

# Deep Learning for Flexible and Site-Specific Protein Docking and Design

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## Abstract

Protein complexes are vital to many biological processes and their understanding can lead to the development of new drugs and therapies. Although the structure of individual protein chains can now be predicted with high accuracy, determining the three-dimensional structure of a complex remains a challenge. Protein docking, the task of computationally determining the structure of a protein complex given the unbound structures of its components (and optionally binding site information), provides a way to predict protein complex structure. Traditional docking methods rely on empirical scoring functions and rigid body simulations to predict the binding poses of two or more proteins. However, they often make unrealistic assumptions about input structures, and are not effective at accommodating conformational flexibility or binding site information. In this work, we present DockGPT (Generative Protein Transformer for Docking), an end-to-end deep learning method for flexible and site-specific protein docking that allows conformational flexibility and can effectively make use of binding site information. Tested on multiple benchmarks with unbound and predicted monomer structures as input, we significantly outperform existing methods in both accuracy and running time. Our performance is especially pronounced for antibody-antigen complexes, where we predict binding poses with high accuracy even in the absence of binding site information. Finally, we highlight our method’s generality by extending it to simultaneously dock and co-design the sequence and structure of antibody complementarity determining regions targeting a specified epitope.

## 1 Introduction

2 The bound configuration of two or more proteins helps  
3 regulate many biological processes including signal trans-  
4 duction [1, 2], membrane transport [3, 4], and cell  
5 metabolism [5, 6]. The process by which unbound pro-  
6 tein chains bind together to form a complex is often  
7 controlled by more general protein-protein interactions  
8 (PPIs) [7–9], and accordingly, aberrant PPIs are asso-  
9 ciated with various diseases, including cancer, infectious  
10 diseases, and neurodegenerative diseases [10]. The role of  
11 PPIs in protein complex formation makes selective tar-  
12 geting of PPIs an essential strategy for drug design and  
13 already forms the basis for several established cancer im-  
14 munotherapies such as monoclonal antibodies [11, 12].  
15 Although most proteins interact with partners to form  
16 a complex, experimental methods for determining the  
17 structures are often expensive and technically difficult to  
18 administer [13, 14]. As a result, protein complexes ac-  
19 count for only a small fraction of entries in the Protein  
20 Data Bank (PDB) [15], highlighting the need for effective  
21 *in silico* methods.

22 Although it is possible to infer protein complex struc-

ture from primary sequence information alone, in many  
23 cases, the three-dimensional structures of constituent  
24 (unbound) chains have already been experimentally de-  
25 termined. Moreover, extra information such as target  
26 binding sites or inter-chain contacts, is readily available  
27 in many applications, or can be derived through experi-  
28 mental methods such as cross-linking mass spectrometry  
29 [16]. In these scenarios, protein docking methods can  
30 be used to predict a complex structure. Despite having  
31 many practical applications [17–19], the efficacy of  
32 *in silico* protein docking or design methods is ultimately  
33 hindered by unrealistic assumptions about input struc-  
34 tures, and failure to effectively utilize PPI information  
35 such as binding sites and inter-protein contacts.

36  
37 Current computational methods for protein docking and  
38 design typically impose backbone and side-chain rigidity  
39 constraints and are trained to utilize specific side-chain  
40 interactions or protein backbone placements derived from  
41 native complexes which are already optimal for binding  
42 [20, 21]. Training computational models on only bound  
43 structures – in which binding interfaces match perfectly  
44 – is in a sense “starting with the answer.” In the real  
45 world, unbound chains typically lack shape complemen-  
46 tarity because proteins tend to deform substantially upon  
47 binding [22, 23], even for small-molecule ligands [24]. Ac-  
48 counting for backbone and side-chain flexibility can sig-  
49 nificantly increase the number of sequences that fold to

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50 the structure while maintaining the general fold of the  
51 protein [25], and is especially important for protein de-  
52 sign because mutations in sequence often result in small  
53 changes to the backbone structure, [26], and potentially  
54 large changes to surrounding side-chain conformations  
55 [27].

56 In addition to overlooking conformational flexibility, cur-  
57 rent methods tend to either ignore or ineffectively incor-  
58 porate PPI information. For many applications, it is im-  
59 portant to consider interactions as a particular binding  
60 site, such as targeting catalytic sites of enzymes, or de-  
61 signing therapeutics to block a specific protein-protein  
62 interaction. A salient example is the design of neu-  
63 tralizing antibodies targeting the SARS-CoV-2 S pro-  
64 tein which initiates infection upon binding to the human  
65 angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) receptor [28,  
66 29]. In most cases, PPIs such as binding sites or inter-  
67 chain contacts are utilized only as a post-processing step,  
68 to re-rank or filter out incompatible predictions.

69 Flexible docking and design of protein complexes  
70 presents several challenges for machine learning. First,  
71 the 3D geometry of multiple proteins is inherently diffi-  
72 cult to represent. The difficulty arises from the fact that  
73 spatial relationships between receptor and ligand struc-  
74 tures are ambiguous at the input level, yet inter-protein  
75 interactions must still be modeled jointly by the learning  
76 algorithm. Although several geometric deep-learning ap-  
77 proaches offer a way to directly model 3D point clouds,  
78 so far only one end-to-end machine learning method has  
79 been proposed for general protein docking [30]. This  
80 method does not take into consideration backbone flex-  
81 ibility or bindings site information, and suffers from ex-  
82 cessive steric clashes in its predictions. Finally, sufficient  
83 training data is also scarce. Currently, there is no large  
84 dataset consisting of both protein complexes and their  
85 unbound components.

86 In this work, we introduce DockGPT, an end-to-end  
87 deep-learning approach to site-specific flexible docking  
88 and design. In developing DockGPT, we hypothesized  
89 that neural networks could accurately recover protein  
90 3D-coordinates from coarse or incomplete descriptions  
91 of their geometry. After affirming this capability, we ap-  
92 proached flexible docking in a manner analogous to ma-  
93 trix completion followed by multidimensional scaling. In  
94 the matrix completion step, missing entries loosely corre-  
95 spond to inter-chain quantities such as distance and ori-  
96 entation. The imputed representation is then converted  
97 to 3D geometry in order to recover the bound complex.  
98 This framing allows us to naturally incorporate PPI in-  
99 formation as input, in the form of residue-level binding  
100 interfaces or interfacial contacts. In addition, removing  
101 some intra-chain geometry allows us to simultaneously  
102 dock and design protein segments, while still targeting  
103 specific binding sites.

104 To better incorporate flexibility into our predictions, we

105 provide only a coarse description of intra-chain geom-  
106 etry; presenting distance and angle information within a  
107 resolution of at least 2Å and 20° respectively. On top  
108 of this, we attempt to approximate the unbound state of  
109 each training example, by applying Rosetta’s FastRelax  
110 protocol [31] to individual chains.

111 To validate our approach, we perform an extensive  
112 comparison against four other protein docking meth-  
113 ods on unbound chains from Antibody Benchmark (Ab-  
114 Bench)[32], and Docking Benchmark Version 5 [33]. We  
115 also show that DockGPT performs well in docking pro-  
116 tein structures predicted by AlphaFold2 [34] with high  
117 success rates. Finally, we demonstrate how to extend  
118 DockGPT to perform simultaneous docking and *de novo*  
119 design by docking antibody-antigen partners while con-  
120 currently predicting both the sequence and structure  
121 of all heavy chain complementarity-determining regions  
122 (CDRs).

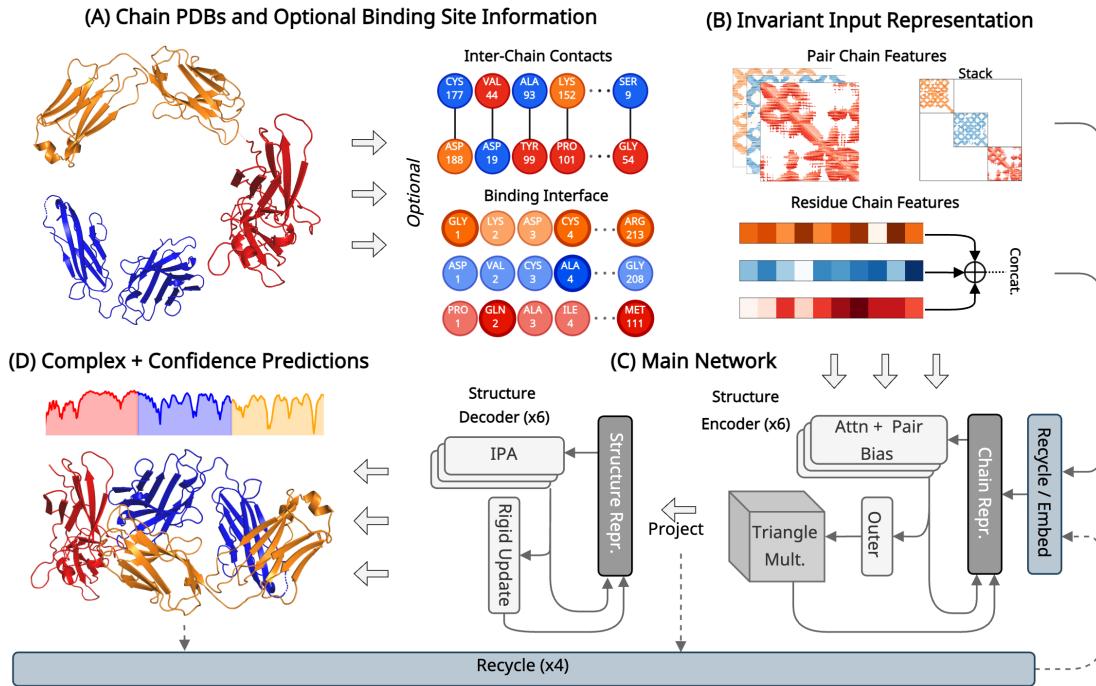
## 2 Related Work

123  
124 **Geometric Deep Learning** The field of geometric  
125 deep learning is concerned with modeling data that has  
126 some underlying geometric relationships. Typically, this  
127 involves developing architectures that are *invariant* or  
128 *equivariant* with respect to the action of some symme-  
129 try group. Notable examples include the permutation  
130 equivariance of graph neural networks and the transla-  
131 tion equivariance of convolutional neural networks.

132 Complementary to this work, several geometric deep  
133 learning methods tailored explicitly towards modeling  
134 symmetries of point clouds have recently been proposed  
135 [35–39]. These methods have helped facilitate signifi-  
136 cant improvements in protein-related molecular model-  
137 ing tasks such as protein structure prediction [34, 40–  
138 42], inverse folding [43–45], and *de novo* design [46–50].

139 **Traditional Methods for Protein Docking** Protein  
140 docking is traditionally performed in three steps:  
141 (1) sampling of candidate conformations, (2) score-based  
142 ranking of candidates, and (3) refinement of top-ranking  
143 complex structures. These algorithms primarily differ in  
144 either of the first two steps. Holding the position of the  
145 receptor fixed, each candidate conformation can be de-  
146 scribed by a 3-dimensional rotation and translation of  
147 the input ligand. Although the search space has rela-  
148 tively few degrees of freedom, the size of the effective  
149 candidate space can still total into the millions, even for  
150 small ligands [51]. In addition, the choice of score func-  
151 tion usually induces a rugged energy landscape which is  
152 difficult to optimize over.

153 Within this paradigm, methods such as HDock [52, 53],  
154 PatchDock [54], ZDock [55], Attract [56], ClusPro [57],  
155 RosettaDock server [58], and Haddock [59], have been



**Figure 1: Approach Overview.** (A) Unbound chain sequence and coordinates are given as input, and optionally, information regarding binding interface(s). (B) For each chain, an invariant representation of 3D geometry is constructed from quantities such as pairwise atom distances and orientations. If interface residues or contacts are provided, this information is added to the respective residue and pair features. Other features are discussed in Section 3.1. (C) The main network consists of two submodules. The *structure encoder* develops a joint representation of the input chains and the *structure decoder* infers the 3D geometry. (D) The output of the main network is the complex 3D-coordinates and per-residue confidence predictions. Steps (C) and (D) are repeated four times, with output residue, pair and distance features recycled from the previous iteration.

156 developed and made available for public access. Among  
 157 these methods, PatchDock is one of the most widely used  
 158 and computationally efficient. PatchDock avoids brute-  
 159 force search over transformation space by matching pro-  
 160 tein surface patches based on “shape complementarity.”  
 161 Ligand transformations that align favorable patches bol-  
 162 ster wide binding interfaces and avoid steric clashes re-  
 163 sulting in favorable energy scores. HDock, ClusPro, and  
 164 ZDock all make use of the Fast Fourier Transform al-  
 165 gorithm to efficiently perform a global search on a 3D  
 166 grid. The methods differ in how they post-process each  
 167 candidate. ClusPro clusters candidates by root-mean-  
 168 squared deviation and attempts to find a cluster with  
 169 favorable energies. ZDock uses a combination of shape  
 170 complementarity, electrostatics, and statistical potential  
 171 terms for scoring. HDock, which was ranked as the num-  
 172 ber one docking server for multimeric protein structure  
 173 prediction in the community-wide critical assessment of  
 174 structure prediction 13 (CASP13-CAPRI) experiment in  
 175 2018, uses an iterative knowledge-based scoring function  
 176 to discern the native complex. For a more complete re-  
 177 view of traditional docking methods, available software,  
 178 and accomplishments, we refer the reader to the compre-

hensive reviews [60–62].

179  
 180 The majority of these methods incorporate backbone and  
 181 side-chain flexibility only as a post-processing step, e.g.  
 182 through molecular dynamics simulations. In order to in-  
 183 incorporate inter-chain contacts or binding site residues,  
 184 traditional docking methods typically alter their score  
 185 function, or restrict search or results to ligand trans-  
 186 formations matching this criteria. For example, ZDock al-  
 187 lows users to specify “undesirable” residue contacts, and  
 188 penalizes these interactions via the score function, and  
 189 HDock applies post-processing to filter out predictions  
 190 lacking target interactions.

**Machine Learning for Protein Docking** In the  
 191 past, machine learning has been used outright or com-  
 192 bined with physics-based methods for scoring docked  
 193 complexes [63–65]. Recently, end-to-end machine learn-  
 194 ing methods EquiDock [30] and EquiBind [66] were  
 195 proposed for protein docking and docking drug-like  
 196 molecules. In particular, EquiDock makes use of an  
 197 SE(3)-equivariant graph matching network to output a  
 198 single rigid rotation and translation which, when applied  
 199 to the ligand, places it in a docked position relative to

201 the receptor. This is done by matching and aligning predicted *keypoints* which roughly correspond to the centroid of the binding interface. Although this method provides favorable theoretical guarantees, it does not perform well in practice. On top of this, the independent SE(3)-equivariant graph matching network and training procedure are relatively complicated. Training EquiDock requires solving an optimal transport plan which matches predicted interface key-points to ground truth positions, for each example. Custom loss functions are developed to back-propagate gradients through alignments and to penalize surface intersection. Moreover, it is unclear how to extend this method to account for conformational flexibility or more than two interacting chains. In contrast, our framework is conceptually very simple, utilizes standard architectural components and losses, allows for flexibility and is straightforward to extend to three or more chains.

219 **De novo Binder Design** Recently, there has been  
220 a spate of interest in *de novo* protein design using deep  
221 learning, especially the design of small protein binders.  
222 AlphaDesign [67] introduces a framework for *de novo*  
223 protein design which uses AlphaFold2 inside an optimizable  
224 design process, and [49] uses both AlphaFold2 and  
225 RosettaFold to improve the experimental success rate of  
226 their designs. Wang et al. [46] describe a method for *de*  
227 *novo* design of proteins harboring a desired binding or  
228 catalytic motif based on modifying the input and training  
229 of the RosettaFold network and augmenting the loss  
230 function. Here we show that our docking method can  
231 be easily extended to *de novo* design a protein that may  
232 bind a specific target site.

### 233 3 Methods

234 We overview our input representation, model training,  
235 loss, and architecture. Additional details can be found  
236 in Sections S1, S2 and S3

237 **Notation** We adopt the convention of using  $x_i$  and  $\mathbf{x}_i$   
238 to distinguish between a specific data point  $x_i$  and the list of  
239 data points  $(x_i)_{i=1..n}$  indexed by  $i$ . We use  $\mathbf{1}_v$  to denote  
240 the indicator function for a Boolean value  $v$ ; evaluating  
241 to 1 if  $v$  is True and otherwise 0. A protein with  $n$   
242 residues labeled  $1..n$ , each with atom types  $a \in \mathcal{A}$ , is  
243 represented by its amino acid sequence  $\mathbf{s} = s_1, \dots, s_n$ , and  
244 atom coordinates  $\vec{x}_i^a = \vec{x}_1^a, \dots, \vec{x}_n^a \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ . Each element  
245  $s_i \in \mathbf{s}$  can be any of the 20 naturally occurring amino  
246 acid types. To distinguish between multiple chains, we  
247 use  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k \subseteq \{1..n\}$  to denote the partition of residue  
248 indices into chains  $1..k$ . We also use  $\mathcal{C}(i)$  to denote the  
249 chain containing residue  $i$ , i.e.  $\mathcal{C}(i) \in \{\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k\}$

### 250 3.1 Input Features

251 The input to our network is a complete graph  $\mathcal{G} =$   
252  $(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{e}_{ij})$  where  $\mathcal{V}$  consists of residue features  $x_i$  and  $\mathcal{E}$   
253 consists of pair features  $e_{ij}$  between residues  $i$  and  $j$ . The  
254 bulk of our input features are generated independently,  
255 for each input chain. We refer to those features which do  
256 not depend on the input complex as *intra-chain features*  
257 and those which do as *inter-chain features*. In the interest  
258 of clarity, we first describe intra-chain features, which  
259 are independent of the protein complex being predicted.

