Modelling of ligand-protein binding I. Computation of thermodynamic quantities

1

Outline

- Molecular dynamics
  - Theoretical background
- Force fields
  - Energy terms
  - Parameters
- Sampling in molecular dynamics
- Free energy difference and alchemical transformations
- Examples

2

Molecular dynamics

3

Introduction

- Molecular dynamics – link between microscopic and macroscopic quantities
  - structure
  - dynamics
  - thermodynamics

FnIII_10_preSMD.mpg

4

History

- Alder, B. J. and Wainwright, T. E.
  J. Chem. Phys. **27**, 1208 (1957)

- McCammon, J. A., Gelin, B. R., and Karplus, M.
  Nature (Lond.) **267**, 585 (1977)

5

Basic terms

- Thermodynamic/Macroscopic state
  - The system is characterized by few macroscopic parameters; e.g.: T, P, N
- Microscopic state
  - The system is characterized by the positions and momenta of atoms (phase space).
- Ensemble
  - Microscopic states corresponding to a macroscopic state
- Molecular dynamics simulations
  - Generation of microscopic states of an ensemble as a function of time

6

Thermodynamic ensembles

- Microcanonical – NVE (isolated system)
- Canonical – NVT (thermal equilibrium)
- Izotherm-izobar – NPT
- Grand canonical – μVT (equilibrium with a reservoir of particles)

7

7

Ergodic hypothesis

- Measurable quantities: ensemble average $\langle A \rangle_{ensemble}$
  - e.g. (non-covalent) binding of two molecules in solution
- Molecular dynamics: time average $\langle A \rangle_{time}$

$$\langle A \rangle_{time} = \langle A \rangle_{ensemble}$$

- „long enough" MD – appropriate sampling

8

8

Force field

- Molecular mechanics
  - basic entities: atoms
  - „classical"
  - simple, fast computations
  - includes parameters
    - Can be applied within the validity of the parameter space
    - Chemical reactions are typically outside the validity
- Quantum mechanics
  - basic entities: nuclei and electrons
  - accurate
  - time intensive computations

9

9

Molecular mechanics

Atoms are pointlike objects with mass and interactions

$$E = E_{str} + E_{bend} + E_{tors} + E_{vdw} + E_{el} + E_{cross}$$

intramolecular | intermolecular

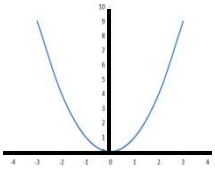
10

10

Bond stretching energy

$$E_{str} = k(r - r_0)^2$$

$$F_{str} = -2k(r - r_0)$$



good approximation in the vicinity of r_0
k and r_0 are atom dependent parameters

11

11

Bond stretching energy - parameters

$$E_{str} = k(r - r_0)^2$$

general class	atom type[1]	description
hydrogen types		
	H	amide or imino hydrogen
	HC	explicit hydrogen attached to carbon
	HO	hydrogen on hydroxyl oxygen
	HS	hydrogen attached to sulfur
	HW	hydrogen in water
	H2	amino hydrogen in NH_2
	H3	hydrogen of lysine or arginine (positively charged)
all-atom carbon types[2]		
	C	sp^2 carbonyl carbon and aromatic carbon with hydroxyl substituent in tyrosine
	CA	sp^2 aromatic carbon in 6-membered ring with 1 substituent
	CB	sp^2 aromatic carbon at junction between 5- and 6-membered rings
	CC	sp^2 aromatic carbon in 5-membered ring with 1 substituent and next to a nitrogen
	CK	sp^2 aromatic carbon in 5-membered ring between 2 nitrogens and bonded to 1 hydrogen (in purine)
	CM	sp^2 same as CJ but one substituent
	CN	sp^2 aromatic junction carbon in between 5- and 6-membered rings
	CQ	sp^2 carbon in 6-membered ring of purine between 2 NC nitrogens and bonded to 1 hydrogen
	CR	sp^2 aromatic carbon in 5-membered ring between 2 nitrogens and bonded to 1 H (in his)
	CT	sp^3 carbon with 4 explicit substituents
	CV	sp^2 aromatic carbon in 5-membered ring bonded to 1 N and bonded to an explicit hydrogen
	CW	sp^2 aromatic carbon in 5-membered ring bonded to 1 N-H and bonded to an explicit hydrogen
	C*	sp^2 aromatic carbon in 5-membered ring with 1 substituent

