

Mechanical Functions of Proteins

Forces naturally arise in cells and can also be substrates (ATPase) products (myosin) signals (integrin) of cellular processes



Atomic Force Microscopy Experiments of Ligand Unbinding







agarose bead surface

Atomic Force Microscope







Instrument





AFM cantilevers and tips





Atomic Force Microscopy Experiments of Ligand Unbinding



NIH Resource for Macromolecular Modeling and Bioinformatics Theoretical Biophysics Group, Beckman Institute, UIUC

Pulling Biotin out of Avidin



<u>Molecular dynamics study of unbinding of the avidin-biotin complex.</u> Sergei Izrailev, Sergey Stepaniants, Manel Balsera, Yoshi Oono, and Klaus Schulten. *Biophysical Journal*, 72:1568-1581, 1997.

SMD of Biotin Unbinding: What We Learned biotin slips out in steps, guided by amino acid side groups, water molecules act as lubricant, MD overestimates extrusion force



Israilev et al., Biophys. J., 72, 1568-1581 (1997)

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Theory of First Passage Times

• Langevin equation: $\gamma \dot{x} = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial x} + \sigma \xi(t)$

• Fluctuation-dissipation theorem:

$$\sigma^2 = 2k_B T \gamma$$

• Fokker-Plank equation: $(D = \sigma^2/2\gamma^2, \beta = 1/k_BT)$

$$\partial_t p(x,t) = \partial_x D e^{-\beta U(x)} \partial_x e^{\beta U(x)} p(x,t)$$

• First passage time:

$$\tau = \int_{x_o}^{b} dx \, e^{\beta U(x)} D^{-1} \int_{a}^{x} dx' \, e^{-\beta U(x')}$$

Schulten *et al.*, J. Chem. Phys., **74**, 4426-4432 (1981) Nadler and Schulten, J. Chem. Phys., **82**, 151-160 (1985)

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Linear Binding Potential Model



Exact expression for first passage time

$$\tau(F) = 2\tau_D \delta(F) \left[e^{\delta(F)} - \delta(F) - 1 \right]$$

 $\tau(D) = (b-a)^2/2D \sim 25 \text{ ns}$ (for biotin-avidin)

 $\delta(F) = \beta \left[\Delta U - F(b-a) \right]$



U(x)

 ΔU^{+}

ъ

 $x_{max} - x_{min}$

AFM regime

 $e^{\delta(F)} >> 1$

 $au_{AFM} \sim 2 au_D \delta^{-2}(F) e^{\delta(F)}$

a

U(x) - Fx

Quantitative Comparison



Force-pulling velocity relationship



Bridging the gap between SMD and AFM experiments





Rupture/Unfolding Force F₀ and its Distribution

 $\tau(F_0) = 1 \text{ ms}$ time of measurement => F_0 rupture/unfolding force

Distribution of rupture/unfolding force



determination of barrier height based

stationary force applied (pN) ⁰

Unfolding Forces (pN)

$$p(F_{0}) = \kappa \exp[\beta F_{0}(b-a) - \beta \Delta U - \frac{\kappa k_{B}T}{b-a} e^{-\beta \Delta U} \left(e^{\beta F_{0}(b-a)} - 1 \right)$$

$$\kappa = \frac{\delta^{2}(F)}{2\tau_{D}} kv$$
Israilev *et al.*, Biophys. J., **72**, 1568-1581 (1997)
Balsera *et al.*, Biophys. J., **73**, 1281-1287 (1997)

Distribution of the Barrier Crossing Time



The fraction N(t) that has not crossed the barrier can be expressed through solving the Smoluchowski diffusion equation (linear model potential):

$$N(t) = \frac{1}{2} erfc \left[\frac{-a + \delta(F)Dt/(b-a)}{\sqrt{4Dt}} \right] - \frac{1}{2} exp \left[\frac{\delta(F)a}{b-a} \right] erfc \left[\frac{-a + \delta(F)Dt/(b-a)}{\sqrt{4Dt}} \right]$$

