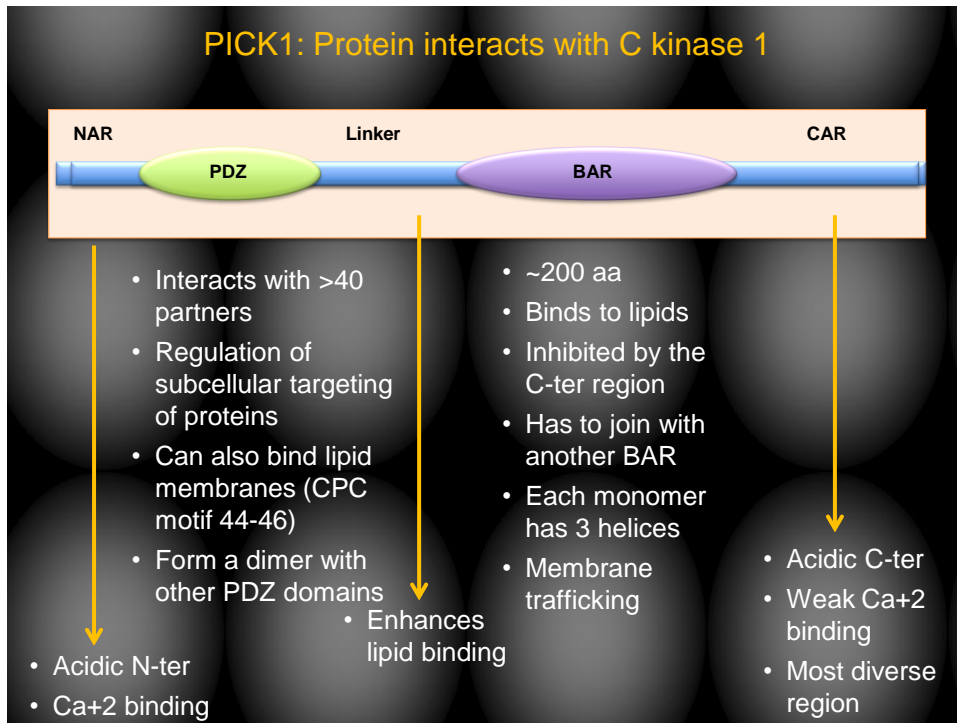


Figure 2-1 PICK1: Protein interacts with C kinase 1. Properties of domains and regions.

Apart from the modular domains, linker regions of PICK1 have also supporting functions. N-terminal acidic region was found to directly bind to Ca²⁺ which affects the affinity of PICK1's interaction to GluR2 and trafficking of AMPA receptor regulated by activation of NMDA receptors [10]. Similarly, the linker region in between the two domains was found to enhance lipid binding of PICK1's BAR domain. Conversely, the acidic C-terminal region inhibits lipid binding of PICK1's BAR domain, most probably because of the interaction with the positively charged residues of the BAR domain [9]. Another

physiologically significant finding related to C-terminal region is the increased synaptic targeting of PICK1 in neurons upon its deletion [11].

Having two highly abundant modules earns PICK1 a wide repertoire of interaction partners. It is shown to associate with over 60 proteins solely through its PDZ domain most of which are involved in neural function [1]. Parallel to its high expression levels in CNS, there is accumulating evidence revealing the pivotal role of PICK1 in neural function. Its well documented interaction with AMPA receptor subunit GluR2 is required for AMPAR internalization in response to Ca²⁺ influx via NMDAR activation in hippocampal neurons. Additionally, PICK1 directly binds to and inhibits the activity of the Arp2/3 complex, and that this has a central role in AMPAR trafficking in hippocampal neurons.

Correspondingly, studies on PICK1's implications in various neurological disorders such as Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) (a fatal neurodegenerative disorder characterized by the progressive and selective loss of motor neurons) [12], schizophrenia [13], chronic pain [14-17] and excitotoxic neuronal death [18] also start to stand out in literature.

However, it also possesses non-neural functions. It is shown that PICK1 functions as a negative regulator of TGF- β signaling by targeting TGF- β type I receptor (T β RI) for degradation. It interacts with the C-terminus of T β RI via its PDZ domain, scaffolding to enhance the interaction between T β RI and caveolin-1. That leads to increased caveolin-mediated endocytosis, ubiquitination and degradation of T β RI [19]. It is also shown that mutations in PICK1 gene are involved in globozoospermia, a rare congenital disease [20]. Expanding literature on PICK1 related disorders raise interest for the use of the interaction between PDZ domains and their binding partners as potential drug targets. Given that, structural information on the PDZ domains and their interactions is valuable to design suitable inhibitors.

2.2 PDZ Domain (PSD-95, Discs large, Zona occludens 1)

PDZ domain is one of the abundant modular domains existing more than 250 times in over 150 different proteins in human proteome [21]. PDZ domains are less likely to be encountered in unicellular organisms implying possible co-evolution with multi-cellularity.

There are over 300 PDZ structures currently deposited in the PDB data bank. [22] PDZ domains exhibit plethora of cellular functions from establishment and maintenance of cell polarity to regulation of cell junctions, from transmission in neurons to visual and auditive processes, from synaptic plasticity to cell migration [23-27]. This diversity of binding specificities and functional roles of PDZ domains can be attributed the considerable sequence variation they exhibit [23].

PDZ domains are 80–100 amino acids long forming six anti-parallel β strands (β A- β F) and two α -helices (α A and α B). The β B strand and α B helix form the binding pocket to PDZ-binding motifs. Peptides recognized by PDZ domains are 4-5 residues long, yet it is claimed that up to seven C-terminal ligand residues can interact specifically with the PDZ binding cleft [28]. β B strand runs the length of the peptide-binding groove and places the peptide as an additional strand into the antiparallel β -sheet on the surface of the domain with the main chain interactions it provides. Still, there is more to consider than these interactions for sequence-specific recognition by PDZs [23].

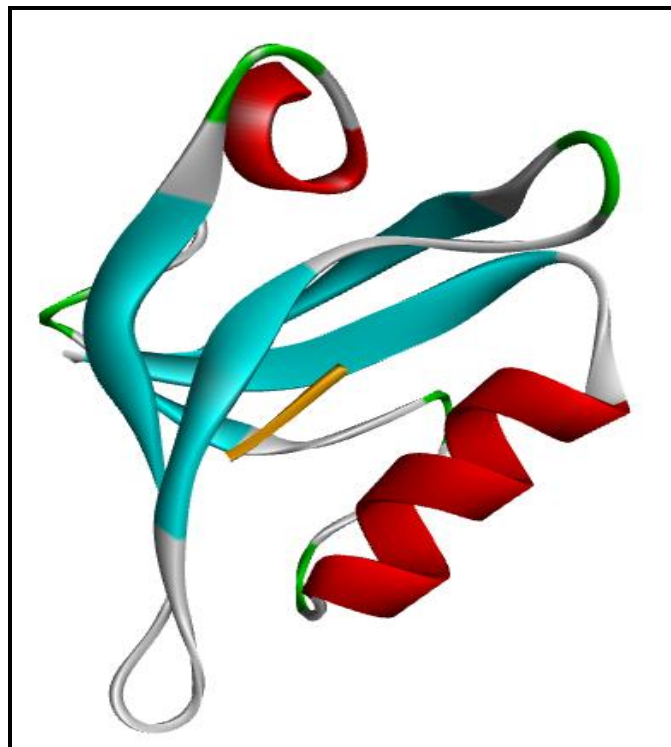


Figure 2-2 PICK1 PDZ domain in complex with the peptide (WLKV) from PDZ partner Dopamin Transporter (Figure created with Discovery Studio using PDZ domain of PDB ID: 2PKU)

PDZ-binding peptides can be divided into three classes based on their selectivity on PDZ-binding motifs, short peptides from the extreme C-termini of their substrate proteins. Type I PDZ domains recognize X-[T/S]-X-F motif, Type II domains bind X-F-X-F and Type III ones interact with X-E/D-X-F. (F-hydrophobic residue; X-any residue; T-threonine; S-serine; E-glutamate; D-aspartate.) These types were set by the residue located at the -2 position of the ligand, where the amino acids are numbered according to their topographical location, the extreme C-terminus being at position 0 (P0) [23]. Similarly, the selectivity of a PDZ domain for its ligands is determined by the first residue of the α -helix B (α B1) of the PDZ domain. Conventionally, a Type I PDZ domain has a histidine in the α B1 position, Type II holds a hydrophobic residue and Type III bears a tyrosine.

Apart from conventional C-terminal peptides an internal sequence can also bind PDZ domain forming a hairpin-like structure. PDZ domains can also form dimers with the other PDZ domains [23] and are also capable of binding to lipid molecules, such as phosphoinositides [9].

As opposed to many PDZ domain-containing proteins, PICK1 possesses a single PDZ domain. However, what makes PICK1 interesting is it being one of the few PDZ domain proteins that can bind peptides belonging different classes. Even though, initially identified as a Type I PDZ, PICK1 is found to interact with Type II and atypical peptides. [29] Sorting out this behavior of PICK1 has implications in domain-peptide interactions, peptide binding specificity and drug targeting.

2.3 Previous experimental studies

Experimental efforts for investigating the binding preferences of PDZ domains and the features of the peptides interacting with PDZs of different proteins include high-throughput technologies like phage display [21, 30] and protein microarray [31]. A phage display study on human and worm PDZ domains classified them into 16 conserved specificity groups [21]. Alternatively, in one protein microarray study most of the mouse PDZ domains were purified to determine their binding specificity against 217 peptides collected from the C-terminal of mouse proteins. As a result it was suggested that the

selectivity space of PDZ-peptide interactions are rather continuous, as opposed to the discrete classes approach. Also, discrimination between binding and nonbinding peptides was used in an effort to predict the PDZ-peptide interactions [31]. The mouse binding data is further utilized in training of a model for prediction of PDZ-peptide interactions in *D. melanogaster* and *C. elegans* [32].

However improved the techniques, experimental binding specificities are still difficult to obtain and computational approaches to the peptide binding specificity problem are essential. Using computational biology tools in effort to elucidate the binding behaviors of PDZ domains and in the prediction of undiscovered interaction partners with the use of experimental data is currently a growing area of research.

Unconventionally capability of binding Type I, Type II and atypical peptides, what accounts for this behavior of PICK1 was investigated by several studies before. In a highly referred study by Madsen et al., characteristics of the PICK1 PDZ binding pocket is investigated using fluorescence polarization based binding assay. Interactions carried out by each residue of representative Type I and Type II peptides are analyzed. Contributing residues and interactions and the effects of mutations of critical residues, Lys27 and Lys83, on these interactions are analyzed [33]. In another study employing the same technique, a small molecule inhibitor binding in an irreversible but specific manner to PICK1 PDZ domain is detected indirectly providing information on binding preferences [34]. A study exploring explicitly the potential binding partners of PDZ domains of PICK1, GRIP and syntenin discovered new glutamate receptor subtype partner for PICK1 and utilize that data to shed light on structural determinants of PDZ interactions [27].

Regarding the elucidation of the important residues on the PICK1 domain, in an *in vitro* study Ser 77 is found to be a major phosphorylation site for PKC α which is an notable mechanism regulating the activity of PICK1 [35]. Additionally, Thr82 is shown to be a potential phosphorylation site and important for the interaction between PICK1 and AMPA receptor, GluR2 [36].

Though there is increasing experimental evidence revealing new interaction partners of PICK1, this data is not analyzed for complete understanding of the binding behavior of PICK1. Investigation of the known binding partners of PICK1 collectively and in comparison

with each other can help elucidating the critical interactions and preference towards different Types. Incorporation of experimental findings into computational analysis can enhance the performances of the computational tools in representation of the current data and in the prediction of novel binding partners.

2.4 Previous computational studies

Being one of the heavily studied domains, there is considerable amount of PDZ specificity data available. This knowledge is appraised computationally by various algorithms for the prediction of binding specificities of peptide-binding domains and for the prediction of their natural ligands. Computational tools like docking, generating conformational ensembles [37] are also used to elucidate the promoting interactions and residues, and to more elaborately explain the binding preferences of PDZ domains for different peptides. Various computational methods such as statistical and machine learning approaches, biophysical and computational chemistry methods were utilized for these purposes, as reviewed recently [38].

One example for the methods used for prediction is Position Weight Matrices (PWMs) in which each cell holds the probability of observing an amino acid at a given ligand position to acquire a score describing the binding preference of a PDZ domain for a given peptide. In one such study, PWMs are used to predict the peptide binding specificity of different human PDZ domains [21]. Another work involves a machine learning method called a support vector machine (SVM) to achieve the same goal and tested with human, worm and fly proteomes, claiming % 85 accuracy with human PDZ domains [39]. In another effort, bayesian estimation is shown to accomplish ~%80 true positive rate in prediction of novel Mouse PDZ domains and peptides given the PDZ domain and peptides' primary sequences. [32] In one study specifically concentrated on PSD-95 PDZ domain, a more complex protocol involving quantum mechanics/molecular mechanics, semi-empirical Poisson–Boltzmann/surface area and empirical conformational free energy analysis is proven to recreate the experimental data of 30 affinity-known PDZ3–peptide complexes, besides providing information on energetic profile and structural basis of peptide binding [32].

Though there are computational methods on classification and prediction for PDZ domain peptides in general, PICK1 has not been handled before specifically except a few studies. In one such case, 44,000 compounds were first screened with fluorescent polarization assay to find a small molecule inhibitor where FSC231 is shown to achieve this. Its binding mode was found using computational docking. In a subsequent work, structure activity relationship for this compound was studied again utilizing docking methods and a derivative structure with higher affinity was reached [40, 41].

In another study involving peptide partners of PICK1 PDZ domain, binding affinities of all major PICK1 partners and the effects of PICK1 mutations on those are investigated by Perturbation Response Scanning and ensemble docking with RosettaLigand. Featured residues and interactions contributing to the peptide binding specificity are searched out providing for potential drug design studies [42].

Another computational work puts the problem into binding free energy landscape frame using Monte Carlo simulations to describe peptide binding process of PICK1 PDZ domain and two other PDZ domain proteins, PSD95 and GRIP. It was suggested that binding occurs in a two-step mechanism with the P(0) binding to the peptide binding pocket as the initial rate limiting step. Also, PICK1 PDZ binding to the Type I peptide is shown to involve a lower free energy barrier than the Type II peptide [43].

Though, there is different lines of computational work on the subject, there is none representing the performance of available tools specifically for PICK1. The capabilities of the current computational tools on this aspect and potential features for improvement can be explored for the more efficient use of these tools on the specific case of PICK1. This is aimed to be achieved in this study with the use of a larger dataset and incorporation of mutational analysis differently from previous studies.

Chapter 3 MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 Dataset

The experimental structure of the complete PICK1 is not available yet. However, there are four PICK1 PDZ Domain structures deposited in PDB. Among those, two are used in this study, 2GZV [44] and 2PKU [45]. 2GZV is a crystal structure used previously in similar studies. [42] Yet, it has an unresolved portion and a more recent and complete structure, 2PKU, is available in PDB. 2PKU is the NMR structure of PICK1 PDZ domain deposited in PDB as an ensemble of 20 models. It covers the residues between 18 and 104 of PICK1 in complex with five GluR2 C-termini residues [-ESVKI]. The average structure is determined using Discovery Studio 3.1 and the further analysis is done with this structure.

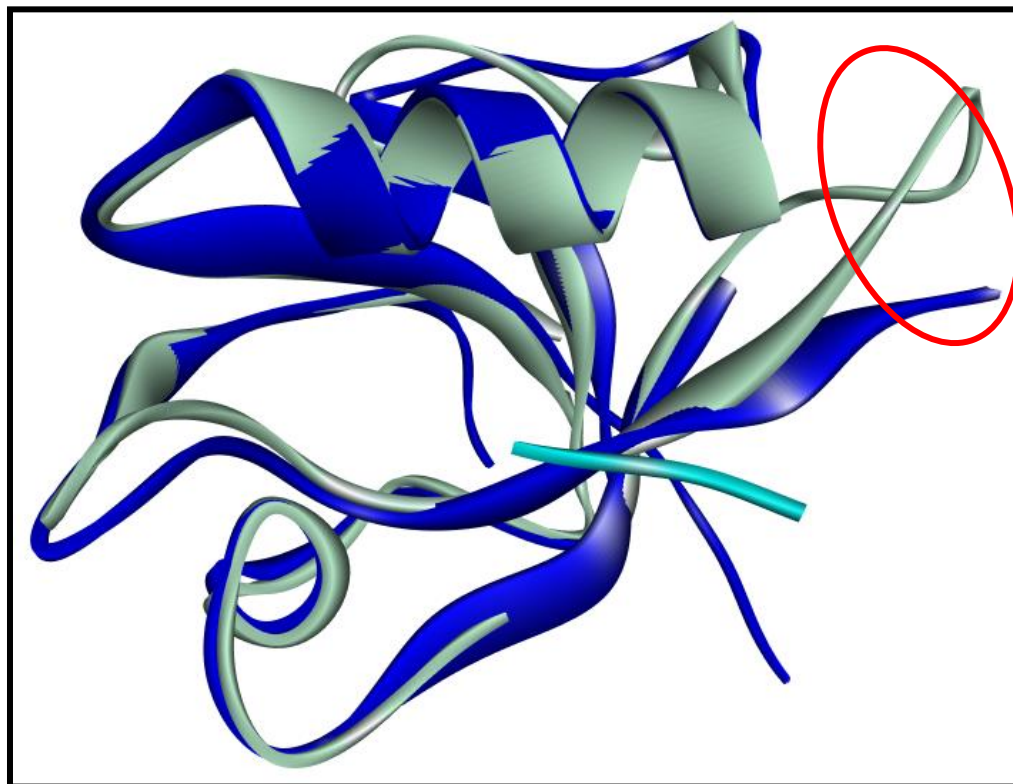


Figure 3-1 2PKU (grey) and 2GZV (blue) superimposed. The GluR2 peptide ESVKI of 2PKU is shown in turquoise. Missing portion is marked with red circle.

3.1.1 PDZ Peptides

Type I, Type II and also atypical PDZ binding and non-binding peptides are collected from previous studies available in literature [27, 29, 33, 42]. Additionally, computationally generated Type III and atypical peptides are included in the dataset. Since PICK1 does not have any Type III partners, artificial Type III peptides are generated by mutating the Type I peptides in hand and used as negative data for further comparison. Complete list of peptides is presented in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Peptides used in the study. Peptides collected from literature are coming from experimentally verified complexes. Artificially constructed peptides are generated by introducing mutations on the Type I peptides

| Collected from literature | | | | Artificially constructed | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| Type I | Type II | | Atypical | Non-binding | Type III | Atypical |
| DSL _V | EWY _V | AMP _V | DFTC | DSSL | EECI | ETCG |
| ETC _I | GIQ _V | DVP _V | EAEC | WLKD | EEMA | ETMR |
| ETM _A | IPE _V | EIAC | KKNK | | EEVA | ETVC |
| ETV _A | PMP _V | LNAV | MKPK | | GDIV | GSIK |
| GSIV | SFVL | NLVI | PPTV | | GDKA | GSKH |
| GSKA | SIKI | SVEV | RNQK | | NEVV | NTVK |
| NTVV | VDV | SVIM | | | QDAV | QSAK |
| QLAV | WFDV | SVKI | | | SEYV | STYC |
| QSAA | WLAI | SVSV | | | TDSL | TSSD |
| QSAI | WLKI | SVVI | | | TERV | TTRE |
| QSAL | WLKL | TVSV | | | | |
| QSAV | WLKV | WLKA | | | | |
| STYV | YYKV | | | | | |
| TSSL | | | | | | |
| TTRV | | | | | | |
| WSKV | | | | | | |

PICK1-peptide complexes are first constructed in Discovery Studio 3.1. This step does not involve any docking or energy calculation, rather the complexes were built by mutating the peptide in the original 2PKU PDB structure in place. To remove the clashes in

these initial complexes, they are pre-processed with either Prepack or ClassicRelax routines in Rosetta software version 3.2.1[46].

In addition to wild type complexes, PICK1 PDZ domains with point mutations on critical residues are studied. There are previous studies, both experimental and computational, investigating the effect of K27A, K27E, K83H, K83V and T82E mutants on binding affinity of PICK1 PDZ domain for various peptides [33, 36, 47, 48]. Accordingly, those complexes are recreated to see if the results could be reproduced with the tools used in this study for the assessment of protein-peptide complexes.

3.2 Assessment of the PICK1 PDZ-Peptide Complexes and Energy Calculations

To investigate the binding behavior of PICK1, PDZ-peptide complexes are evaluated with three different docking routines/structure assessment tools, namely FlexPepDock [4, 46], PepCrawler [5] and XScore [6].

3.2.1 FlexPepDock

FlexPepDock protocol is an algorithm in Rosetta library for generation of high-resolution models of complexes of flexible peptides and globular proteins, given an approximate, coarse-grain model. It was benchmarked over a large dataset of peptide-protein interactions and showed high success rates in sampling sub-angstrom (%87 in a range of 3.5 Å bb Root-mean square deviation (rmsd)) and near-native models (%91 in a range of 5.5 Å bb rmsd). Moreover, the protocol has achieved to sample the sub-angstrom models when tested for cross-docking with a dataset of PDZ-peptide complexes, suggesting it would be a suitable tool to study PICK1-PDZ peptide complexes [49].

As the first step of FlexPepDock protocol, the preliminary complexes are fed to the prepacking routine for the removal of the internal clashes. Subsequently, the second step, peptide docking mode, involves the optimization of the peptide backbone and its rigid-body orientation relative to the receptor protein, in addition to simultaneous side-chain optimization. The number of decoys (i.e. conformations of the complex) to be generated by setting how many times this step is to be repeated can be set here. This step also includes an

optional low-resolution (centroid) pre-optimization mode. In the end, the output models are ranked based on their energy score according to the Rosetta score12 energy function.