#### 260 3.1.1 Intra-Chain Features

261 **Residue Features** We generate residue features for  
262 each chain and join them by concatenating along the se-  
263 quence dimension. The input feature  $x_i$  associated with  
264 residue  $i$  consists of four encodings:

$$x_i^{\text{chain}} = \quad (1) \\ (E_{\text{AA}}(s_i), E_{\text{pos}}(i, |\mathcal{C}(i)|), E_{\text{cen}}(i, \vec{x}_i^{C\beta}), E_{\text{dih}}(\theta_i)).$$

265 The first,  $E_{\text{AA}}(s)$ , is a one-hot encoding of the amino  
266 acid type  $s$  using 20 bins for each naturally occurring  
267 amino acid. The next,  $E_{\text{pos}}$ , encodes the residue rela-  
268 tive sequence position into ten equal-width bins. As a  
269 proxy for estimating whether a residue is on the pro-  
270 tein's surface, we use a centrality encoding,  $E_{\text{cen}}$ , which  
271 corresponds to the number of  $C\beta$  atoms in a ball of ra-  
272 dius 10Å around the query residue. We encode this fea-  
273 ture with six radial basis functions equally spaced be-  
274 tween 6 and 40, and only consider residues in the same  
275 chain as the query atom. Last,  $E_{\text{dih}}$ , encodes the angle  
276  $\theta \in [-180^\circ, 180^\circ]$  into 18 bins of width  $20^\circ$ . The input  
277  $\theta_i \in \{\phi_i, \psi_i\}$  are the phi and psi backbone torsion angles  
278 of residue  $i$ . For residues before and after chain breaks,  
279 or at the N and C terminus of a chain, we set the phi  
280 and psi angles to 0.

281 **Pair Features** Pair features are made up of low-  
282 resolution descriptions of pairwise distance and orienta-  
283 tion and relative sequence information. The features for  
284 each chain are stacked to form a block-diagonal input  
285 matrix. A separate learned parameter is used to fill the  
286 missing off-diagonal entries. For a pair of residues  $i$  and  
287  $j$ , in a common chain, the corresponding feature  $e_{ij}$  con-  
288 sists of three one-hot encodings

$$e_{ij}^{\text{chain}} = \quad (2) \\ (E_{\text{dist}}(\|\vec{x}_i^{C\alpha} - \vec{x}_j^a\|_2), E_{\text{ori}}(\theta_{ij}), E_{\text{sep}}(i - j)).$$

289  $E_{\text{dist}}$  is an encoding of the distance  $d$  into six equal-width  
290 bins between 2Å and 16Å, with one extra bin added for

291 distances greater than 16Å. We include distances between  $C\alpha$  and each atom type  $a \in \{N, C\alpha, C, C\beta\}$ .  $E_{\text{ori}}$ ,  
 292 encodes the angle  $\theta$  performed in the same manner as  
 293 the backbone dihedral encoding for residue features. The  
 294 input angles  $\theta_{ij} \in \{\phi_{ij}, \psi_{ij}, \omega_{ij}\}$  are pairwise residue ori-  
 295 entations defined in [68]. Note that all pairwise distances  
 296 and angles are known only within a resolution of at least  
 297 2Å and 20°, respectively. The last feature,  $E_{\text{sep}}(\cdot)$ , is a  
 298 one-hot encoding of signed relative sequence separation  
 299 into 32 classes, in the same manner as [69].  
 300

### 301 3.1.2 Inter-Chain Features

302 We add three additional features to encode information  
 303 about the target protein complex and PPIs.

304 **Inter-Chain Interface (Residue)**  $f_i \in \{0, 1\}$  is an  
 305 optional binary flag indicating whether the  $C\alpha$  atom of  
 306 residue  $i$  is within 10Å of a  $C\alpha$  atom belonging to a  
 307 residue in a different chain. This flag is 0 if this criteria  
 308 does not hold.

309 **Inter-Chain Contact (Pair)**  $f_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$  indicates  
 310 whether two residues in separate chains are in contact.  
 311 This occurs when the distance between  $\vec{x}_i^{C\alpha}$  and  $\vec{x}_j^{C\alpha}$  is  
 312 less than 10Å. This flag is 0 if this criteria does not hold.

313 **Relative Chain (Pair)** A one-hot encoding of the  
 314 the relative chain index for residues  $i$  and  $j$  into three  
 315 classes. Let  $c_i, c_j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  denote the chain index  
 316 of residues  $i$  and  $j$ , then  $f_{ij} = \text{OneHot}(\text{sign}(c_i - c_j))$ ,  
 317 where  $\text{sign}(x) \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ .

318 The interface and contact flags provide context for  
 319 residues on the binding interface for each chain; restrict-  
 320 ing the effective search space during inference. In real-  
 321 world applications, knowledge of the binding interface  
 322 may be limited or unknown. In light of this, we provide  
 323 only a limited number of contacts or binding residues,  
 324 chosen randomly for each training example. Specifically,  
 325 for each input, we include no contacts or no residue flags,  
 326 independently, with probability 1/2. This means that  
 327 during training, the method sees 25% of examples with-  
 328 out any interface or contact information, 50% with one or  
 329 the other, and 25% with both features provided, on aver-  
 330 age. If interface features are included, we randomly sub-  
 331 sample a number of interface residues  $N_{\text{int}} \sim \text{geom}(1/5)$   
 332 to include, meaning five residues are selected on average.  
 333 Similarly, we sub-sample  $N_{\text{con}} \sim \text{geom}(1/3)$  inter-chain  
 334 contacts when this feature is used, resulting in three pro-  
 335 vided contacts on average.

336 The relative chain encoding provides a way to distinguish  
 337 between intra-chain and inter-chain pair features. By  
 338 taking a signed difference, pair features  $e_{ij}$  and  $e_{ji}$  receive  
 339 different encodings when  $i$  and  $j$  are in distinct chains.  
 340 This not only discriminates the endpoints as belonging  
 341 to different chains, but also breaks symmetry.

## 342 3.2 Deep Network Architecture and 343 Training

We design a two-stage network making use of triangle  
 344 multiplication, pair-biased attention, and invariant point  
 345 attention (IPA). Our first module, which we refer to  
 346 as the “structure encoder,” produces an invariant rep-  
 347 resentation of the protein complex which is subsequently  
 348 converted to 3D coordinates by the second module, the  
 349 “structure decoder.” Our encoder uses pair-biased atten-  
 350 tion to update residue features, and triangle multipli-  
 351 cation to update pair features. The decoder updates only  
 352 residue features using IPA. We also make use of feature  
 353 recycling during training and inference. We note that,  
 354 although our architecture modifies or extends some com-  
 355 ponents in AlphaFold2, the two architectures are func-  
 356 tionally quite distinct. We do not make use of multiple  
 357 sequence alignments (MSAs), templates, global atten-  
 358 tion, self-distillation, or other elements contributing to  
 359 the success of AlphaFold2. In contrast, we hope to learn  
 360 the principles governing protein binding from sequence  
 361 and structure alone and develop a more specialized ar-  
 362 chitecture to do so.

### 363 3.2.1 Network Architecture

365 Here, we provide a general overview of our architectural  
 366 components. A schematic overview of the architecture  
 367 and loss can be found in Figure S1. Complete imple-  
 368 mentation details and more thorough descriptions of each  
 369 submodule can be found in Section S1.

370 **Structure Encoder Layer** Our encoder produces a  
 371 joint representation of the input chains. Since inter-  
 372 chain features are mostly missing from the input, we  
 373 hypothesized that a network that updates pair features  
 374 would facilitate more successful docking. Consequently,  
 375 we chose to update pair features using incoming and out-  
 376 going triangle-multiplicative updates [34].

$$x_i^{(\ell+1)} = \text{Pair-Bias-Attn-Block}^{(\ell)}(x_i^{(\ell)}, e_{ij}^{(\ell)}) \quad (3)$$

$$e_{ij}^{(\ell+1)} = \text{Pair-Block}^{(\ell)}(x_i^{(\ell+1)}, e_{ij}^{(\ell)}) \quad (4)$$

377 Each layer has two update blocks. The first block up-  
 378 dates the residue features using multi-head attention  
 379 with pair bias. The next block transforms the updated  
 380 residue features into an update for the pair representa-  
 381 tion using a learned outer product, and then applies tri-  
 382 angle multiplication and a shallow feed-forward network  
 383 to the result.

384 **Structure Decoder Layer** The decoder module con-  
 385 verts the encoder representation to 3D Geometry. Since  
 386 we do not make direct use of coordinate information in

387 our input (although we show that this can be done for  
388 special cases in Section 3.2.1), we sought an invariant  
389 architecture specialized for coordinate prediction and ul-  
390 timately settled on IPA.

$$\mathbf{x}_i^{(\ell+1)} = \text{IPA-Block} \left( \mathbf{x}_i^{(\ell)}, e_{ij}^{(L_{\text{enc}})}, \mathbf{T}_i^{(\ell)} \right) \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{T}_i^{(\ell+1)} = \mathbf{T}_i^{(\ell)} \circ \text{RigidUpdate} \left( \mathbf{x}_i^{(\ell+1)} \right) \quad (6)$$

391 We use a total of six decoder layers, sharing the same  
392 weights for all six layers. We perform recycling during  
393 training and inference, allowing us to execute our model  
394 multiple times on the same example. This is done by  
395 embedding the previous iteration’s outputs in the next  
396 iteration’s inputs. Our best-performing model uses the  
397 same scheme as described in the AlphaFold2 implemen-  
398 tation ([34], supplementary section 1.10). In concurrence  
399 with AlphaFold2 and OpenFold [70], we find that recy-  
400 cling significantly improves prediction quality while in-  
401 curring only a constant increase in inference and train-  
402 ing time. We experimented with recycling features from  
403 the structure decoder, rather than encoder. Since the  
404 decoder residue features encode pLDDT information, we  
405 hypothesized that this information could better inform  
406 future iterations. This ablation and others are shown in  
407 Section S9.

408 **Coordinate Prediction** In predicting residue-wise  
409 atom coordinates, we deviate from the strategy of Al-  
410 phaFold2 and simply compute the local-frame coordi-  
411 nates for each atom using a learned linear projection.  
412 The coordinates for  $C\alpha$  are taken as the translation com-  
413 ponent of the per-residue predicted rigid transforma-  
414 tion, and the remaining atom coordinates are predicted as

$$\vec{\mathbf{x}}_i^a = \mathbf{T}_i^{(L)} \circ \text{Linear3D} \left( \text{LayerNorm} \left( \mathbf{x}_i^{(L)} \right) \right) \quad (7)$$

415 where  $L$  denotes the index of the last layer, and Linear3D  
416 is a learned projection into dimension  $|\mathcal{A}| \times 3$ . Note that  
417 only one rigid transformation is used to produce all atom  
418 coordinates for a given residue.

419 **Handling Coordinates as Input** Although we do  
420 not explicitly make use of coordinates in our docking  
421 model, for certain tasks, it may be important to incorpo-  
422 rate this information as part of the input. This is espe-  
423 cially salient in antibody loop design, where the frame-  
424 work region tends to remain mostly rigid upon binding.  
425 In Section S7 we show how to modify Equation (6) and  
426 Equation (7) to easily incorporate rigid, flexible, and  
427 missing coordinates as part of the input, while still main-  
428 taining SE(3)-Equivariance. We also provide empirical  
429 results for designing CDR loops with this modification  
430 in Section S8.

### 3.2.2 Training

431  
432 For general protein docking, model training is split  
433 into two stages. In the first stage, we pre-train on a  
434 mix of complexes and monomers, randomly selecting a  
435 monomer or a complex to train on with equal probability.  
436 This repeats for 5 epochs. The rationale for this decision  
437 is described in Section S3. Afterwards, monomers are  
438 removed, and we train exclusively on complexes. For all  
439 complexes in our training sets, we relaxed each individ-  
440 ual chain using Rosetta’s FastRelax protocol [31] with all  
441 default settings (antibody heavy and light chains were  
442 relaxed jointly when applicable). For antibody-antigen  
443 docking results, we fine-tuned the model on a dataset  
444 consisting of only antibody-antigen complexes.

### 3.2.3 Datasets

445  
446 **Single Chains** For pre-training, with single chains,  
447 we randomly sample chains from the publicly available  
448 BC40 dataset, consisting of roughly 37k chains filtered  
449 to 40% nonredundancy. Proteins with greater than 40%  
450 sequence similarity to any chain in our test datasets are  
451 removed.

452 **General Protein Complexes** We use a subset of the  
453 publicly available Database of Interacting Protein Struc-  
454 tures (DIPS)<sup>1</sup> [71]. The training set is generated to ex-  
455 clude any complex that has any individual protein with  
456 over 30% sequence identity when aligned to any protein  
457 in the Docking Benchmark Version 5 test set (described  
458 in Section 3.3.2). We follow the training and validation  
459 splits for DIPS used in [72], with 33159 and 829 com-  
460 plexes, respectively.

461 **Antibody-Antigen Complexes** For fine-tuning on  
462 antibody complexes, we use the publicly available Struc-  
463 tural Antibody Database (SAbDab) which consists of  
464 4994 antibody structures renumbered according to the  
465 Chothia numbering scheme [73–75]. Various papers from  
466 Chothia have conflicting definitions of heavy-chain CDRs  
467 <sup>2</sup>. In light of this, we use the most recent definitions from  
468 [75]. We generate train and test splits based on antigen  
469 sequence similarity, filtering out examples where antigen  
470 chains have more than 40% sequence identity using  
471 mmseqs [76]. Before generating clusters, we removed all  
472 targets with overlap in our test sets, using the same cri-  
473 teria. We remark that no filtering is performed against  
474 antibodies. This results in roughly 3k complexes, for  
475 which we use a 8:1:1 split for training, validation, and  
476 testing.

<sup>1</sup>Downloaded from <https://github.com/drorlab/DIPS>.

<sup>2</sup>See [here](#) for a nice summary of CDR numbering schemes and changes in corresponding CDR loop definitions over time.

### 477 3.2.4 Loss

478 Our network is trained end-to-end with gradients coming 523  
479 from frame-aligned point error (FAPE), pairwise distance, 524  
480 per-residue IDDT (plDDT), and a few other auxiliary 525  
481 losses. We remark that our implementation of FAPE 526  
482 differs from that in AlphaFold2, as we use a different 527  
483 method for predicting coordinates. Other modifications 528  
484 were made in the clamping procedure of FAPE loss in 529  
485 order to facilitate faster convergence. A complete overview 530  
486 is provided in Section S2 and Figure S1. 531  
532

## 487 3.3 Evaluation Criteria

488 To measure docking prediction quality, we report interface 533  
489 root-mean-square deviation (I-RMSD), ligand root- 534  
490 mean-square deviation (L-RMSD), DockQ score and 535  
491 DockQ success rate (SR) as reported by the DockQ algorithm<sup>3</sup> 536 [77]. DockQ score is a single continuous quality 537  
492 measure for protein docking models based on the Critical 538  
493 Assessment of PRedicted Interactions (CAPRI) community 539  
494 evaluation protocol. For antibody chains, we sometimes 540  
495 report CDR-RMSD which is calculated after superimposing 541  
496 the  $C\alpha$  atoms of the heavy and light chain framework 542 regions using the Kabsch algorithm [78]. Finally, we 543 sometimes include complex root-mean-square deviation 544 (C-RMSD), which is derived by simultaneously superimposing 545 all  $C\alpha$  atoms between two protein complexes. When 546 assessing top- $k$  performance, we take the best score over the 547 top- $k$  ranked predictions of each target. 548

549 When interface residues or contacts are specified, the 549  
550 information is randomly sampled from the native complex, 550  
551 and each method is run fifteen times for each target, each 551  
552 run with different random samples. For energy-based 552  
553 methods, outputs are ranked by predicted energy. For 553  
554 our method, we use predicted interface IDDT to rank 554  
555 each prediction. (see Section S4 for details). 555

### 556 3.3.1 Docking Paradigms

557 In this paper, we are primarily concerned with predicting 557  
558 the bound conformation of a protein complex, given only 558  
559 unbound conformations of constituent chains. This is 559  
560 easily confused with *redocking*, the task of predicting a 560  
561 protein complex given *bound* conformations of each chain 561  
562 as input. Redocking is considerably easier than docking. 562  
563 For this task, traditional score-based methods are able 563  
564 to accurately predict most protein complexes. We verify 564  
565 this claim in Section S11.3, where we consider redocking 565  
566 antibody-antigen complexes. 566

567 When assessing docking performance, we sometimes 567  
568 condition on information about PPIs, such as interacting 568  
569 residues. Traditionally, amino acids are defined as interacting 569  
570 if any of their heavy atoms are within 6Å from one 570  
571 another. In this work, we used a more relaxed definition, 571  
572 where residues are defined as interacting if the distance 572  
573 between their  $C\alpha$  atoms is less than 10Å. This definition 573  
574 is more applicable to downstream protein design tasks, 574  
575 where knowledge of sequence or side-chain conformations 575  
576 may be missing or incomplete. In some cases, we provide 576  
577 the identity of select residues on the binding *interface* of 577  
578 a complex. In other settings, we provide *contacts*, which 578  
579 correspond to interacting residue pairs. We refer to the 579  
580 setting where neither interface residues nor contacts are 580  
581 specified as *blind* docking. 581

### 582 3.3.2 Benchmarks

583 For each benchmark we include only receptor-ligand 583  
584 pairs having at least four contacts, and maximum chain- 584  
585 wise RMSD less than 10Å from the bound state. We 585  
586 note that some of the baselines might have used part of 586  
587 the DB5 test set in validating their models, and thus 587  
588 the scores may be optimistic. In addition to bound and 588  
589 unbound structures, we also include comparisons using 589  
590 receptor and ligand structures predicted by AlphaFold2 590  
591 or AlphaFold-Multimer[41]. The same filtering criteria 591  
592 is applied to predicted structures. 592

593 **Antibody Benchmark (Ab-Bench) [32]** A non- 593  
594 redundant set of 46 test cases for antibody-antigen docking 594  
595 and affinity prediction. This set contains both bound 595  
596 and unbound structures with diverse CDR-loop conformations 596  
597 between the bound and unbound states, ranging from  $\leq 1\text{\AA}$  to  $\geq 4\text{\AA}$  for CDR-H3. When AlphaFold- 597  
598 predicted structures are used as input, 26 test cases are 598  
599 used. 599

600 **Docking Benchmark Version 5 (DB5) Test [33]** 600  
601 To the best of our knowledge, DB5 [33], which contains 601  
602 253 structures, is the largest dataset containing both protein 602  
603 complexes and the unbound structures of their components. 603  
604 We use a total of 42 complexes from the DB5 test set 604  
605 which are held-out by the DIPS training split. For predicted 605  
606 structures, we also gathered 26 receptor-ligand pairs 606  
607 meeting the filtering criteria. 607

608 **Rosetta Antibody Design (RAbD) [79]** A set of 608  
609 46  $\kappa$  and 14  $\lambda$  antibody-antigen complexes. The 609  
610 benchmark contains antibodies with high CDR diversity and 610  
611 a wide range of length classes. All structures have 611  
612 experimental resolution  $\leq 2.5\text{\AA}$ , buried surface area in the 612  
613 antibody-antigen complex of  $\geq 700^2$ , and contacts with 613  
614 CDRs in both the light and heavy chain regions. These 614  
615 structures were used to assess the performance of docking 615  
616 algorithms in the bound input context, and results 616  
617 are given in Section S11.3. 617

<sup>3</sup>DockQ is publicly available for download at <http://github.com/bjornwallner/DockQ/>

## 575 4 Results

576 We compare DockGPT against ZDock [55], HDock [53],  
577 PatchDock [54], and EquiDock [30]. We downloaded  
578 their code and ran them locally. More details can be  
579 found in Section S10.