Bond Stretching Potential Parameters

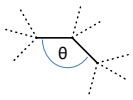
Bond	used for	K_r/ kcal mol^{-1} Å^{-2}	R_{eq}/ Å
CT-CT	*BMF_EMF*	310.0	1.526
CT-H1	*BMF_EMF*	340.0	1.090
CT-HC	*BMF_EMF*	340.0	1.090
CT-NA	*BMF_EMF*	337.0	1.475
CR-H5	*BMF_EMF*	367.0	1.080
CR-NA	*BMF_EMF*	477.0	1.343
CW-H4	*BMF_EMF*	367.0	1.080
CW-NA	*BMF_EMF*	427.0	1.381
CW-CW	*BMF_EMF*	549.0	1.350
AL-Cl	*TCA*	116.1	2.170
P-F	PF_6^-	260.3	1.646
NN-ON	NO_3^-	300.0	1.260

12

12

Bending energy

$$E_{bend} = k(\theta - \theta_0)^2$$

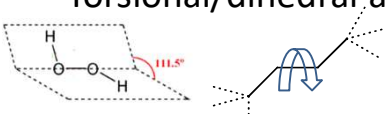


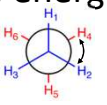
k and θ_0 are atom dependent parameters

13

13

Torsional/dihedral angle energy



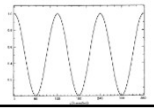


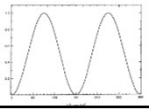
$$E_{tors} = \frac{V_n}{2}[1 + cos(n\varphi - \varphi_0)]$$

V_n – barrier height
n - periodicity

Dihedral angle (atom types)				V_n, kcal/mol	n	ϕ_0	comments
C	CT1	NH1	C	0.2000	1	180.00	! backbone phi
NH1	C	CT1	NH1	0.6000	1	0.00	! backbone ksi
CT1	C	NH1	CT1	1.6000	1	0.00	! backbone omega
CA	CA	CA	CA	3.1000	2	180.00	! Phe side chain
H	OH1	CT2	CT1	0.4200	3	0.00	! Ser side chain

~15000 parameters

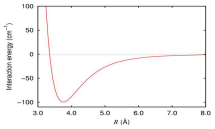




14

14

van der Waals energy



short range:	repulsive;	exp(-r) or r^{-12}	Pauli repulsion
middle range:	attractive;	r^{-6}	dispersion
long range:	disappears		

$$E_{vdw} = 4\epsilon\left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^{12}\right] - \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{r}\right)^{6}\right]$$

$$\sigma_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_i + \sigma_j)$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \sqrt{\varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j}$$

$$c * exp\left(\frac{-r}{\sigma}\right)$$

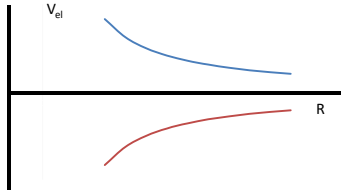
15

15

Electrostatic energy

$$V_{el} = \frac{q_i q_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}}$$

Coulomb



16

16

MM parameters

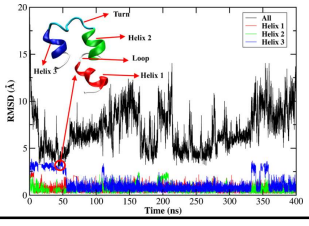
- Derivation
  - Quantum mechanical calculations
  - Experimental data
  - Extension based on analogy
- Validation by comparing computed and experimental data
  - Macromolecular structure
  - NMR data
  - Structure and energy of van der Waals complexes
- Error compensation; mutual interdependence of parameters

17

17

Quality of MM force field

- Protein structure
- DNA, RNA structure
- Conformation of organic molecules
- Ligand-protein interactions
- Structure and interactions of lipids and membranes
- …



RMSDs of backbone atoms from the native structure as a function of MD simulation time

Duan J Mol Model 2014,20,2195

18

18

Selected MM force fields

- Charmm (Chemistry at HARvard Macromolecular Mechanics)
- AMBER (Assisted Model Building with Energy Refinement)
- OPLS (Optimized Potentials for Liquid Simulations)
- GROMOS (GROningen Molecular Simulation)
- MMFF (Merck Molecular Force Field)