To search for the capabilities of the tool and to improve the results based on the experimental data, the effect of several FlexPepDock parameters are tested. Computational experiments are carried out with generating different number of decoys, introducing different constraints to the complexes and changing the weights of the energy terms in the evaluation of the complexes.

3.2.2 PepCrawler

PepCrawler is an algorithm which derives peptides from protein-protein complexes and predicts protein-peptide complexes by high resolution docking and binding affinity estimation. It primarily aims to aid detection of inhibitory peptides for protein-protein interactions. It allows backbone flexibility for the peptide combined with side-chain flexibility for both the peptide and the receptor protein.

Provided the receptor and the ligand, the algorithm derives a single, short, low-energy binding peptide in the first step. Second, it generates a large amount of peptide docking conformations and explores the conformational space by using RRT-based algorithm and grid-based collision detection. Then, it scores and clusters these conformations, and outputs the top five cluster candidates. In the third step, a more refined RRT with less peptide flexibility is carried out around the conformation of each cluster candidate. The backbone-atom RMSD (bb-RMSD) between the highest scoring conformation of the input peptide and each of the other conformations is calculated.

3.2.3 X-Score

To see if the binding affinities of PICK1-peptide complexes exhibit differences under different energy schemes, resultant structures from FlexPepDock protocol are evaluated with another assessment tool, X-Score, for further comparison.

X-Score is a consensus empirical scoring function for estimating the binding affinity of a given protein-ligand complex with a known three-dimensional structure. It incorporates van der Waals interaction, hydrogen bonding, deformation penalty, and hydrophobic terms in

to the function. Providing binding energies (kcal/mol) and predicted binding affinities (log K_D) for complexes X-Score combines three different scoring functions. It is shown to predict the binding free energies with a standard deviation of around 2kcal/mol and to perform better in identifying the correct bound conformation than the classical force field calculation [6].

Chapter 4 RESULTS

4.1 FlexPepDock

The first concern in running the FlexPepDock is to determine the number of decoys to be generated to overcome the tradeoff between the computational power in hand and enough sampling. Conventionally, at least 200 to a optimal 2000 decoys are created in FlexPepDock runs. However, it was not possible to achieve this number due to computational limitations. Then, experiments with various number of decoys are carried out to determine the smallest plausible value. For a few complexes 100, 500, 1000 and 5000 decoys are generated as test cases. Assuming 5000 already samples good enough, 500 is determined to be the smallest required value to cover the same space and to provide the similar convergence that 5000 decoy runs achieve. One Type I (QSAV) and one Type II (WLKV) peptide-PICK1 complexes are chosen as representative to demonstrate the results. (Figures 4-1, 4-2)

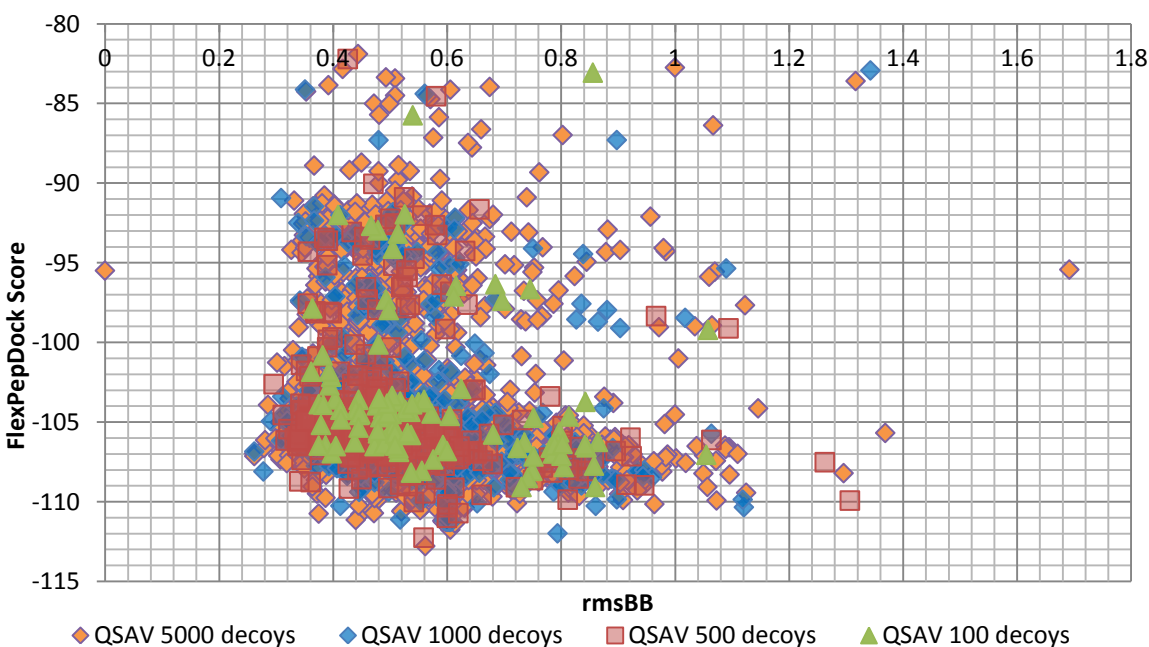


Figure 4-1 Distributions of FlexPepDock scores of decoys versus Backbone RMSDs to initial structure of Type I peptide (QSAV) complex for 100, 500, 1000 and 5000 decoy cases

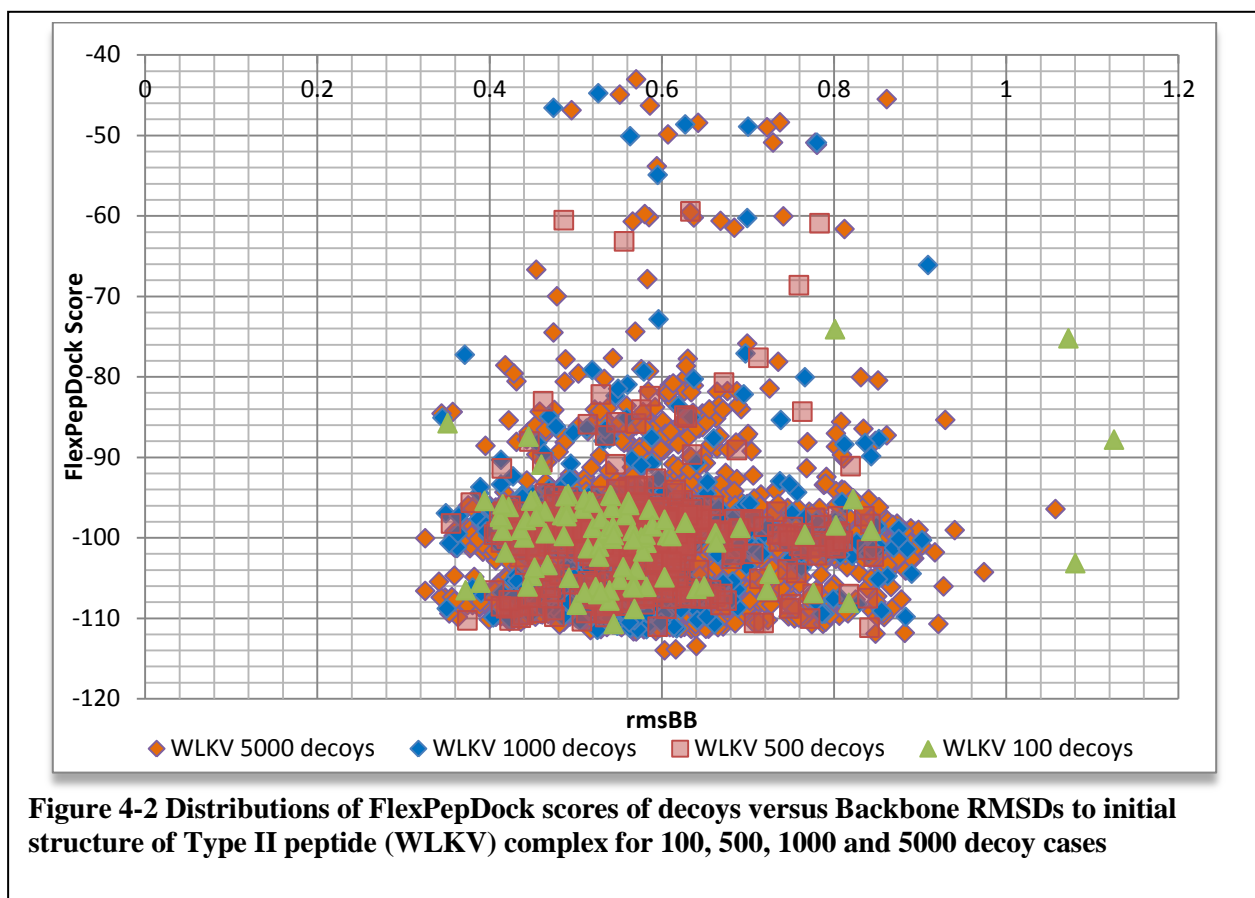


Figure 4-2 Distributions of FlexPepDock scores of decoys versus Backbone RMSDs to initial structure of Type II peptide (WLKV) complex for 100, 500, 1000 and 5000 decoy cases

Once the number of decoys to be generated is set to 500, then the complete dataset (Table 3-1) is evaluated to see if the binders could be separated from non-binders. Since there is no experimentally determined affinity data for all of the complexes, it is not possible to evaluate each of them individually, rather the complexes are evaluated comparatively. DSLL, shown to be a non-binder experimentally in a previous study, is chosen as marker. Then the binders and non-binders are evaluated compared to DSLL. Though, scoring close to DSLL most of the known binding peptides have lower binding energies than it has (Fig 4-3). Strikingly, all of the Type III peptides have more unfavorable energies than DSLL, supporting the notion that PICK1 having no Type III partners. Type II peptides seem to be favored binding partners compared to the others, most members having lower binding energies relative to the other types. However, what is more striking is the distribution of the rmsd values of the complexes.

Even differently, Val in P(0) turned out to be reason for the high score of NEVV complex disturbing Leu32 and Lys in the same position in KKNK complex creates a similar case with Ala87. A further investigation of the worst scoring complex, TDSL, reveals Thr as the source of unlikely high energy of the complex. The PICK1 residues surrounding P(-3) Thr, which are Lys83, Val86, Ile70, Leu47, Tyr48 and Ile37, appears as unable to position the residue, since they also contribute highly to the repulsive term of the complex. Similarly, in case of TSSL the major cause of the unfavorable energy is Thr besides the smaller contribution of Ser in P(-2). The residues around Thr in P(-3), same as those in TDSL complex, also have relatively high repulsive terms implying it's difficulty in fitting the binding pocket. In order to avoid these several constraints and scoring schemes are tested discussed further below.

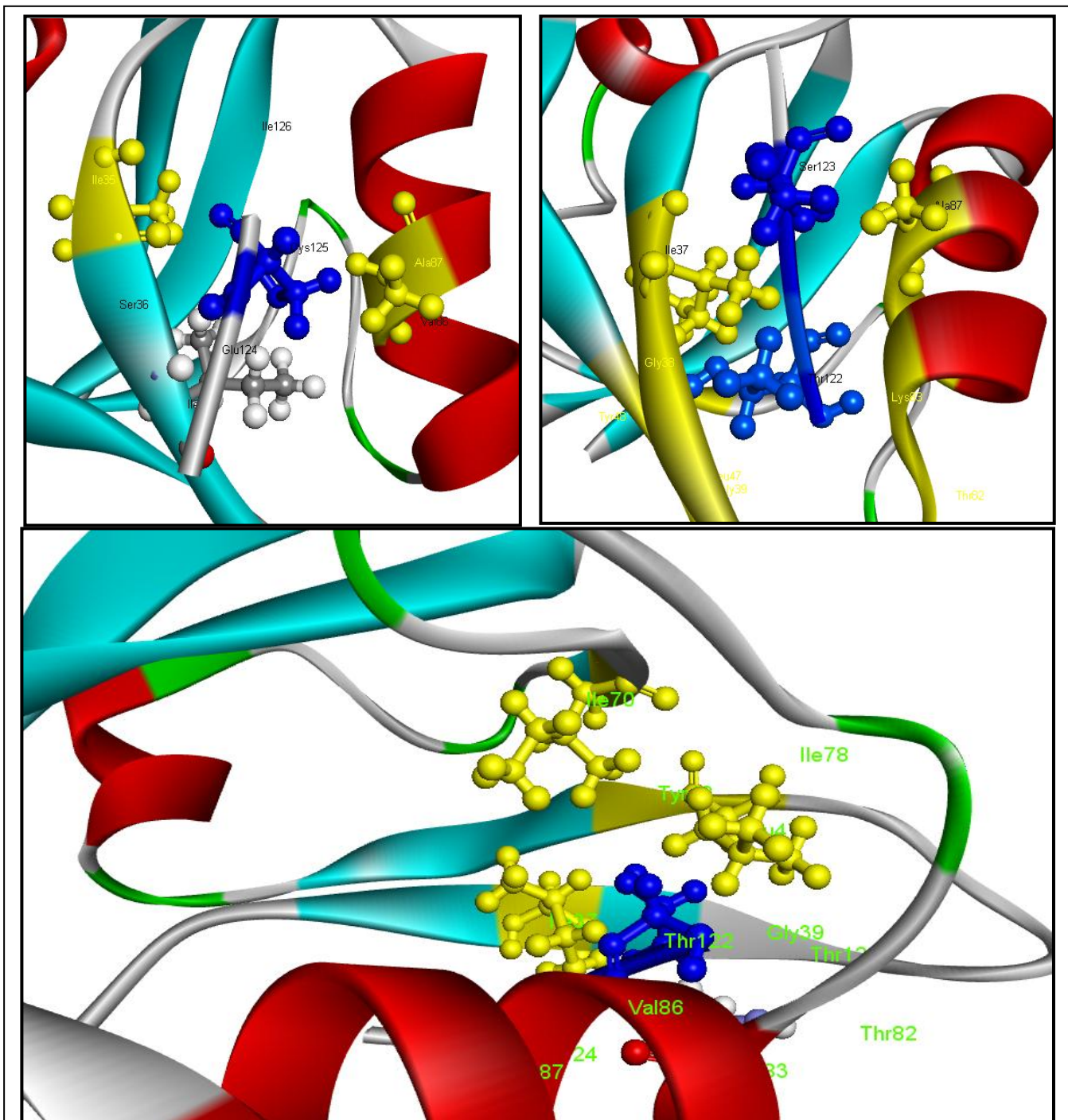
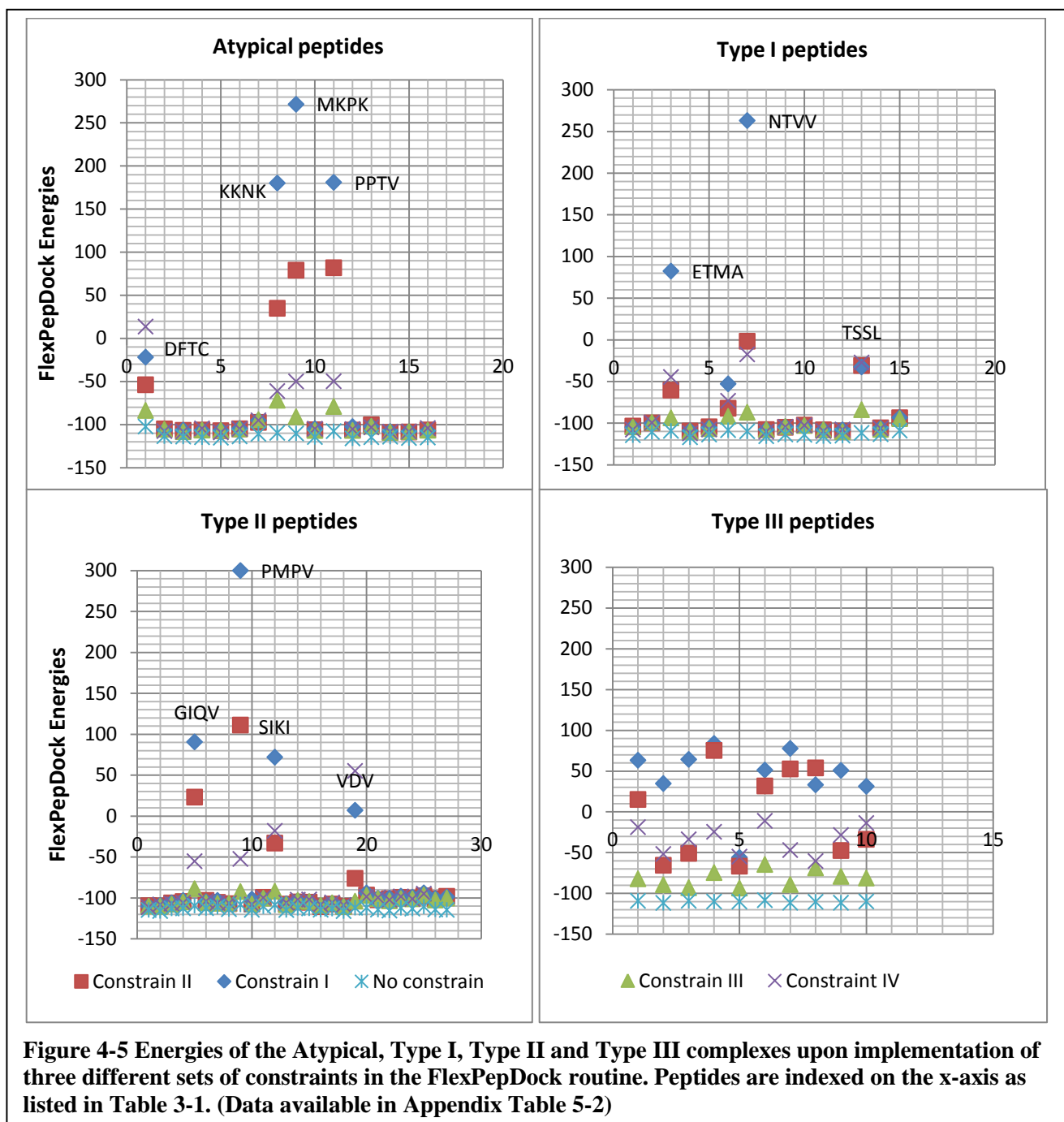


Figure 4-4 Close up to the binding pockets of the complexes with the highest binding energies according to FlexPepDock. The peptide residues contributing most to the high scores are represented in blue and the surrounding PICK1 residues with high repulsive components are shown in yellow. Upper left figure belongs to KKNK complex, the highest scoring atypical complex. TSSL complex is represented to the right and TDSL complex, the one with the most unfavorable energy, is shown larger at the bottom.

Several type-specific interactions are introduced as constraints to the complexes in effort to sort out different Types of peptides. 4 different sets of constraints were compared, (1), securing the H-bond between the P(-2) residue of the peptide (either Ser or Thr) and Lys83 of the PDZ domain, which is specific to Type I (Constraint I), (2) preserving the hydrophobic interaction between P(-2) of the peptide and Lys83 (specific to Type II) (Constraint II), and (3) fixing the interaction between Gly34 and P(0) residue of the peptide which is common to all types (Constraint III). Combination of P(0) to Gly34 and Ile35, and P(-2) to Lys83 and Ala87 interactions is given as the last set of constraints (Constraint IV). In all cases, constraints are set as harmonic with a standard deviation of 2.0 Å.



Different sets of constraints are observed to cause similar effects on the energy profiles of the groups of Type I, II and Atypical peptides. (Figure 4-5) The energies of these complexes are not altered significantly upon implementation of Constraints I, II, III, IV, except for a few cases where the same complexes have relatively high energies independent of the constraint type (Sequences are labeled explicitly on Figure 4-5). A closer attention on

these complexes reveals that they are also the ones with the most unfavorable energies when there are no constraints. (refer to Figure 4-4). This might imply that constraints further limit the flexibility of these structures which are already forced in the absence of constraints. Thus, introducing constraints raises the energies of the complexes even higher.

Implementation of Constraint I and Constraint II causes larger binding energies than Constraints III and IV does. Constraints I and II restrict the P(-2) residue which is responsible for the large repulsive term in most of the high scoring complexes in no-constraint cases. Therefore, this might further decrease the flexibility of the peptide in those complexes and making it harder to encounter lower energy decoys. Operating on the already better positioned P(0) Constraints III and IV causes smaller changes in binding energies. This may imply that P(0) can be more readily fit to the binding pocket even in the absence of constraint. Following that it could also be said that adding constraints in the case for higher energy structures is actually forcing the structure and cause even higher energies.

The energies of the Type III peptides however decrease when Constraint III is applied. Presumably increased binding tendency of otherwise non-binding Type IIIs can then be attributed to the critical interactions of the P(0) binding pocket which is conserved for all peptides regardless of the type. The increase in energies where type specific interactions are tried to be maintained through Constraint I and II, also supports this. Also, the binding energies of the Type III complexes under Constraint IV range between those of Constraint III and of Constraint I/ II. This could point out the contribution of the P(0) interactions in determination of binding and non-binding PDZ peptides without discrimination of the type of peptide.