580 In addition to docking software, we provide a comparison  
581 with AlphaFold-Multimer [41] in Section S6, fig. S8,  
582 and table S1. We do not do so in the main text as the  
583 focus of this manuscript is protein docking and assessing  
584 the ability of docking programs to target specific binding  
585 sites. In general, current complex prediction algorithms  
586 such as AlphaFold-Multimer do not explicitly make use  
587 of binding site information, although it may be derived  
588 implicitly via multiple sequence alignments or templates.  
589 That is, they lack the ability to target specific binding  
590 modes, which further highlights the importance of effective  
591 docking methods.

### 592 4.1 Antibody Docking

593 We now compare methods on docking antibody-antigen  
594 unbound and predicted structures from the Antibody  
595 Benchmark dataset. As shown in Figure 2, for all but  
596 a few cases, our performance on docking AlphaFold2-  
597 predicted structures roughly matches that on unbound  
598 inputs. In the interest of brevity, we report statistics for  
599 unbound inputs unless otherwise specified. Additional  
600 results and tables with RMSD and DockQ statistics are  
601 provided in Section S11.2. Results for docking RAbD  
602 bound chains are provided in Section S11.3.

603 In Figure 2C and 2D, our method obtains top performance  
604 in blind docking (i.e., no interfacial contacts or  
605 residues are provided as input), with considerably lower  
606 interface and ligand RMSD values than others. This  
607 holds regardless of whether unbound or predicted structures  
608 are used as input. This carries over to DockQ success  
609 rate where our method exceeds 25% for both input  
610 types. Since our method is deterministic, we only make a  
611 single prediction in the blind setting, thus top-1 and top-  
612 5 success rates are the same. In an attempt to improve  
613 blind-docking results, we developed a genetic algorithm  
614 which exploits our method’s ability to target different  
615 binding modes and predict docking quality. Details are  
616 given in Section S5 and examples are shown in Figure S6.  
617 This procedure increases both top-1 and top-5 success  
618 rates to 37.0% and 45.7% respectively.

619 For blind docking, traditional methods improve significantly  
620 when top-5 predictions are considered. ZDock’s  
621 top-1 predictions are successful for only one target, but  
622 this increases to 8 targets (17.4%) for top-5. Similarly,  
623 HDock improves median interface RMSD by roughly 5 Å,  
624 from 15.6 Å for top-1 to 10.8 Å for top-5. EquiDock per-  
625 forms the worst of all five methods, with no DockQ suc-  
626 cesses for unbound or predicted targets. The method’s

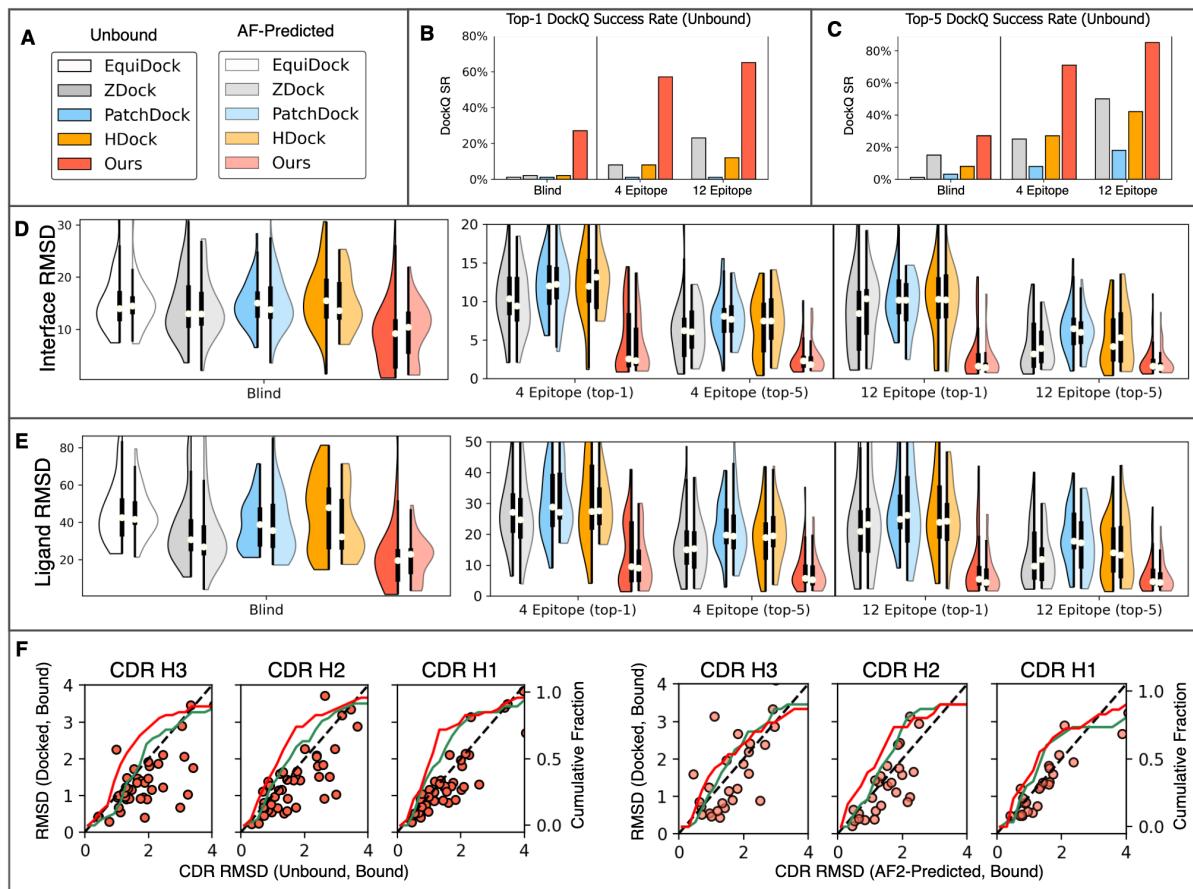
627 poor performance is likely a result of excessive steric  
628 clashes. On average, EquiDock has 581 backbone atom  
629 clashes between antibody and antigen chains. In con-  
630 trast, our method does not produce more than 3 atom  
631 clashes for any target. Clash distributions for our  
632 method and EquiDock, along with some example pre-  
633 dictions can be found in Figure S11.

634 Compared to the blind setting, performance for all meth-  
635 ods improves significantly when information of the anti-  
636 gen binding interface (epitope) is included. When four  
637 epitope residues are given, we reduce top-1 median inter-  
638 face RMSD from 9.2 Å to 3.1 Å. Top-1 ligand RMSD de-  
639 creases accordingly, from 19.5 Å to 9.5 Å. For traditional  
640 methods, the RMSD reduction is less dramatic. The  
641 best-performing traditional method, ZDock, decreases  
642 top-1 interface RMSD from 12.8 Å for blind docking to  
643 10.4 Å when 4 epitope residues are given. Even when  
644 binding interfaces are accurately predicted, traditional  
645 methods often fail to orient protein backbones prop-  
646 erly. When 12 epitope residues are provided, the lower-  
647 quartile interface RMSD of ZDock is 3.6 Å, but the same  
648 quartile ligand RMSD is 14.4 Å for top-1 predictions.  
649 On the other hand, our method obtains 1.2 Å and 3.5 Å  
650 RMSDs, respectively.

651 Parallel to blind docking performance, top-5 predic-  
652 tions of the traditional methods yield significantly higher  
653 DockQ success rates than top-1, when epitope residues  
654 are included. Furthermore, traditional methods see sub-  
655 stantial improvements on all metrics when more epitope  
656 residues are provided. HDock and ZDock obtain top-5  
657 DockQ success rates of 47.8% and 56.5% with 12 epitope  
658 residues, but only 30.4% and 28.3% with four residues.  
659 This is likely a side-effect of the post processing pro-  
660 cedure, as increasing the number of epitope residues limits  
661 the size of the effective candidate space. In contrast, our  
662 method achieves a top-5 DockQ success rate of 71.7%  
663 with four epitope residues, increasing to 87.0% with 12.  
664 This suggests that our method has learned to use binding  
665 site information as more than just a search filter.

666 Considering the relationship between binding interface  
667 quality and prediction accuracy, in Figure 2E, we con-  
668 sider the heavy chain CDR-RMSD distribution of our  
669 docked antibody structures. Here, we see that CDR loop  
670 conformations predicted by our method are closer to the  
671 ground truth than that of the unbound or AF2-Predicted  
672 input. Predicted heavy-chain CDR conformations have  
673 median RMSD 1.55 Å, 1.39 Å, and 1.81 Å compared to  
674 1.82 Å, 1.67 Å, and 1.94 Å for the unbound input. The  
675 outcome is similar starting from AF2-predicted input  
676 structures. This implies that our method goes beyond  
677 multidimensional scaling, and actually learns to incorpo-  
678 rate backbone flexibility in its predictions.

679 Results for docking bound antibody-antigen structures  
680 are radically different than those shown in Figure 2.  
681 When blind-docking bound chains HDock and Patch-



**Figure 2: Results for Antibody Benchmark Predicted and Unbound Inputs.** (A) Legends to distinguish between the five methods and the target type (predicted or unbound) in plots (B–E). (B) and (C) show top-1 and top-5 success rates for each method on unbound targets, with no epitope residues provided (blind) and 4 or 12 epitope residues provided. (D) Split violin plots showing interface RMSD distributions for docking unbound (left half) and predicted (right half) chains given 0, 4, or 12 epitope residues. Each violin plot marks the median value with a white dot, and shows the interquartile range with a bold vertical line. Both top-1 and top-5 distributions are shown when 4 and 12 epitope residues are provided. (E) Ligand RMSD distributions, in the same manner as (D). (F) Scatter plot of RMSD of heavy chain CDRs between our predicted and the ground truth (bound) complex structure. Here, the  $x$ -axis shows RMSD between the input (unbound or AF2-predicted) heavy chain CDRs and corresponding segments in the ground truth complex structure, and the  $y$ -axis shows RMSD between our predicted heavy chain CDRs and corresponding segments in the ground truth. Points below the  $y = x$  axis correspond to targets where the RMSD was lower for our predicted complex structures. The cumulative fraction of targets with CDR-RMSD less than the corresponding  $x$  value is also plotted on a secondary axis using a red line for our predictions, and a green line for unbound or predicted inputs. For these plots, we provided our method with 12 residues on the antigen epitope.

682 Dock achieve DockQ success rates of 79% and 25% re-  
 683 spectively, for RAbD targets (see Figure S10). If we fine-  
 684 tune and evaluate our model on bound antibody-antigen  
 685 chains then the blind-docking success rate increases more  
 686 than two-fold to 62%. This implies that important in-  
 687 formation about antibody-antigen binding interfaces is  
 688 captured in the bound structures, and highlights the im-  
 689 portance of comparing docking methods on benchmarks  
 690 containing unbound structures. When training and an-  
 691 alyzing on bound inputs, we still provide only a coarse

692 description of geometry, and do not consider input side-  
 693 chain conformations. We hypothesize that more fine-  
 694 grained features would significantly improve performance  
 695 for bound targets. Interestingly, although EquiDock was  
 696 trained on bound structures, the approach still under-  
 697 performs on bound targets, with a success rate of 1.2%.  
 698

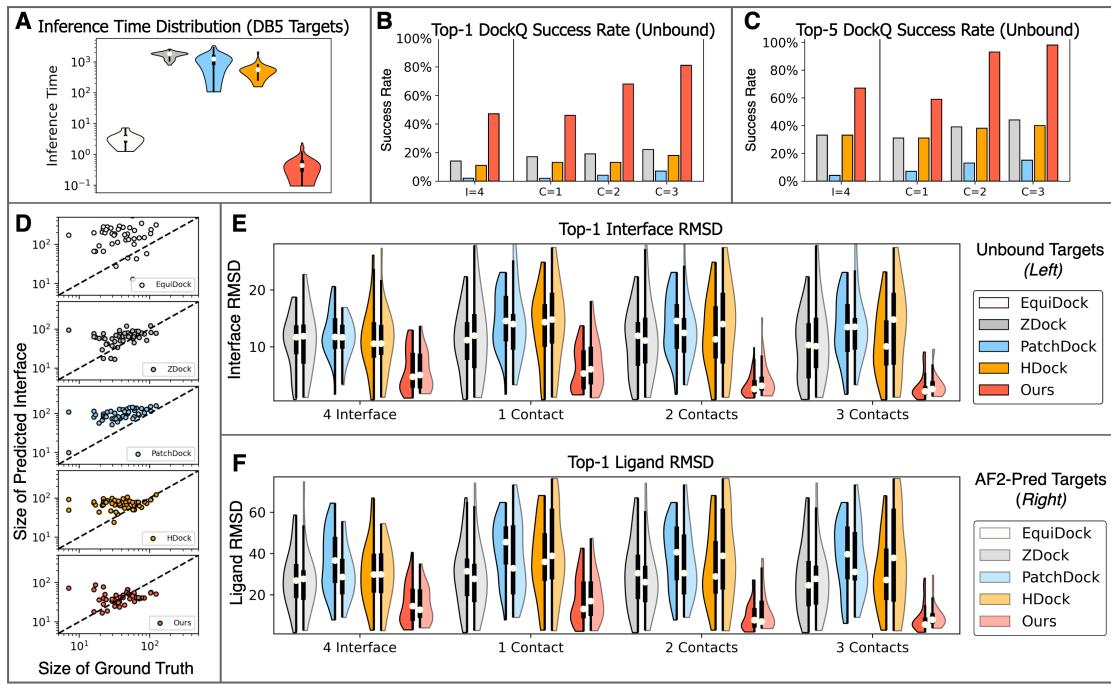


Figure 3: **Results for DB5 with AlphaFold2 predicted and unbound monomer structures as input.** (A) Per-method distribution of inference times for docking DB5 unbound targets. (B) Bar plot of Top-1 DockQ success rates for DB5 unbound targets. Each method was given one, two or three contacts ( $C = 1, 2, 3$ ), or no contacts and four residues distributed over both the receptor and ligand binding interfaces ( $I = 4$ ). (C) Bar plot of top-5 DockQ success rates, analogous to (B). (D) Scatter plot of the number of interacting residues in predicted complexes ( $y$ -axis) compared to that in the ground truth complex ( $x$ -axis). Blind docking predictions were made for all DB5 unbound targets, and interacting residues include only  $C\alpha$  atoms, with a cutoff distance of 10 Å. (E) and (F) Split violin plots of Interface-RMSD and Ligand-RMSD distributions as in Figure 2. In (B,C,E,F) we exclude EquiDock, because this method does not accept interface or contact information as input. Legends to distinguish between the five methods and target type are shown alongside RMSD distributions in (E) and (F).

## 4.2 Results for DB5 Unbound and Predicted Targets

Results for DB5 targets are shown in Figure 3. Here, we focus mainly on performance when residue contacts are provided, but also consider providing a limited number of interface residues on one or more chains. We chose to provide at most  $C = 3$  inter-chain contacts because, in theory, the number of rotational degrees of freedom for the ligand chain should be roughly  $\max(0, 3 - C)$  if the contacts are well distributed. More results for DB5 predicted and unbound targets are shown in Figures 3, S4 and S5 and section S11.1, including tables with RMSD and DockQ statistics and performance on blind docking.