Or approximated by double exponential (general potential): $N(t) = [t_1 \exp(-t/t_1) - t_2 \exp(-t/t_2)]/(t_1-t_2)$, Nadler & Schulten, JCP., **82**, 151-160 (1985)

Quantitative Analysis of SMD



PLA2 pulling a lipid out of membrane



Stepaniants et al., J.Molec. Model., 3, 473-475 (1997)

• The potential of mean force (PMF) is reconstructed from time series of applied force and displacement

• Non-equilibrium analysis based on the Langevin equation:

 $\gamma \dot{x} = -\frac{dU/dx}{k(vt-x)} + \sigma \xi(t)$

• Multiple trajectories can be combined to yield statistically significant results

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Interactive Modeling

Binding path of retinal to bacterio-opsin (1)



- Retinal deep in bacterio-opsin binding cleft
- How does it get in?
- Use batch mode interactive steered molecular dynamics to pull retinal out of cleft, find possible binding path



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- 10 path segments, 3 attempts each
- Choose best attempt at 9 points during pull
- Found path through membrane, and electrostatically attractive entrance window

Interactive Modeling

Binding path of retinal to bacterio-opsin



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Stepwise Unbinding of Retinal from bR



Isralewitz et al., Biophys. J., 73, 2972-2979 (1997)

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Interactive Molecular Dynamics

VMD ←·····► NAMD



J. Stone, J. Gullingsrud, K. Schulten, and P. Grayson. A System for Interactive Molecular Dynamics Simulation. 2001 ACM Symposium on Interactive 3D Graphics, pp.191-194, ACM SIGGRAPH P. Grayson, E. Tajkhorshid, and K. Schulten. Biophysical J, 83: 36 (2003)

- Any PC/Workstation
- Supports 3D forcefeedback devices for interaction



Quantitative Analysis of Substrate Permeation





Jensen et al, PNAS 99: 6731-6736 (2002)

Calculation of the free energy profile of sugar transport from SMD simulations by Jarzynski's identity

Thermodynamics: $\Delta G \leq \langle W \rangle$

Is there any chance to discount the irreversible work? Yes!

Free Energy of Stretched Alpha-Helix



Free energy calculation from steered molecular dynamics simulations using Jarzynski's equality. S. Park, F. Khalili-Araghi, E. Tajkhorshid, and K. Schulten. *Journal of Chemical Physics*, 119:3559-3566, 2003

Calculating potentials of mean force from steered molcular dynamics simulations. S. Park and K. Schulten. *Journal of Chemical Physics*, 120: 5946-5961, 2004

Mechanosensitive Channels of Large and Small Conductance

- Mechanosensitive channels: one of the major mechanisms by which mechanical forces are sensed.
- MscL and MscS: Specific MSCs in bacteria. **Safety valves** located in their inner membrane (prevention of cell lysis)





Gating Mechanism of a Mechanosensitive Channel

- Inserted MscL protein from crystal structure into equilibrated POPC membrane – 242 lipids, 16,148 water molecules, 88,097 atoms
- Program NAMD, periodic boundary conditions, full electrostatics (PME), NpT ensemble, anisotropic pressure to describe surface tension, 2.4 days on 128 T3E CPUs



Biophys. J. 80:2074-2081, 2001.

Justin Gullingsrud

Mechanosensitive Ion Channel

MscL gates by membrane tension



Pore expands to 30 Å as helices flatten out



Justin Gullingsrud



measurements (Martinac et al, unpublished results)

Biophys. J. 80:2074-2081, 2001.

SMD Simulations of MscL

- How can we understand the interaction between the MscL and the surrounding bilayer? How can bilayer-derived forces open the channel?
- What does the open state of the channel look like? What is the opening pathway?
- Since there is no "signature sequence" for MS channels, what controls the gating sensitivity?



J. Gullingsrud

Gating Forces Derived from Bilayer Pressure Profile



Pressure profile calculations similar to those of Lindahl & Edholm showed that the interfacial tension of the membrane may be simulated by applying external forces of about 40 pN to the protein.