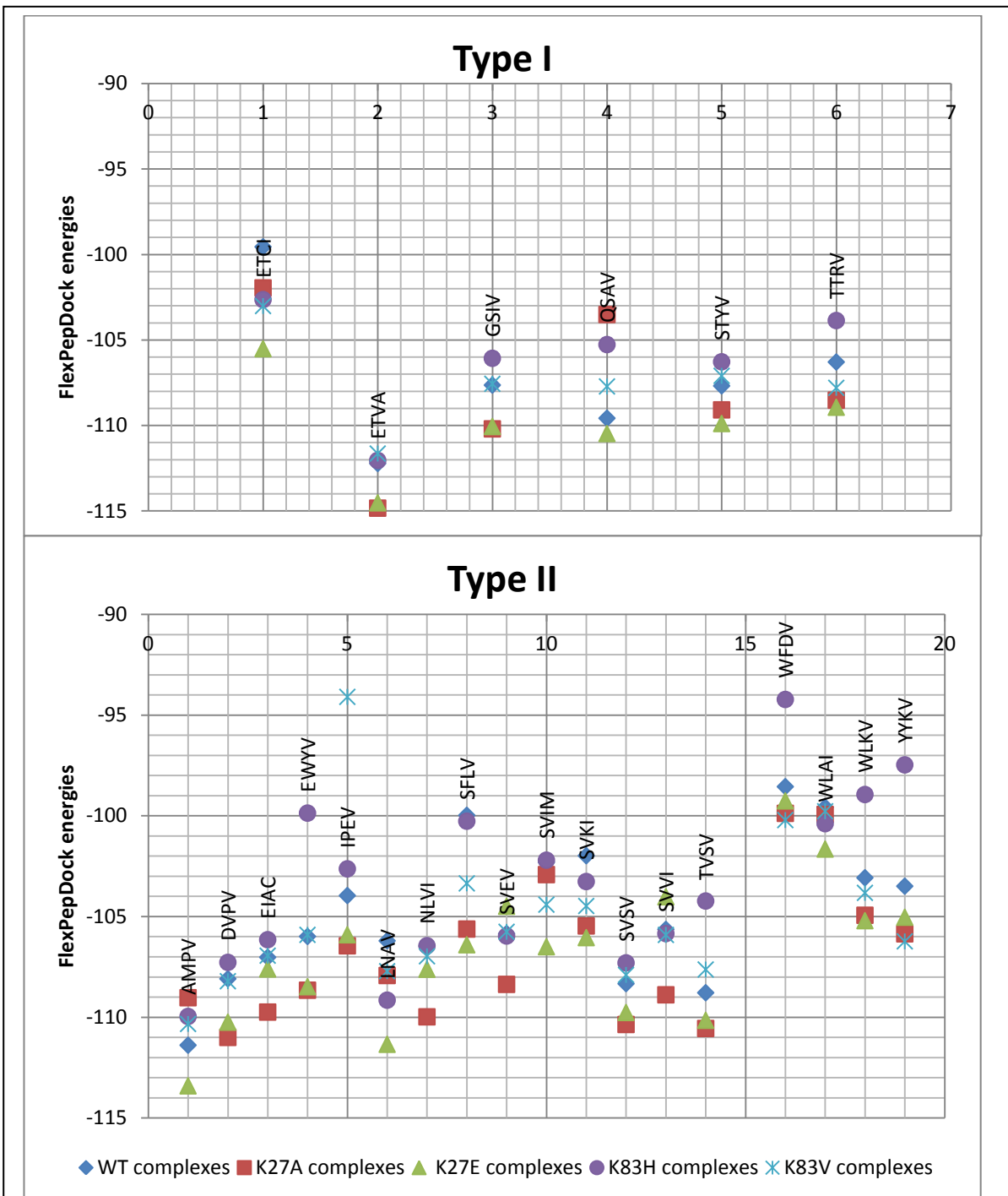


Figure 4-6 FlexPepDock energies of PICK1 PDZ domain WT and K27A, K27E, K83H and K83V mutant-Type I and Type II peptide complexes (Complete data available in Appendix Table 5-3)

To investigate the binding preferences of PICK1 PDZ for its partners of Types I and II PDZ peptides, mutations are introduced on the critical residues, Lys27 and Lys83, involving

in the protein-peptide interactions. Lys27 carries out interactions in P(0) binding pocket involving in the carboxylate binding loop. It also contributes to the commonly found KD motif in Type II PDZ domains. Bearing a Lysine83, in the critical $\alpha\beta 1$ position, PICK1 does not fit the conventional Type I and II classes, for Type I generally require a His in this position whereas in Type II a hydrophobic amino acid occupies it. P(-2) residue is responsible for this preference since Ser/Thr of Type I H-bonds to $\alpha\beta 1$ and a hydrophobic P(-2) carries out hydrophobic interactions with it.

WT and K27A, K27E, K83H and K83V mutant complexes are processed with FlexPepDock to see the change of preference of PICK1 for Type I and II partners upon these variations (Figure 4-6). According to the preference based on $\alpha\beta 1$ residue, K83H is supposed to promote the binding of Type I peptides whereas K83V should favor Type II peptides. This trend is caught with the Type II peptides where K83V mutation lowers the binding energy relative to the WT in most of the complexes and K83H complexes are the most unfavorable ones for all complexes. However, Type I peptides do not follow the expected trend since only one of the complexes (ETCI) showed improvement upon K83H mutation.

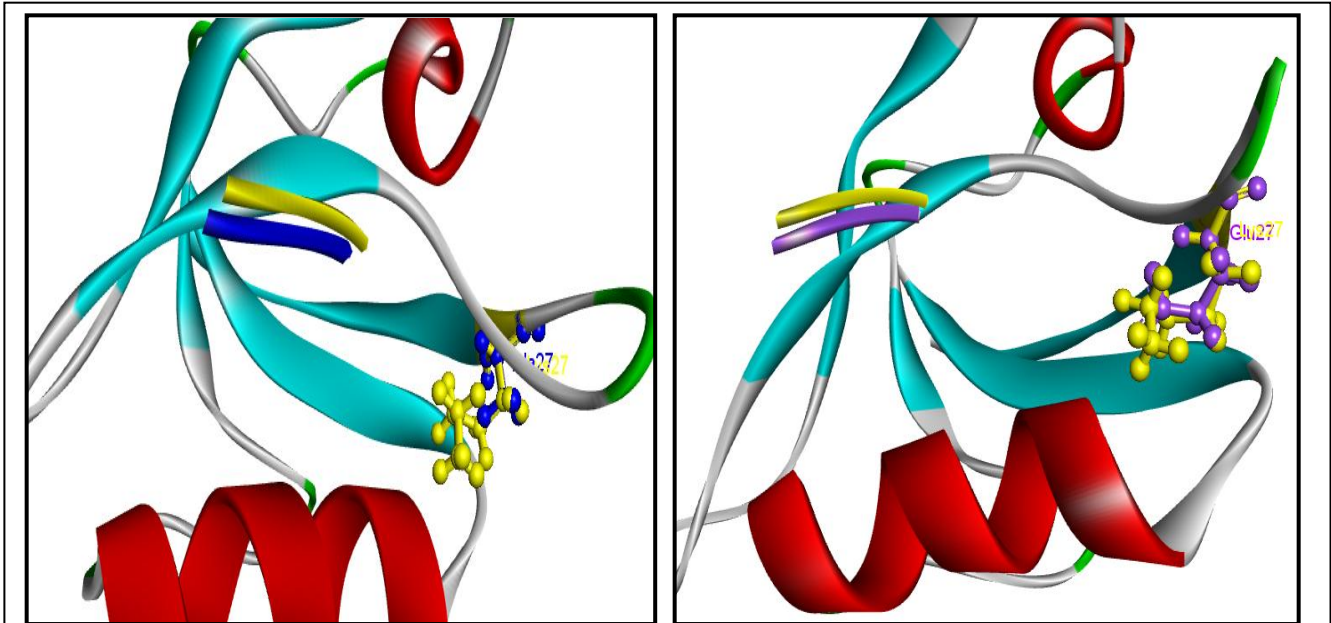
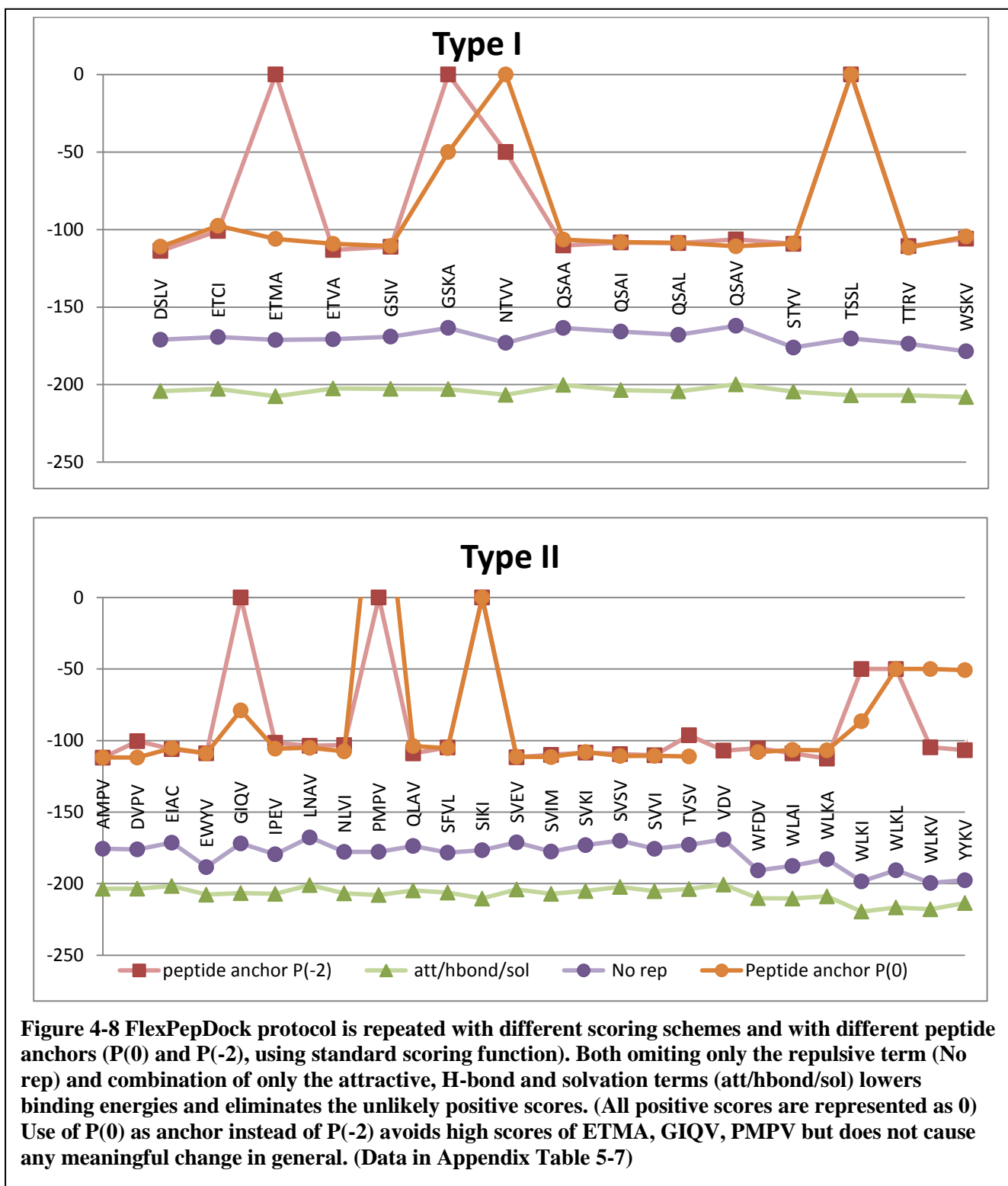


Figure 4-7 WT IPEV-PICK1 complex superimposed on the K27A (left) and K27E (right) mutant PICK1 complexes. The backbone structure does not deviate much (Backbone rmsd ~ 0.8 for both cases), but the peptide gets closer to the protein in the binding region compared to WT. K27 in the WT structure is shown in yellow, A27 is in blue and E27 in purple. Peptides in each complex are colored accordingly.

Another striking result is that even though Lys27 is a highly conserved residue, in all cases K27 mutants turn out to be better binders. One of the reasons for the decrease in the energy is the substitution of Lys itself, i.e it lowers the energy of the complex with its individual contribution compared to Ala or Glu. The second reason is that in most of the cases Lys causes unfavorable energy in the loop region it lies. Structures of K27 mutants of IPEV, Type II complex with the largest energy difference between the WT and K27 mutants, are demonstrated to represent this behavior commonly exhibited by most of the complexes (Figure 4-7). K27 mutations do not alter the backbone geometry much (Backbone rmsd of $\sim 0.8 \pm 0.2$ for all cases) rather the position of the peptide changes getting closer to the binding pocket. K27A complexes involves in less interaction yielding lower binding energies than both WT and K27E for most of the complexes due to the smaller side chain.



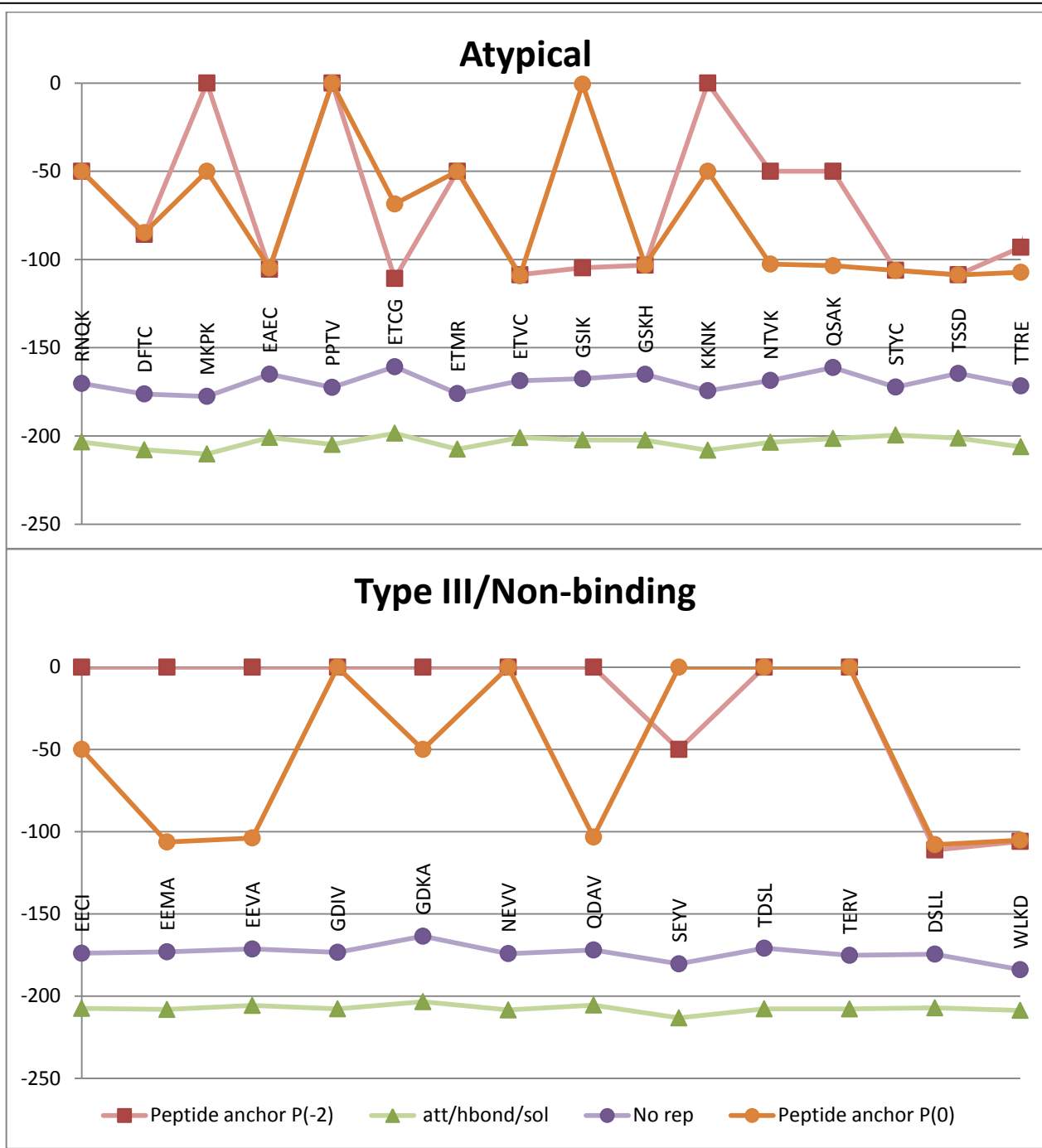


Figure 4-9 (Continued from Figure 4-8) Effect of change of parameters for Atypical, Type III and Non-binding peptides. The contribution of the repulsive term is evident for these groups of peptides than it is for Type I and II. Still some peptides are recovered from unlikely high scores by use of P(0) as anchor. (Data in Appendix Table 5-9)

FlexPepDock experiments are repeated with different parameters, changing the scoring function and setting different anchor residues, to see if the results could be improved (Figure 4-8, 4-9). From the previous runs repulsive term in the energy function is detected as the biggest contributor to the Total Score resulting in unlikely positive energy values. Thus, complexes are evaluated with the repulsive term dropped as the first alternative scheme and with the combination of only attractive, h-bond and solvation energy terms as the second. Compared to the standard scoring function these schemes eliminate the high scores as expected. Yet, there is no considerable difference between the two schemes demonstrating the dominance of the repulsive term once again. Upon elimination of the repulsive term, peptides with amino acids W (Tryptophan) and Y (Tyrosine) looks more favored.

Choice of peptide anchor is another parameter that is experimented with. Commonly in the binding process of partner peptides to the PDZ protein, P(0) residue, located in the C-terminus of the peptide, interacts with the carboxylate binding loop of the protein regardless of the interaction type. P(-2) residue on the other hand is the determining residue of the PDZ type. Thus to see the effect of these interactions, two runs are carried out with each residue set as the anchor under the standard scoring function. Since the repulsive term dominates in the standard scoring function complexes turn out to have positive scores. Still, use of P(0) as anchor recovered 3 out of 7 complexes, namely ETMA, GIQV, PMPV, WLKI among Type I and II. However, different anchors do not alter the results for Atypical and Non-binding groups including Type IIIs.

4.2 PepCrawler

PepCrawler is tested for several groups of proteins like MH Class Is, SH3 domains, and also PDZ domain proteins where it showed a performance poorer than the other two groups yet still considerable. The relatively short length of the peptides is pointed out as the cause of the lower performance[5].

After initial PICK1-peptide complexes are freed of intermolecular clashes using ClassicRelax routine of Rosetta, they are fed into PepCrawler algorithm. Resultant minimum energy complexes are represented as classified according to their PDZ Type (Figure 4-10). When the score of non-binding peptide DSLI is again set as the boundary, more of the known binding peptides scores lie above it. Also, Type III peptides, initially assumed as non-binders, are scattered and there is no apparent separation of binding and non-binding peptides. Yet, Type II peptides score relatively better compared to other types and atypical complexes tend to have high binding energies. Amino acids Serine, Tryptophan and Tyrosine are more likely to occur among peptides with most favorable energies, still known non-binder WLKD peptide's complex scores relatively lower. Complexes with peptides bearing a Proline residue are not present on the plot since PepCrawler did not converge for these complexes.

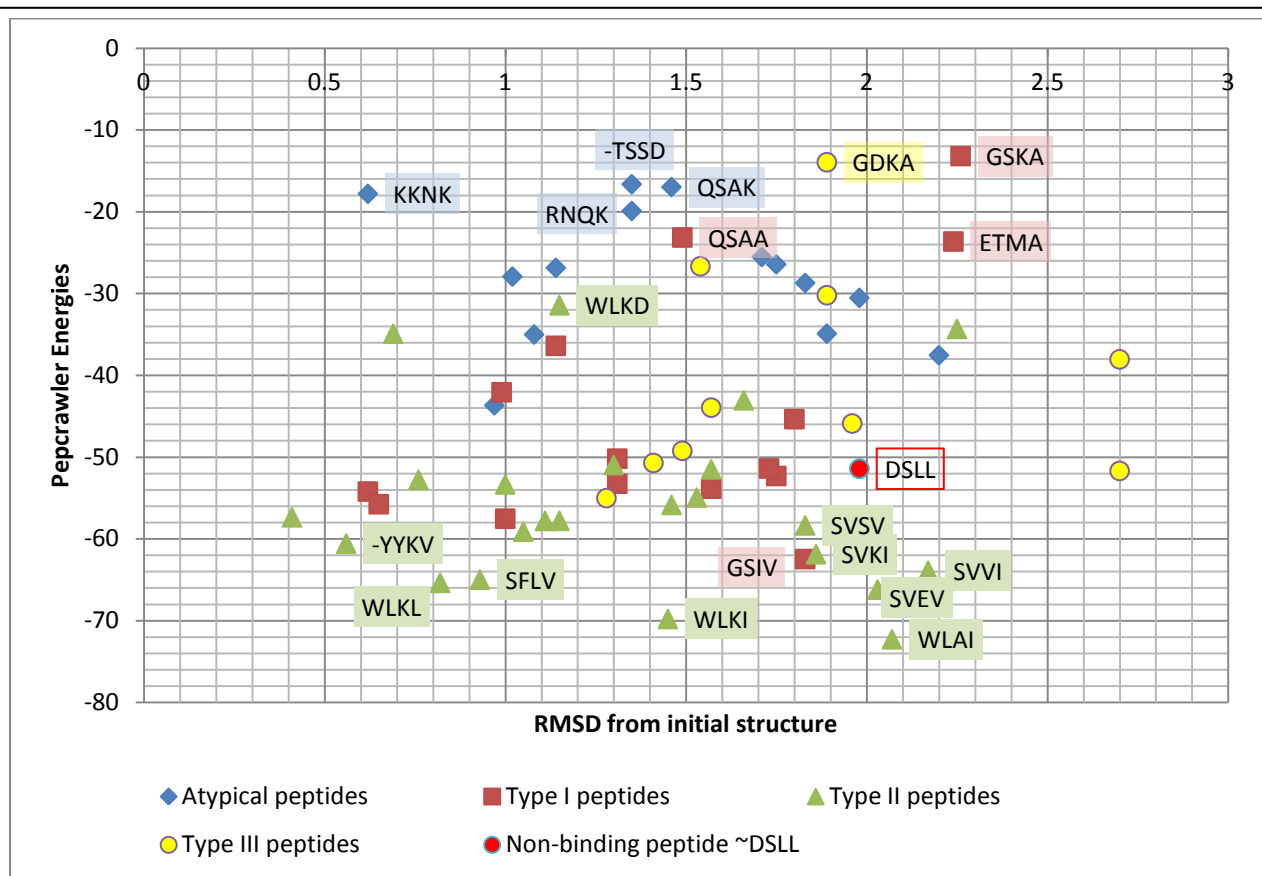


Figure 4-10 Distribution of the energies of the Type I, II, III and Atypical peptide complexes calculated with PepCrawler. Each point on the plot corresponds to the complex of PICK1 with a peptide as listed in Table 3-1. (Complete data available in Appendix Table 5-8)

Similar to the analysis done with FlexPepDock, K27A, K27E, K83H and K83V mutant complexes are evaluated with PepCrawler (Figure 4-11). Based on these calculations, both Type I and Type II complexes showed increased binding energies upon K27 mutation. Though KD motif is conserved in Type II, its contribution in the Carboxylate binding loop makes this residue important for both types since PDZ domain binds C-termini peptides. More specifically K27E looks more disruptive than the K27A. Regarding the K83 mutations, the complexes tend to have lower energies implying higher binding affinities. In 12 out of 16 Type II complexes K83V mutants have shown lower energies compared to K83H which supports the conventional type-specific preferences of $\alpha\beta 1$ position.