For both unbound and AF2-predicted targets, supplying our model with a single contact generates better top-1 median RMSD scores than traditional methods supplied with up to three contacts. When one contact is given, DockGPT achieves a top-1 DockQ success rate of 45.2%, and 59.5% for top-5. In contrast, ZDock and HDock have less than 20% success for top-1, and 33.3% for top-

5. When 2 contacts are provided, DockGPT's top-5 predictions are correct for all but three targets, and correct for all targets with 3 contacts, in terms of DockQ score. On the other hand, the success rate of traditional methods improves only moderately, with a maximum top-5 success rate of 45.2% for ZDock across all settings.

On top of performance, our method also achieves significantly faster inference times than others, averaging inference times more than three orders of magnitude faster than ZDock, HDock, and PatchDock, and approximately 6 times faster than EquiDock.

As shown in Figure 3D, blind docking predictions for methods EquiDock, HDock, and PatchDock tend to have large binding interfaces, even when there are few contacts in the ground truth complex. The tendency is most pronounced for EquiDock, which regularly predicts receptor-ligand poses with large surface overlap. On average, EquiDock, predicts a binding interface size that is 5.4 $\times$  larger than the ground truth. PatchDock, HDock average 2.9 $\times$  and 2.3 $\times$ , that of the native complex, respectively. In contrast, ZDock and our method are the

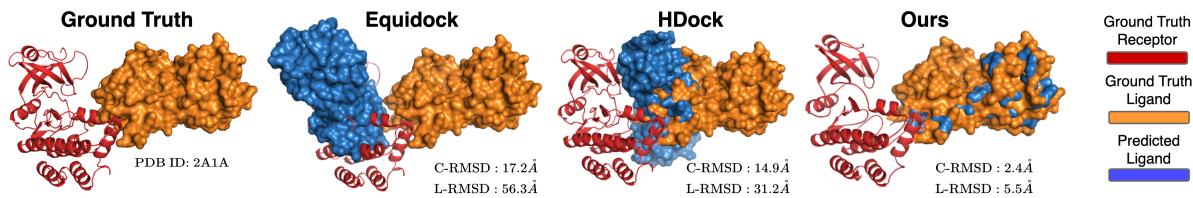


Figure 4: **Predictions for one DB5 target with unbound structure as input.** Ground-truth and docking predictions for PDB entry 2A1A. For each method, we show the surface of the predicted and ground truth ligand relative to the ground truth receptor. For this example, we selected traditional method HDock as it performed similarly or better than ZDock and PatchDock.

740 least biased, averaging  $1.9\times$  and  $1.4\times$ , respectively.

741 The tendency to predict large binding interfaces may be  
742 explained by considering the objective functions of each  
743 method. PatchDock explicitly rewards large binding in-  
744 terfaces and high shape complementarity. HDock and  
745 ZDock rank decoys by summing pairwise interfacial en-  
746 ergy terms, and larger binding pockets may offer more  
747 potential for weak yet statistically favorable interactions.  
748 EquiDock, is trained to predict keypoints corresponding  
749 to the binding interface of each chain. It may be prefer-  
750 able from a loss perspective to predict keypoints near the  
751 chain’s center of mass when the binding interface is hard  
752 to discern. In theory, a chain’s center of mass offers a  
753 low-variance estimation of the true binding pocket. Fi-  
754 nally, our method is trained with clamped FAPE loss and  
755 thus all predictions that deviate beyond the clamp value  
756 are equally “bad” in a loss sense.

757 An example of the behavior described in the previous  
758 paragraph is shown in Figure 4. Although EquiDock’s  
759 prediction is physically unrealistic, it still compares simi-  
760 larly to HDock in terms of interface and complex RMSD.  
761 EquiDock’s prediction has an interface RMSD of  $14.8\text{\AA}$ ,  
762 and a complex RMSD of  $17.2\text{\AA}$ , whereas HDock obtains  
763  $20.5\text{\AA}$  and  $14.9\text{\AA}$  respectively. It is also clear that HDock  
764 predicts a large binding interface for this target, even  
765 though the true binding interface is relatively small. This  
766 example also highlights the importance of assessing lig-  
767 and RMSD in addition to complex and interface RMSD.

### 768 4.3 CDR-Loop Design

769 We now show how our model can be adapted to perform  
770 simultaneous docking, and sequence-structure co-design.  
771 For this task, we provide results for antibody CDR-loop  
772 generation, focusing on heavy chain CDRs H1-H3. We  
773 note that our method also designs light chain CDRs, but  
774 we omit this for brevity. In the remainder of this sec-  
775 tion, we briefly outline the modifications made to our  
776 approach and provide a comparison with other protein

777 design frameworks tailored towards antibodies. More de-  
778 tails and results can be found in Section S8.

779 **Modifications to our approach** In order to perform  
780 joint imputation of sequence and complex structure, we  
781 retrained our model using data as described in Sec-  
782 tion 3.2.2, and all of same features as described in Sec-  
783 tion 3.1, except for residue degree centrality. We add one  
784 additional residue feature, which is a one-hot encoding of  
785 secondary structure using three classes for sheets, helices  
786 and loops. We encode all CDR residues as loops dur-  
787 ing inference, and do not apply masking to this feature  
788 during training. We found that the secondary structure  
789 encoding improved convergence when transitioning from  
790 pre-training to fine-tuning on antibody structures. Dur-  
791 ing pre-training we masked linear segments of a randomly  
792 selected chain, sampling the segments based on proxim-  
793 ity to the chain’s binding interface. The length of the  
794 masked segment is selected from a geometric distribution  
795 as  $\text{geom}(\frac{1}{15})$ . For each residue in the chosen segment, we  
796 replace the corresponding features with separate  $\langle \text{MASK} \rangle$   
797 parameters except for relative sequence position and rel-  
798 ative sequence separation. To be clear, no inter-atom  
799 distance or orientation information is given to our deep  
800 learning model for masked residues.

801 **Evaluation metrics and results** To generate our  
802 method’s results in Table 1, we provide four native  
803 antibody-antigen contacts, and produce five decoys per  
804 target. The decoy with the highest predicted interface  
805 pLDDT is selected for the comparison.

806 Although our method receives only coarse information  
807 pertaining to antibody and antigen structures, we are  
808 still able to recover antibody framework regions with sub-  
809 Angstrom RMSD. Furthermore, none of the four other  
810 methods are capable of designing CDR loop regions in  
811 the presence of an antigen; for these methods the se-  
812 quence and structure generation results in Table 1 are  
813 generated on bound heavy-light chains, with the bound  
814 antigen omitted. In contrast, our method simultane-  
815 ously docks and designs all six heavy and light chain CDR-  
816 loops and sequences simultaneously. Additional results  
817 and examples can be found in Section S8

Method	Structure Prediction				Sequence Prediction				
	RMSD↓				PPL↓			NSR↑	PPL↓
	H1	H2	H3	Fr	H1	H2	H3	H1-H3	
Ours	1.11	1.02	<b>1.88</b>	0.72	<b>4.46</b>	<b>6.71</b>	10.68	<b>39.7%</b>	7.67
CoordVAE [50]	<b>0.96</b>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>1.95</u>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refine-GNN [48]	1.18	<b>0.87</b>	2.50	—	<u>6.09</u>	<u>6.58</u>	<b>8.38</b>	35.4%	—
AR-GNN [48, 80]	2.97	2.27	3.63	—	6.44	6.86	<u>9.44</u>	23.9%	—
LSTM [81, 82]	—	—	—	—	6.79	7.21	9.70	22.5%	—

Table 1: **CDR-loop design.** Performance of our method and four others on the task of predicting CDR H1-H3 loop conformation and sequence. For our method, “FT” denotes fine-tuning on antibody structures. The columns H1-H3 show the  $C\alpha$ -RMSD of heavy chain CDR H1-H3 between predicted and native structures. For our method, we also list the RMSD of the predicted and bound framework regions under column “Fr”. Perplexity (PPL) of sequence predictions for each CDR loop are shown in separate columns. Finally, overall perplexity and native sequence recovery across all loop regions is shown in the rightmost columns. We note that AR-GNN and Refine-GNN predict sequence and structure for each CDR loop region separately, while conditioning on the native sequence and structure of the other CDR regions. This may result in slightly lower perplexity for these models.

## 5 Concluding Remarks

In this work, we developed DockGPT, a deep learning architecture for flexible protein docking with applications to *de novo* design of protein-binding proteins. Unlike other methods, our approach circumvents explicitly training on bound structures, and offers a natural approach to modeling conformational flexibility in complex prediction. By comparison across multiple benchmarks, we show that DockGPT meets or exceeds state of the art methods on rigorous quality metrics while also making better use of binding site information when it’s available. With significantly reduced inference times and explicit confidence estimates, we anticipate that our model will find further applications to machine-learning based virtual screening and *de novo* design platforms.

Despite our success, there are several limitations and extensions of our approach left open for future investigation. We use only a single atom type and threshold to supply our model with interface and contact information. Although it is straightforward to incorporate more fine-grained binding site information, we did not explore this here. Parallel to this, supplying noisy or probabilistic binding site information could potentially improve performance and generalization. Although we do not provide explicit details in the main text, we remark that the current training procedure enables generation of diverse conformations by enumerating random contacts. We show in Section S5 how this can be used to rank and generate diverse binding modes, and ultimately improve blind docking. We suspect that this approach can be refined or extended to achieve even better performance. Although some of our deep network components were

drawn from AlphaFold2, we do not incorporate any MSA information. We expect that MSA embeddings would be especially helpful in the blind docking setting. Finally, for *de novo* design tasks, we only analyzed our model on CDR loop design, and do not include estimates of binding affinity or free energy. Evaluation across more rigorous criteria and a broader range of design tasks must still be performed. We hope that future work will address some of these issues and develop this approach further.

## 6 Author Contributions and Acknowledgements

J.X. conceived and supervised the project and revised the manuscript. M.M. conceived and developed the machine learning algorithm, collected the results, built the datasets, and wrote the manuscript. M.M and J.X. analyzed the results. The authors are thankful to members of the Xu group for helpful discussions. The authors also thank Xiaoyang Jing for generating AlphaFold2 predicted structures for our benchmarks.

## 7 Data Availability

Code is withheld until formal publication.

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## Supplementary Information

### S1 Architecture and Hyperparameter Details

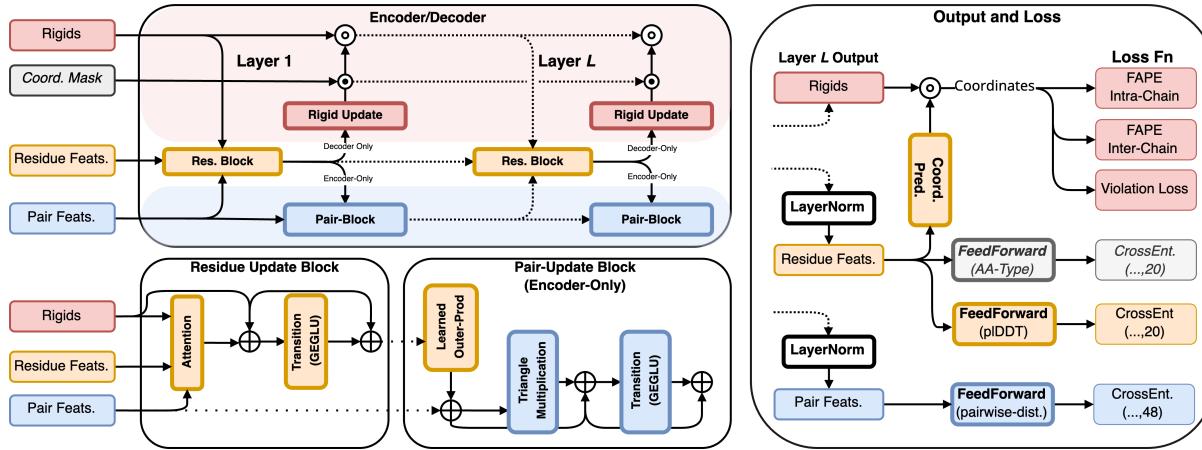


Figure S1: **Architecture and Loss.** Learnable modules are shown with bold text and bold borders. Modules operating on residue features are shown in orange and those operating on pair features are shown in blue. Modules making direct or indirect use of coordinates are shown in red. Optional input and modules for sequence and structure co-generation are shown in light gray. We use  $\oplus$  to denote residual operations,  $\odot$  to denote element-wise multiplication, and  $\odot$  to denote the element-wise composition of two rigid transformations. Labeling of IPA and pair blocks with the index of their respective layer is omitted, as block weights may be shared across multiple layers. We highlight with a blue/red background those modules which are encoder/decoder specific (i.e. pair updates are omitted in the decoder, and rigids are omitted in the encoder). The structure encoder uses pair-biased multi-head attention for its residue update block, and the structure decoder used invariant point attention. Finally, layer normalization is applied, but not displayed here, except for in deriving the output.

Figure S1 shows a schematic overview of our model architecture and loss. We do not explicitly show our structure encoder module, since it differs only slightly from the structure decoder; the rigid update is removed, and IPA block is replaced with a pair-biased attention block. Though not displayed in the figure, we follow the Pre-LayerNorm scheme described in [83] where layer normalization [84] is placed inside the attention and transition residuals. In addition (pun intended), we use ReZero [85] for all residuals. Each feed-forward transition consists of one hidden layer having dimension four times that of the input dimension. For pointwise nonlinearity, we use gated GELU (GeGLU) based on success in other sequence modeling tasks [86, 87]. The Learned Outer-Prod module is nearly identical to that of the outer-product mean module described in [34], except we use a smaller intermediate dimension ( $c = 16$  vs.  $c = 32$ ), and skip the mean operation. The rigid update maps residue features to a per-residue rigid rotation and translation. This is implemented as a learned linear projection preceded by layer normalization. The composition of rigid transformations is implemented in the same manner as the backbone update in AlphaFold2 (see [34] Supp. Material, Algorithm 23). In some settings, the ability to incorporate prior coordinate information may be useful. Specifically, a subset of coordinates can be held fixed by replacing the corresponding rigid rotation and translation updates with the respective identity transformations (i.e.  $\mathbf{I}_3$  and  $\vec{\mathbf{0}}$ ). More details on this are provided in Section S7.

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We use a hidden dimension of 256 for residue features and 128 for pair features in both submodules. All triangle multiplication updates use four heads of dimension 32 for queries and values. In the encoder submodule, we use eight attention heads of dimension 32 for each residue update block. Decoder IPA uses 12 heads per block, with dimension 16 for scalar features, and dimensions four and eight for point queries and values.

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## 1260 S2 Loss Details

1261 We use the same loss function for pre-training and fine tuning. Each term in the loss (shown in the equation below)  
 1262 is described in the remainder of this section.

$$\mathcal{L} = 1.0\mathcal{L}_{\text{FAPE}} + 1.0\mathcal{L}_{\text{aux-FAPE}} + 0.5\mathcal{L}_{\text{dist}} + 0.5\mathcal{L}_{\text{pIDDT}} + 0.2\mathcal{L}_{\text{viol}} \quad (8)$$

1263 Similar to AlphaFold2, we also apply an averaged FAPE loss  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{aux-FAPE}}$ , on the intermediate structures produced  
 1264 by the shared-weight layers of our decoder module. For the results in Sections 4.3 and S8, we add an additional  
 1265 term which is an averaged cross-entropy loss for amino acid identity, given weight 0.5

### 1266 S2.1 Notation

1267 We stick with the convention of using  $x_i$  and  $\mathbf{x}_i$  to distinguish between the individual data point  $x_i$  and the set of  
 1268 data points  $\{x_i\}_{i=1..n}$  indexed by  $i$ . 3D rigid transformations  $T = (R, \vec{t})$  are represented by a rotation  $R \in SO(3)$ ,  
 1269 and translation  $\vec{t} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . We use  $T \circ T' \triangleq (RR', \vec{t} + R\vec{t}')$  to denote the composition of two rigid transformations  $T$   
 1270 and  $T'$ . We use  $T(\vec{x}) \triangleq R\vec{x} + \vec{t}$  to denote the action of the rigid transformation on a vector  $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . For notational  
 1271 convenience, and as a visual aid, we adopt the notation  $[\vec{x}]_T \triangleq T^{-1}(\vec{x})$  to denote the vector of coordinates  $x$  in the  
 1272 local frame defined by the rigid transformation  $T$ .

1273 In the remainder of this section, we will use  $n$  to denote the number of input residues, and  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k \subseteq \{1..n\}$  to  
 1274 denote the indices of residues in chains one and two respectively (i.e.  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_k$  is a partition of  $\{1..n\}$ ). We assume  
 1275 that we have output residue features  $\mathbf{x}_i$ , pair features  $\mathbf{e}_{ij}$ , and predicted rigid transformations  $\mathbf{T}_i = \{(R_i, \vec{t}_i)\}_i$   
 1276 for each residue  $i \in \{1..n\}$ . We also assume predicted coordinates  $\vec{x}_i^a = \{\vec{x}_i^a\}_{i,a}$  for each output atom type  $a \in \mathcal{A}$   
 1277 derived as described in Section 3.2.1. When applicable, we use a superscript  $*$  to distinguish between predicted and  
 1278 ground-truth data.