Simulation Setup

- MscL from *E. coli* based on homology model.
- Eliminated C-terminal helices; these are nonessential for gating.
- Sufficient water for full hydration of loops and N-terminal helix bundle.
- Constant radial force applied to residues at the ends of M1 and M2 (16, 17, 40, 78, 79, 98).
- 10 ns simulation time.

J. Gullingsrud



MscL Expanded State



- 0-2 ns: expansion of the periplasmic ends of M1 and M2.
- 2-6 ns: slippage of conserved Ala20 past Ile25 and Phe29.
- 6-10 ns: continued expansion; stretching of linker residues.
- J. Gullingsrud



Mechanisensitive Channel of Small Conductance MscS

- Patch Clamp Experiments (B. Martinac et al 1986)
- Crystal Structure in a putative open state (D.C. Rees et al 2002)
- Simulations: closed state

Marcos Sotomayor









Mechanosensitive Channel of Small Conductance





- 225, 000 atoms including explicit water molecules
- CHARMM27 force-fields
- Periodic boundary conditions
- Constant pressure and temperature
- PME for full electrostatic calculation
- Teragrid benchmark: 0.5 day/ns on 128 Itanium 1.5GHz processors

Ankyrin Repeats: Springs in the Inner Ear Marcos Sotomayor







Mammalian Inner Ear (from Sensory Transduction. G. L. Fain

Cuticular plate, stereocilia and kinocilium in hair cells (from Sensory Transduction, G. L. Fain)



Tip Links (Kachar et al., 2000)



340,000 atom simulation of 24 repeat ankyrin



- 340,000 atoms including explicit water molecules
- CHARMM27 force-field
- Periodic boundary conditions
- Steered MD (25-75 pN)
- PME for full electrostatic calculation
- Teragrid benchmark: 0.7 day/ns on 128 Itanium 1.5GHz processors.

NAMD: 128 processors NCSA teragrid



Tip Links (Kachar et al., 2000; Corey Lab) Hair bundle (Assad and Corey, from Sensory Transduction, G. L. Fain).

Inner Ear Mechanism

water bath

340,000 atom simulation of 24 repeat ankyrin



NAMD: 128 processors NCSA teragrid



Tip Links (Kachar et al., 2000; Corey Lab) Hair bundle (Assad and Corey, from Sensory Transduction, G. L. Fain).



water bath

340,000 atom simulation of 24 repeat ankyrin

water bath

Inner Ear Mechanism



Non-entropic, nearly indistructable molecular spring

NAMD: 128 processors NCSA teragrid



Tip Links (Kachar et al., 2000; Corey Lab) Hair bundle (Assad and Corey, from Sensory Transduction, G. L. Fain).

Nano-pore Detection of DNA Sequence

- An integrated nano-pore / nano-transistor device for DNA sequencing is being built in our collaborator's lab (G. Timp, UIUC).
- Our group investigates translocation of DNA by MD simulations.
- The goal is to identify a signature response from a specific DNA sequence to an applied electrical field.





Sizing DNA using a Silicon Nanopore





Capturing DNA by strong electrical field

Electrical field = 2.8×10^9 V/m (equivalent to by 14 eV over 5nm in vacuum).

Simulation time 4.5 ns



ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPY FOR BIOLOGISTS by V J Morris, A R Kirby & A P Gunning 352pp Pub. date: Dec 1999 ISBN 1-86094-199-0 US\$51 / £32 Contents: Apparatus Basic Principles Macromolecules Interfacial Systems Ordered Macromolecules Cells, Tissue and Biominerals Other Probe Microscopes

Atomic force microscopy (AFM) is part of a range of emerging microscopic methods for biologists which offer the magnification range of both the light and electron microscope, but allow imaging under the 'natural' conditions usually associated with the light microscope. To biologists AFM offers the prospect of high resolution images of biological material, images of molecules and their interactions even under physiological conditions, and the study of molecular processes in living systems. This book provides a realistic appreciation of the advantages and limitations of the technique and the present and future potential for improving the understanding of biological systems.