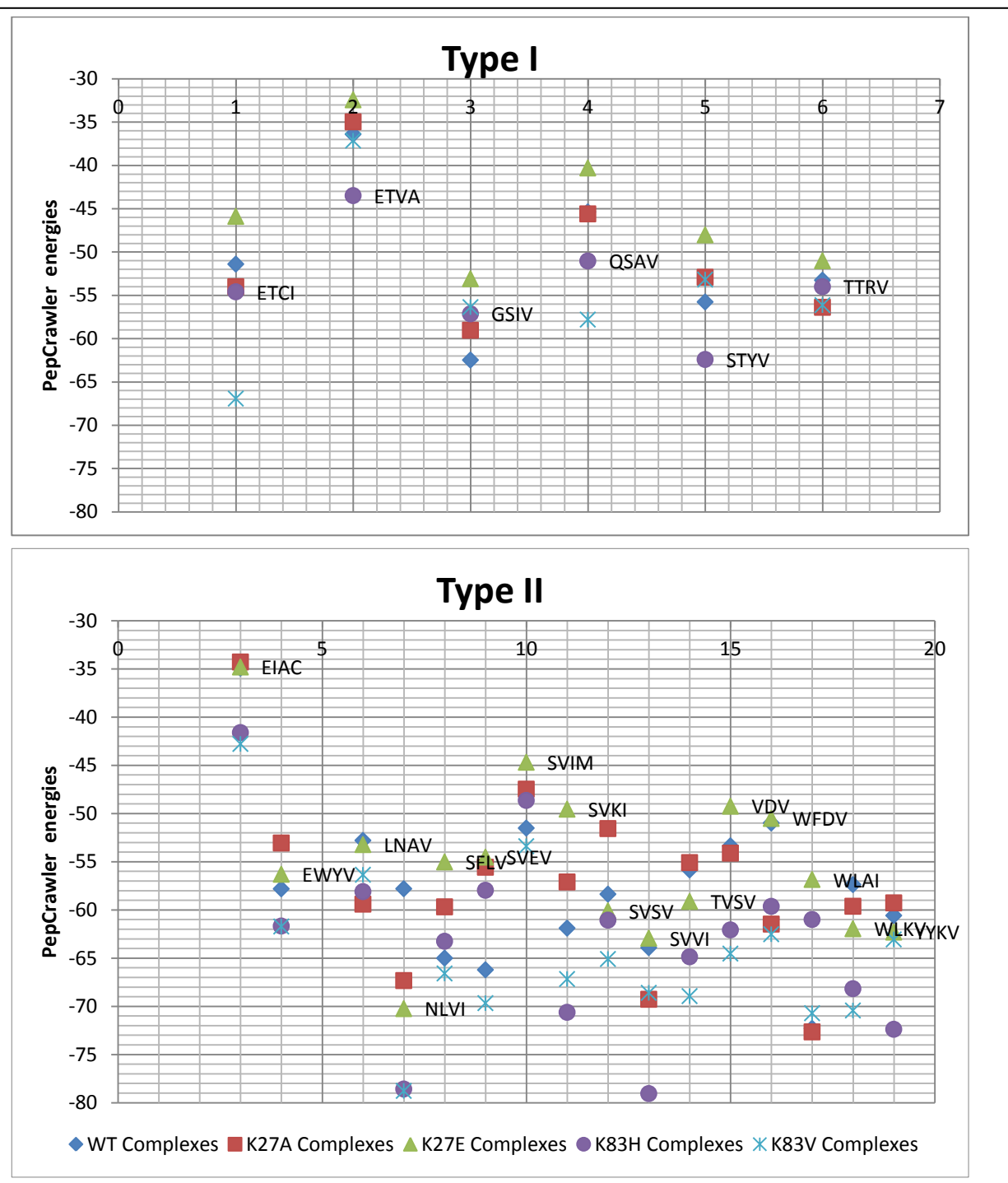


Figure 4-11 Minimum energies sampled by PepCrawler of PICK1 PDZ domain WT and K27A, K27E, K83H and K83V mutant-Type I and Type II peptide complexes (Data available in Appendix Table 5-4)

4.3 X-Score

The resultant structures from FlexPepDock process are re-evaluated using another scoring function X-Score for further comparison. In this way, the energy distribution of the same complexes is investigated to see if they exhibit same trends or not under a knowledge-based scoring scheme. This analysis is carried out using the Predicted binding energies and Predicted binding affinities produced with X-Score for both WT and mutated complexes in the dataset.

Analysis reveals that there is not a remarkable distinction observed between binding and non-binding peptides in the distribution of the X-Score energies of the complexes. Taking the non-binding peptides DSSL and WLKD as reference points again, no clear preference of binders over non-binders is exhibited. Yet, Type III complexes perform higher binding energies as expected as well as Type II peptides tend to have lower energies (Figures 4-12, 4-13). Another point is that peptides bearing Tryptophan (W), Tyrosine (Y) are favored over the others. A closer look on these complexes reveals the atoms of the aromatic side chains contributes most to the total energy score. Since the scores are calculated as the sum of per atom contribution, Van der Waals term dominates for these complexes which might create a bias. Concerning the highest binding energy complexes, it performed poorly by placing some of the known binding partners in this group.

Carrying out the same analysis as done with the other two tools, mutant complexes are also evaluated with XScore (Figure 4-14). Upon mutation predicted binding energies of the complexes do not change remarkably. Decreased binding energy of the K27 mutant complexes and the increase in the K83 complexes compared to the WTs is the second result to stand out as contrary to the findings of the PepCrawler. Not surprisingly, energy values calculated with XScore matches the trend found by FlexPepDock. Still no type specific behavior is observed.

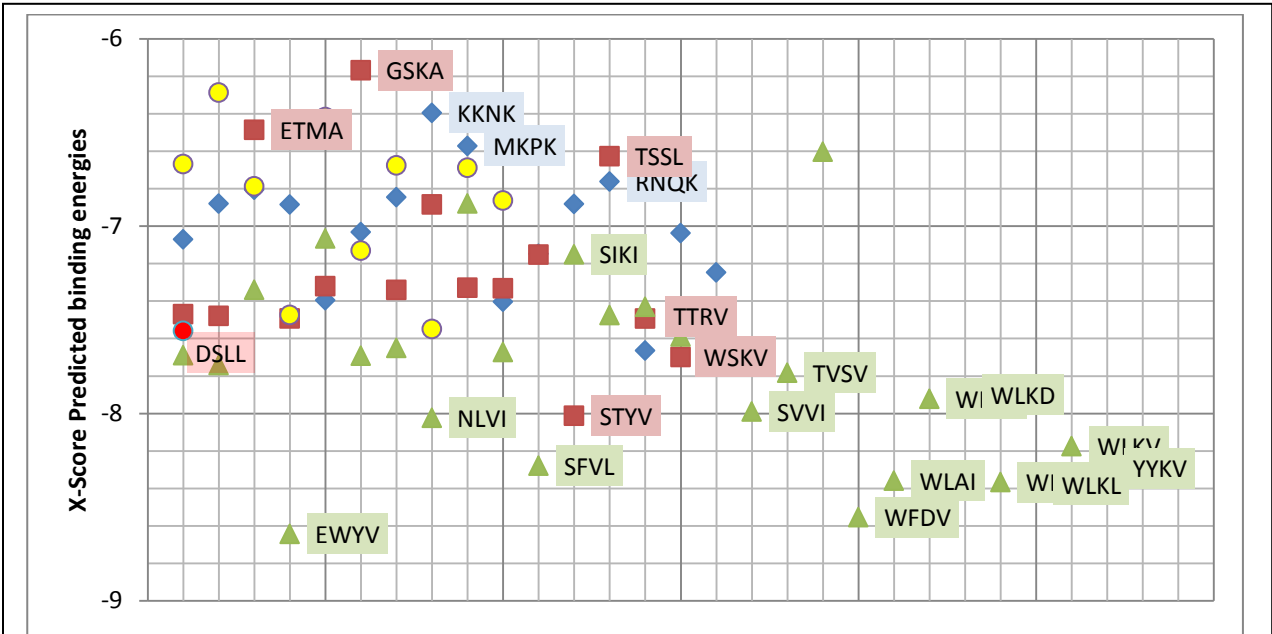


Figure 4-12 Distribution of the binding energies of the complexes calculated with X-Score (Data available in Appendix Table 5-8)

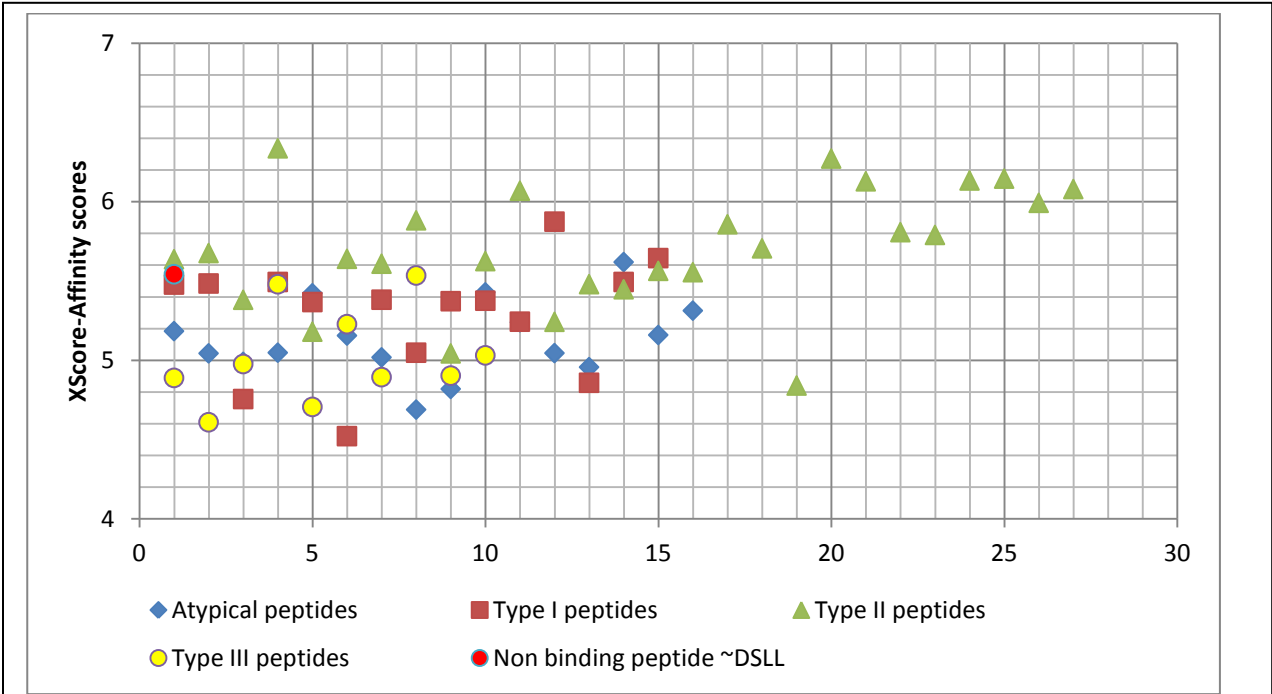
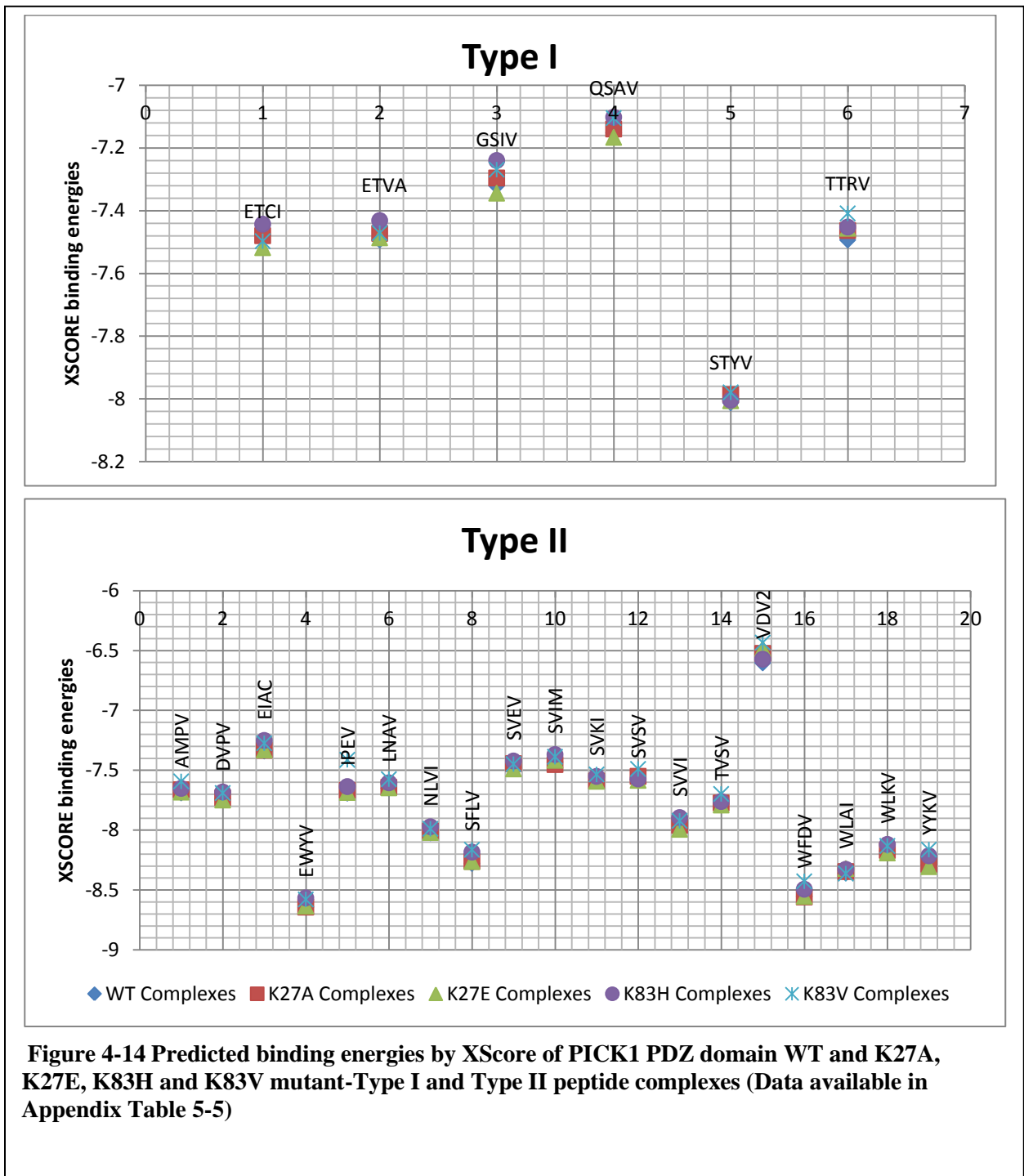


Figure 4-13 X-Score Predicted Binding Affinity scores of the complexes ($\log K_D$). (Peptides are indexed on the x-axis as listed in Table 3-1)



4.4 Comparison of the Scoring Tools

Due to the differences in the scoring functions, it is not possible to compare the binding energies calculated with each protocol quantitatively. Each protocol incorporated the energetic terms with different weights yielding values spanning different ranges. Thus, an assessment can be carried out by comparing extent of the agreement with the established knowledge and the prediction performance of each tool regarding PICK1 PDZ-peptide binding.

To start with, in discriminating the binding and the non-binding peptides, all three tools place the artificial complexes with presumably non-binding Type III peptides among the lowest scored ones (Figures 4-3, 4-10, 4-12). Yet, FlexPepDock performs better over the other two tools by placing smaller number of binding peptides in the same range as the non-binding ones. PepCrawler and X-Score did not put out a distinction between the binding and non-binding peptides as clear as FlexPepDock did. Moreover, they position all atypical peptides together with the Type IIIs, both experimentally identified binding peptides and artificially generated ones. On the other hand, all three tools favored Type II peptides over the other types supporting higher preference of PICK1 PDZ domain for Type II peptides. However, there is less agreement concerning the high scoring peptides (Table 4-2). Even though X-Score calculations are carried out with the structures obtained from FlexPepDock protocol, they resemble more the PepCrawler results regarding the ranking of the complexes based on the binding energies. Both PepCrawler and X-Score identify the complexes of the same peptides as the ones with lowest binding energies whereas FlexPepDock differs from the two placing those peptides lower in the ranking. Based on this comparison, peptides with Tryptophan (W) or Tyrosine (Y) seem favored according to PepCrawler and X-Score. Complexes with the lowest binding affinities are more shared between the three functions than the top scoring complexes are (Table 4-3). (Refer to the Appendix Table 5-8 for the complete list)

PepCrawler performed better than the other two in reflecting the trend that Type I and Type II peptides follow as regards the mutational analysis, involving the K27 and K83

PICK1 mutants. Though not discriminating between Type I and II, it finds K27 mutations disturbing and K83 mutations favoring the binding. Yet FlexPepDock unexpectedly finds K27 mutations enhancing the binding and K83 mutations disrupting it for most of the complexes regardless of the peptide Type. Sure enough this trend is also exhibited by X-Score (Figures 4-6, 4-11, 4-14).

Table 4-1 Top 10 Highest scoring complexes based on the binding energies

| FlexPepDock | | PepCrawler | | X-Score | |
|-------------|----------|------------|--------|---------|---------|
| ETVA | -112,227 | WLAI | -72,28 | EWYV | -8,6431 |
| AMPV | -111,392 | WLKI | -69,8 | WFDV | -8,5538 |
| QSAA | -110,316 | SVEV | -66,21 | WLKL | -8,3818 |
| QSAV | -109,581 | WLKL | -65,38 | WLKI | -8,3663 |
| ETVC | -109,238 | SFLV | -65 | WLAI | -8,3589 |
| TVSV | -108,787 | SVVI | -63,91 | YYKV | -8,293 |
| STYC | -108,352 | GSIV | -62,48 | SFLV | -8,2788 |
| SVSV | -108,336 | SVKI | -61,89 | WLKV | -8,1746 |
| ETCG | -108,263 | YYKV | -60,58 | NLVI | -8,0234 |
| TSSD | -108,171 | SIKI | -59,13 | STYV | -8,0123 |

*Complete data can be found in Appendix

Table 4-2 10 Lowest scoring complexes based on the binding energies

| FlexPepDock | | PepCrawler | | X-Score | |
|-------------|----------|------------|--------|---------|---------|
| TDSL | -28,5521 | TTRE | -26,44 | QDAV | -6,6759 |
| TSSL | -27,3073 | ETCG | -25,54 | EECI | -6,6688 |
| GDIV | -24,5791 | ETMA | -23,65 | TSSL | -6,6269 |
| EECI | -18,8814 | QSAA | -23,16 | VDV2 | -6,603 |
| SIKI | -18,0724 | RNQK | -19,91 | MKPK | -6,5724 |
| NTVV | -17,5168 | KKNK | -17,82 | ETMA | -6,4861 |
| TERV | -13,8444 | QSAK | -16,99 | GDKA | -6,4182 |
| NEVV | -11,1379 | TSSD | -16,65 | KKNK | -6,3958 |
| DFTC | 13,5544 | GDKA | -13,96 | EEMA | -6,2871 |
| VDV | 55,1194 | GSKA | -13,2 | GSKA | -6,1682 |

4.5 Comparison with the Experimental Data

In order to see if the energy calculations actually have predictive power, the results are compared with the experimental data available in literature.

In the Madsen et al 2005 paper, binding affinity of PICK1 for its Type I and Type II peptides is studied with a binding assay based on fluorescence polarization (FP) [33]. 13 residues long C-termini peptides from Protein Kinase Ca (~QSAV) as Type I, Dopamine Transporter (~WLKV) as Type II and (~DSSL) as non-binding control peptide was used. Additionally, mutations were introduced both on PICK1 (K83V, K83H) and on the P(0) and P(-2) position of peptides. Complexes and corresponding binding affinities from this work are compared with the PepCrawler, XScore and FlexPepDock scores.

FP data comprise of K_i values, dissociation constant of the PICK1- peptide complexes, in units of μM , i.e. the higher the K_i , the lower the binding affinity. It is not possible to compare this data with the binding energies calculated with any of the scoring functions used in this study. Therefore, the results are compared qualitatively by analyzing the binding behavior of PICK1 towards different peptides and upon different mutations. Overall FlexPepDock is found to represent the experimental data better than the other two. (Figure 4-15) In the broadest sense, none of tools stands out in reproducing the experimental findings based on the change in the energy scores. Though partial agreement between the FP data and each of the tools for different complexes, the general trend it exhibits cannot be completely reflected by any of them (Figure 4-16).

