Research Opportunities in the Teraflop Era

Towards Larger Molecules

BPTI 3K atoms



Estrogen Receptor 36K atoms (1996)

> ATP Synthase 327K atoms (2001)

• Studying protein-protein and protein-nucleic acid recognition and assembly.

• Investigating integral functional units (membrane proteins, signal transduction, motors, bioenergetic apparatus).

• Bridging the gap between computationally feasible and functionally relevant time scales.

• Combining classical molecular dynamics simulations with quantum chemical forces.

• Describing integral cell functions.



Study of integral cell functions:

gene storage, regulation, and expression; protein synthesis and degradation; energy conversion and storage; cell motion; cell signaling; metabolic pathways; ...

Habitats of Photosynthetic Life Forms



Photosynthetic Apparatus of Purple Bacteria



- **RC Photosynthetic Reaction Center**
- LH Light Harvesting Complex



First step: Need to establish the structure of the underlying system.



Phase Problem and Conventional Solutions

Phase Problem

 $\rho(xyz) = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{h = -\infty} \sum_{k = -\infty} \sum_{l = -\infty} F(hkl) e^{i\alpha(hkl)} e^{-2\pi i (hx + ky + lz)}.$



| Method | Requirement |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Multiple Isomorphous Replacement | Two or more isomorphous heavy metal derivatives |
| Molecular Replacement | Known structure of highly homologous protein |

Structure of LH-II of *Rs. molischianum* Obtained Through a Computationally Derived Search Model



molecular replacement through modeling



Summary of Crystallographic Data

- space group P4212
- resolution range 8-2.4 A
- unique reflection 30309
- completeness 87.2
- R-factor (%) 21.1
- free R-factor (%) 23.2

Koepke et al., Structure, 4, 581 (1996)

B850 band

B800 band

spectrum



B800 BChl-a Binding Site



B850 BChls of LH-II of Rs. molischianum





LH-I – RC Complex of *Rb. sphaeroides*

Model agrees well with EM map







Xiche Hu

View from top

Structure of RC+LH-I+Cyt System

bc

cytochrome c₂

Focussing on the Structure of RC + LH-I



System of Water - Lipids - Protein



Lipids only



Lipids and Proteins



Proteins only



Proteins and Chromophores



Chromophores only



Chromophores only

Electron Transfer Chain in RC + Cyt c Complex



Role of the Protein Matrix on Electron Transfer



Role of Thermal Disorder on Electron Transfer in the Photosynthetic Reaction Center



Electron Transfer Process Coupled to the Protein Matrix

We assumed that the electron transfer $Q_A^- Q_B^- > Q_A Q_B^-$ is coupled to an ensemble of oscillators representing the protein matrix

Hamiltonian
$$\hat{H}_{qo}^{(s)} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{H}_r^{(s)} & v \\ v & \hat{H}_p^{(s)} + E \end{pmatrix}$$

Protein matrix is a bath of oscillators linearly coupled to the electron transfer according to

$$\hat{H}_r = \sum_j \left(\frac{\hat{p}_j^2}{2M_j} + \frac{1}{2} M_j \omega_j^2 q_j^2 \right)$$
$$\hat{H}_p = \sum_j \left(\frac{\hat{p}_j^2}{2M_j} + \frac{1}{2} M_j \omega_j^2 \left(q_j - \frac{c_j}{M_j \omega_j^2} \right)^2 \right)$$

Dong Xu and Klaus Schulten. Chemical Physics, 182: 91--117, 1994.

Klaus Schulten. In D. Bicout and M. J. Field, editors, Proc. Ecole de Physique des Les Houches, pp 85--118, Les Editions de Physique, Springer, Paris, 1995.

Klaus Schulten. Science, 290:61--62, 2000.