19

19

MD algorithm

Newtonian mechanics

$$r^N(r_1, r_2 \dots r_N) \qquad p^N(p_1, p_2 \dots p_N)$$

$$U(\underline{r}) \qquad K\left(\underline{p}\right) = \sum_i \frac{|p_i|^2}{2m_i}$$

$$H = K + U \qquad \dot{r}_i = \frac{p_i}{m_i} \qquad \dot{p}_i = f_i$$

20

20

Verlet algorithm

Calculation of p_i and r_i at δt time steps

$$p_i(t), r_i(t) \rightarrow p_i(t+\delta t), r_i(t+\delta t) \qquad \rightarrow f_i(t)$$

$$p_i\left(t+\frac{1}{2}\delta t\right) = p_i(t) + \frac{1}{2}\delta t \cdot f_i(t)$$

$$r_i(t+\delta t) = r_i(t) + \frac{\delta t \cdot p_i\left(t+\frac{1}{2}\delta t\right)}{m_i} \qquad \rightarrow f_i(t+\delta t)$$

$$p_i(t+\delta t) = p_i\left(t+\frac{1}{2}\delta t\right) + \frac{1}{2}\delta t \cdot f_i\,(t+\delta t)$$

Typical δt for simulation of biochemical systems: 1-4 fs

1 µs MD ~ 10^9 evaluations

21

21

MD - sampling

- Microstates appear according to Boltzmann distribution
  - $exp\left(-\frac{E}{kT}\right)$
- Simulation time is limited by computational capacity
  - Time scale for proteins: ~µs
- Rare events with high energy barrier cannot be straightforwardly simulated

22

22

MD - Sampling

Time scale (s)	Amplitude (Å)	Description	# MD steps (step ~ fs)
10^{-15}-10^{-12}	0.001-0.1	Bond stretching, bond angle deformation	*1-1000*
10^{-12}-10^{-9}	0.1-10	Protein sidechain, loop and collective motions	*10^3-10^6*
10^{-9}-10^{-6}	1-100	Folding of small proteins	*10^6-10^9*
10^{-6}-10^{-1}	10-100	Protein folding, Ligand-protein binding	*10^9-10^{14}*

23

23

Free energy - Sampling

$$F = -kT ln\left[h^{-3N}\iint exp\left(-\frac{E(r,p)}{kT}\right)dpdr\right] \qquad \text{(1) Formula for free energy}$$

Free energy calculation with MD sampling is problematic

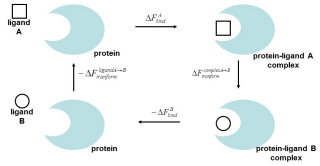
phase space incomplete in (1)
positive integral
ln function increases monotonically
negative contribution missing
F overestimated

24

24

Free energy difference

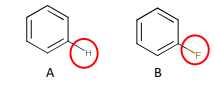
- Sampling issue hampers the calculation of F and $\Delta F=F_{Bound}-F_{Free}$
- Special techniques for calculating $\Delta F=F_B-F_A$ (A similar to B) for similar systems (see later)
- Thermodynamic cycle: binding free energy difference ($\Delta\Delta F$) of two similar ligands is obtained from the free energy difference of similar systems



– $\Delta\Delta F = \Delta F^{A}_{bind} - \Delta F^{B}_{bind} = \Delta F^{complexA\to B}_{transform} - \Delta F^{ligandA\to B}_{transform}$

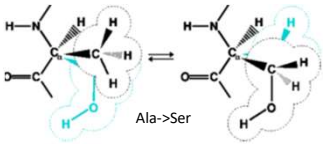
– „alchemical" transformations: $\Delta F^{complexA\to B}_{transform}$ and $\Delta F^{ligandA\to B}_{transform}$
  - 2 transformations to obtain $\Delta\Delta F$

Alchemical transformation- coupling parameter



H(r,p,λ=0) H(r,p,λ=1)

$H_\lambda = H(r,p,\lambda) = (1-\lambda)\,H_A + \lambda H_B$
λ – coupling parameter
H_λ may be other function of λ
H_A, H_B may depend on λ