### 1279 Per Residue IDDT

1280 Residue output features are used to predict per-residue local distance difference test scores (pIDDT). In defining the  
 1281 labels to evaluate on, there are two reasonable approaches. The first approach directly uses predicted coordinates,

$$\text{pIDDT}_i = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{N}(i)|} \cdot \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \text{IDDT} \left( \text{abs} \left( \|\vec{t}_i^* - \vec{t}_j^*\|_2 - \|\vec{t}_i^* - \vec{t}_j^*\|_2 \right) \right) \quad (9)$$

1282 where  $\mathcal{N}(i) = \{j : \|\vec{t}_i^* - \vec{t}_j^*\|_2 < 12\text{\AA}\}$ , and

$$\text{IDDT}(d) = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \sum_{k=0}^3 \mathbf{1}_{d \leq 2^{k-1}} \quad (10)$$

1283 The alternative approach compares coordinates as they are seen in the predicted local frames of each residue. For  
 1284 this, we use predicted rigid transformations  $\mathbf{T}_i = (R_i, \vec{t}_i)_{i=1..n}$  and true rigid transformations  $\mathbf{T}_i^* = (R_i^*, \vec{t}_i^*)_{i=1..n}$  obtained from  
 1285 the native conformation to compute the local pIDDT score as:

$$\text{pIDDT-Local}_i = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{N}(i)|} \cdot \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \text{IDDT} \left( \text{abs} \left( \left\| [\vec{t}_i]_{T_i} - [\vec{t}_j]_{T_i} \right\|_2 - \left\| [\vec{t}_i^*]_{T_i^*} - [\vec{t}_j^*]_{T_i^*} \right\|_2 \right) \right) \quad (11)$$

$$= \frac{1}{|\mathcal{N}(i)|} \cdot \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} \text{IDDT} \left( \text{abs} \left( \left\| [\vec{t}_j]_{T_i} \right\|_2 - \left\| [\vec{t}_j^*]_{T_i^*} \right\|_2 \right) \right). \quad (12)$$

1286 Ultimately, we use the standard pIDDT to train our model. Although local-frame coordinates and distances are  
 1287 compared in each IPA head, we found that the local pIDDT produces less accurate confidence estimates, and is

also more difficult to optimize. Nevertheless, we include the alternative definition as it may be of interest to some readers. 1288  
1289

To compute plDDT loss, we pass our output residue features  $\mathbf{x}_i$  through a shallow feedforward network with output representing 20 equal-width binned log likelihoods in the range  $[0, 1]$ . The predictions are compared with the ground-truth labels  $\text{plDDT}_i$  by cross entropy loss. 1290  
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## Pairwise Distance 1293

We predict pairwise distances for four atom pairs  $(C\alpha, X)$ , where  $X \in \{N, C\alpha, C, C\beta\}$  from 2-20Å using a bin width of 0.4Å. An extra bin is added for distances beyond 20Å. We do not separate inter and intra-chain atom pairs. Cross entropy loss is applied to compare the prediction to the ground truth. 1294  
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## Violation Loss 1297

Unlike AlphaFold2, we predict only a single rigid transformation for each input residue. This means that intra-residue bond lengths and angles must be learned in the linear projection used to obtain predicted atom coordinates. We find that violation loss is very important for generating physically realistic conformations, and also for avoiding unfavorable steric interactions such as surface intersection. Here we use the same violation loss as defined in AlphaFold-Multimer; bond angle, bond length, and one-sided flat bottom steric penalty. We omit the “Center of Mass” loss [41, eq.1] as it had no empirical effect on performance. 1298  
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## FAPE 1304

Here we describe a slight modification of the frame aligned point error (FAPE) loss described in [34, 41]. We reiterate that only a single rigid transformation is predicted for each residue, and thus rigid transformations for each output atom type cannot be directly compared. 1305  
1306  
1307

Given predicted atom coordinates  $\vec{x}_j^a$  for each atom  $a \in \mathcal{A}_j$  of residue  $j$ , we compute the per-residue FAPE, (pFAPE) for residue  $i$  as 1308  
1309

$$\text{pFAPE} (T_i, \vec{x}_j^a; \theta) = \text{mean}_{j, a \in \mathcal{A}_j} \left( \min \left( \left\| [\vec{x}_j^a]_{T_i} - [\vec{x}_j^{a,*}]_{T_i^*} \right\|_2, \theta \right) \right) \quad (13)$$

the FAPE loss over all residues is then 1310

$$\text{FAPE} (\mathbf{T}_i, \vec{x}_j^a; \theta) = \frac{1}{\theta} \cdot \text{mean}_i (\text{pFAPE} (T_i, \vec{x}_j^a; \theta)) \quad (14)$$

Our network employs two FAPE loss terms, each with equal weight. The first,  $\text{FAPE}_{intra}$  is intra-chain FAPE which restricts the computation to pairwise relative coordinates within the same chain. The second is Inter-chain FAPE which applies the loss between atom coordinates in separate chains. Formally, 1311  
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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{FAPE}} = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \sum_{c \in \{c_1, \dots, c_k\}} \left( \underbrace{\text{FAPE} \left( \{T_i\}_{i \in c}, \{x_j^a\}_{j \in c}; \theta_{intra} \right)}_{\text{intra-FAPE}} + \underbrace{\text{FAPE} \left( \{T_i\}_{i \in c}, \{x_j^a\}_{j \notin c}; \theta_{inter} \right)}_{\text{inter-FAPE}} \right). \quad (15)$$

Following AlphaFold-Multimer, we use  $\theta_{intra} = 10$ , and  $\theta_{inter} = 30$  with probability 0.9 and randomly set  $\theta = \infty$  for each FAPE type with probability 0.1. 1314  
1315

## S3 Training Details 1316

All models were trained on 48Gb Nvidia RTX A6000 GPUs and optimized using Adam [88] with default parameters ( $\beta_1 = 0.9$ ,  $\beta_2 = 0.999$ ,  $\epsilon = 10^{-8}$ ), with learning rate  $10^{-3}$  during pre-training, and  $5 \cdot 10^{-4}$  afterwards. We apply per-example gradient clipping by global norm as described in [34, supplementary material, section 1.11.3], and scale the loss of each example by the log of the total number of residues to up-weight larger complexes. We validate our 1317  
1318  
1319  
1320

1321 model every 500 mini-batches, using a minibatch size of 24. We train our model for at most 15 epochs, and apply  
1322 early stopping with patience of eight validation steps. Since ReZero is used for residuals, we do not use any learning  
1323 rate warm-up.

1324 During the mixed monomer/multimer pre-training phase we crop complex chains so that the total number of residues  
1325 does not exceed 500. We also remark that during the pre-training stage we append a binary flag to each residue  
1326 and pair feature indicating whether the input corresponds to a single chain – in which case the chain should be  
1327 treated as rigid. For general multimer training and antibody fine-tuning we place the encoder and decoder modules  
1328 on separate GPUs and increase the crop size to 800 amino acids. Any complex containing a chain with more than  
1329 550 residues is removed from our training datasets. When cropping antibody-antigen complex chains, we randomly  
1330 sample a contiguous subset of antigen residues so that the total number of resulting residues is 800. We follow the  
1331 same strategy for general proteins, but choose a chain to crop at random. We note that no cropping was performed  
1332 at inference time for any of the results in this paper.

1333 **Rationale for Single Chain Pre-Training** While developing this model, we first ran experiments to understand  
1334 how well our architecture performed on multidimensional scaling tasks. For this, we sought to recover the  $C\alpha$  trace  
1335 of protein chains given only distance and inter-residue orientation. We found that our deep model was able to  
1336 recover the original  $C\alpha$ -trace with sub-angstrom RMSD using a 2 Å resolution for distances, and 20° resolution for  
1337 angles after around 4k mini batches (approximately 1.5 epochs).

1338 We attempted to apply the same model to rigid-docking, providing the same intra-chain information, but excluding  
1339 all inter-chain features. In these experiments, the model struggled to reconstruct the conformations of the respective  
1340 chains with reasonable accuracy, and showed a tendency to favor auxiliary loss terms such as intra-chain pairwise  
1341 distance loss. This behavior persisted even after significantly more gradient updates (see Figure S2).

1342 Considering this, we decided to separate FAPE loss into inter and intra-chain components, similar to what is done  
1343 in [41], and pre-train our model on a 50-50 split of protein complexes and monomers. This resulted in significantly  
1344 faster convergence in FAPE loss and far more accurate 3D-models. We remark that a single float (1 or 0) is appended  
1345 to each residue and pair feature to indicate if the input is a complex or monomer.

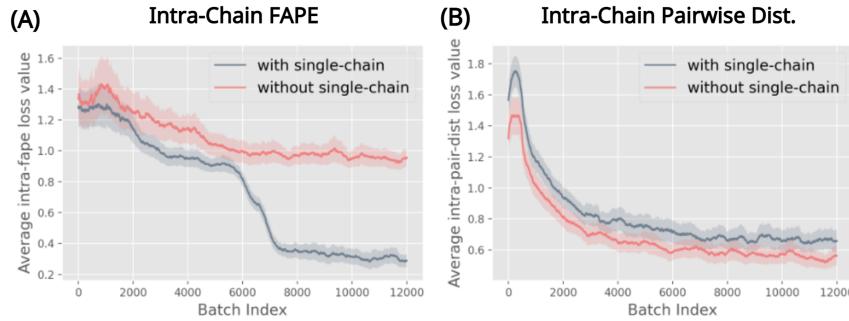
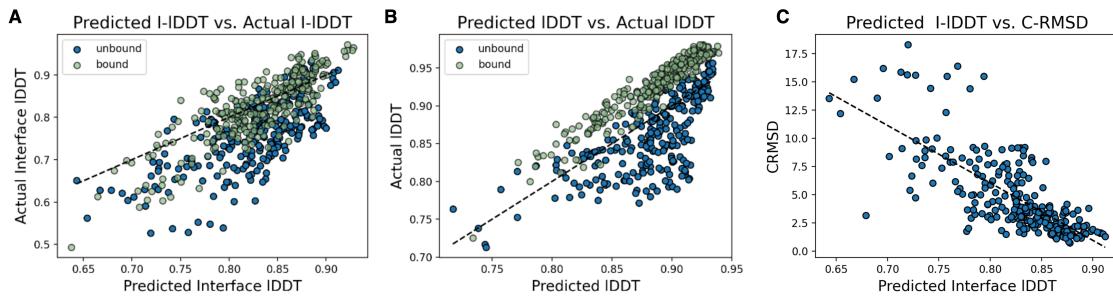


Figure S2: **Training loss with and without monomer pre-training.** (A) intra-chain FAPE loss (y-axis) and optimizer updates (x-axis). (B) Intra-chain pairwise distance loss (y-axis) and optimizer updates (x-axis).

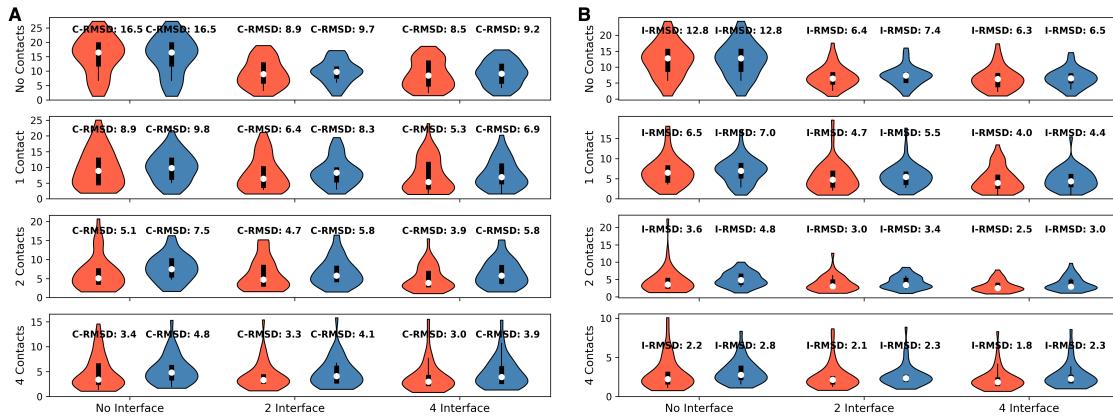
## 1346 S4 Decoy Ranking with Predicted IDDT

1347 In Section 4 we mention that decoys for each docking target are ranked by predicted interface IDDT (I-plDDT). We  
1348 now describe this procedure in more detail. We define the predicted binding interface as the set of residues having at  
1349 least one predicted inter-chain contact; a pair of residues from distinct chains, with  $C\alpha$  distance between predicted  
1350 coordinates less than 10 Å. The true (actual) binding interface is defined analogously with respect to the ground  
1351 truth complex. To rank decoys for a given target, we take an average of the per-residue IDDT as predicted for those  
1352 residues on the predicted binding interface. The plDDT score for a given residue is taken as an expectation with  
1353 respect to the predicted logits. Similarly, the predicted IDDT for a decoy is defined as the average over predicted  
1354 plDDT for all residues in the complex.



**Figure S3: Analysis of IDDT predictions.** Each plot shows results for predictions made on DB5 bound or unbound input chains, providing the model four interface residues and four contacts sampled at random from the ground truth complex. Each dot represents a decoy generated from bound or unbound input chains. A total of five decoys were generated for each target. Correlation coefficients for predictions derived from unbound and bound targets are denoted with  $\rho_u$  and  $\rho_b$  respectively. (A) scatter plot of predicted IDDT (x-axis) for the predicted binding interface against actual IDDT (y-axis) for the ground truth binding interface. Unbound targets are shown in blue ( $\rho_u = 0.69$ ) and bound targets are shown in green ( $\rho_b = 0.83$ ). We remark that the predicted and actual interfaces may differ. (B) Scatter plot of predicted IDDT (x-axis) and actual IDDT (y-axis) for bound and unbound targets ( $\rho_u = 0.70$ ),  $\rho_b = 0.95$ ). (C) Scatter plot of predicted IDDT using the predicted binding interface against the complex RMSD of the predicted structure ( $\rho_u = -0.74$ ).

Figure S3 shows scatter plots of predicted IDDT and predicted I-IDDT for DB5 bound and unbound targets. In plot (C), we find a strong correlation between I-pIDDT and complex RMSD for unbound targets, suggesting that this quantity is effective for ranking decoy structures. We explore this further in Figure S4, which compares the complex (A) and interface (B) RMSD distributions of decoys selected by pIDDT (orange) and the same distributions computed over all decoys (blue). In this figure, we again generate five decoys per target, and assess across 12 binding site settings, varying the number of provided contacts or interface residues in each setting. Mean and median RMSD scores for selected decoys are lower across all binding site contexts. RMSD distributions of decoys selected by interface pIDDT are also consistently more concentrated at lower values.



**Figure S4: Selection overview for DB5 unbound targets (without recycling iterations).** For this experiment we generate five decoys for each target using a reduced model (no side chain prediction, no recycling). Each row/column corresponds a number of provided contacts/ interface residues. This information is derived as a random sample from the native conformation. For each violin plot, we compare the complex RMSD (C-RMSD, (A)) or Interface RMSD (I-RMSD, (B)) of all predictions (blue) against the prediction for each target having highest predicted interface pIDDT (orange). We remark that results in the two plots use only  $C\alpha$  atoms to compute each RMSD type, and as such, may differ slightly from the results reported in other sections.

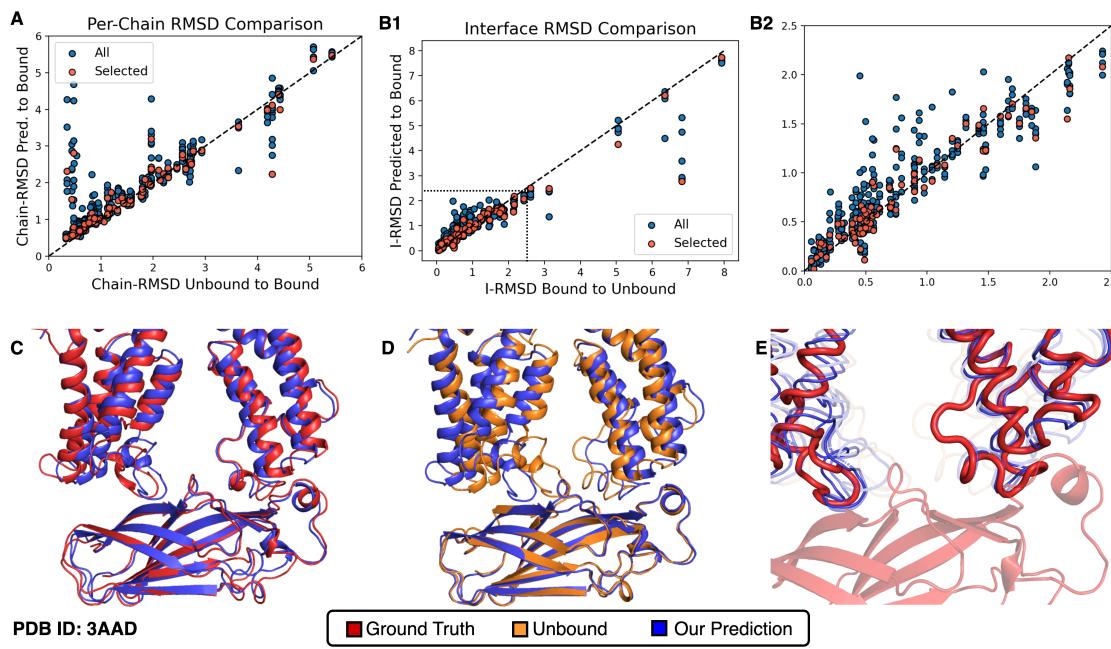


Figure S5: **Examination of conformational flexibility for DB5 unbound targets.** As in Figure S3, we generate 5 predictions per DB5 target, using unbound chains as input to our model. For each prediction, we provide our model with three contacts sampled at random. (A) Scatter plot of receptor/ligand chain-wise RMSD between bound and unbound chains ( $x$ -axis) against predicted and bound chains ( $y$ -axis). Red dots show the decoy with highest predicted interface pLDDT for each target. (B1) Shows the interface RMSD in the same manner as (A). (B2) zooms in on the 0-2.5 Å range of (B1). (C-E) Cartoon representations of our prediction, bound, and unbound chains for DB5 target 3AAD. (C) Our top-ranked prediction for DB5 target 3AAD using unbound chains as input is shown in blue, and the bound conformation is shown in red. (D) Cartoon representations of our top-ranked prediction (blue) and unbound chains (orange) for target 3AAD. For this image, unbound chains are optimally aligned to respective bound chains using a chain-wise Kabsch alignment. (E) Our model's top-3 ranked predictions for 3AAD, colored by predicted interface IDDT. Lower transparency is used to denote lower predicted interface-LDDT. For this target, the RMSD between bound and unbound receptor chains (top, helices) is 4.18 Å, and 2.05 Å for the ligand chain (bottom, sheets). The interface RMSD is  $\approx 6.8$  Å when bound and unbound chains are optimally aligned. Our top ranking prediction obtains an interface RMSD of 2.6 Å.

