Hands-on Workshop on Computational Biophysics

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Serving the large and fast growing community

of biomedical researchers employing molecular modeling and simulation technologies



103,000 VMD users
19,000 NAMD users
17,000 NIH funded
1.4 million web visitors
228,000 tutorial views



Serving a Large and Fast Growing Community

- Deploying Center's flagship programs NAMD and VMD on all major computational platforms from commodity computers to supercomputers
- Consistently adding user-requested features
 - simulation, visualization, and analysis
- Covering broad range of scales (orbitals to cells) and data types
- Enhanced software accessibility
 - QwikMD, interactive MDFF, ffTk, simulation in the Cloud, remote visualization







Exploiting State of the Art Hardware Technology

- Software available and optimized on all national supercomputing platforms (even before they come online)
- Decade-long, highly productive relationship with NVIDIA
- The first CUDA Center of Excellence funded by NVIDIA
- Consistently exploring opportunities for new hardware technology
 - Remote visualization
 - Virtual Reality
 - Handheld devices



















Computational Structural Biology Describing Biomolecules at Nanoscale



Structure / Dynamics @ nanoscale

- Mechanisms in Molecular Biology
- ✦ Molecular Basis of Disease
- ✦ Drug Design
- ✦ Nano-biotechnology





Antidepressant binding site in a neurotransmitter transporter. Nature 448: 952-956 (2007)

- Mechanisms in Molecular Biology
- Molecular Basis of Disease
- ✦ Drug Design
- ✦ Nano-biotechnology







Binding of a small molecule to a binding site Y. Wang & E.T. PNAS 2010

0.00 us



Dror et al., PNAS 2011

Drug binding to a GPCR Dror, ..., Shaw, PNAS, 108:13118–13123 (2011)

- ✦ Mechanisms in Molecular Biology
- ✦ Molecular Basis of Disease
- ✦ Drug Design
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Structural changes underlying function M. Moradi & E. T. PNAS 2013

- ✦ Mechanisms in Molecular Biology
- ✦ Molecular Basis of Disease
- ♦ Drug Design
- ✦ Nano-biotechnology



Nano-biotechnology Microfluidic Sensing Devices



HIV subtype identification

Lab Chip 2012



Created by nanoBIO Node tools

Nano-biotechnology Gold Nanoparticles as Delivery Vehicles

Transmission Electron Micrograph



Yang, J. A.; Murphy, C. J. Langmuir 2012, 28, 5404– 5416 Schematic model with no prediction power

Cartoon representation of lipid Au NPs





Modeling/Simulation: Tajkhorshid Lab

Experiment: Murphy Lab

Applications of Computational Methodologies to Structural Biology

Simulation of the dynamics of the molecular system (MD)

- Calculating ensemble-averaged properties of microscopic systems to compare to macroscopic measurements
- Providing a molecular basis for function
- Describing the molecular/structural changes underlying function



Hydration at the interface of viral shell proteins



Thermal fluctuations of a phospholipid bilayer



Membrane binding of a coagulation protein

Lipid Protein Interaction



S. Mansoor, ..., E. Tajkhorshid, E. Gouaux, Nature, 2016.

Molecular Dynamics Simulations



Solving the Newtonian equations of motion for all particles at every time step

Major limitations:

- Time scale / sampling
- Force field approximations

SPEED LIMIT

1 fs

Major advantage:

 Unparalleled spatial and temporal resolutions, simultaneously

Steps in a Typical MD Simulation

- 1. Prepare molecule
 - Read in pdb and psf file
- 2. Minimization
 - Reconcile observed structure with force field used (T = 0)
- 3. Heating
 - Raise temperature of the system
- 4. Equilibration
 - Ensure system is stable
- 5. Dynamics
 - Simulate under desired conditions (NVE, NpT, etc)
 - Collect your data
- 6. Analysis
 - Evaluate observables (macroscopic level properties)
 - Or relate to single molecule experiments

QwikMD- Gateway to Easy Simulation

Ribeiro, J. V., ..., Schulten, K. QwikMD – Integrative Molecular Dynamics Toolkit for Novices and Experts. *Sci. Rep.* 6, 26536; doi: 10.1038/srep26536 (**2016**)

Applications of Computational Methodologies to Cell-Scale Structural Biology

Using computational methods as "structure-building" tools

All experimental Structural biological approaches heavily rely on computational methods to analyze their data

- NMR
- X-ray
- Electron Microscopy
- . .

Structural model of HIV virus

Molecular Dynamics Flexible Fitting (MDFF)

[1] Trabuco et al. *Structure* (2008) 16:673-683.[2] Trabuco et al. *Methods* (2009) 49:174-180.

Applications of Computational Methodologies to Cell-Scale Structural Biology

Using simulations as a "structure-building" tool

The most detailed model of a chromatophore

Computational model of a minimal cell envelope

Vesicle Construction

Coarse Grain Protein

CG Protein Placement

Combine Lipid + Protein

Distribution of proteins across the membrane surface (dense environment)

- Ability the handle a variety of protein geometries
- Proper orientation of proteins in relation to the membrane surface
- Generalizable and automated method for membranes of arbitrary shape

- Account for surface area occupied by proteins in inner and outer leaflets
- Proper lipid packing around embedded proteins

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113 million Martini particles representing **1 billion** atoms

	Protein Components	<u>Copy</u>
	Aquaporin Z	97
	Copper Transporter (CopA)	166
	F1 ATPase	63
	Lipid Flipase (MsbA)	29
	Molybdenum transporter (ModBC)	130
	Translocon (SecY)	103
	Methionine transporter (MetNI)	136
	Membrane chaperon (YidC)	126
	Energy coupling factor (ECF)	117
	Potassium transporter (KtrAB)	148
	 Glutamate transporter (Glt_{Tk}) 	41
	Cytidine-Diphosphate diacylglycerol	(Cds) 50
	Membrane-bound protease (PCAT)	57
	Folate transporter (FoIT)	134
		1,397
Str B &		·
0.4 μm	3.7 M linids (DPPC) 2.4 M Na+	& Cl- ions

20D.

