# Molecular dynamics flexible fitting (MDFF)



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#### **Multi-resolution modeling**

# high-resolution low-resolution structure density map (X-ray/NMR/ (cryo-EM) modeling)

how to get these to meet in the middle?

### The potential energy function $\mathbf{f}_i = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i} U_{MD}(\mathbf{R}) + \mathbf{f}_i^{\text{ext}}$ $U_{MD} = \sum k_i^{bond} (r_i - r_0)^2 + \sum k_i^{angle} (\theta_i - \theta_0)^2 +$ bondsangles $U_{bond}$ $U_{angle}$ $\sum k_i^{dihe} [1 + \cos\left(n_i \phi_i + \delta_i\right)] +$ dihedrals $U_{dihedral}$ $\sum_{i} \sum_{j \neq i} 4\epsilon_{ij} \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right] + \sum_{i} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{q_i q_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}}$ $U_{nonbond}$

#### **Merging cryo-EM data with atomic structures** using Molecular Dynamics Flexible Fitting (MDFF)

Two terms are added to the MD potential

$$U_{total} = U_{MD} + U_{EM} + U_{SS}$$



 $\geq \Phi_{thr},$ 



An external potential derived from the EM map is defined on a grid as

$$U_{EM}(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_{j} w_{j} V_{EM}(\mathbf{r}_{j})$$
$$V_{EM}(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{cases} \xi \left(1 - \frac{\Phi(\mathbf{r}) - \Phi_{thr}}{\Phi_{max} - \Phi_{thr}}\right) & \text{if } \Phi(\mathbf{r}) \ge \Phi_{thr}, \\ \xi & \text{if } \Phi(\mathbf{r}) < \Phi_{thr}. \end{cases}$$

A mass-weighted force is then applied to each atom

 $\mathbf{f}_i^{EM} = -\nabla U_{EM}(\mathbf{R}) = -w_i \partial V_{EM}(\mathbf{r}_i) / \partial r_i$ 

Flexible fitting of atomic structures into electron microscopy maps using molecular dynamics. L G. Trabuco\*, E Villa\*, K Mitra, J Frank, K Schulten. Structure, 16, 673-683, 2008.

#### **Map-derived potential and gradients**



Flexible fitting of atomic structures into electron microscopy maps using molecular dynamics.

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## Arrows (representing forces) point to regions of higher density (lower energy)

#### **MDFF: Secondary-structure restraints**

Harmonic restraints are applied to preserve secondary structure of proteins and nucleic acids, avoiding "overfitting"

$$U_{\rm SS} = \sum k_{\mu} (\mu - \mu_0)^2$$

restraints



For proteins,  $\phi$  and  $\psi$  dihedral angles of residues within helices or  $\beta$ -strands are restrained. Hydrogen-bond restraints are also an option.

> Flexible fitting of atomic structures into electron microscopy maps using molecular dynamics. L G. Trabuco\*, E Villa\*, K Mitra, J Frank, K Schulten. *Structure*, **16**, 673-683, 2008.

#### **MDFF: Secondary-structure restraints**

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restraints

For nucleic acids, distance and dihedral restraints are applied to a selected set of base pairs.

Flexible fitting of atomic structures into electron microscopy maps using molecular dynamics. L G. Trabuco\*, E Villa\*, K Mitra, J Frank, K Schulten. *Structure*, **16**, 673-683, 2008.



#### **MDFF: Validation**

#### E. coli 16S



gray: 2AVY; green: 2AW7

#### Acetyl-CoA synthase



PDB 1OAO: gray open; green closed



simulated EM map at 10-Å resolution; structured coloured by RMSD per residue 0.0 2.5 5.0 7.5 10.0 12.5 Å



simulated EM map at 10-Å resolution; structured coloured by RMSD per residue 0.0 7.3 14.6 21.9 29.2 36.5 Å

Simulated maps used as targets for proteins with crystal structures in two conformations

#### **MDFF: Validation**

Ways to evaluate the quality and convergence of the fit are to track RMSD and cross-correlation coefficient (CCC)



Fluctuations about the best fit ("ensemble" of fitted structures)

#### Symmetry in biological molecules



#### Symmetry as seen in cryo-EM maps

-helically symmetric nitrilase

-symmetry defined by two parameters, pitch (rotation about central axis) and rise

-can use parameters from cryo-EM map to define transformation matrices **U**<sub>i</sub>

$$\stackrel{\leftarrow}{U} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -\sin\theta & 0 & 0\\ \sin\theta & \cos\theta & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \Delta z\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

NAMD can also guess the parameters



#### **Theory of symmetry restraints**

1) Apply appropriate symmetry transformation to each monomer

2) Average transformed monomers (which now overlap)