1363 Last, we consider our model's ability to predict conformation changes upon binding. In Figure S5(A,B) we see that  
 1364 the chain-wise RMSD between predicted and unbound structures is similar for all but a handful of targets. In terms  
 1365 of interface RMSD, predicted structures are slightly more similar to that of the bound conformation, especially  
 1366 when there are larger discrepancies in the interface of aligned bound and unbound structures.

1367 Unfortunately, the conformation similarity between DB5 bound and unbound structures is relatively high, and more  
 1368 diverse structures should be examined before drawing conclusions from these results. Nevertheless, in Figure S5  
 1369 (C and D) we consider a case study on PDB entry 3AAD, where our model predicts a conformation diverging  
 1370 significantly from the unbound state. For this target, our model with highest predicted interface IDDT has interface  
 1371 RMSD 2.6 Å, whereas an optimal alignment mapping the unbound chains to the bound complex has interface RMSD  
 1372 6.8 Å. Moreover, our model predicts a conformation for the helical receptor chain that is only 2.2 Å from that of the  
 1373 bound conformation; compared to 4.2 for unbound-bound conformation. We remark that the maximum sequence  
 1374 identity between target 3AAD and any training example is only 9%.

## 1375 S5 Genetic Algorithm for Protein-Protein Docking

1376 Although our method is deterministic, sampling can still be performed by providing different subsets of inter-  
 1377 chain contacts of binding interface residues for the same example. To sample conformations in the absence of  
 1378 interfacial residue and contact information, we use a genetic algorithm to guide complex predictions towards high

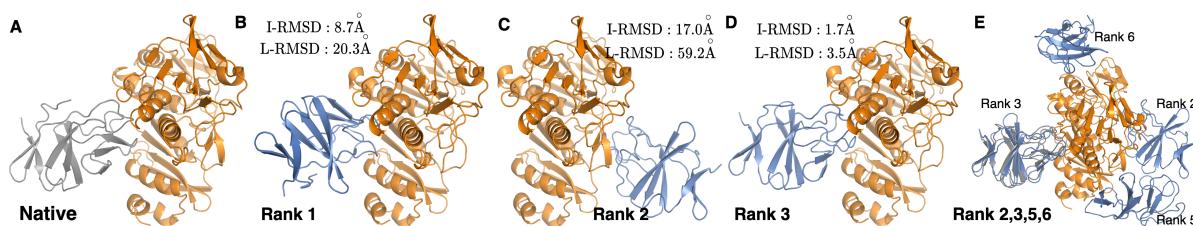
confidence binding modes. Any genetic algorithm consists of three main components: (1) a genetic representation of the solution domain, (2) a “fitness” function to assess population quality, (3) a mutation function which alters representations, and (4) a crossover function which combines two representations. Given an initial population of solution candidates, the algorithm then proceeds to produce new “generations” by assessing the fitness of each candidate and stochastically selecting those with favorable fitness to combine or mutate. We run this procedure for a total of 10 generations, using an initial population size of 50, and subsequent population sizes of 25. We describe each component of our algorithm below.

**Solution Representation** Solutions are represented as a binary vector of interface residues. The length of this vector is  $L_{rec} + L_{lig}$  where  $L_{rec}$  is the length of the receptor chain, and  $L_{lig}$  is the length of the ligand chain. Each position of the vector corresponds to a residue in one of the chains, and a one at position  $i$  is meant to indicate that this residue  $i$  is part of the binding interface.

**Initial Population** To generate initial candidates  $\{X_0^{(0)}, \dots, X_{n^{(0)}}^{(0)}\}$ , we randomly sample a single residue on the surface of receptor and ligand chains, and provide these two residues as the “interface-residue” feature. For antibodies, we restrict the sampling to residues in CDR H1-3 loops. Random surface residues are chosen by scaling a 3-dimensional Gaussian (direction), to the maximum distance between any two residues in the protein, and then choosing the residue closest to this point.

**Fitness Function** To evaluate the fitness of each candidate, we use the candidate solution as the binding interface feature for our method, and then compute a function of predicted interface-pLDDT on the output. We choose  $f(X, t) = \exp[t \cdot (I\text{-pLDDT}(X))]$  where  $t$  is a scaling parameter (chosen ad hoc as one plus the index of the current iteration).

**Mutation Function** Given a set of solution candidates,  $\{X_1^{(1)}, \dots, X_{n^{(1)}}^{(1)}\}$  and corresponding structures generated at time  $t$ , we select a subset of  $n = n^{(t+1)}$  with replacement according to the fitness function  $f(\cdot, t+1)$ , and randomly sub-sample six residues on the predicted binding interface. We choose to sample a fixed number here because we empirically found that predicted interface IDDT scores have a modest correlation with the number of interface residues provided as input.



**Figure S6: Genetic Algorithm Explores Diverse Binding Modes** Ground truth and example predictions from our genetic algorithm for DB5 target 2YVJ. In all sub-figures, the ground truth receptor is shown in orange, the bound ligand is shown in gray, and our predictions are shown in blue. (A) Bound complex of DB5 Target 2YVJ. (B–D) the top three ranked predictions using our genetic algorithm. (E) Rank 2, 3, 5, and 6 predictions from our genetic algorithm. Rank 1 and rank 4 predictions are omitted for visual clarity, as they clash with some other predictions. The bound ligand is also shown in gray. Although our method fails to generate an accurate top-1 prediction, our third ranked prediction successfully docks to the same interfacial region.

## S6 Comparison to AlphaFold-Multimer

We compare our method with AlphaFold-Multimer in the blind docking setting on DB5 and Ab-Bench benchmarks described in Section 3.3.2. In addition to comparing the two methods directly, we also include a hybrid approach (Ours + AF). For this approach, we provide our method with up to three randomly sampled residues from antibody-antigen binding interfaces predicted by AlphaFold-Multimer. No information of native complexes is used for our method. We generated 100 decoys for each target, and selected the decoy with highest predicted interface IDDT as our final prediction (selection as described in Section S4). The results are shown in Table S1.

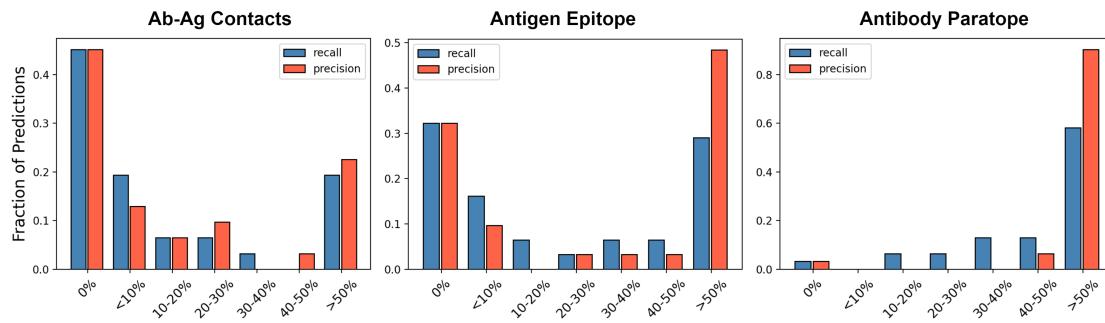


Figure S7: **Binding site precision and recall for AlphaFold-Multimer on Ab-Bench targets.** Histograms of binding site precision and recall for AlphaFold-Multimer predicted structures on Ab-Bench targets. Recovered contacts, antigen binding interface (epitope) and antibody binding interface (paratope) is shown from left to right.

1411 Motivating the hybrid approach, we analyzed binding site information extracted from AlphaFold-Multimer predictions (Figure S7). As expected, AlphaFold-Multimer recovers the antibody paratope with high precision. Perhaps 1412 more surprising, we see that at least part of the antigen epitope is recovered with relatively high precision, but lower 1413 recall. Noticing this, we conjectured that our results may be improved by sampling a limited number of predicted 1414 binding modes and ranking predictions. 1415

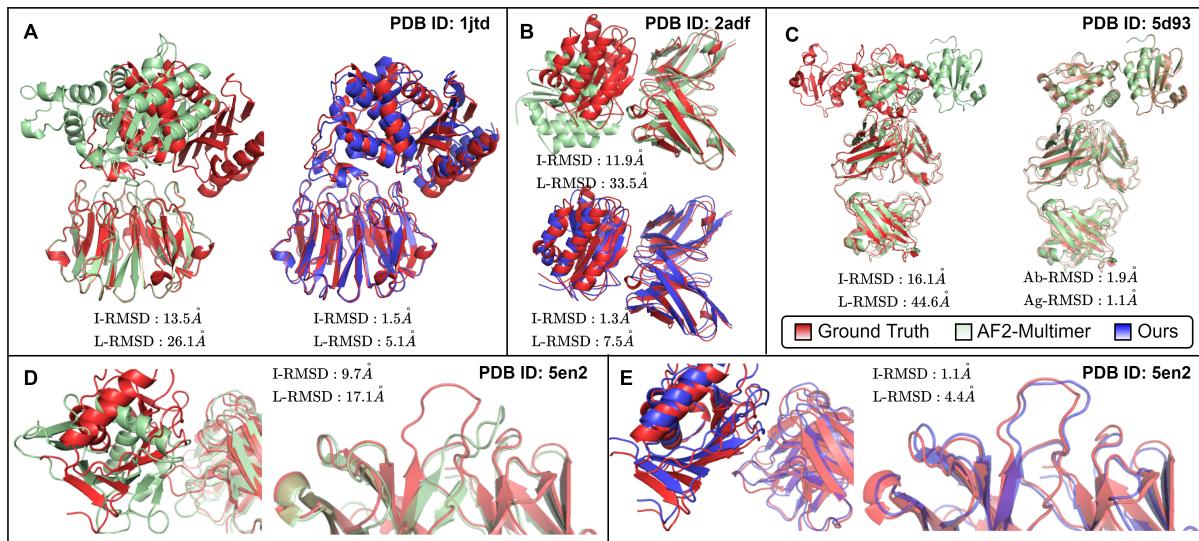
	Top-1												Top-5														
	DockQ↑			I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓			DockQ↑			I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓			25 <sup>th</sup>			50 <sup>th</sup>			75 <sup>th</sup>		
	SR (%)			25 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> 75 <sup>th</sup>			25 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> 75 <sup>th</sup>			SR (%)			25 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> 75 <sup>th</sup>			25 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> 75 <sup>th</sup>			25 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> 75 <sup>th</sup>			25 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> 75 <sup>th</sup>					
	Antibody Benchmark																										
AF-Mult.	28.3%	<u>1.9</u>	9.3	14.7	12.2	22.6	36.0	34.8%	1.8	5.8	13.1	9.2	18.3	26.4													
Ours	26.1%	2.5	<u>9.2</u>	<b>12.1</b>	8.2	<u>19.5</u>	<u>25.4</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-													
Ours+GA	<b>37.0%</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<u>12.4</u>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<u>26.4</u>	<b>45.7%</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>19.8</b>													
Ours+AFM	28.3%	<u>1.9</u>	10.1	13.3	<u>5.7</u>	20.1	27.8	37.0%	<b>1.7</b>	<u>4.4</u>	<u>8.9</u>	<u>5.4</u>	<u>11.3</u>	<u>19.0</u>													
Docking Benchmark Version 5.5																											
AFM	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<u>7.9</u>	<u>16.4</u>	<b>2.8</b>	<u>19.6</u>	<u>35.2</u>	<u>50%</u>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<u>13.0</u>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<u>30.2</u>													
Ours	7.1%	8.9	13.3	17.4	24.2	35.4	49.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-													
Ours+GA	9.5%	9.7	14.0	17.5	23.1	33.4	47.5	16.7%	5.4	8.8	13.6	12.9	20.7	34.3													
Ours+AFM	<u>42.8%</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<u>6.6</u>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>52.4%</b>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>5.1</u>	<b>12.7</b>	<u>5.2</u>	<u>12.4</u>	<b>24.5</b>													

Table S1: **Comparison of Our Method and AlphaFold-Multimer on Two Docking Benchmarks** Results for AlphaFold-Multimer (AFM), our method (ours), our method with genetic algorithm (Ours+GA), and our method using AlphaFold-Multimer predicted interfaces (Ours+AFM) for Ab-Bench and DB5 benchmarks. AlphaFold-Multimer outperforms our method on blind docking general protein targets from DB5. Our method does not make use of MSA information, which is especially important for general proteins where binding interfaces are harder to discern. For antibody complexes, the paratope is limited to CDR loops and our method has an easier time predicting the complex.

1416 Our blind docking (i.e., our deep learning plus our genetic algorithm) greatly outperforms AF-Multimer on antigen- 1417 antibody complex structure prediction without using any binding site information. But on general protein targets, 1418 our method performs poorly. Adding AF-Multimer predicted interface or contact information significantly improves 1419 prediction quality since this indirectly makes use of MSA information. We hypothesize that directly including MSA

information could significantly improve prediction quality for general proteins, especially in conjunction with our genetic algorithm, as model confidence predictions correlate strongly with predicted interface plDDT, but we leave this study for future work. 1420  
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Recently, Yin et al. [89] benchmarked AlphaFold-Multimer and other docking programs on antibody-antigen and general protein targets using the sequences or structures of unbound chains. This study found that AlphaFold-Multimer performs very poorly for antibodies, successfully predicting only 11% of targets. In their study, the authors identified sequence and structural features associated with lack of AlphaFold success and attribute the performance gap to lack of co-evolutionary signal. For antibody-antigen complexes, they found that the success rate of AlphaFold-Multimer was not much different when the model was given only templates, and no MSA information. In this setting, AlphaFold-Multimer is similar to our model. We hypothesize that our performance improvement for antibody-antigen targets comes from (1) fine-tuning and (2) no MSA inputs. Since we do not train with MSA information, our model is forced to learn sequence and structural features which facilitate good binding modes. This is particularly useful for immunoglobulin targets, as antibody-antigen interfaces are less likely to have co-evolving sequences available for MSA generation [89]. 1423  
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**Figure S8: Comparison of Structure Predictions Between Our Method and AlphaFold-Multimer.** In this figure, all predictions from our model were made with AlphaFold2 or AlphaFold-Multimer predicted structures as input. (A) Predictions for DB5 target 1JTD. Our method uses one random contact. (B) Predictions for RABD target 2ADF. Our prediction uses four randomly chosen epitope residues. (C) Example of high interface and ligand RMSD for an antibody-antigen complex predicted by AlphaFold-Multimer (left). Alignment of predicted chains to the ground truth structure (right). (D,E) Another example where AlphaFold predicts accurate chain conformations, but incorrect complex. Supplying our method with antigen epitope residues predicted by AlphaFold improves complex prediction quality (left) and CDR loop RMSD (right)

While AlphaFold-Multimer often predicts correct conformations for antibody and antigen chains, the predicted complex can deviate far from the ground truth. For example, Figure S8 (A) shows that although the complex structure is far from the ground truth, the antibody and antigen structures are highly similar to their respective bound counterparts, with less than 2 Å complex-RMSD between predicted and unbound antibody chains, and 1.1 Å RMSD between predicted and bound antigen chain. In Figure S8 (A,B,D) we provide more examples illustrating this and also show how our model can be used in conjunction with AlphaFold to improve prediction quality when binding site information is known. 1434  
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## S7 Coordinate Flexibility 1441

Here, we provide further details on maintaining SE(3)-Equivariant updates to rigid frames when some input coordinates are treated as fixed. We note that IPA rigid frames are SE(3)-Equivariant with respect to a single global rigid 1442  
1443

<sup>1444</sup> transformation applied to per-residue local frames [34, Suppl. Material, 1.8.2]. Moreover, the same proof shows  
<sup>1445</sup> that scalar node features are invariant to any global rigid transformation. Thus, setting rigids  $\mathbf{T}^{(0)}$  in the decoder  
<sup>1446</sup> submodule to those derived from a complete set of backbone coordinates results in an SE(3)-Equivariant update to  
<sup>1447</sup> the rigid frames, and an invariant update to the scalar features.

<sup>1448</sup> We now argue a more general claim: that IPA can be made SE(3)-Equivariant even when some input coordinates are  
<sup>1449</sup> fixed, flexible or missing. Let  $C = C_{fixed} \cup C_{flexible} \cup C_{missing}$  be a partition of the input residues  $i = 1..n$  denoting  
<sup>1450</sup> those residues with coordinates which should remain fixed, those which are flexible, and those with coordinates that  
<sup>1451</sup> are missing. Without loss of generality, assume that the coordinates which are not missing have mean  $\vec{0}$ , and all  
<sup>1452</sup> missing coordinates are initialized at the origin.