Electron Transfer Process Coupled to the Protein Matrix

Rate for an ensemble of oscillators (spin boson model, Legett et al)

$$k_{qb}(R \to P) = \frac{v^2}{\hbar^2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt \; e^{itE/\hbar} \; e^{iQ_1(t)/\pi\hbar} \; e^{-Q_2(t)/\pi\hbar}$$

Relaxation rate

$$k_{\rm rel} = \frac{2v^2}{\hbar^2} \int_0^{+\infty} dt \cos(-tE/\hbar) \cos(Q_1(t)/\pi\hbar) e^{-Q_2(t)/\hbar}$$
$$Q_1(t) = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_j \frac{c_j^2}{\hbar\omega_j^3} \sin\omega_j t$$
$$Q_2(t) = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_j \frac{c_j^2}{\hbar\omega_j^3} \coth\frac{\hbar\omega_j}{2kT} \left[1 - \cos(\omega_j t)\right]$$

But we didn't know all the coupling constants c_i? All we needed to know was J

$$J(\omega) = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{j} \frac{c_j^2}{\omega_j} \,\delta(\omega - \omega_j) \frac{Q_1(t)}{Q_2(t)} = \frac{\int_0^\infty d\omega \,\omega^{-2} J(\omega) \sin\omega t}{Q_2(t)} = \frac{\pi}{2} \int_0^\infty d\omega \,\omega^{-2} J(\omega) \coth\frac{\hbar\omega}{2kT} (1 - \cos\omega t)$$

Electron Transfer Process Coupled to the Protein Matrix

-

Relaxation rate

$$k_{rel} = \frac{2v^2}{\hbar^2} \int_0^{+\infty} dt \cos(tE/\hbar) \cos(Q_1(t)/\pi\hbar) e^{-Q_2(t)/\pi\hbar}$$

$$Q_1(t) = \int_0^{\infty} d\omega \, \omega^{-2} J(\omega) \sin\omega t$$

$$Q_2(t) = \frac{\pi}{2} \int_0^{\infty} d\omega \, \omega^{-2} J(\omega) \coth\frac{\hbar\omega}{2kT} (1 \cos\omega t)$$

$$\frac{J(\omega)}{\omega} = \frac{\sigma^2}{k_B T} \int_0^{\infty} dt \, C(t) \cos\omega t$$

$$C_{\epsilon\epsilon}(t) = \frac{\langle (\epsilon(t) - \langle \epsilon \rangle) (\langle \epsilon(0) - \langle \epsilon \rangle) \rangle}{\langle \epsilon(0) - \langle \epsilon \rangle \rangle^2}$$
energy gap correlation function

$$\sigma \text{ rms deviation of energy gap}$$

$$k_{rel} = \frac{\sqrt{(\omega)}{4\pi} \int_0^{\infty} dt \, C(t) \cos\omega t$$

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Temperature Dependence of Electron Transfer Rate



Dong Xu and Klaus Schulten. Chemical Physics, 182: 91--117, 1994.

Klaus Schulten. In D. Bicout and M. J. Field, editors, Proc. Ecole de Physique des Les Houches, pp 85--118, Les Editions de Physique, Springer, Paris, 1995.

Klaus Schulten. Science, 290:61--62, 2000.

The Role of Cytochrome c₂ in Shuttling Electrons Between the Reaction Center RC and the bc₁ complex









Coupling protein motion to electron transfer via MD



• Cytochrome c_2 from purple bacterium *Rhodobacter sphaeroides*.

• Serves as electron carrier between bc1-complex and reaction center

When the gene encoding cytochrome c_2 is deleted from *Rb. sphaeroides*, the bacterium is unable to grow photosynthetically.

The energy gap function



$$\varepsilon(t) = E_P(t) - E_R(t)$$

- *R*: reactant state (reduced)
- *P*: product state (oxidized)

Tutorial:

You will do two consecutive NAMD runs.