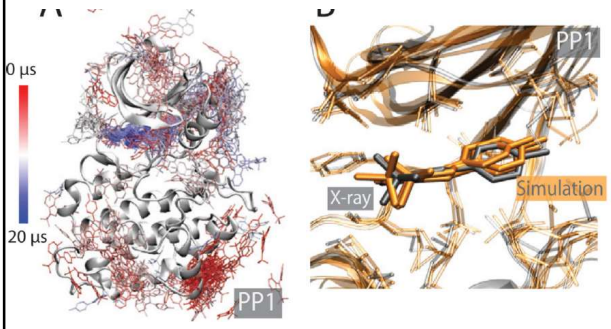


http://www.ks.uiuc.edu/Research/namd/2.6/ug/node36.html

- Large perturbation – important change in the environment
- Large perturbation is computationally impractical

Selected applications

process of ligand binding

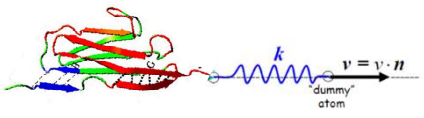


PP1 molecule finds the binding site of Src kinase in a 15μs simulation

JACS 2011 133 9181

Steered MD

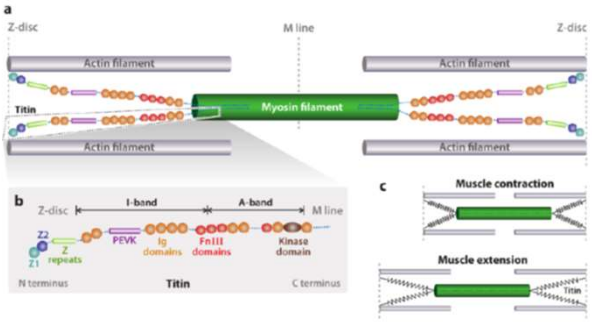
- Constant velocity pulling



$$U = \frac{1}{2}k[vt - (\vec{r} - \vec{r}_0)\cdot\vec{n}]^2$$

- Constant force pulling

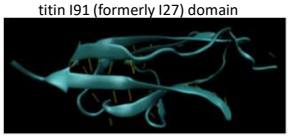
Titin structure and function



Application 2

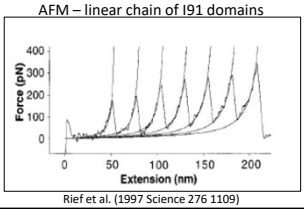
Unfolding and force

titin I91 (formerly I27) domain

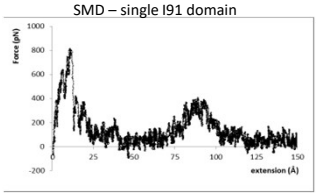


Constant velocity pulling

AFM – linear chain of I91 domains



SMD – single I91 domain

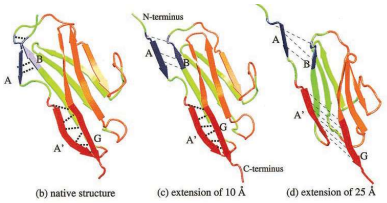


Rief et al. (1997 Science 276 1109)

31

Application 2

Unfolding and structure

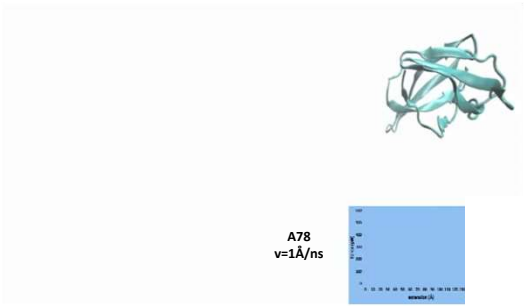


Lu, H., and Schulten, K. (2000).. Biophys. J. 79, 51–65

32

Application 2

Titin Fn domain unfolding mechanism



33

33

Example – binding to lysozyme

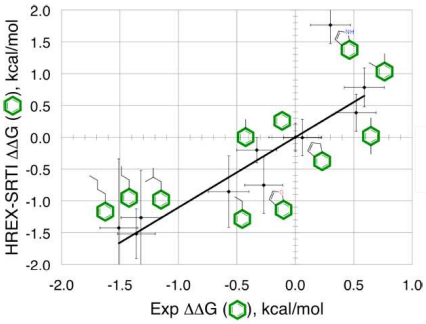


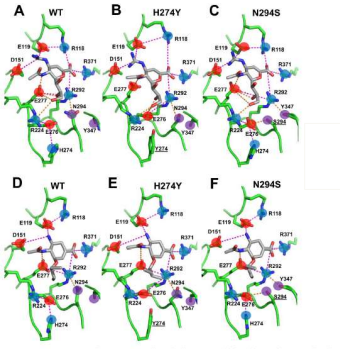
Figure 6. Comparison of the HREX-SRTI relative binding free energy predictions to experiment