<sup>1453</sup> To leave the coordinates corresponding to residues in  $C_{fixed}$  static, we modify the update in Equation (6) to

$$\mathbf{T}_i^{(\ell+1)} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{T}_i^{(\ell)} & i \in C_{fixed} \\ \mathbf{T}_i^{(\ell)} \circ \text{RigidUpdate}(\mathbf{x}_i^{(\ell+1)}) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

<sup>1454</sup> From the equation above, it's clear that the coordinates are fixed in the output, up to translation. Optionally, we  
<sup>1455</sup> can also replace the prediction of  $\vec{x}_i^a$  ( $i \in I_{fixed}$ ) in Equation (7) with the (centered) atom coordinates given as  
<sup>1456</sup> input.

<sup>1457</sup> Note that any global rotation applied to the input points will leave the origin fixed, and thus only the fixed or  
<sup>1458</sup> flexible coordinates can change position. The claim of equivariance now follows directly from the equivariance of  
<sup>1459</sup> IPA. To see this, recall that the IPA-layer itself is rotation-equivariant, and that scalar residue features are invariant  
<sup>1460</sup> under the same transformation. Thus, applying a global rotation to all residue coordinates, while keeping the scalar  
<sup>1461</sup> embeddings fixed, will result in only an equivalent update to the local frames.

<sup>1462</sup> For practical reasons, mean-centering *all* of the input coordinates does not actually result in an equivariant update  
<sup>1463</sup> – this is because the rigid frames use a specific atom (e.g.  $C\alpha$ ) to initialize their translation. Thus, in practice,  
<sup>1464</sup> only the rigid translations should have zero-mean.

## <sup>1465</sup> S8 CDR-Loop Design

<sup>1466</sup> In Section 3.2.1, and Section 4.3, we mention that our architecture is capable of handling direct coordinate in-  
<sup>1467</sup> formation. Moreover, it is possible to treat certain subsets of coordinates as rigid during inference (we actually  
<sup>1468</sup> verify the more general claim – that some coordinates may be fixed, flexible, or missing in Section S7). In settings  
<sup>1469</sup> such as CDR-loop generation, fixing the heavy and light chain framework regions may be practically useful. To  
<sup>1470</sup> enable *de novo* design of loop regions, the CDR L1-L3 and H1-H3 segments can simply be treated as missing. To  
<sup>1471</sup> test whether this approach works in practice, we fine-tuned the same pre-trained model from Section 4.3, while  
<sup>1472</sup> supplying the coordinates of the heavy and light chain framework regions to the structure-decoder module. The  
<sup>1473</sup> framework coordinates are treated as rigid during inference, and the rest of the procedure is implemented exactly  
<sup>1474</sup> as described in Section 4.3. Of course, it is also possible to provide the coordinates of the docked antigen complex  
<sup>1475</sup> in addition to the framework. For example, coordinates on or surrounding the epitope may be treated as flexible,  
<sup>1476</sup> and the others as rigid depending on the use case. We omit this setting here as the manuscript focuses primarily  
<sup>1477</sup> on protein docking.

<sup>1478</sup> Fine tuning our model on SAbDab reduces overall sequence perplexity ( $p = 0.086$ ), and CDR-RMSD ( $p < 0.005$  for  
<sup>1479</sup> CDR H1-H3). We remark that including framework coordinates appears to reduce median CDR H1-H3 RMSD and  
<sup>1480</sup> sequence perplexity, but hypothesis tests comparing our fine-tuned models with and without framework coordinates  
<sup>1481</sup> do not support this claim ( $p = 0.41$ ,  $p = 0.43$ ,  $p = 0.86$  for CDR H1, H2, and H3 RMSD). Nevertheless, this outcome  
<sup>1482</sup> provides further empirical justification for our results in Section S7, and acts as a robust proof of concept for how  
<sup>1483</sup> to integrate coordinate information into docking or *de novo* design tasks.

<sup>1484</sup> The methods in Table 1 are trained, validated, and tested on different datasets. Because of this, we tried to replicate  
<sup>1485</sup> their training and testing procedures as accurately as possible. To generate our data we use the scheme proposed  
<sup>1486</sup> in Jin et al. [48], generating CDR-clusters at 40% sequence identity and using an 8:1:1 split for training, validation,  
<sup>1487</sup> and test sets respectively. Some example generations are shown in Figure S9

Our Method	Structure Prediction				Sequence Prediction				
	RMSD↓				PPL↓			CDR H1-3	
	H1	H2	H3	Fr	H1	H2	H3	NSR	PPL
No FT	1.43	1.53	2.49	0.55	4.84	7.53	11.17	37.5%	8.41
FT	1.11	1.04	1.88	0.82	4.46	6.71	10.68	39.7%	7.67
<b>FT + Fr-Coord</b>	1.03	0.98	1.78	—	4.27	6.50	10.36	40.6%	7.18

Table S2: **CDR-loop design with framework coordinates** Results from our method without framework coordinates and without fine tuning (No FT), without framework coordinates and with fine-tuning (FT) and with fine tuning and coordinates for antibody heavy and light chain framework regions (**FT + Fr-Coord**). The same criteria and results from our method as described for Section 4.3 are used here.

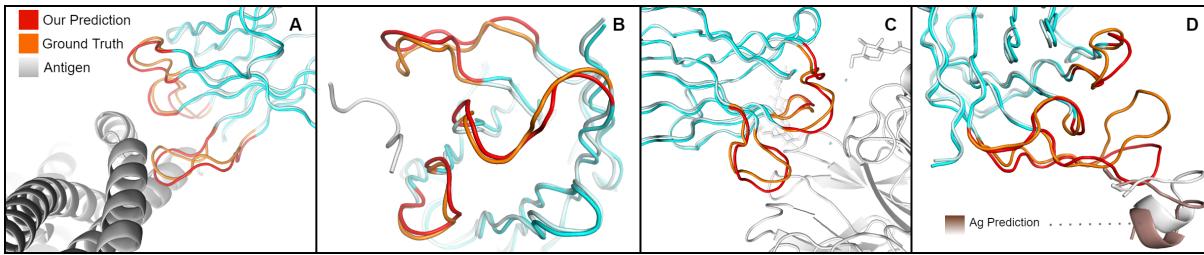


Figure S9: **Antibody Docking and CDR Design** Example docking and designs comparing our predictions with native structures. For each example, we give the length ( $L$ ) of CDR H3 and the RMSD between the predicted (red) and ground truth (orange) conformations. For simplicity, only heavy chains are displayed. Only the bound antigen (gray-white) is shown when the prediction L-RMSD is less than 2 Å. (A) Fab of mAb 3E9 in complex with Plasmodium vivax reticulocyte-binding protein 2b (PvRBP2b) (PDB: 6BPA,  $L = 11$ ,  $RMSD = 1.49$ ). (B) Fab of IgG B13I2 bound to synthetic 19-amino acid peptide homolog of the C helix of myohemerythrin (PDB: 2IGF,  $L = 11$ ,  $RMSD = 1.19$ ). (C) Fab of mAb B10 heavy chain in complex with A(H3N2) influenza Virus (PDB: 6N6B,  $L = 9$ ,  $RMSD = 1.21$ ). (D) Fab of igG 7B2 bound to 13-residue HIV-1 GP41 peptide (PDB: 4YDV,  $L = 17$ ,  $RMSD = 2.86$ )

## S9 Ablation Studies

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We trained several ablated models to identify how different components of our architecture and training procedure contribute to docking performance. We show results for four additional models in Table S3. 1489  
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We find that removing the shared weight layers and auxiliary FAPE loss from our structure decoder leads to the largest degradation in performance. We also remark that ablating the degree centrality encoding or adding a secondary structure encoding to our input residue features had an insignificant impact on performance. We remark that including ESM1b encodings (+ ESM1b) of each chain did not noticeably improve performance in the blind docking setting. We obtain DockQ scores  $\geq 0.23$  for 3 targets when ESM1b encodings are used, and 2 targets when the encodings are removed. It appears that these encodings do not significantly improve performance, so we opted for the simpler model instead. Interestingly, the variant of our model which does not use recycling is still able to obtain competitive top-5 performance, but suffers in top-1 performance. Recycling decoder residue features is also competitive with the baseline recycling implementation, but does not result in significantly better performance. 1491  
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	Top-1			Top-5			Top-1			Top-5		
	IRMS	LRMS	SR	IRMS	LRMS	SR	IRMS	LRMS	SR	IRMS	LRMS	SR
	4 Interface						1-Contact					
Baseline	<b>4.7</b>	14.5	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>8.6</b>	69.0%	5.8	<b>13.6</b>	<b>45.2%</b>	3.5	10.2	59.5%
No Recycle	8.4	20.0	29.7%	3.9	8.5	64.9%	8.0	20.0	33.3%	4.1	11.5	51.4%
+ ESM1b	5.1	<u>13.8</u>	<b>47.6%</b>	<u>3.3</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<b>73.3%</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<u>18.1</u>	<u>37.7%</u>	<u>3.6</u>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>62.2%</b>
No Share Wts.	<u>4.9</u>	16.6	42.9%	3.9	9.6	54.8%	7.2	22.1	31.0%	3.7	11.4	45.2%
Recycle Dec.	5.3	<b>13.7</b>	42.9%	3.4	8.8	<b>73.3%</b>	<u>5.7</u>	18.0	<u>37.7%</u>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>9.5</b>	59.5%

Table S3: **Ablation Study** We consider the top-1 and top-5 performance of model variants on DB5 unbound targets using 1 contact or 4 interfacial residues as input. This information is randomly sampled independently for each variant, and a total of 15 decoys are generated for each target. Predicted IplDDT is used to rank each decoy. The baseline model is described in the main text. For the four variants we considered removing recycling (No Recycle), adding ESM1b encodings of chain sequences as input (+ESM1b), learning separate weights for each decoder block (No Share Wts), and recycling decoder residue features, rather than encoder residue features (Recycle Dec.). When learning separate weights for decoder layers, we also remove auxiliary FAPE loss.

## 1500 S10 Data Collection

1501 For all methods, the receptor and ligand chains were randomly rotated and translated before inference. For general  
 1502 proteins, the smaller of the two targets was treated as the ligand (ties broken based on chain order in PDB file).  
 1503 For antibody-antigen chains, the antigen was always treated as the ligand.

1504 Code for EquiDock was downloaded from [the author’s github page](#). Standalone packages for **HDock**, **PatchDock**,  
 1505 and **ZDock** were downloaded from the respective servers. For HDock and PatchDock, all binding interface and  
 1506 contact information was given as input. Still, results required an additional post-processing step when run locally.  
 1507 For this, we enumerate all predictions of each program and choose the lowest energy prediction satisfying the  
 1508 interface and contact criteria. We reiterate that interface and contacts are defined using  $C\alpha$  atoms with 10Å cutoff.  
 1509 In some cases, HDock or PatchDock did not produce any decoys meeting all criteria. In these cases, we choose the  
 1510 lowest scoring model with the most recovered interface residues and contacts.

1511 AlphaFold and AlphaFold-Multimer were run with ColabFold [90] using the provided template and MSA servers.  
 1512 Default settings were used for all other options. ColabFold’s monomer setting was used to predict all chains in the  
 1513 DB5 benchmark, and all antigen chains in the RAbD and Ab-Bench benchmarks. The multimer setting was used  
 1514 to generate all predicted antibody structures with bound heavy and light chains.

1515 As mentioned in Section 3.2.2, we filter unbound and predicted targets based on RMSD to the bound conformation.  
 1516 Full lists of targets used for comparisons is included with the code at <https://github.com/MattMcPartlon/protein-docking>

## S11 Extended Results and Examples

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### S11.1 Docking Benchmark Version 5

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Docking Benchmark Version 5.5, Unbound Targets ( $N = 42$ )																
	Top-1							Top-5								
	DockQ↑	I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓			DockQ↑	I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓				
	SR (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	SR (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>		
<b>Blind</b>																
EquiDock	0.0%	11.4	14.1	17.1	35.0	40.8	50.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ZDock	11.9%	11.8	14.1	17.3	25.0	34.4	42.8	14.3%	7.3	10.1	12.7	17.2	22.7	32.6		
PatchDock	0.0%	11.8	15.6	19.6	38.8	48.0	56.7	0.0%	9.0	11.5	15.0	26.8	37.9	48.9		
HDock	9.5%	11.3	15.9	18.0	29.7	41.8	53.5	19.0%	6.8	10.2	11.6	15.7	26.2	32.1		
AFM	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<u>7.9</u>	<u>16.4</u>	<b>2.8</b>	<u>19.6</u>	<u>35.2</u>	<u>50%</u>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<u>13.0</u>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<u>30.2</u>		
Ours	7.1%	8.9	13.3	17.4	24.2	35.4	49.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ours+GA	9.5%	9.7	14.0	17.5	23.1	33.4	47.5	16.7%	5.4	8.8	13.6	12.9	20.7	34.3		
Ours+AFM	<u>42.8%</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<u>6.6</u>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>52.4%</b>	<u>2.0</u>	<u>5.1</u>	<b>12.7</b>	<u>5.2</u>	<u>12.4</u>	<b>24.5</b>		
<b>4 Interface</b>																
ZDock	<u>14.3%</u>	8.7	11.7	<u>13.8</u>	<u>18.4</u>	<u>26.9</u>	<u>34.9</u>	<u>33.3%</u>	<u>3.4</u>	<u>6.2</u>	<u>9.0</u>	<u>10.8</u>	<u>17.1</u>	<u>20.6</u>		
PatchDock	2.4%	9.2	11.6	15.8	26.2	37.4	52.5	4.8%	8.3	9.5	12.1	17.3	26.4	40.6		
HDock	11.9%	<u>8.0</u>	<u>10.7</u>	14.3	19.3	29.6	39.7	31.0%	3.5	7.4	9.8	12.0	19.2	24.5		
Ours	<b>47.6%</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>69.0%</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>12.5</b>		
<b>1 Contact</b>																
ZDock	<u>16.7%</u>	<u>7.7</u>	<u>11.2</u>	<u>14.4</u>	<u>19.3</u>	<u>31.4</u>	<u>38.8</u>	31.0%	<u>3.3</u>	7.3	11.2	<u>10.7</u>	<u>18.5</u>	<u>29.1</u>		
PatchDock	2.4%	10.9	14.2	18.8	34.9	45.5	54.5	7.1%	7.8	10.7	14.5	18.5	36.1	46.0		
HDock	14.3%	10.3	14.8	17.7	26.9	38.0	52.2	<u>33.3%</u>	3.4	<u>7.1</u>	<u>10.5</u>	12.0	19.2	<u>29.1</u>		
Ours	<b>45.2%</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>59.5%</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>		
<b>2 Contacts</b>																
ZDock	<u>19.0%</u>	<u>6.7</u>	11.9	<u>14.4</u>	<u>17.9</u>	30.5	<u>41.9</u>	<u>40.5%</u>	<u>2.9</u>	<u>5.9</u>	10.1	<u>9.8</u>	<u>17.1</u>	<u>25.9</u>		
PatchDock	4.8%	9.4	14.1	17.5	27.0	40.2	53.2	14.3%	6.6	9.1	12.8	15.0	27.7	43.3		
HDock	14.3%	7.9	<u>11.3</u>	17.5	20.4	<u>28.2</u>	48.1	38.1%	3.4	6.5	<u>10.0</u>	11.3	<u>17.1</u>	29.3		
Ours	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>92.9%</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>		
<b>3 Contacts</b>																
ZDock	<u>23.8%</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>14.2</u>	<u>14.4</u>	<u>24.6</u>	<u>37.6</u>	<u>45.2%</u>	<u>2.8</u>	<u>4.9</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>9.0</u>	<u>16.5</u>	<u>22.2</u>		
PatchDock	7.1%	9.1	13.3	17.5	27.3	39.2	53.2	16.7%	5.5	9.1	11.8	15.0	24.9	42.9		
HDock	19.0%	6.5	10.5	17.0	15.5	27.3	45.3	38.1%	3.3	6.6	9.6	11.3	16.9	24.5		
Ours	<b>88.0%</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>		