3.7 M lipids (DPPC), 2.4 M Na⁺ & Cl⁻ ions, 104 M water particles (4 H₂O / particle)

Applications of Computational Methodologies to Cell-Scale Structural Biology

Guided Construction of Membranes from Experimental Data Experimentally-Derived Membrane of Arbitrary Shape Builder

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Terasaki Ramp ~4 Billion Atoms — Outer Leaflet Inner Leaflet Cholesterol POPC POPE POPI POPS Sphingomyelin Cardiolipin

Keenan and Huang, J. Dairy Sci., 1972.

Terasaki et al., Cell, 2013.

Molecular Dynamics Simulation

- Generating a thermodynamic ensemble (Sampling / Statistic)
- Taking into account fluctuations/dynamics in interpretation of experimental observables
- Describing molecular processes + free energy
- Help with molecular modeling

 $\mathbf{r}(t+\delta t) = \mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t)\delta t$ $v(t + \delta t) = v(t) + a(t)\delta t$

 $a(t) = \frac{F(t)}{m}$ $F = -\frac{d}{dr}U(r)$

Potential Energy (hyper)Surface

Conformation (*x*)

Bond definitions, atom types, atom names, parameters,

What is a Force Field?

In molecular dynamics a molecule is described as a series of charged points (atoms) linked by springs (bonds).

To describe the time evolution of bond lengths, bond angles and torsions, also the non-bonding van der Waals and elecrostatic interactions between atoms, one uses a force field. The force field is a collection of equations and associated constants designed to reproduce molecular geometry and selected properties of tested structures.

Energy Functions

 U_{bond} = oscillations about the equilibrium bond length U_{angle} = oscillations of 3 atoms about an equilibrium bond angle $U_{dihedral}$ = torsional rotation of 4 atoms about a central bond $U_{nonbond}$ = non-bonded energy terms (electrostatics and Lenard-Jones)

Energy Terms Described in the CHARMm Force Field

Classical Dynamics F=ma at 300K

Energy function: $U(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, \cdots, \vec{r}_N) = U(\vec{R})$

used to determine the force on each atom:

$$m_i \frac{d^2 \vec{r_i}}{dt^2} = \vec{F_i} = -\vec{\nabla} U(\vec{R})$$

yields a set of 3N coupled 2nd-order differential equations that can be propagated forward (or backward) in time.

Initial coordinates obtained from crystal structure, velocities taken at random from Boltzmann distribution.

Langevin dynamics deals with each atom separately, balancing a small friction term with Gaussian noise to control temperature:

$$m \, \ddot{\vec{r}} = \vec{F}(\vec{r}) - \gamma m \, \dot{\vec{r}} + \vec{R}(t)$$

The most serious bottleneck

Molecular Dynamics to Sample Energy Landscape

Initial coordinates have bad contacts, causing high energies and forces (due to averaging in observation, crystal packing, or due to difference between theoretical and actual forces)

Minimization finds a nearby local minimum.

kТ

Heating and cooling or equilibration at fixed temperature permits biopolymer to escape local minima with low energy barriers.

Energy

Conformation

Initial dynamics samples thermally acce

Molecular Dynamics to Sample Energy Landscape

Patience is required to observe Molecular Events

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Preparing Your System for MD Solvation

Biological activity is the result of interactions between molecules and occurs at the interfaces between molecules (protein-protein, protein-DNA, protein-solvent, DNA-solvent, etc).

Why model solvation?

• many biological processes occur in aqueous solution

• solvation effects play a crucial role in determining molecular conformation, electronic properties, binding energies, etc

How to model solvation?

• explicit treatment: solvent molecules are added to the molecular system

• implicit treatment: solvent is modeled as a continuum dielectric

 $\mathbf{r}(t+\delta t) = \mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t)\delta t$ $v(t + \delta t) = v(t) + a(t)\delta t$

 $a(t) = \frac{F(t)}{m}$ $F = -\frac{d}{dr}U(r)$

Maxwell Distribution of Atomic Velocities

 $\sigma = x, y, z$

Equilibrium Properties of Proteins

2.5

0.5

Ubiquitin

Root Mean Squared Deviation: measure for equilibration and protein flexibility

$$RMSD(t) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(R_i(t) - R_i(0) \right)^2}$$

Protein sequence exhibits characteristic permanent flexibility!

NMR structures aligned together to see flexibility

RMSD constant protein equilibrated 500 600 1000 200 MD simulation

RMSD ubiquitin backbone atoms (NVE ensemble)

The color represents mobility of the protein through simulation (red = more flexible)

Thermal Motion of Ubiquitin from MD

RMSD values per residue

RMS deviations for the KcsA protein and its selectivity filer indicate that the protein is stable during the simulation with the selectivity filter the most stable part of the system.

Temperature factors for individual residues in the four monomers of the KcsA channel protein indicate that the most flexible parts of the protein are the N and C terminal ends, residues 52-60 and residues 84-90. Residues 74-80 in the selectivity filter have low temperature factors and are very stable during the simulation.