J. Chem. Theor. Comput. 2011, 7 3001

34

34

Example – neuraminidase inhibitors 1



PLOS Comp Biol 2012, 8 e1002665

35

35

Example – neuraminidase inhibitors 2

Table 1. Comparison of experimental ΔΔG in oseltamivir and zanamivir for three NA mutations with estimates obtained using different computational approaches.

Method	H274Y		N294S		Y252H		RMSE
	ΔΔG, kcal/mol		ΔΔG, kcal/mol		ΔΔG, kcal/mol		(RMSD), kcal/mol
	zanamivir	oseltamivir	zanamivir	oseltamivir	zanamivir	oseltamivir	
Experimental[a]	0.4 (0.1)	3.3 (0.2)*	1.2 (0.1)*	2.6 (0.2)*	0.1 (0.2)	−1.4 (0.1)	N/A (0.2)
RMM	−5.8 (7.4)	0.7 (7.0)	8.2 (7.7)	5.8 (6.2)	−0.1 (8.7)	−0.9 (7.4)	4.2 (7.4)
PSM	1.7 (2.9)	1.2 (3.0)	0.6 (2.0)	1.7 (1.9)	1.5 (1.7)	0.5 (1.5)	1.5 (2.2)
SRSM/HREX	1.3 (0.8)	4.1 (2.4)	2.3 (0.4)	2.2 (0.9)	0.6 (0.8)	0.7 (1.4)	1.1 (1.1)
MM-GBSA	6.2 (8.1)	0.9 (3.8)	5.7 (6.1)	−5.9 (3.6)	2.1 (2.9)	−1.9 (3.0)	4.8 (4.6)
MM-PBSA	8.4 (10.1)	3.0 (3.9)	5.8 (4.5)	−4.7 (3.2)	2.8 (3.1)	0.2 (2.6)	5.0 (4.6)
Dynetix	−0.4 (0.5)	0.8 (0.4)	−0.4 (0.3)	0.3 (0.2)	−0.1 (0.4)	0.0 (0.0)	1.2 (0.3)

[a]Values were derived from the data reported by Collins et al [10].
Standard deviations are shown in parentheses. Root mean squared error (RMSE) and the RMS Standard Deviation (RMSD) are provided.
*indicates experimentally determined drug resistant mutation. 'N/A' stands for *not applicable*.
doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002665.t001

PLOS Comp Biol 2012, 8 e1002665

36

36

Example – FKBP12-ligand

Standard binding free energy
Double decoupling
FEP
Free energy components

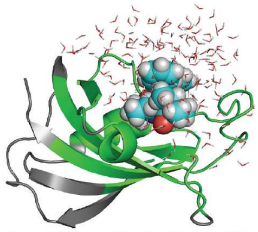


Figure 4. FKBP12 bound with ligand #8 studied previously.[41,42] The gray parts are treated as a mean-field approximation with generalized solvent boundary potential.[86] See ref 42 for computational details.

$\Delta\Delta G_{rep}$	$\Delta\Delta G_{dis}$	$\Delta\Delta G_{elec}$	$\Delta\Delta G_c$	$\Delta\Delta G_t^\circ$	$\Delta\Delta G_r$	ΔG_{bind}°	exptl
−1.1	−21.1	−3.7	6.9	3.4	5.4	−10.2	−10.9

37

MD scope and limitation

- Scope
  - Structural study; structure refinement
  - Dynamics
    - conformations, ligand-protein binding, steered processes,…
  - Thermodynamics
    - Free energy changes
      - solvation, ligand-protein binding,…
- Limitations
  - Sampling
  - Accuracy of force field
  - Chemical reactions cannot be routinely studied