Table S4: Results for DB5 Unbound Targets

Docking Benchmark Version 5.5, Predicted Targets (N = 22)														
	Top-1							Top-5						
	DockQ↑	I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓			DockQ↑	I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓		
	SR (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	SR (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Blind</b>														
EquiDock	0.0%	9.8	<b>12.2</b>	<b>15.4</b>	26.4	42.1	<u>50.1</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ZDock	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<u>12.9</u>	<u>17.6</u>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	13.0	<b>12.0</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>31.1</b>
PatchDock	4.5%	11.5	14.4	19.4	29.8	38.2	55.5	9.1%	<u>8.4</u>	<u>10.2</u>	<u>11.6</u>	18.6	<u>27.4</u>	<u>32.0</u>
HDock	<b>9.1%</b>	12.0	15.2	20.6	27.5	36.9	63.6	<b>18.2%</b>	8.6	11.0	13.3	<u>17.0</u>	28.6	34.1
Ours	<b>9.1%</b>	<u>9.6</u>	13.8	18.9	<u>22.8</u>	<u>34.3</u>	58.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>4 Interface</b>														
ZDock	9.1%	<u>7.2</u>	11.9	15.3	<u>17.6</u>	<u>27.8</u>	<u>33.1</u>	<u>31.8%</u>	<u>2.9</u>	<u>6.8</u>	10.2	<u>8.1</u>	<u>15.2</u>	26.9
PatchDock	4.5%	9.7	11.7	<u>14.4</u>	21.1	29.5	38.6	18.2%	5.1	8.3	<u>10.0</u>	15.1	18.1	27.8
HDock	9.1%	8.7	<u>11.3</u>	<u>14.4</u>	21.1	30.1	41.4	27.3%	3.6	8.3	10.1	14.6	19.6	<u>25.9</u>
Ours	<b>59.1%</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>68.2%</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>
<b>1 Contact</b>														
ZDock	<u>13.6%</u>	<u>6.5</u>	<u>12.0</u>	<u>17.6</u>	<u>17.0</u>	<u>28.4</u>	<u>37.8</u>	<u>36.4%</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<u>6.5</u>	13.0	<u>8.0</u>	<u>18.4</u>	<u>31.1</u>
PatchDock	4.5%	10.0	14.4	19.1	21.1	34.6	54.9	27.3%	4.0	8.4	<u>11.2</u>	13.1	19.0	32.0
HDock	9.1%	10.9	15.0	20.6	27.5	39.0	63.6	22.7%	6.0	10.2	12.8	16.8	23.8	33.5
Ours	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>15.7</b>
<b>2 Contacts</b>														
ZDock	9.1%	<u>7.2</u>	<u>11.5</u>	15.6	<u>17.0</u>	<u>26.9</u>	<u>34.8</u>	<u>36.4%</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>6.5</u>	13.0	<u>5.8</u>	<u>17.3</u>	31.1
PatchDock	4.5%	9.1	12.8	<u>15.4</u>	22.1	31.1	50.1	27.3%	4.0	7.9	<u>10.6</u>	13.1	18.6	32.0
HDock	<u>13.6%</u>	7.9	14.6	20.6	23.1	39.0	63.6	22.7%	6.0	8.8	11.1	16.8	24.0	<u>29.5</u>
Ours	<b>66.7%</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>90.5%</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>3 Contacts</b>														
ZDock	13.6%	<u>6.5</u>	<u>11.0</u>	<u>15.6</u>	<u>15.2</u>	<u>28.4</u>	<u>34.8</u>	<u>40.9%</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>6.9</u>	13.2	<u>5.8</u>	<u>15.2</u>	31.4
PatchDock	4.5%	9.8	13.7	<u>15.6</u>	27.1	31.4	52.9	27.3%	3.7	7.3	<u>9.9</u>	11.1	16.7	32.0
HDock	<u>18.2%</u>	7.8	15.0	20.6	18.7	38.4	63.6	27.3%	3.8	8.4	10.1	14.6	22.7	<u>28.9</u>
Ours	<b>75.0%</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>95.0%</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>

Table S5: Results for DB5 Predicted Targets

## S11.2 Antibody Benchmark

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Antibody Benchmark Unbound Targets ( $N = 46$ )																						
	Top-1							Top-5							<i>SR</i> (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>				
	DockQ↑	I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓			DockQ↑	I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓										
	<i>SR</i> (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	<i>SR</i> (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>								
<b>Blind</b>																						
EquiDock	0.0%	11.6	13.7	16.8	31.9	41.1	51.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
ZDock	2.2%	10.1	12.8	17.0	23.9	28.2	39.3	17.4%	5.8	8.1	11.5	14.7	21.2	28.6	-	-	-	-				
PatchDock	0.0%	12	13.9	15.5	26.1	32.2	46.3	2.2%	6.6	10.2	12.9	19.7	23.9	37.0	-	-	-	-				
HDock	2.2%	12.5	15.6	19.8	24.0	47.3	58.5	8.7%	8.6	10.8	13.7	21.1	24.4	39.3	-	-	-	-				
AF-Mult.	28.3%	1.9	9.3	14.7	12.2	22.6	36.0	34.8%	1.8	5.8	13.1	9.2	18.3	26.4	-	-	-	-				
Ours	26.1%	2.5	9.2	<b>12.1</b>	8.2	19.5	25.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Ours+GA	<b>37.0%</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<u>12.4</u>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<u>26.4</u>	<b>45.7%</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>19.8</b>	-	-	-	-				
Ours+AFM	28.3%	1.9	10.1	13.3	5.7	20.1	27.8	37.0%	1.7	4.4	8.9	5.4	11.3	19.0	-	-	-	-				
<b>4 Epitope</b>																						
ZDock	8.7%	8.2	10.4	13.3	20.7	27.2	33.0	28.3%	2.8	6.2	7.9	10.2	15	21.2	-	-	-	-				
PatchDock	0.0%	9.7	11.9	14.7	22.4	28.8	39.7	8.7%	6.0	8.2	9.2	16.8	20.1	28.5	-	-	-	-				
HDock	8.7%	9.9	12.1	15.7	21.3	27.6	42.6	30.4%	3.4	7.5	9.9	11.7	18.9	23.6	-	-	-	-				
Ours	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>71.7%</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>12.3</b>	-	-	-	-				
<b>12 Epitope</b>																						
ZDock	26.1%	3.6	8.5	11.4	14.4	20.7	27.8	56.5%	1.4	3.2	7.2	5.3	9.7	20.7	-	-	-	-				
PatchDock	0.0%	8.4	10.2	12.9	21.3	25.1	32.7	21.7%	4.2	6.4	7.9	15.2	17.8	27.2	-	-	-	-				
HDock	13.0%	7.6	10.3	13.1	18.6	23.9	36.1	47.8%	2.2	4.2	7.8	7.6	14.2	22.2	-	-	-	-				
Ours	<b>65.2%</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>87.0%</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>8.8</b>	-	-	-	-				

Table S6: Results for Antibody Benchmark Unbound Targets

Antibody Benchmark Predicted Targets ( $N = 26$ )															
	Top-1							Top-5							
	DockQ↑	I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓			DockQ↑	I-RMSD↓			L-RMSD↓			
	SR (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	SR (%)	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Blind</b>															
EquiDock	0.0%	13.2	14.5	16.4	38.3	41.6	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ZDock	3.8%	10.6	12.9	15.4	21.9	26.8	37.3	7.7%	6.4	9.6	11.5	14.7	19.8	28.7	
PatchDock	0.0%	12.3	14.0	18.8	26.3	33.3	49.5	3.8%	7.8	10.9	12.2	18.4	22.7	28.0	
HDock	0.0%	11.9	13.5	18.9	25.5	31.2	52.4	3.8%	8.1	10.1	12.4	18.3	25.2	30.7	
Ours	26.9%	2.8	10.4	13.9	9.4	22.9	26.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ours+GA	42.3%	1.9	7.3	9.0	6.5	15.5	19.4	46.2%	1.8	7.2	9.1	6.5	13.5	17.3	
<b>4 Epitope</b>															
ZDock	7.7%	7.4	9.4	13.2	18.6	24.7	31.8	30.8%	3.9	6.1	8.8	8.9	15.3	21.0	
PatchDock	3.8%	10.3	12.2	14.5	24.8	27.2	40.0	7.7%	6.0	7.7	9.5	15.2	19.4	26.4	
HDock	3.8%	9.0	13.2	14.1	23.0	27.6	35.2	19.2%	5.0	7.5	10.4	15.8	19.5	25.9	
Ours	53.8%	1.9	2.7	9.3	4.8	8.5	28.0	69.2%	1.5	2.4	3.4	4.4	6.0	11.8	
<b>12 Epitope</b>															
ZDock	19.2%	5.7	10.3	11.6	14.0	23.2	28.6	57.7%	2.0	3.9	6.2	4.8	11.8	15.8	
PatchDock	11.5%	7.4	10.2	12.4	17.3	26.1	38.9	30.8%	4.5	6.0	7.4	8.9	17.2	24.3	
HDock	7.7%	7.8	10.2	13.5	17.9	24.3	30.2	50.0%	2.1	5.3	8.6	5.8	13.2	22.7	
Ours	69.2%	1.3	1.8	5.8	3.7	6.1	21.1	88.5%	1.3	1.7	3.2	3.7	4.8	9.8	

Table S7: Results for Antibody Benchmark Predicted Targets

### S11.3 Rosetta Antibody Design

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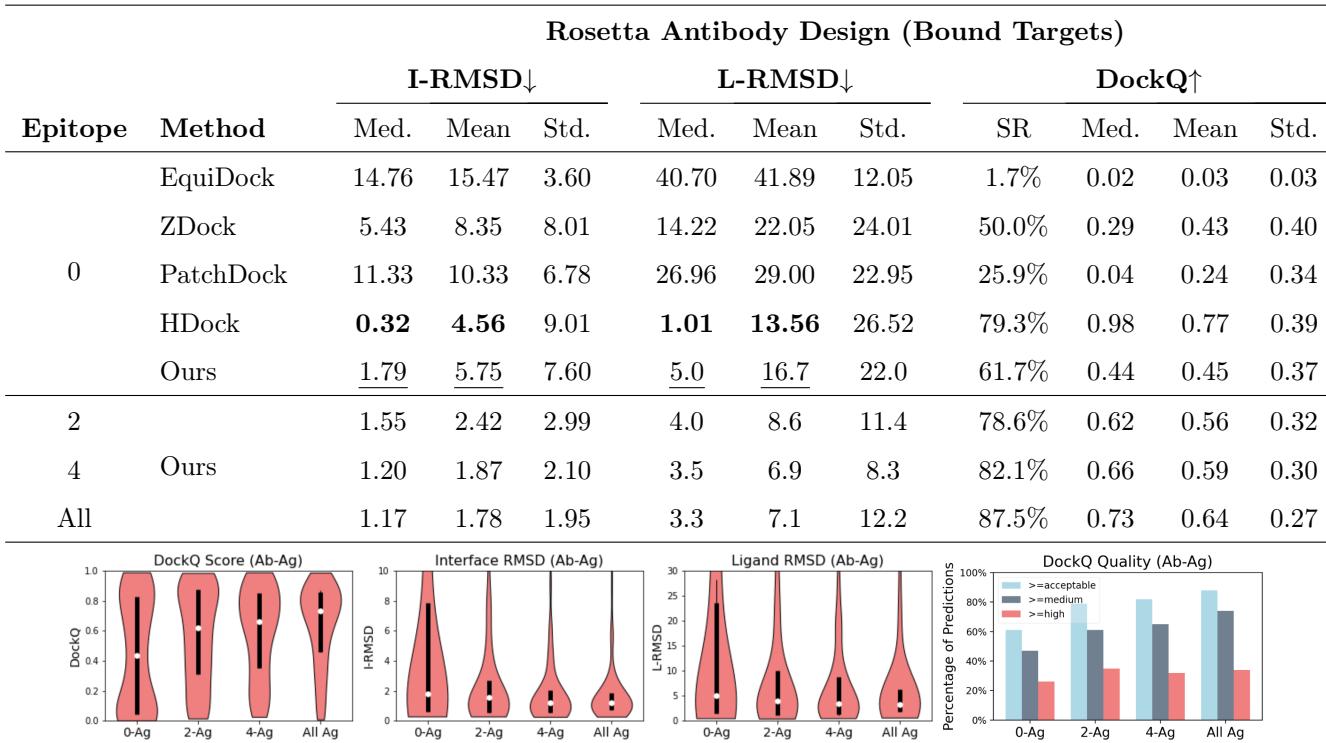


Figure S10: **Rosetta Antibody Design Bound Targets.** Results on the RAbD test set using bound chains as input to each docking method. Results for our method are generated after fine-tuning on bound antibody-antigen chains. The *x*-axis in the below 4 pictures show the number of epitope residues provided to the docking methods. DockQ score cutoffs for acceptable, medium and high quality predictions are  $\geq 0.23$ ,  $\geq 0.49$ , and  $\geq 0.80$

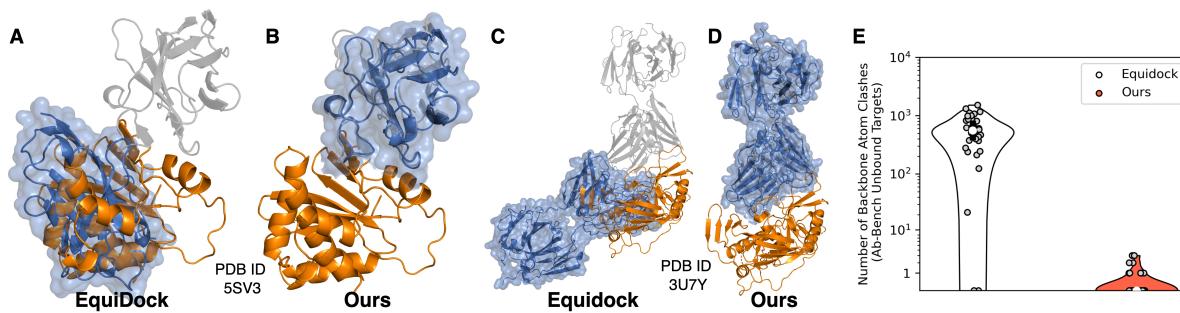
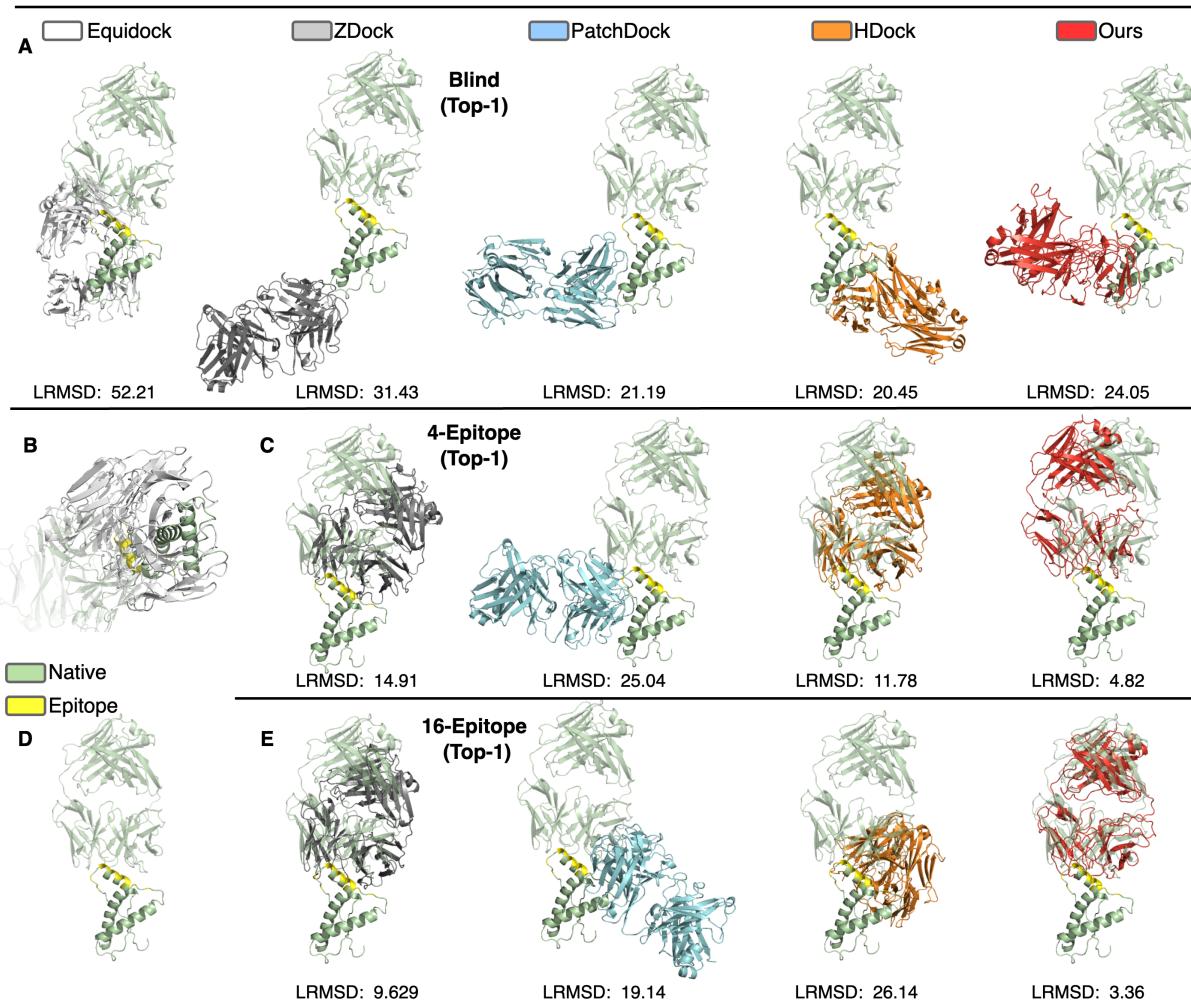


Figure S11: **Comparison Between Our Method and Equidock** Blind docking predictions for a single domain antibody targeting the toxin Ricin (**A** and **B**), and therapeutic antibody which targets the CD4 binding site on the HIV-1 spike protein (**C** and **D**). In (**A**–**D**), we show the bound antigen in orange and bound antibody in light gray. For clarity we align each complex prediction to the ground truth using only the antigen chain, and show only the predicted antibody in blue. We also show the solvent accessible surface of antibody predictions (independent of the antigen) to better illustrate surface intersections. For both of these targets, the RMSD between bound and unbound antigen chains is less than 2 Å. (**E**) Distribution of the number of steric clashes for blind docking DB5 unbound targets. We consider only backbone atom clashes, since EquiDock cannot modify side-chain conformations. Two atoms are said to clash if each atom belongs to a different chain, and the pairwise distance is less than 90% the sum of their van der Waals radii.



**Figure S12: Docking Predictions for Antibody Benchmark Target 2W9E** Protein backbones are shown in cartoon with ground-truth antibody and antigen structures shown in green for each figure. The antigen epitope is highlighted in yellow. We show the predicted antibody orientation relative to the ground truth antigen in a separate color for each method. Ligand RMSD (LRMSD) is shown for each prediction. **(A)** Blind docking predictions for methods EquiDock, ZDock, PatchDock, HDock, and DockGPT. **(B)** Close up of EquiDock's prediction showing excessive surface overlap between antibody and antigen chain predictions. **(C)** Top-1 docking predictions for each method, except EquiDock given four epitope residues. **(D)** Ground truth complex. **(E)** Top-1 docking predictions for each method, except EquiDock given 12 epitope residues.