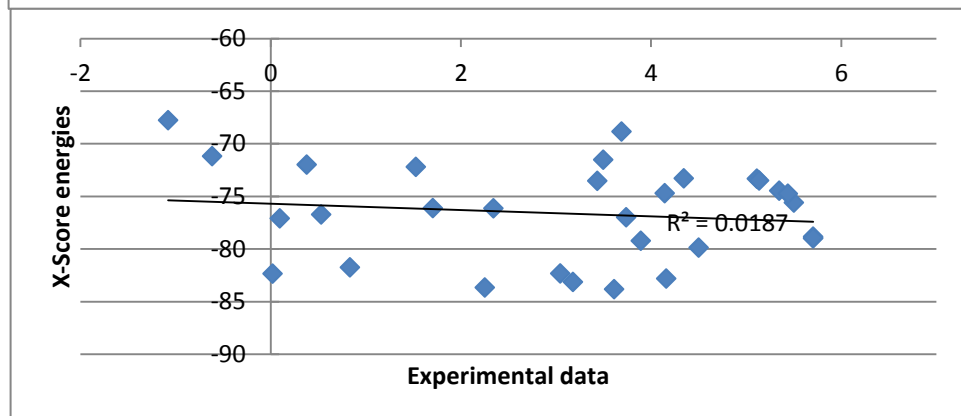
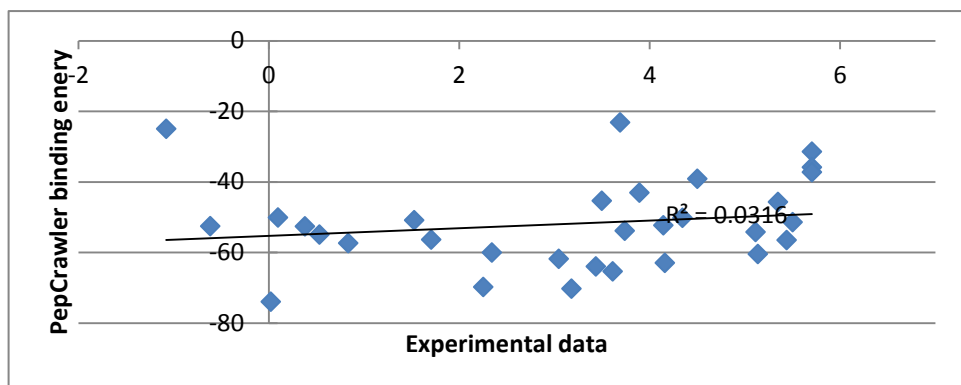
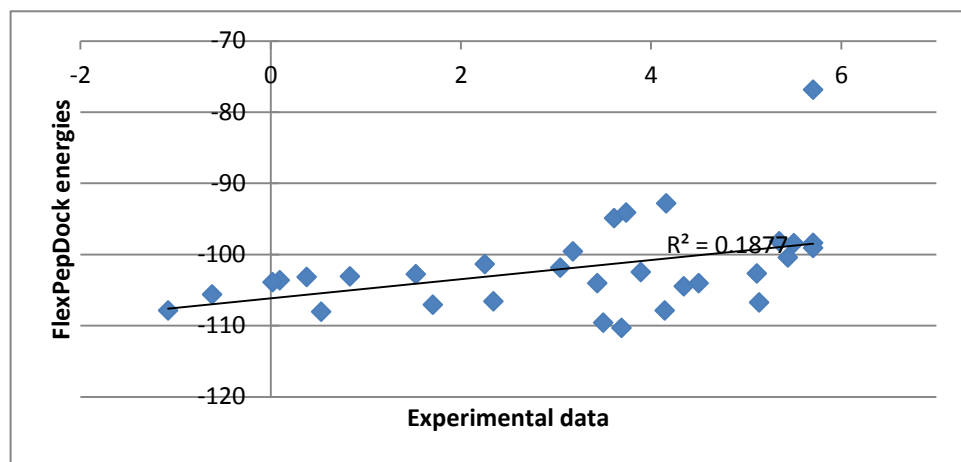


Figure 4-15 Comparison of the tools representativeness of the experimental data. FlexPepDock correlates the best among the three scoring schemes. Experimental data is represented on the abscissa in the form of $\ln(K_i)$ (dissociation constant), higher values meaning lower affinity. Ordinates represent the binding energies calculated with the three different tools. No quantitative comparison is aimed in this analysis, figures are provided to make a comparison among the tools in representing the trend revealed by the experimental data. Experimental data is represented in logarithmic trend, since the relation between the binding energy (ΔG) and K_i is logarithmic. ($\Delta G = -RT\ln K_i$)

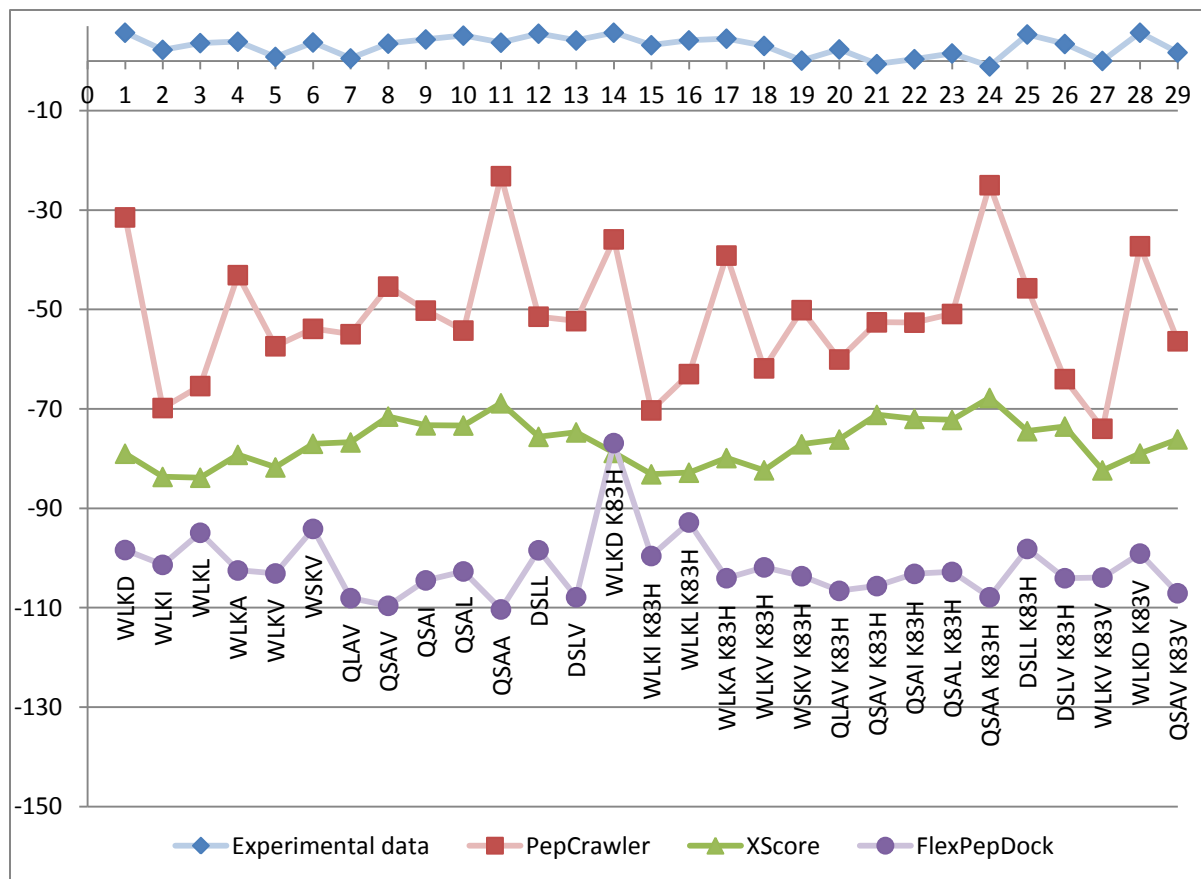


Figure 4-16 Comparison of the results of X-Score, FlexPepDock and PepCrawler with the experimental data. (For the scoring functions values are the energies of the complexes and experimental data is $\ln(K_i)$ (dissociation constant), meaning for all curves higher values imply lower binding affinities. (same for Figures 4-17, 18, 19, 20, 21) In order for the values fall in the same range, X-Score energies are multiplied with 10. Also K_i values of >1000 are evaluated as 300 to keep the graph in proper scale) (Complete data available in Appendix Table 5-6)

When it comes to more specific comparisons preference for Type II peptide over Type I is represented by PepCrawler and X-Score. However, this might be due to these functions favoring the complexes with peptides carrying a W, rather than discriminating between Type I and II. Regarding the change in binding affinities upon different amino acids in P(0), FlexPepDock predicts the behavior of Type I peptide (~QSAV) more successfully than PepCrawler and XScore (Figure 4-17). Experimental data suggests a preference Val> Ile> Leu for the P(0). Though FlexPepDock reproduces this ranking for both peptides, PepCrawler performs better in predicting the behavior of the Type II peptide (~WLKV) upon

mutations than the other two tools (Figure 4-18). Preference for Val in the P(0) position over Leu is confirmed by all three tools regardless of the mutation on PICK1 in case of non-binding peptide ~DSSL. (Figure 4-19) The preference order Val > Ile > Leu also holds true for the K83H mutant PICK1s in complex with Type I and II peptides with varying P(0) (Figure 4-21). Even though the experimental data disfavors Ala in P(0) only in Type II, it is found to be disfavored in both types by FlexPepDock. This might be due to the decreasing number of contacts Ala makes with P(0) binding pocket residues compared to Val, Ile and Leu which might make the complex less stabilized. Also, the elimination of the interaction when P(0) is mutated to negatively charged Aspartate is revealed by all three functions.

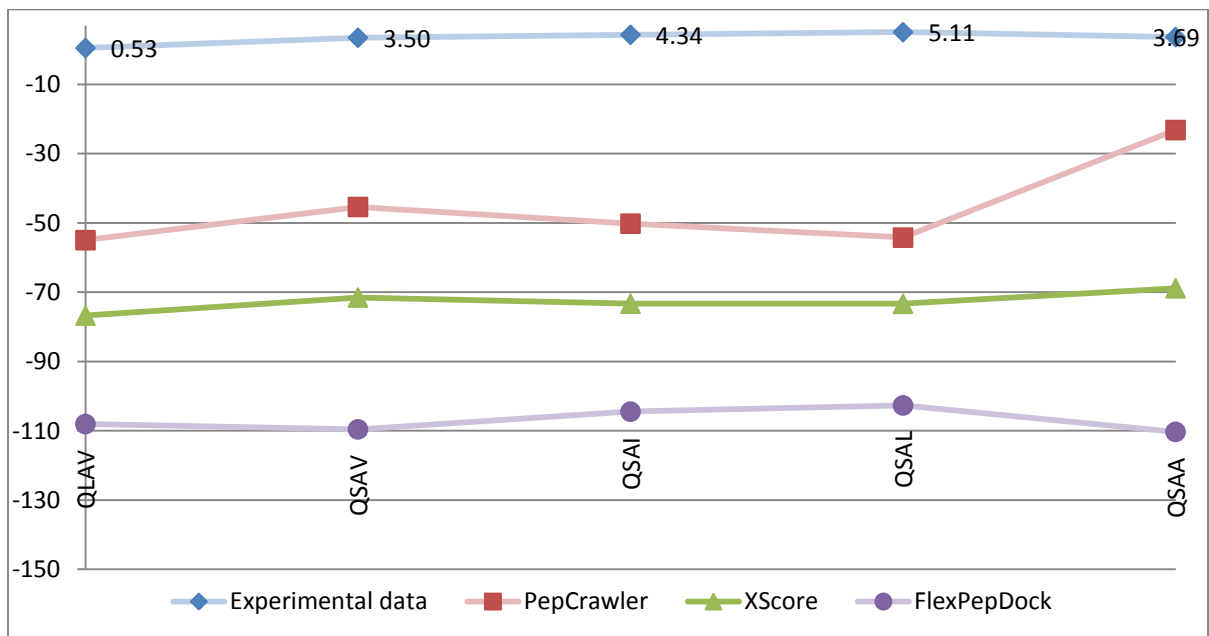


Figure 4-17 Binding energies of the ~QSAV peptide and its mutants

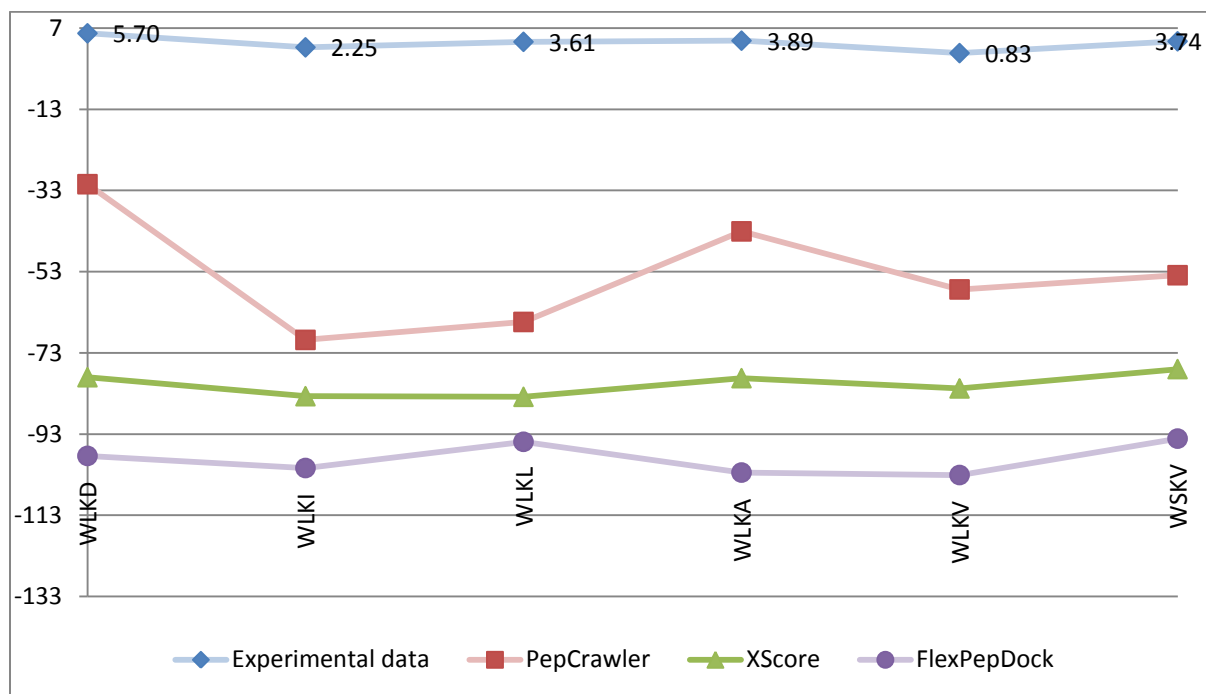


Figure 4-18 Comparison of the binding energies of the ~WLKV peptide and its mutants

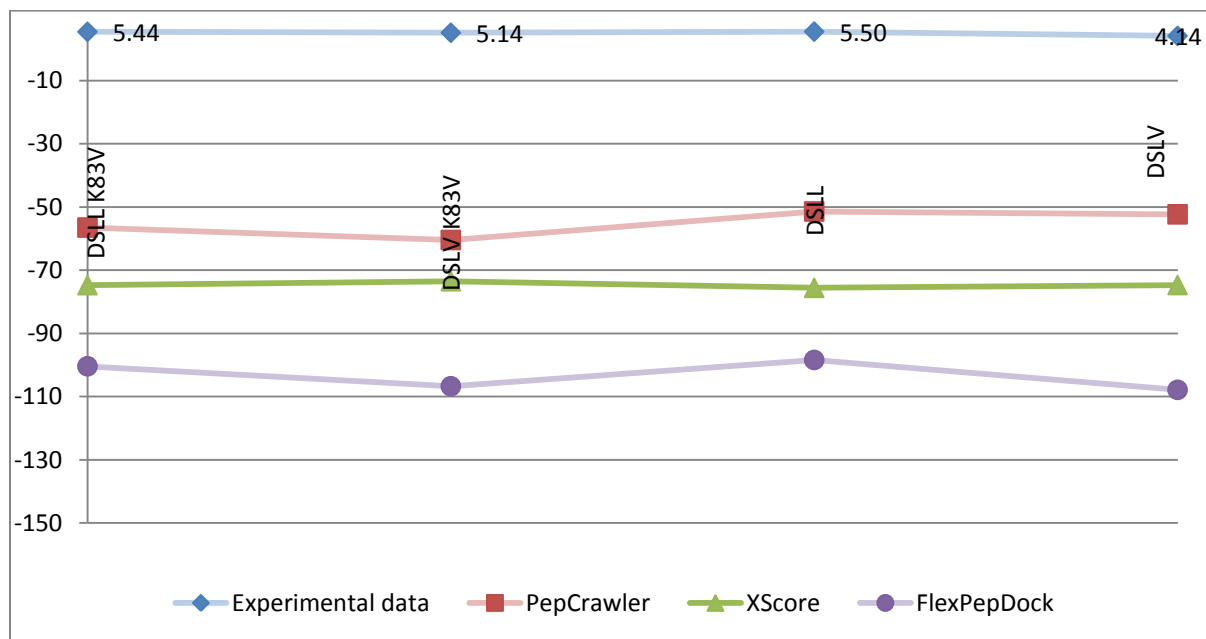


Figure 4-19 Comparison of the binding energies of the ~DSLK peptide and its mutants

Concerning another set of analysis carried out in the experimental work, binding affinities of the mutant Type I and Type II peptides for the investigation of the P(-2) residue of the peptide are reflected better by PepCrawler. However it cannot present the same

performance with the K83H complexes of the same peptides (Figure 4-20, 4-21). For this part of the analysis, none of the tools produce results in agreement with the experimental findings.

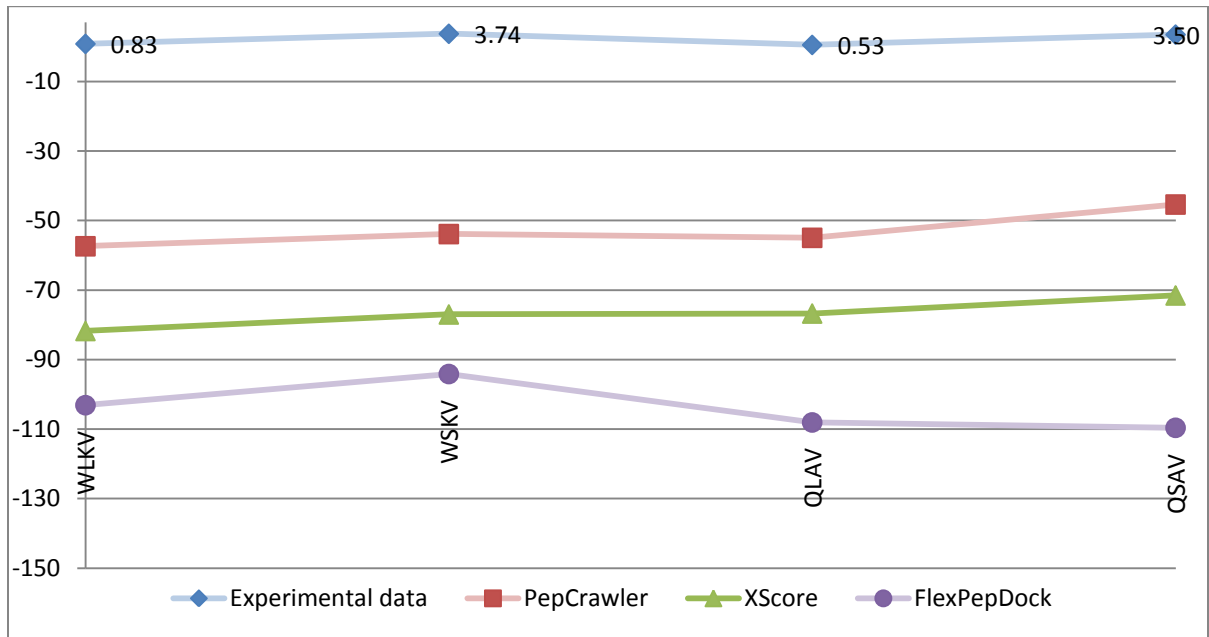


Figure 4-20 Comparison of the experimental data regarding the effect of P(-2) residue on Type I and Type II peptides with FlexPepDock, PepCrawler and X-Score

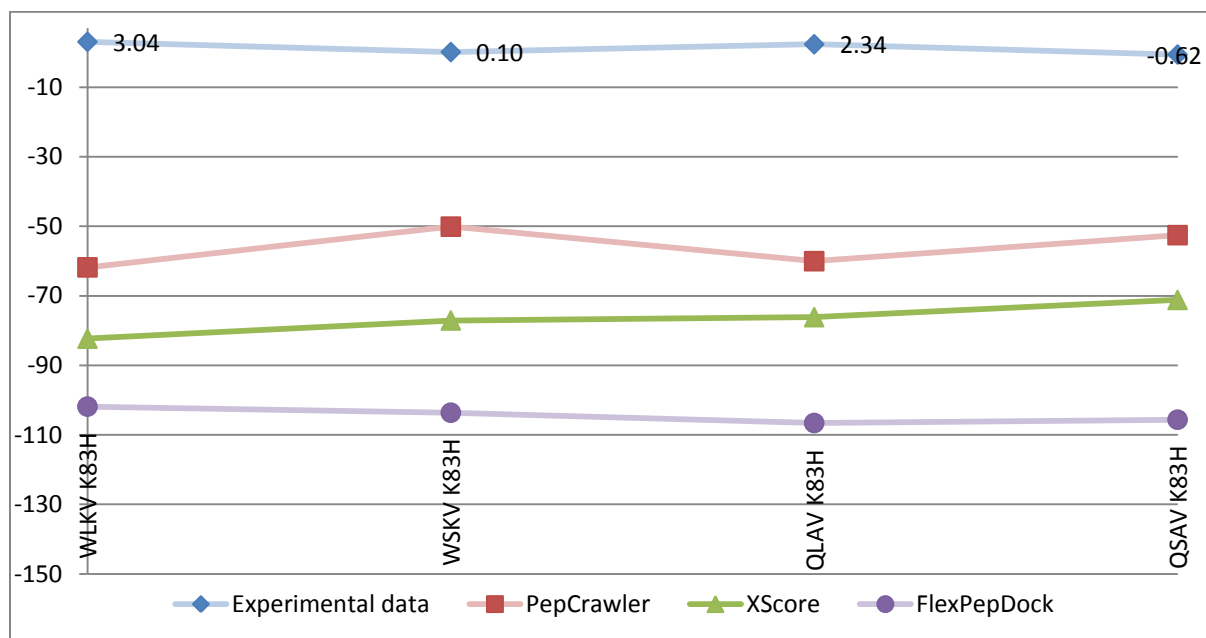


Figure 4-21 Experimental data of K83H complexes with Type I and Type II peptides and their mutants in comparison with FlexPepDock, PepCrawler and X-Score output

Once FlexPepDock is found to perform better in representing the experimental data, runs are repeated with modifying several parameters, as mentioned above in Section 4.1. Two different energy schemes are tried, one with omitting the repulsive term and the second including only attractive, hbond and salvation terms, and compared with the standard energy function to see if they could better reflect the experimental findings. Apart from that, P(0) and P(-2) are set as peptide anchors as another parameter and compared if any of them could improve the prediction performance (Figure 4-22).