3) Back transform the average structure

4) Calculate RMSD between each monomer and the average

|2|RM

5) Apply potential that pushes each monomer to the average

$$U_{SR} = \frac{1}{2}k(t)\sum_{i} [RMSD_{i}(t)]^{2}$$

$$\mathbf{R}_i(t) \to \stackrel{\longleftrightarrow}{U_i} \mathbf{R}_i(t)$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{avg}}(t) = \langle \overleftarrow{U_i} \mathbf{R}_i(t) \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{i}'(t) = \stackrel{\longleftrightarrow}{U_{i}^{-1}} \mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{avg}}(t)$$

$$SD_i(t) = \sqrt{\langle |\mathbf{R}_i(t) - \mathbf{R}'_i(t)| \langle |\mathbf{R}_i(t) - \mathbf{R}'_i(t)| \langle |\mathbf{R}_i(t) - \mathbf{R}'_i(t)| \rangle \langle |\mathbf{R}_i(t) - \mathbf{R}'_i(t) - \mathbf{R}'_i(t)| \rangle \langle |\mathbf{R}_i(t) - \mathbf{R}'_i($$

#### Seeing the effects of symmetry restraints



red - fit without symmetryblue - fit with symmetry



Symmetry-restrained flexible fitting for symmetric EM maps. KY Chan, J Gumbart, R McGreevy, J M. Watermeyer, B. T Sewell, K Schulten. *Structure*, **19**, 1211-1218, 2011.

#### xMDFF: fitting for low resolution X-ray structures



<u>xMDFF: Molecular dynamics flexible fitting of low-resolution X-Ray structures.</u>R McGreevy\*, A Singharoy\*, Q Li, J Zhang, D Xu, E Perozo, K Schulten. *Acta Crystallographica D* **70** 2344-2355, 2014.

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#### **Structures of ribosome-Sec complexes**



#### (Inner) membrane proteins insert through SecY

-Ribosome feeds nascent protein into SecY (95% of all MPs in eukaryotes)
-Membrane protein segments exit through SecY's lateral gate





# Membrane insertion seen at atomic resolution (circa 2011)

Low-resolution Data



**Close-up of Nascent Protein in SecY** 

J. Frauenfeld, J. Gumbart *et al*. (2011) *Nat*. *Struct. Mol. Bio.* 18:614-621.

\*collaboration with cryo-EM lab of Roland Beckmann

# Membrane insertion seen at atomic resolution (the remake)

is the signal anchor where we think it is?





#### **Cryo-EM visualization of cross-linked state**

resolution 10.1 Å



Empty complex also visualized

resolution 9.5 Å



maps by Chris Akey, Boston U.

Segmented channel density with signal anchor



E. Park, J.F. Menetret, J. Gumbart S.J. Ludtke, W. Li, A. Whynot, T.A.Rapoport, C.W. Akey. (2014) Nature. 506:102-106.

#### tracing the path of the nascent protein



E. Park, J.F. Menetret, J. Gumbart S.J. Ludtke, W. Li, A. Whynot, T.A.Rapoport, C.W. Akey. (2014) Nature. 506:102-106.

#### Gate opening requires only rigid-body motions



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#### Comparison of old (2011) with new (2014)

Structures roughly similar, validating placement of signal anchor in first one

Frauenfeld et al. 2011



Park et al. 2014



Largest differences are in improved modeling of E. coli-specific elements, e.g., two-helix plug (h2a+h2z) and linker h7b between TMs 7 and

#### The nascent chain is not fully extended



Nascent chain density is observed in the open pore and in a V-shaped cleft on top of SecY

force from peptide synthesis insufficient to drive translocation

Translocation through the channel may require a **pulling force** from the other side (e.g., SecDF)

Membrane insertion has been demonstrated to exert a force on the nascent chain<sup>1</sup>

> <sup>1</sup> N. Ismail...G. von Heijne. A biphasic pulling force acts on transmembrane helices during translocon-mediated membrane insertion. (2012) *Nat. Struct. Mol. Bio.* 10:1018-1022.

#### Membrane curvature induced by LH1





cryo-EM map showed a bent structure (grey outline) in agreement with previous simulations

Molecular dynamics flexible fitting of LHI to that map in the *presence of a membrane* induced membrane curvature



### curvature was maintained even after fitting

Jen Hsin, James Gumbart, Leonardo G. Trabuco, Elizabeth Villa, Pu Qian, C. Neil Hunter, and Klaus Schulten. Protein-induced membrane curvature investigated through molecular dynamics flexible fitting. *Biophys. J.*, 97:321-329, 2009.

#### MD fitting to cryo-tomography data