- obtain an MD trajectory
- evaluate $\mathcal{E}(t)$ at each frame of the first trajectory through a second NAMD run

MD simulation of the electron transfer process





- ~12000 atoms solvated system
- Already minimized and equilibrated
- You will continue from a restart file (so, you do not need to worry about velocity relaxation)

The energy gap function



Result from the first 500fs

The energy gap function



The energy gap function





Structure of Light Harvesting System





Light Harvesting in Photosynthesis



structure of the underlying system

The Hard Earned Model



Here is a lesson to impatient physical scientists to learn: There is no royal road to the model! In the present case and many others, the model is arrived at not through superior inteligence of the physical scientist, but through long (2 years) collaboration with life scientists, in the present case crystallographers (Michel, Cogdell, Glasgow) and electron microscopists (Ghosh, Stuttgart).

16 BChls are arranged in a ring of 8 heterodimers. Within each dimer, the distance between BChls is 8.9 A, between heterodimers, the distance between BChls is 9.2 A. The transition dipole moments of the BChls, indicated as arrows, are approximately tangential to the ring and show an antiparallel arrangement for a pair of neighbouring BChls.

8.9 nm

B850 BChl aggregate from LH-II of the purple bacterium Rs. molischianum

transition dipole moments

Eigenvalue Problem for a Circular Dimerized Aggregate



Quantum Chemical Determination of Aggregate



The Effect of Dynamic Disorder



LH2 in membrane: 85,000 atoms; equilibrated for 2ns with NAMD2; NpT ensemble; periodic boundary condition; full electrostatics (PME)

Followed by 0.8ps simulation, trajectory output every 2fs with quantum chemistry calc. of exc. energy, interpolated to "sample" every 0.5 fs

Gaussian 98, HF/CIS, STO-3G basis $\epsilon_1(t)$ from QC $W_{ij}(t)$ $\hat{H}(t)^{exc}$ from MD $\epsilon_{16}(t)$ $W_{jk} = C \left(\frac{\vec{d_j} \cdot \vec{d_k}}{r_{ik}^3} - \frac{3(\vec{r_{jk}} \cdot \vec{d_j}) (\vec{r_{jk}} \cdot \vec{d_k})}{r_{ik}^5} \right)$ energy gap $\mathbf{E}_1(\mathbf{eV})$ 12 0.045 $W_{12}(eV)$ 0.0425

t(fs)

100Ana Damjanovic, Ioan Kosztin, Ulrich Kleinekathoefer, and Klaus Schulten, Phys. Rev.E, 65:031919 (2002)

Effective Hamiltonian for Entire Photosynthetic Unit



$$k_{DA} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |U_{DA}|^2 J_{DA}$$
$$J_{DA} = \int S_D(E) S_A(E) dE \quad \text{exp.}$$
The effective Hamiltonian derived for an LH-II ring is extended to the entire system of light harvesting complexes.
i.e., LH-I and LH-IIs, assuming LH-II nearest neighbour couplings and dipolar coupling for non-nearest neighbour interactions, for a geometry of closest packed LH-I and LH-II proteins.

Excitation Transfer in Photosynthetic Unit



The Role of the Carotenoids in Light Absorption and Excitation Flow



Two Channels for Car-Chl Transfer



Conversion times and efficiencies for photons absorbed into the **carotenoid** (LYC) S_2 state in LH2 of *Rs. molischianum*



Photosynthetic apparatus of purple bacteria

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The Quantum Physics of Photosynthesis

Thorsten Ritz,^[b] Ana Damjanović,^[c] and Klaus Schulten*^[a]

Biological cells contain nanoscale machineries that exhibit a unique combination of high efficiency, high adaptability to changing environmental conditions, and high reliability. Recent progress in obtaining atomically resolved structures provide an opportunity for an atomic-level explanation of the biological function of cellular machineries and the underlying physical mechanisms. A prime example in this regard is the apparatus with which purple bacteria harvest the light of the sun. Its highly symmetrical architecture and close interplay of biological functionality with quantum physical processes allow an illuminating demonstration of the fact that properties of living beings ultimately rely on and are determined by the laws of physics.

KEYWORDS:

carotenoids · chromophores · electronic excitation transfer · photosynthesis · proteins

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See also: www.ks.uiuc.edu

Genomic Organization of the Light Harvesting Complexes