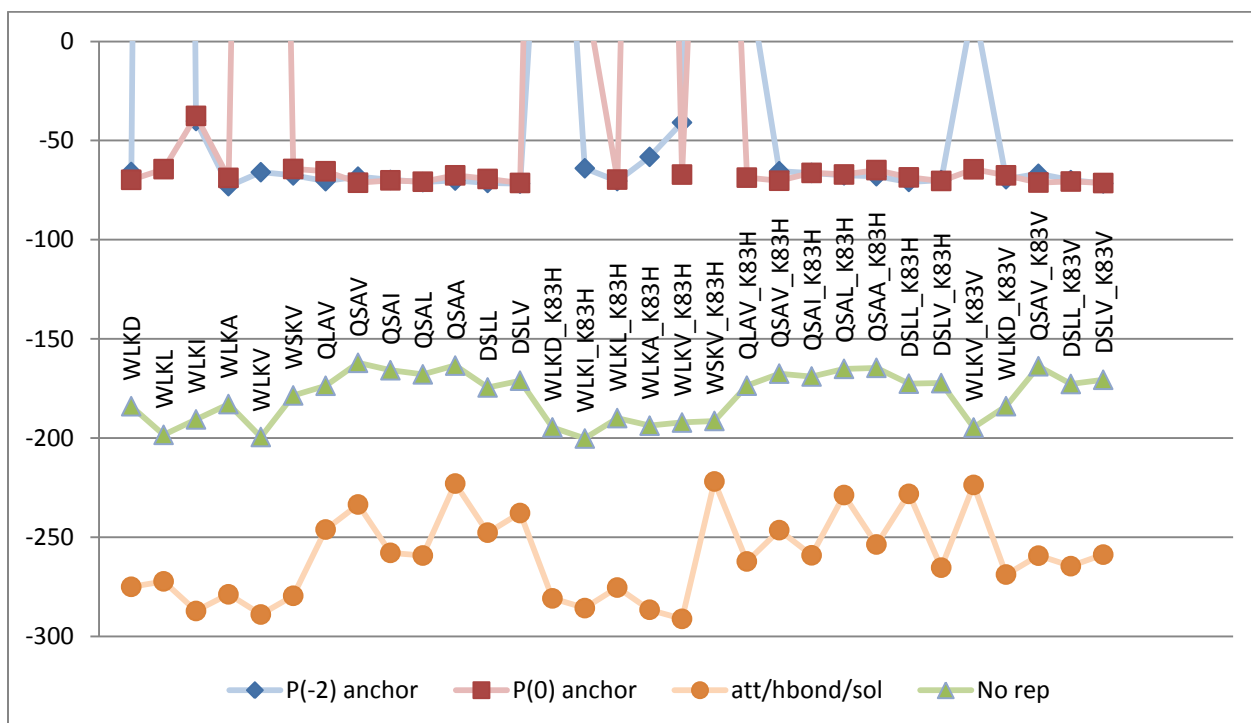


Figure 4-22 FlexPepDock scores under two different energy schemes and in cases where P(0) an P(-2) are set as anchors. (Data available in Appendix Table 5-9)

Chapter 5

CONCLUSION

PICK1's role in nervous system and many related diseases becomes more and more established with the accumulating evidence by recent research. Carrying out many of its interactions through its single PDZ domain, knowledge on the binding behavior of this curious protein should sure to contribute many of the related studies including not only PICK1 but also PDZ domains and evaluation of protein-peptide complexes in general.

This study takes advantage of the available computational tools to investigate the PDZ domain interactions of PICK1. Two different protein-peptide complex assessment tools, FlexPepDock and PepCrawler, are experimented with 69 PICK1-peptide complexes including members from all three PDZ types (Type I, II and III), atypical peptides and experimentally determined non-binders. In order to see the binding trends exhibited under a different scoring scheme, PICK1-peptide complexes are evaluated with yet another scoring function, X-Score. Performances of these tools are evaluated in comparison with each other and with the available experimental data. General tendency of PICK1 for Type II partners is captured by all three tools. PICK1's lack of any known Type III partners is also reflected by all three tools placing these complexes as the lowest scoring ones. Additionally, PepCrawler scores of the atypical peptides shows a disfavor for these complexes.

Concerning more specific comparisons, FlexPepDock emerged as the one with the best performance correlating with the experimental data higher than the other two. However, it did not carry this performance onto discrimination of K27 and K83 mutations. PepCrawler demonstrates the disruptive effect of K27 mutations and represents the binding trends upon K83 mutations better.

FlexPepDock protocol is experimented with changing the parameters like scoring schemes, various constraints and anchor residues to explore the capabilities of FlexPepDock and improve the performance further which is partly achieved with using a different scoring

scheme which excludes the repulsive contribution. However, upon each modification there are correctly predicted behaviors as well as the ones which could not be identified. Upon increase in the experimental binding affinity data, improvement in the prediction performance of the tool and generation of a better scoring function would be possible.

Regarding future directions, current work might have implications for studies concerning identification of new PDZ partners for PICK1 as well as PDZ domain targeted drug discovery. Computational analysis could be extended with use of other parameters, different combination of energy terms to back up possible experimental studies. In a broader sense, it could also be utilized by research involving PDZ interactions and discussion of concepts related to assessment of protein-peptide complexes.

APPENDIX

Table 5-1 FlexPepDock output of the 69 PICK1-peptide complexes in the dataset

| Peptide sequence | Total Score of the Minimum scoring decoy | Overall rmsd (initial structure to Minimum scoring decoy) | Backbone rmsd (initial structure to Minimum scoring decoy) | Backbone rmsd (averaged over 500 decoys) | Total score (Average of all 500 decoys) |
|------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| DFTC | -102.381 | 4.336 | 4.527 | 4.05131 | -85.5352 |
| EAEC | -113.628 | 2.583 | 1.39 | 0.800094 | -104.266 |
| ETCG | -114.059 | 2.668 | 1.726 | 1.22046 | -106.475 |
| ETMR | -114.825 | 3.265 | 1.172 | 0.806742 | -107.231 |
| ETVC | -115.343 | 2.154 | 1 | 0.86574 | -107.261 |
| GSIK | -113.872 | 1.677 | 0.629 | 0.922958 | -104.632 |
| GSKH | -110.9 | 2.656 | 1.549 | 1.84353 | -96.6225 |
| KKNK | -109.712 | 6.979 | 6.947 | 4.02573 | -64.5151 |
| MKPK | -110.448 | 5.948 | 5.248 | 4.65609 | -75.955 |
| NTVK | -114.57 | 2.024 | 0.983 | 0.823296 | -106.084 |
| PPTV | -107.753 | 3.99 | 3.812 | 4.86396 | -91.2184 |
| QSAK | -116.145 | 2.365 | 0.593 | 0.761144 | -105.412 |
| RNQK | -114.781 | 3.214 | 1.144 | 0.794626 | -102.116 |
| STYC | -114.175 | 2.913 | 0.655 | 0.86743 | -109.395 |
| TSSD | -115.709 | 1.349 | 0.54 | 0.465862 | -109.283 |
| TTRE | -115.112 | 1.6 | 0.571 | 0.65446 | -106.827 |
| DSLX | -114.482 | 1.974 | 0.704 | 0.747804 | -103.649 |
| ETCI | -110.621 | 1.855 | 0.925 | 0.898218 | -99.3701 |
| ETMA | -109.297 | 6.103 | 5.738 | 2.74655 | -86.2124 |
| ETVA | -117.018 | 2.314 | 0.994 | 0.867884 | -109.789 |
| GSIV | -113.732 | 0.999 | 1.07 | 0.947554 | -105.168 |
| GSKA | -108.44 | 5.03 | 4.161 | 3.47757 | -83.2154 |
| NTVV | -109.852 | 3.991 | 3.641 | 4.50639 | -80.7329 |
| QSAA | -115.76 | 1.762 | 0.651 | 0.858732 | -107.633 |
| QSAI | -113.632 | 1.881 | 0.872 | 0.791796 | -103.633 |
| QSAL | -114.033 | 2.183 | 0.835 | 1.16938 | -102.787 |
| QSAV | -115.638 | 2.288 | 1.282 | 0.754604 | -106.062 |
| STYV | -115.003 | 2.957 | 0.913 | 0.786822 | -109.24 |
| TSSL | -111.775 | 7.013 | 6.86 | 3.98824 | -56.1727 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------|-------|----------|----------|
| TTRV | -113.273 | 3.898 | 3.791 | 0.807166 | -106.663 |
| WSKV | -108.948 | 2.931 | 0.962 | 0.831252 | -100.789 |
| AMPV | -114.74 | 1.054 | 1.057 | 0.78793 | -109.164 |
| DVPV | -116.076 | 1.135 | 0.888 | 0.913366 | -109.775 |
| EIAC | -112.947 | 1.66 | 0.518 | 0.677072 | -106.61 |
| EWYV | -112.735 | 2.872 | 0.997 | 1.04045 | -103.952 |
| GIQV | -109.636 | 7.078 | 7.222 | 5.25802 | -90.0678 |
| IPEV | -112.585 | 2.989 | 2.208 | 1.20085 | -105.709 |
| LNAV | -110.837 | 0.758 | 0.574 | 0.699794 | -105.118 |
| NLVI | -113.714 | 0.968 | 0.569 | 0.659952 | -107.379 |
| PMPV | -108.1 | 4.039 | 3.433 | 4.68295 | -71.5939 |
| QLAV | -114.601 | 1.845 | 0.622 | 0.684864 | -106.871 |
| SFVL | -110.443 | 1.708 | 1.179 | 0.87814 | -101.034 |
| SIKI | -108.617 | 6.833 | 5.91 | 4.92751 | -58.9537 |
| SVEV | -114.791 | 1.226 | 0.913 | 0.684192 | -107.569 |
| SVIM | -112.33 | 1.424 | 0.843 | 0.736286 | -103.808 |
| SVKI | -112.844 | 2.288 | 0.824 | 0.74038 | -104.686 |
| SVSV | -114.542 | 1.157 | 0.798 | 0.626468 | -108.772 |
| SVVI | -113.22 | 1.122 | 0.736 | 0.715324 | -106.694 |
| TVSV | -116.194 | 0.938 | 0.83 | 0.680898 | -109.19 |
| VDV | -112.089 | 2.006 | 1.998 | 0.955954 | -96.4168 |
| WFDV | -111.974 | 2.292 | 0.626 | 0.821762 | -100.9 |
| WLAI | -114.376 | 2.044 | 0.53 | 0.71422 | -102.394 |
| WLKA | -115.563 | 1.991 | 1.298 | 0.661582 | -99.4755 |
| WLKD | -112.208 | 2.191 | 0.411 | 0.625394 | -100.292 |
| WLKI | -113.17 | 3.522 | 1.028 | 0.807672 | -96.0556 |
| WLKL | -110.591 | 3.14 | 0.783 | 1.00894 | -102.044 |
| WLKV | -114.106 | 3.55 | 1.429 | 0.685556 | -100.077 |
| YYKV | -114.643 | 3.3 | 1.058 | 0.846952 | -103.042 |
| EECI | -109.301 | 5.985 | 5.715 | 4.5238 | -64.9066 |
| EEMA | -111.809 | 5.161 | 4.326 | 3.04439 | -86.0371 |
| EEVA | -109.263 | 5.001 | 4.393 | 3.67425 | -65.9289 |
| GDIV | -110.093 | 4.92 | 5.006 | 5.20668 | -93.7119 |
| GDKA | -110.193 | 6.349 | 5.978 | 3.52054 | -80.652 |
| NEVV | -108.436 | 4.869 | 4.777 | 4.56823 | -76.7966 |
| QDAV | -111.583 | 4.147 | 3.811 | 4.38612 | -91.6193 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------|-------|---------|----------|
| SEYV | -110.427 | 5.697 | 4.379 | 4.43912 | -73.2977 |
| TDSL | -111.624 | 8.017 | 7.878 | 4.05521 | -54.9603 |
| TERV | -109.993 | 5.641 | 4.485 | 4.48059 | -86.0892 |
| DSLL | -112.312 | 3.475 | 3.053 | 1.24202 | -102.045 |

Table 5-2 FlexPepDock scores under different sets of constraints

| Peptide sequence | Type | Total score (Averaged over all 500 decoys) | | | |
|------------------|------|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | Constraint I | Constraint II | Constraint III | Constraint IV |
| DFTC | A | -21.913 | -53.9166 | -83.7129 | 13.5544 |
| EAEC | A | -106.972 | -105.134 | -105.598 | -107.629 |
| ETCG | A | -106.545 | -106.811 | -108.389 | -108.263 |
| ETMR | A | -106.71 | -106.435 | -106.516 | -104.549 |
| ETVC | A | -106.752 | -107.22 | -106.765 | -109.238 |
| GSIK | A | -104.547 | -105.045 | -105.143 | -105.055 |
| GSKH | A | -95.3114 | -97.573 | -94.4067 | -95.1494 |
| KKNK | A | 180.057 | 34.8062 | -71.8751 | -61.2344 |
| MKPK | A | 271.501 | 78.9534 | -91.0009 | -50.0327 |
| NTVK | A | -104.878 | -106.105 | -106.946 | -104.958 |
| PPTV | A | 180.914 | 81.8196 | -79.118 | -49.8485 |
| QSAK | A | -102.499 | -106.527 | -106.85 | -105.394 |
| RNQK | A | -102.255 | -100.399 | -102.054 | -103.296 |
| STYC | A | -108.205 | -109.332 | -109.194 | -108.352 |
| TSSD | A | -108.207 | -108.732 | -108.306 | -108.171 |
| TTRE | A | -107.449 | -106.357 | -106.666 | -104.208 |
| DSLIV | I | -104.793 | -103.585 | -104.581 | -107.869 |
| ETCI | I | -100.222 | -99.8116 | -99.1704 | -99.5578 |
| ETMA | I | 82.4493 | -60.4106 | -93.6526 | -44.6773 |
| ETVA | I | -109.277 | -109.491 | -110.04 | -112.227 |
| GSIV | I | -105.419 | -104.455 | -106.634 | -107.644 |
| GSKA | I | -52.8879 | -82.2005 | -91.879 | -73.2198 |
| NTVV | I | 263.06 | -1.74456 | -87.0246 | -17.5168 |
| QSAA | I | -107.932 | -107.795 | -107.66 | -110.316 |
| QSAI | I | -104.324 | -105.038 | -104.179 | -104.471 |
| QSAL | I | -104.137 | -102.422 | -102.795 | -102.672 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| QSAV | I | -108.05 | -108.076 | -108 | -109.581 |
| STYV | I | -108.102 | -109.556 | -110.3 | -107.689 |
| TSSL | I | -32.588 | -30.8822 | -83.8825 | -27.3073 |
| TTRV | I | -106.15 | -105.676 | -107.472 | -106.294 |
| WSKV | I | -93.4157 | -93.5785 | -94.6572 | |
| AMPV | II | -110.411 | -109.588 | -110.081 | -111.392 |
| DVPV | II | -109.242 | -109.89 | -110.369 | -108.094 |
| EIAC | II | -106.07 | -106.185 | -107.748 | -107.028 |
| EWYV | II | -103.276 | -104.501 | -105.053 | -105.993 |
| GIQV | II | 90.5911 | 23.13 | -88.7431 | -55.1745 |
| IPEV | II | -104.681 | -103.119 | -105.911 | -103.964 |
| LNAV | II | -103.066 | -105.485 | -106.646 | -106.209 |
| NLVI | II | -107.657 | -107.111 | -106.677 | -106.466 |
| PMPV | II | 445.47 | 111.204 | -92.2335 | -52.4265 |
| QLAV | II | -101.621 | -107.52 | -107.499 | -108.045 |
| SFVL | II | -100.809 | -99.3935 | -100.365 | -99.9782 |
| SIKI | II | 71.9269 | -33.0517 | -91.8809 | -18.0724 |
| SVEV | II | -107.198 | -107.659 | -108.305 | -105.849 |
| SVIM | II | -103.664 | -105.008 | -103.124 | -102.316 |
| SVKI | II | -104.923 | -105.306 | -104.398 | -101.986 |
| SVSV | II | -110.095 | -110.655 | -109.139 | -108.336 |
| SVVI | II | -106.436 | -107.57 | -106.078 | -105.643 |
| TVSV | II | -110.47 | -110.192 | -110.573 | -108.787 |
| VDV | II | 7.0266 | -76.1334 | -104.009 | 55.1194 |
| WFDV | II | -93.9513 | -96.5628 | -96.834 | -98.5571 |
| WLAI | II | -100.441 | -102.361 | -100.869 | -99.5766 |
| WLKA | II | -100.257 | -101.087 | -103.553 | -102.473 |
| WLKD | II | -97.8733 | -99.415 | -100.916 | -98.369 |
| WLKI | II | -99.1207 | -100.223 | -101.081 | -101.351 |
| WLKL | II | -93.8886 | -97.4895 | -96.307 | -94.896 |
| WLKV | II | -100.552 | -101.027 | -102.619 | |
| YYKV | II | -98.8688 | -98.138 | -100.203 | |
| EECI | III | 63.1891 | 15.0882 | -82.2391 | -18.8814 |
| EEMA | III | 34.6254 | -65.6461 | -89.5082 | -51.7932 |
| EEVA | III | 64.2091 | -51.0102 | -93.1724 | -33.8158 |
| GDIV | III | 83.7533 | 75.2487 | -74.5858 | -24.5791 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| GDKA | III | -56.0741 | -66.7746 | -93.5941 | -55.0677 |
| NEVV | III | 51.1671 | 31.6297 | -64.6468 | -11.1379 |
| QDAV | III | 77.6833 | 52.5566 | -89.2938 | -46.9867 |
| SEYV | III | 33.1075 | 53.8162 | -68.87 | -60.5019 |
| TDSL | III | 50.7474 | -47.4966 | -79.2962 | -28.5521 |
| TERV | III | 31.2004 | -33.8017 | -81.3175 | -13.8444 |
| DSLL | N | -100.806 | -100.441 | -101.52 | -98.4145 |

Table 5-3 FlexPepDock scores of a subset of 27 Wild Type and mutant PICK1-peptide complexes

| Peptide sequence | Type | Total score (Averaged over all 500 decoys) | | | | |
|------------------|------|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | WT | K27A | K27E | K83H | K83V |
| EAEC | A | -107.629 | -109.162 | -109.052 | -104.784 | -106.046 |
| RNQK | A | -103.296 | -104.018 | -104.143 | -102.337 | -101.394 |
| ETCI | I | -99.5578 | -101.96 | -105.517 | -102.644 | -103.02 |
| ETVA | I | -112.227 | -114.84 | -114.529 | -112.048 | -111.648 |
| GSIV | I | -107.644 | -110.205 | -110.066 | -106.077 | -107.567 |
| QSAV | I | -109.581 | -103.517 | -110.479 | -105.274 | -107.723 |
| STYV | I | -107.689 | -109.093 | -109.892 | -106.282 | -107.102 |
| TTRV | I | -106.294 | -108.526 | -108.938 | -103.868 | -107.805 |
| AMPV | II | -111.392 | -109.035 | -113.41 | -109.965 | -110.337 |
| DVPV | II | -108.094 | -111.006 | -110.249 | -107.28 | -108.215 |
| EIAC | II | -107.028 | -109.748 | -107.609 | -106.155 | -106.947 |
| EWYV | II | -105.993 | -108.662 | -108.487 | -99.871 | -105.913 |
| IPEV | II | -103.964 | -106.459 | -105.909 | -102.638 | -94.1 |
| LNAV | II | -106.209 | -107.932 | -111.347 | -109.156 | -107.718 |
| NLVI | II | -106.466 | -109.984 | -107.62 | -106.452 | -106.977 |
| SFLV | II | -99.9782 | -105.627 | -106.406 | -100.271 | -103.358 |
| SVEV | II | -105.849 | -108.373 | -104.496 | -105.971 | -105.764 |
| SVIM | II | -102.316 | -102.924 | -106.503 | -102.208 | -104.414 |
| SVKI | II | -101.986 | -105.472 | -106.05 | -103.267 | -104.482 |
| SVSV | II | -108.336 | -110.364 | -109.768 | -107.305 | -107.903 |
| SVVI | II | -105.643 | -108.89 | -104.023 | -105.851 | -105.916 |
| TVSV | II | -108.787 | -110.562 | -110.156 | -104.234 | -107.635 |
| VDV | II | 55.1194 | 17.8943 | 13.8682 | 42.0893 | 40.59307 |
| WFDV | II | -98.5571 | -99.8824 | -99.2635 | -94.2282 | -100.216 |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| WLAI | II | -99.5766 | -99.9385 | -101.655 | -100.395 | -99.7786 |
| WLKV | II | -103.079 | -104.941 | -105.21 | -98.9482 | -103.83 |
| YYKV | II | -103.498 | -105.864 | -105.041 | -97.4754 | -106.237 |

Table 5-4 PepCrawler scores of 27 Wild type and mutant complexes

| Type | Peptide | Minimum score PepCrawler reached | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | sequence | WT | K27A | K27E | K83H | K83V |
| A | EAEC | -26.87 | -29.96 | -24.82 | -31.24 | -27.47 |
| A | RNQK | -19.91 | -17.9 | -14.5 | -21.38 | -22.42 |
| I | ETCI | -51.4 | -54.01 | -45.89 | -54.6 | -66.93 |
| I | ETVA | -36.4 | -34.97 | -32.43 | -43.49 | -37.14 |
| I | GSIV | -62.48 | -59.04 | -53.09 | -57.14 | -56.37 |
| I | QSAV | -45.37 | -45.6 | -40.3 | -51.04 | -57.81 |
| I | STYV | -55.77 | -52.92 | -48.03 | -62.41 | -53.19 |
| I | TTRV | -53.26 | -56.39 | -51.01 | -54.01 | -56.14 |
| II | AMPV | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| II | DVPV | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| II | EIAC | -34.92 | -34.28 | -34.8 | -41.6 | -42.78 |
| II | EWYV | -57.81 | -53.06 | -56.3 | -61.67 | -61.72 |
| II | IPEV | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| II | LNAV | -52.79 | -59.4 | -53.22 | -58.1 | -56.35 |
| II | NLVI | -57.8 | -67.33 | -70.24 | -78.58 | -78.77 |
| II | SFLV | -65 | -59.68 | -55.02 | -63.25 | -66.59 |
| II | SVEV | -66.21 | -55.57 | -54.52 | -57.96 | -69.67 |
| II | SVIM | -51.51 | -47.47 | -44.68 | -48.64 | -53.39 |
| II | SVKI | -61.89 | -57.1 | -49.55 | -70.62 | -67.17 |
| II | SVSV | -58.36 | -51.56 | -60.09 | -61.06 | -65.09 |
| II | SVVI | -63.91 | -69.27 | -62.93 | -79.05 | -68.6 |
| II | TVSV | -55.85 | -55.09 | -59.12 | -64.86 | -68.94 |
| II | VDV | -53.35 | -54.11 | -49.24 | -62.07 | -64.53 |
| II | WFDV | -50.98 | -61.47 | -50.51 | -59.63 | -62.52 |
| II | WLAI | -72.28 | -72.65 | -56.84 | -60.99 | -70.71 |
| II | WLKV | -57.37 | -59.62 | -61.95 | -68.17 | -70.43 |
| II | YYKV | -60.58 | -59.27 | -62.3 | -72.38 | -63.06 |

Table 5-5 X-Score output of the set of 27 PICK1-peptide complexes

| Type | Peptide | X-Score Predicted Binding energies(kcal/mol) | | | | |
|------|----------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | sequence | WT | K27A | K27E | K83H | K83V |
| A | EAEC | -6.88 | -6.867 | -6.8884 | -6.8187 | -6.83 |
| A | RNQK | -6.7621 | -6.7669 | -6.7499 | -6.7543 | -6.7305 |
| I | ETCI | -7.4793 | -7.4799 | -7.5181 | -7.4434 | -7.4976 |
| I | ETVA | -7.4931 | -7.4726 | -7.4868 | -7.4318 | -7.4717 |
| I | GSIV | -7.3207 | -7.2962 | -7.3445 | -7.2404 | -7.2695 |
| I | QSAV | -7.1522 | -7.1399 | -7.1666 | -7.1023 | -7.1051 |
| I | STYV | -8.0123 | -7.9865 | -8.006 | -8.0043 | -7.9794 |
| I | TTRV | -7.4935 | -7.4636 | -7.4563 | -7.4525 | -7.409 |
| II | AMPV | -7.6892 | -7.6633 | -7.683 | -7.6519 | -7.5935 |
| II | DVPV | -7.7417 | -7.7303 | -7.7491 | -7.682 | -7.6904 |
| II | EIAC | -7.3398 | -7.3338 | -7.3309 | -7.2516 | -7.2747 |
| II | EWYV | -8.6431 | -8.6438 | -8.6356 | -8.5669 | -8.5794 |
| II | IPEV | -7.692 | -7.6687 | -7.6859 | -7.637 | -7.4131 |
| II | LNAV | -7.6504 | -7.6432 | -7.6472 | -7.6054 | -7.575 |
| II | NLVI | -8.0234 | -8.0071 | -8.0202 | -7.9723 | -7.9893 |
| II | SFLV | -8.2788 | -8.2618 | -8.2633 | -8.1842 | -8.1645 |
| II | SVEV | -7.475 | -7.4455 | -7.4891 | -7.4233 | -7.4488 |
| II | SVIM | -7.4309 | -7.4529 | -7.4174 | -7.3692 | -7.388 |
| II | SVKI | -7.5891 | -7.5902 | -7.5925 | -7.5519 | -7.5356 |
| II | SVSV | -7.5778 | -7.5514 | -7.5847 | -7.5735 | -7.4898 |
| II | SVVI | -7.9898 | -7.9611 | -7.9937 | -7.8957 | -7.9227 |
| II | TVSV | -7.7828 | -7.7737 | -7.7909 | -7.7614 | -7.6985 |
| II | VDV2 | -6.603 | -6.5244 | -6.4845 | -6.5733 | -6.4345 |
| II | WFDV | -8.5538 | -8.5591 | -8.5536 | -8.4942 | -8.4282 |
| II | WLAI | -8.3589 | -8.3467 | -8.3219 | -8.3281 | -8.3632 |
| II | WLKV | -8.1746 | -8.1701 | -8.1908 | -8.1201 | -8.1328 |
| II | YYKV | -8.293 | -8.287 | -8.3055 | -8.2151 | -8.1635 |

Table 5-6 Experimental data from Madsen et al [33] used for comparison with the FlexPepDock, PepCrawler and X-Score results

| Binding Affinities (Madsen et al 2005) | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| | WT | K83V | K83H |
| WLKV | 2,3 | 1,02 | 21 |
| WLKI | 9,5 | ND | 24 |
| WLKL | 37 | ND | 64 |
| WLKA | 49 | ND | 90 |
| WLKD | >1000 | >1000 | >1000 |
| WSKV | 42 | ND | 1,1 |
| QLAV | 1,70 | ND | 10,4 |
| QSAV | 33 | 5,5 | 0,54 |
| QSAI | 77 | ND | 1,46 |
| QSAL | 166 | ND | 4,6 |
| QSAA | 40 | ND | 0,34 |
| DSLL | 245 | 230 | 210 |
| DSLV | 63 | 170 | 31 |

*Experimental data comprises of the K_i values from Fluorescence Polarization experiments in μM , higher values implying lower affinity (ND: Not Determined)

Table 5-7 FlexPepDock scores under different scoring functions and anchor residues

| | | Peptide anchor: P(-2) | | | Peptide anchor: P(0) | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Type | Peptide Sequence | Standard scoring function | Only attractive, hbond and solvation terms included | Repulsive term discarded | Standard scoring function | Only attractive, hbond and solvation terms included | Repulsive term discarded |
| I | DSLV | -113.78 | -204.179 | -171.06 | -111.022 | -262.292 | -171.578 |
| I | ETCI | -100.918 | -202.713 | -169.299 | -97.576 | -247.404 | -165.119 |
| I | ETMA | 4677.695 | -207.508 | -171.212 | -106.033 | -245.106 | -172.045 |
| I | ETVA | -113.189 | -202.464 | -170.746 | -109.243 | -246.85 | -168.566 |
| I | GSIV | -111.124 | -202.715 | -169.036 | -110.605 | -252.467 | -170.06 |
| I | GSKA | 6676.661 | -202.889 | -163.38 | 2516.497 | -244.701 | -167.506 |
| I | NTVV | 1795.854 | -206.594 | -173.041 | 14732.61 | -251.627 | -172.481 |
| I | QSAA | -110.281 | -200.165 | -163.444 | -106.463 | -220.979 | -163.574 |
| I | QSAI | -108.342 | -203.528 | -165.786 | -108.137 | -258.578 | -167.03 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| I | QSAL | -108.741 | -204.333 | -167.88 | -108.504 | -260.776 | -165.87 |
| I | QSAV | -106.391 | -199.834 | -162.05 | -110.815 | -253.302 | -163.22 |
| I | STYV | -109.232 | -204.488 | -176.091 | -108.975 | -268.575 | -177.23 |
| I | TSSL | 11076.41 | -206.898 | -170.265 | 10196.71 | -265.824 | -170.084 |
| I | TTRV | -110.678 | -206.828 | -173.625 | -111.661 | -248.977 | -170.806 |
| I | WSKV | -105.915 | -208.01 | -178.49 | -104.455 | -260.688 | -177.574 |
| II | AMPV | -111.926 | -203.505 | -175.564 | -111.859 | -269.244 | -172.029 |
| II | DVPV | -100.405 | -203.449 | -175.992 | -111.825 | -240.615 | -172.835 |
| II | EIAC | -105.96 | -201.573 | -171.311 | -105.299 | -237.467 | -169.505 |
| II | EWYV | -108.865 | -207.676 | -188.398 | -108.951 | -278.544 | -186.659 |
| II | GIQV | 6540.258 | -206.606 | -171.846 | -78.887 | -218.285 | -173.165 |
| II | IPEV | -101.521 | -207.084 | -179.413 | -105.645 | -269.953 | -176.664 |
| II | LNAV | -103.633 | -200.963 | -167.635 | -105.041 | -239.189 | -167.354 |
| II | NLVI | -103.125 | -206.745 | -177.716 | -107.526 | -267.065 | -175.666 |
| II | PMPV | 4893.257 | -207.876 | -177.701 | 120.742 | -270.434 | -179.011 |
| II | QLAV | -108.939 | -204.713 | -173.616 | -103.854 | -254.023 | -171.632 |
| II | SFVL | -104.802 | -206.227 | -178.295 | -105.271 | -247.012 | -176.817 |
| II | SIKI | 4158.164 | -210.395 | -176.577 | 7884.46 | -249.29 | -177.386 |
| II | SVEV | -111.65 | -204.022 | -171.104 | -111.363 | -247.139 | -170.191 |
| II | SVIM | -109.979 | -207.107 | -177.524 | -111.538 | -266.62 | -173.45 |
| II | SVKI | -108.401 | -205.11 | -173.017 | -108.017 | -242.354 | -171.602 |
| II | SVSV | -109.464 | -202.241 | -169.952 | -110.739 | -231.628 | -170.245 |
| II | SVVI | -110.236 | -205.213 | -175.601 | -110.687 | -264.058 | -173.208 |
| II | TVSV | -96.261 | -203.756 | -172.785 | -111.084 | -257.227 | -170.809 |
| II | VDV | -106.985 | -200.611 | -169.155 | | | |
| II | WFDV | -105.375 | -210.089 | -190.692 | -108.037 | -270.872 | -190.536 |
| II | WLAI | -108.948 | -210.386 | -187.55 | -106.462 | -261.519 | -186.109 |
| II | WLKA | -112.589 | -208.871 | -182.858 | -106.803 | -244.215 | -183.223 |
| II | WLKI | 484.96 | -219.442 | -198.364 | -86.45 | -288.373 | -194.633 |
| II | WLKL | 2090.986 | -216.546 | -190.593 | 275.87 | -267.186 | -172.565 |
| II | WLKV | -104.7 | -217.876 | -199.464 | 715.441 | -223.808 | -192.807 |
| II | YYKV | -106.697 | -213.482 | -197.577 | -50.76 | -289.351 | -191.431 |
| A | RNQK | 65.514 | -203.379 | -170.229 | 1000.249 | -264.23 | -165.637 |
| A | DFTC | -85.759 | -207.86 | -176.186 | -84.781 | -261.308 | -176.334 |
| A | MKPK | 6627.794 | -210.213 | -177.552 | 1397.545 | -274.152 | -180.851 |
| A | EAEC | -105.485 | -200.841 | -165.011 | -104.817 | -258.201 | -162.968 |
| A | PPTV | 9794.667 | -204.813 | -172.448 | 11759.78 | -267.318 | -173.086 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| A | ETCG | -110.722 | -198.415 | -160.774 | -68.528 | -243.437 | -161.802 |
| A | ETMR | 1879.037 | -207.478 | -175.97 | 518.269 | -254.54 | -171.02 |
| A | ETVC | -108.668 | -200.955 | -168.67 | -109.218 | -247.711 | -164.512 |
| A | GSIK | -104.712 | -202.231 | -167.528 | -0.656 | -258.41 | -166.744 |
| A | GSKH | -103.205 | -202.323 | -165.066 | -103.109 | -250.106 | -165.624 |
| A | KKNK | 4297.371 | -208.081 | -174.359 | 2623.488 | -268.338 | -178.038 |
| A | NTVK | 1.229 | -203.576 | -168.515 | -102.594 | -234.661 | -168.178 |
| A | QSAK | 484.386 | -201.431 | -161.212 | -103.555 | -225.509 | -162.298 |
| A | STYC | -106.098 | -199.478 | -172.283 | -106.231 | -228.077 | -167.842 |
| A | TSSD | -108.632 | -201.188 | -164.584 | -108.725 | -256.547 | -164.165 |
| A | TTRE | -93.046 | -206.108 | -171.628 | -107.268 | -255.912 | -169.094 |
| III | EECI | 3019.67 | -207.465 | -173.939 | 782.182 | -259.124 | -174.739 |
| III | EEMA | 2848.202 | -208.136 | -173.081 | -106.3 | -268.589 | -173.791 |
| III | EEVA | 5574.443 | -205.69 | -171.38 | -103.831 | -264.335 | -169.258 |
| III | GDIV | 8766.177 | -207.743 | -173.374 | 12086.6 | -261.492 | -175.169 |
| III | GDKA | 5860.405 | -203.414 | -163.593 | 2576.878 | -255.571 | -163.676 |
| III | NEVV | 3840.28 | -208.44 | -174.153 | 4839.346 | -258.416 | -172.523 |
| III | QDAV | 8347.519 | -205.458 | -171.969 | -103.291 | -262.15 | -168.42 |
| III | SEYV | 2028.845 | -213.249 | -180.402 | 5778.768 | -252.483 | -180.819 |
| III | TDSL | 12872.35 | -207.753 | -170.89 | 4864.928 | -244.123 | -172.766 |
| III | TERV | 7274.809 | -207.808 | -175.214 | 5554.682 | -218.636 | -174.068 |
| N | DSLL | -111.145 | -207.164 | -174.477 | -107.899 | -262.779 | -173.002 |
| N | WLKD | -105.934 | -208.656 | -183.941 | -105.208 | -275.145 | -183.503 |

Table 5-8 Scores from Standard runs of FlexPepDock, PepCrawler and X-Score listed from most favorable energy complexes to the least for each one

| FlexPepDock | | PepCrawler | | X-Score | |
|-------------|----------|------------|--------|------------|---------|
| K27A_ETVA | -114.84 | WLKL_K83V | -81.52 | K27A_EWYV | -8.6438 |
| K27E_ETVA | -114.529 | K83H_SVVI | -79.05 | EWYV | -8.6431 |
| K27E_AMPV | -113.41 | K83V_NLVI | -78.77 | K27E_EWYV | -8.6356 |
| QSAA_K27A | -112.375 | K83H_NLVI | -78.58 | K83V_EWYV | -8.5794 |
| ETVA | -112.227 | WLKV_K83V | -73.97 | K83H_EWYV | -8.5669 |
| K83H_ETVA | -112.048 | K27A_WLAI | -72.65 | K27A_WFDV | -8.5591 |
| QSAA_K27E | -111.921 | K83H_YYKV | -72.38 | WFDV | -8.5538 |
| K83V_ETVA | -111.648 | WLKI_K83V | -72.29 | K27E_WFDV | -8.5536 |
| AMPV | -111.392 | WLAI | -72.28 | K83H_WFDV | -8.4942 |
| K27E_LNAV | -111.347 | K83V_WLAI | -70.71 | K83V_WFDV | -8.4282 |
| K27A_DVPV | -111.006 | K83H_SVKI | -70.62 | WLKL | -8.3818 |
| QLAV_K27A | -110.784 | K83V_WLKV | -70.43 | WLKI | -8.3663 |
| K27A_TVSV | -110.562 | WLKI_K83H | -70.28 | K83V_WLAI | -8.3632 |
| K27E_QSAV | -110.479 | K27E_NLVI | -70.24 | WLAI | -8.3589 |
| K27A_SVSV | -110.364 | DSLL_K27A | -70.23 | K27A_WLAI | -8.3467 |
| K83V_AMPV | -110.337 | WLKI | -69.8 | WLKL_K83V_ | -8.3301 |
| QSAA | -110.316 | K83V_SVEV | -69.67 | WLKI_K27A_ | -8.3295 |
| QSAA_K83V | -110.293 | K27A_SVVI | -69.27 | K83H_WLAI | -8.3281 |
| QSAV_K27E | -110.282 | K83V_TVSV | -68.94 | K27E_WLAI | -8.3219 |
| K27E_DVPV | -110.249 | K83V_SVVI | -68.6 | WLKI_K83V_ | -8.3161 |
| K27A_GSIV | -110.205 | K83H_WLKV | -68.17 | WLKI_K83H_ | -8.3132 |
| K27E_TVSV | -110.156 | K27A_NLVI | -67.33 | K27E_YYKV | -8.3055 |
| K27E_GSIV | -110.066 | K83V_SVKI | -67.17 | WLKL_K27A_ | -8.303 |
| QSAV_K27A | -110.045 | K83V_ETCI | -66.93 | WLKL_K27E_ | -8.2944 |
| K27A_NLVI | -109.984 | K83V_SFLV | -66.59 | WLKI_K27E_ | -8.2937 |
| K83H_AMPV | -109.965 | SVEV | -66.21 | YYKV | -8.293 |
| K27E_STYV | -109.892 | QLAV_K83V | -65.95 | K27A_YYKV | -8.287 |
| DSLV_K27A | -109.869 | WLKL | -65.38 | WLKL_K83H_ | -8.2812 |
| K27E_SVSV | -109.768 | K83V_SVSV | -65.09 | SFLV | -8.2788 |
| K27A_EIAC | -109.748 | SFLV | -65 | K27E_SFLV | -8.2633 |
| QSAV | -109.581 | K83H_TVSV | -64.86 | K27A_SFLV | -8.2618 |
| QLAV_K27E | -109.439 | K83V_VDV | -64.53 | WLKV_K27E_ | -8.2521 |
| DSLV_K27E | -109.281 | DSLV_K83H | -63.98 | WLKV_K83V_ | -8.2345 |
| ETVC | -109.238 | SVVI | -63.91 | WLKV_K83H_ | -8.2326 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| K27A_EAEC | -109.162 | K83H_SFLV | -63.25 | K83H_YYKV | -8.2151 |
| K83H_LNAV | -109.156 | K83V_YYKV | -63.06 | K27E_WLKV | -8.1908 |
| QLAV_K83V | -109.135 | WLKL_K83H | -62.97 | K83H_SFLV | -8.1842 |
| K27A_STYV | -109.093 | K27E_SVVI | -62.93 | WLKV | -8.1746 |
| K27E_EAEC | -109.052 | K83V_WFDV | -62.52 | K27A_WLKV | -8.1701 |
| K27A_AMPV | -109.035 | GSIV | -62.48 | K83V_SFLV | -8.1645 |
| K27E_TTRV | -108.938 | K83H_STYV | -62.41 | K83V_YYKV | -8.1635 |
| K27A_SVVI | -108.89 | K27E_YYKV | -62.3 | WLKV_K27A_ | -8.1499 |
| TVSV | -108.787 | K83H_VDV | -62.07 | K83V_WLKV | -8.1328 |
| K27A_EWYV | -108.662 | K27E_WLKV | -61.95 | K83H_WLKV | -8.1201 |
| K27A_TTRV | -108.526 | SVKI | -61.89 | WLKA_K27A_ | -8.0408 |
| K27E_EWYV | -108.487 | WLKV_K83H | -61.82 | NLVI | -8.0234 |
| K27A_SVEV | -108.373 | K83V_EWYV | -61.72 | K27E_NLVI | -8.0202 |
| STYC | -108.352 | K83H_EWYV | -61.67 | STYV | -8.0123 |
| SVSV | -108.336 | K27A_WFDV | -61.47 | K27A_NLVI | -8.0071 |
| ETCG | -108.263 | K83H_SVSV | -61.06 | K27E_STYV | -8.006 |
| K83V_DVPV | -108.215 | K83H_WLAI | -60.99 | K83H_STYV | -8.0043 |
| TSSD | -108.171 | YYKV | -60.58 | K27E_SVVI | -7.9937 |
| DVPV | -108.094 | WLKI_K27E | -60.56 | SVVI | -7.9898 |
| QLAV | -108.045 | DSL_V_K83V | -60.46 | K83V_NLVI | -7.9893 |
| K27A_LNAV | -107.932 | K27E_SVSV | -60.09 | WLKA_K83H_ | -7.9872 |
| K83V_SVSV | -107.903 | QLAV_K83H | -60.04 | K27A_STYV | -7.9865 |
| DSL_V | -107.869 | K27A_SFLV | -59.68 | K83V_STYV | -7.9794 |
| QSAA_K83H | -107.865 | K83H_WFDV | -59.63 | K83H_NLVI | -7.9723 |
| K83V_TTRV | -107.805 | K27A_WLKV | -59.62 | K27A_SVVI | -7.9611 |
| K83V_QSAV | -107.723 | K27A_LNAV | -59.4 | WLKA_K27E_ | -7.9376 |
| K83V_LNAV | -107.718 | K27A_YYKV | -59.27 | K83V_SVVI | -7.9227 |
| STYV | -107.689 | WLKV_K27A | -59.2 | WLKA | -7.922 |
| GSIV | -107.644 | SIKI | -59.13 | WLKD | -7.8988 |
| K83V_TVSV | -107.635 | K27E_TVSV | -59.12 | K83H_SVVI | -7.8957 |
| EAEC | -107.629 | K27A_GSIV | -59.04 | WLKD_K83V_ | -7.8951 |
| K27E_NLVI | -107.62 | SVSV | -58.36 | WLKA_K83V_ | -7.8902 |
| K27E_EIAC | -107.609 | K83H_LNAV | -58.1 | WLKD_K27E_ | -7.8853 |
| K83V_GSIV | -107.567 | K83H_SVEV | -57.96 | WLKD_K83H_ | -7.8827 |
| QSAI_K27A | -107.455 | EWYV | -57.81 | WLKD_K27A_ | -7.8719 |
| QSAI_K27E | -107.429 | K83V_QSAV | -57.81 | WSKV_K27E_ | -7.8097 |
| K83H_SVSV | -107.305 | NLVI | -57.8 | WSKV_K27A_ | -7.7962 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|
| K83H_DVPV | -107.28 | NTVV | -57.54 | K27E_TVSV | -7.7909 |
| K83V_STYV | -107.102 | WLKV | -57.37 | TVSV | -7.7828 |
| QSAV_K83V | -107.061 | K83H_GSIV | -57.14 | K27A_TVSV | -7.7737 |
| EIAC | -107.028 | K27A_SVKI | -57.1 | K83H_TVSV | -7.7614 |
| K83V_NLVI | -106.977 | WLKV_K27E | -56.95 | K27E_DVPV | -7.7491 |
| K83V_EIAC | -106.947 | K27E_WLAI | -56.84 | DVPV | -7.7417 |
| DSLV_K83V | -106.738 | DSLL_K83V | -56.51 | K27A_DVPV | -7.7303 |
| QLAV_K83H | -106.581 | K27A_TTRV | -56.39 | WSKV_K83H_ | -7.7093 |
| K27E_SVIM | -106.503 | K83V_GSIV | -56.37 | WSKV | -7.6989 |
| NLVI | -106.466 | QSAV_K83V | -56.37 | K83V_TVSV | -7.6985 |
| K27A_IPEV | -106.459 | K83V_LNAV | -56.35 | IPEV | -7.692 |
| K83H_NLVI | -106.452 | K27E_EWYV | -56.3 | K83V_DVPV | -7.6904 |
| K27E_SFLV | -106.406 | QSAL_K27E | -56.24 | AMPV | -7.6892 |
| TTRV | -106.294 | K83V_TTRV | -56.14 | K27E_IPEV | -7.6859 |
| K83H_STYV | -106.282 | QSAI_K27E | -56.08 | K27E_AMPV | -7.683 |
| WLKA_K27A | -106.252 | TVSV | -55.85 | K83H_DVPV | -7.682 |
| LNAV | -106.209 | STYV | -55.77 | QLAV | -7.6723 |
| K83H_EIAC | -106.155 | QLAV_K27A | -55.73 | WSKV_K83V_ | -7.6692 |
| K83H_GSIV | -106.077 | K27A_SVEV | -55.57 | K27A_IPEV | -7.6687 |
| K27E_SVKI | -106.05 | K27A_TVSV | -55.09 | STYC | -7.6645 |
| K83V_EAEC | -106.046 | GDIV | -55.02 | K27A_AMPV | -7.6633 |
| EWYV | -105.993 | K27E_SFLV | -55.02 | QLAV_K27E_ | -7.6619 |
| K83H_SVEV | -105.971 | QSAI_K83V | -55.02 | QLAV_K27A_ | -7.6586 |
| K83V_SVVI | -105.916 | QLAV | -54.95 | K83H_AMPV | -7.6519 |
| K83V_EWYV | -105.913 | K83H_ETCI | -54.6 | LNAV | -7.6504 |
| K27E_IPEV | -105.909 | K27E_SVEV | -54.52 | K27E_LNAV | -7.6472 |
| K27A_YYKV | -105.864 | WSKV_K83V | -54.46 | K27A_LNAV | -7.6432 |
| K83H_SVVI | -105.851 | QSAL_K83V | -54.39 | K83H_IPEV | -7.637 |
| SVEV | -105.849 | QSAL | -54.22 | QLAV_K83H_ | -7.6138 |
| K83V_SVEV | -105.764 | K27A_VDV | -54.11 | QLAV_K83V_ | -7.6117 |
| SVVI | -105.643 | WLKL_K27E | -54.06 | K83H_LNAV | -7.6054 |
| K27A_SFLV | -105.627 | K27A_ETCI | -54.01 | K83V_AMPV | -7.5935 |
| WLKA_K27E | -105.624 | K83H_TTRV | -54.01 | K27E_SVKI | -7.5925 |
| QSAV_K83H | -105.618 | WLKL_K27A | -53.9 | K27A_SVKI | -7.5902 |
| WLKV_K27E | -105.603 | WSKV | -53.87 | SVKI | -7.5891 |
| K27E_ETCI | -105.517 | QLAV_K27E | -53.71 | K27E_SVSV | -7.5847 |
| K27A_SVKI | -105.472 | K83V_SVIM | -53.39 | DSLL_K27E_ | -7.58 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|---------|
| QSAL_K27A | -105.434 | VDV | -53.35 | SVSV | -7.5778 |
| QSAK | -105.394 | TTRV | -53.26 | K83V_LNAV | -7.575 |
| K83H_QSAV | -105.274 | K27E_LNAV | -53.22 | K83H_SVSV | -7.5735 |
| K27E_WLKV | -105.21 | K83V_STYV | -53.19 | DSLL | -7.5594 |
| QSAI_K83V | -105.105 | K27E_GSIV | -53.09 | K83H_SVKI | -7.5519 |
| GSIK | -105.055 | K27A_EWYV | -53.06 | K27A_SVSV | -7.5514 |
| K27E_YYKV | -105.041 | K27A_STYV | -52.92 | SEYV | -7.5493 |
| QSAL_K27E | -104.967 | LNAV | -52.79 | K83V_SVKI | -7.5356 |
| NTVK | -104.958 | QSAI_K83H | -52.62 | K27E_ETCI | -7.5181 |
| K27A_WLKV | -104.941 | QSAV_K83H | -52.56 | DSLL_K27A_ | -7.5078 |
| K83H_EAEC | -104.784 | DSLX | -52.32 | K83V_ETCI | -7.4976 |
| ETMR | -104.549 | DSLX_K27A | -51.79 | TTRV | -7.4935 |
| K27E_SVEV | -104.496 | TDSL | -51.7 | ETVA | -7.4931 |
| K83V_SVKI | -104.482 | K27A_SVSV | -51.56 | K83V_SVSV | -7.4898 |
| QSAI | -104.471 | SVIM | -51.51 | K27E_SVEV | -7.4891 |
| K83V_SVIM | -104.414 | WLKI_K27A | -51.49 | K27E_ETVA | -7.4868 |
| K83H_TVSV | -104.234 | DSLL | -51.43 | K27A_ETCI | -7.4799 |
| TTRE | -104.208 | WSKV_K27A | -51.43 | ETCI | -7.4793 |
| K27E_RNQK | -104.143 | ETCI | -51.4 | DSLL_K83V_ | -7.475 |
| DSLX_K83H | -104.035 | K83H_QSAV | -51.04 | SVEV | -7.475 |
| WLKA_K83H | -104.032 | K27E_TTRV | -51.01 | GDIV | -7.4743 |
| K27E_SVVI | -104.023 | WFDV | -50.98 | DSLX_K27E_ | -7.4731 |
| K27A_RNQK | -104.018 | DSLX_K27E | -50.94 | K27A_ETVA | -7.4726 |
| IPEV | -103.964 | QSAL_K83H | -50.88 | K83V_ETVA | -7.4717 |
| WLKV_K83V | -103.896 | NEVV | -50.72 | DSLX | -7.4702 |
| K83H_TTRV | -103.868 | K27E_WFDV | -50.51 | K27A_TTRV | -7.4636 |
| K83V_WLKV | -103.83 | QSAI | -50.2 | K27E_TTRV | -7.4563 |
| WSKV_K83H | -103.621 | WSKV_K83H | -50.11 | K27A_SVIM | -7.4529 |
| K27A_QSAV | -103.517 | K27E_SVKI | -49.55 | K83H_TTRV | -7.4525 |
| YYKV | -103.498 | QSAL_K27A | -49.25 | K83V_SVEV | -7.4488 |
| WSKV_K83V | -103.438 | K27E_VDV | -49.24 | DSLX_K27A_ | -7.4476 |
| K83V_SFLV | -103.358 | SEYV | -49.24 | DSLL_K83H_ | -7.4463 |
| RNQK | -103.296 | K83H_SVIM | -48.64 | K27A_SVEV | -7.4455 |
| WLKA_K83V | -103.267 | K27E_STYV | -48.03 | K83H_ETCI | -7.4434 |
| K83H_SVKI | -103.267 | K27A_SVIM | -47.47 | K83H_ETVA | -7.4318 |
| QSAI_K83H | -103.164 | WLKA_K83V | -46.13 | SVIM | -7.4309 |
| WLKV | -103.079 | EECI | -45.9 | K83H_SVEV | -7.4233 |

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|------------------|----------|------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| K83V_ETCI | -103.02 | K27E_ETCI | -45.89 | K27E_SVIM | -7.4174 |
| K27A_SVIM | -102.924 | DSLL_K83H | -45.71 | K83V_IPEV | -7.4131 |
| QSAL_K83H | -102.768 | K27A_QSAV | -45.6 | K83V_TTRV | -7.409 |
| QSAL | -102.672 | QSAV | -45.37 | NTVK | -7.4039 |
| WLKI_K27A | -102.655 | K27E_SVIM | -44.68 | ETVC | -7.3959 |
| DSLL_K27E | -102.652 | QSAV_K27E | -44.68 | K83V_SVIM | -7.388 |
| K83H_ETCI | -102.644 | QSAV_K27A | -44.59 | K83H_SVIM | -7.3692 |
| K83H_IPEV | -102.638 | DSLL_K27E | -44.27 | DSLV_K83H_ | -7.3529 |
| WLKV_K27A | -102.615 | EEVA | -43.96 | DSLV_K83V_ | -7.3496 |
| WLKA | -102.473 | DFTC | -43.68 | K27E_GSIV | -7.3445 |
| QSAL_K83V | -102.443 | K83H_ETVA | -43.49 | NTVV | -7.3407 |
| K83H_RNQK | -102.337 | WLKA | -43.07 | EIAC | -7.3398 |
| SVIM | -102.316 | K83V_EIAC | -42.78 | QSAI_K27E_ | -7.3389 |
| K83H_SVIM | -102.208 | TSSL | -42.08 | QSAL_K27A_ | -7.3368 |
| SVKI | -101.986 | K83H_EIAC | -41.6 | K27A_EIAC | -7.3338 |
| K27A_ETCI | -101.96 | QSAI_K27A | -41.48 | QSAL | -7.332 |
| WSKV_K27E | -101.857 | WSKV_K27E | -41.1 | K27E_EIAC | -7.3309 |
| WLKV_K83H | -101.854 | K27E_QSAV | -40.3 | QSAI | -7.3289 |
| WSKV_K27A | -101.853 | WLKA_K83H | -39.13 | GSIV | -7.3207 |
| K27E_WLAI | -101.655 | TERV | -38.06 | QSAL_K27E_ | -7.3207 |
| K83V_RNQK | -101.394 | ETVC | -37.55 | QSAI_K27A_ | -7.3144 |
| WLKI | -101.351 | WLKD_K83V | -37.25 | K27A_GSIV | -7.2962 |
| WLKI_K83V | -100.787 | K83V_ETVA | -37.14 | K83V_EIAC | -7.2747 |
| DSLL_K83V | -100.422 | ETVA | -36.4 | K83V_GSIV | -7.2695 |
| K83H_WLAI | -100.395 | WLKD_K83H | -35.87 | QSAL_K83V_ | -7.2597 |
| K83H_SFLV | -100.271 | STYC | -35.02 | K83H_EIAC | -7.2516 |
| K83V_WFDV | -100.216 | K27A_ETVA | -34.97 | TTRE | -7.2472 |
| WLKD_K27A | -100.079 | EIAC | -34.92 | K83H_GSIV | -7.2404 |
| SFLV | -99.9782 | GSKH | -34.91 | QSAI_K83V_ | -7.2242 |
| K27A_WLAI | -99.9385 | K27E_EIAC | -34.8 | QSAL_K83H_ | -7.22 |
| K27A_WFDV | -99.8824 | GIQV | -34.34 | QSAV_K27E_ | -7.2015 |
| K83H_EWYV | -99.871 | K27A_EIAC | -34.28 | QSAI_K83H_ | -7.1986 |
| K83V_WLAI | -99.7786 | K27E_ETVA | -32.43 | QSAV_K27A_ | -7.1895 |
| DSLL_K27A | -99.7514 | WLKA_K27A | -31.94 | K27E_QSAV | -7.1666 |
| WLKD_K27E | -99.5969 | WLKD | -31.45 | QSAV | -7.1522 |
| WLAI | -99.5766 | K83H_EAEC | -31.24 | SIKI | -7.1509 |
| WLKI_K83H | -99.5702 | WLKD_K27A | -30.99 | PPTV | -7.1479 |

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|------------------|----------|------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| ETCI | -99.5578 | GSIK | -30.54 | K27A_QSAV | -7.1399 |
| WLKL_K83V | -99.3959 | QDAV | -30.22 | QSAV_K83V_ | -7.1345 |
| K27E_WFDV | -99.2635 | K27A_EAEC | -29.96 | NEVV | -7.1308 |
| WLKI_K27E | -99.1398 | WLKA_K27E | -29.49 | QSAV_K83H_ | -7.1182 |
| WLKD_K83V | -99.0832 | NTVK | -28.72 | K83V_QSAV | -7.1051 |
| K83H_WLKV | -98.9482 | WLKD_K27E | -28.43 | K83H_QSAV | -7.1023 |
| WFDV | -98.5571 | QSAA_K83V | -28.07 | DFTC | -7.0708 |
| DSLL | -98.4145 | ETMR | -27.94 | GIQV | -7.066 |
| WLKD | -98.369 | K83V_EAEC | -27.47 | TSSD | -7.0373 |
| DSLL_K83H | -98.1481 | EAEC | -26.87 | GSIK | -7.0321 |
| K83H_YYKV | -97.4754 | EEMA | -26.68 | K27E_EAEC | -6.8884 |
| WLKL_K27A | -97.0138 | TTRE | -26.44 | ETMR | -6.8848 |
| GSKH | -95.1494 | ETCG | -25.54 | QSAA | -6.8844 |
| WLKL | -94.896 | QSAA_K83H | -24.97 | QSAK | -6.8819 |
| WLKL_K27E | -94.6335 | K27E_EAEC | -24.82 | EAEC | -6.88 |
| K83H_WFDV | -94.2282 | ETMA | -23.65 | PMPV | -6.8792 |
| WSKV | -94.1114 | QSAA | -23.16 | K27A_EAEC | -6.867 |
| K83V_IPEV | -94.1 | QSAA_K27A | -23.14 | QSAA_K27E_ | -6.8637 |
| WLKL_K83H | -92.8201 | QSAA_K27E | -22.6 | TERV | -6.8634 |
| WLKD_K83H | -76.8556 | K83V_RNQK | -22.42 | QSAA_K27A_ | -6.857 |
| GSKA | -73.2198 | K83H_RNQK | -21.38 | GSKH | -6.8457 |
| KKNK | -61.2344 | RNQK | -19.91 | K83V_EAEC | -6.83 |
| SEYV | -60.5019 | K27A_RNQK | -17.9 | K83H_EAEC | -6.8187 |
| GIQV | -55.1745 | KKNK | -17.82 | ETCG | -6.8062 |
| GDKA | -55.0677 | QSAK | -16.99 | QSAA_K83V_ | -6.7985 |
| PMPV | -52.4265 | TSSD | -16.65 | EEVA | -6.7878 |
| EEMA | -51.7932 | K27E_RNQK | -14.5 | QSAA_K83H_ | -6.7766 |
| MKPK | -50.0327 | GDKA | -13.96 | K27A_RNQK | -6.7669 |
| PPTV | -49.8485 | GSKA | -13.2 | RNQK | -6.7621 |
| QDAV | -46.9867 | AMPV | NA | K83H_RNQK | -6.7543 |
| ETMA | -44.6773 | DVPV | NA | K27E_RNQK | -6.7499 |
| EEVA | -33.8158 | IPEV | NA | K83V_RNQK | -6.7305 |
| TDSL | -28.5521 | K27A_AMPV | NA | TDSL | -6.6885 |
| TSSL | -27.3073 | K27A_DVPV | NA | QDAV | -6.6759 |
| GDIV | -24.5791 | K27A_IPEV | NA | EECI | -6.6688 |
| EECI | -18.8814 | K27E_AMPV | NA | TSSL | -6.6269 |
| SIKI | -18.0724 | K27E_DVPV | NA | VDV | -6.603 |

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|-----------|----------|-----------|----|----------|---------|
| NTVV | -17.5168 | K27E_IPEV | NA | K83H_VDV | -6.5733 |
| TERV | -13.8444 | K83H_AMPV | NA | MKPK | -6.5724 |
| NEVV | -11.1379 | K83H_DVPV | NA | K27A_VDV | -6.5244 |
| K83V_VDV | 0 | K83H_IPEV | NA | ETMA | -6.4861 |
| K83V_YYKV | 0 | K83V_AMPV | NA | K27E_VDV | -6.4845 |
| DFTC | 13.5544 | K83V_DVPV | NA | K83V_VDV | -6.4345 |
| K27E_VDV | 13.8682 | K83V_IPEV | NA | GDKA | -6.4182 |
| K27A_VDV | 17.8943 | MKPK | NA | KKNK | -6.3958 |
| K83H_VDV | 42.0893 | PMPV | NA | EEMA | -6.2871 |
| VDV | 55.1194 | PPTV | NA | GSKA | -6.1682 |

Table 5-9 FlexPepDock scores of complexes used in Madsen et al. under different scoring schemes and with different anchor residues

| | Peptide anchor: P(-2) | Peptide anchor: P(0) | Only attractive, hbond and solvation terms included | Repulsive term discarded |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| WLKD | -65.841 | -69.784 | -275.004 | -183.941 |
| WLKL | 1804.061 | -64.39 | -272.25 | -198.364 |
| WLKI | -40.151 | -37.559 | -287.193 | -190.593 |
| WLKA | -72.998 | -68.818 | -278.789 | -182.858 |
| WLKV | -65.946 | 795.091 | -288.976 | -199.464 |
| WSKV | -67.593 | -64.313 | -279.528 | -178.49 |
| QLAV | -70.483 | -65.464 | -246.123 | -173.616 |
| QSAV | -68.188 | -71.252 | -233.497 | -162.05 |
| QSAI | -69.837 | -70.035 | -257.876 | -165.786 |
| QSAL | -70.949 | -70.738 | -259.22 | -167.88 |
| QSAA | -70.156 | -67.52 | -222.931 | -163.444 |
| DSLL | -71.366 | -69.351 | -247.69 | -174.477 |
| DSLX | -71.705 | -71.369 | -237.807 | -171.06 |
| WLKD_K83H | 190.014 | 639.781 | -280.841 | -194.622 |
| WLKI_K83H | -63.974 | 25.989 | -285.742 | -200.225 |
| WLKL_K83H | -70.428 | -69.662 | -275.375 | -189.929 |
| WLKA_K83H | -58.226 | 613.839 | -286.567 | -193.735 |
| WLKV_K83H | -40.906 | -67.133 | -291.167 | -192.167 |
| WSKV_K83H | 570.95 | 308.408 | -221.88 | -191.367 |
| QLAV_K83H | 35.871 | -68.685 | -262.216 | -173.589 |
| QSAV_K83H | -65.443 | -70.238 | -246.431 | -167.496 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| QSAI_K83H | -66.321 | -66.303 | -259.124 | -168.935 |
| QSAL_K83H | -67.534 | -67.098 | -228.726 | -165.092 |
| QSAA_K83H | -67.986 | -64.87 | -253.66 | -164.581 |
| DSLL_K83H | -70.862 | -68.565 | -228.136 | -172.569 |
| DSLX_K83H | -69.931 | -70.349 | -265.341 | -172.304 |
| WLKV_K83V | 18.528 | -64.475 | -223.634 | -194.677 |
| WLKD_K83V | -69.489 | -67.521 | -268.814 | -183.911 |
| QSAV_K83V | -66.739 | -71.157 | -259.29 | -163.783 |
| DSLL_K83V | -69.934 | -70.648 | -264.596 | -172.731 |
| DSLX_K83V | -71.614 | -71.407 | -258.77 | -170.599 |

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