Biophysics Lecture Tuesday, March 12th, 2019

Presenter: Alexey Savelyev

Topic: Molecular Dynamics III

Copy of Lecture at:

https://demeler.uleth.ca/biophysics/archive/Savelyev



Connection to Statistical Mechanics:

- > Thermodynamic ensembles in MD
- > Ergodicity
- Computing space and time correlation functions
 - Partial Specific Volume
 - Osmotic Pressure



• Ionic distribution around DNA from AA MD simulation & continuum theory



- Oscillations in RDF from explicit solvent MD simulations come from discrete nature of the solvent and ions
- Smooth shape of Na+ & K+ density from PB calculations is caused by continuum mean-field treatment of electrostatics

ε=1

08=3

Poisson-Boltznam eq.:

 Non-linear 2-order PDE for electrostatic potential given solute's charge density, ionic buffer strength and solvent (epsilon)

MD Simulations: cont. lecture #2

• Partial specific volume (PSV):

$$\Delta V = \int_{|\vec{r}| < \lambda} d\vec{r} \ \rho(\vec{r}) \left(\frac{1}{\rho(\vec{r})} - \frac{1}{\rho_0} \right)$$
$$= -\int_{|\vec{r}| < \lambda} d\vec{r} \ (g_{uv}(\vec{r}) - 1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Delta V(\lambda)$$



$$\overline{v}_2 = v_2 + \delta_1(v_1 - v_1^o)$$

(v_2) "intrinsic" solute volume $\delta_1 - \#$ of waters in the hydration layer $v_1 - PSV$ of the water in hydration layer $v_0 - PSV$ of the water in the bulk



MD Simulations: cont. lecture #2

• Osmotic pressure calculations

Problem:

Validate energetics of interactions btw. DNA and mobile ions (Na+, K+ etc.) Competitive ionic binding to DNA



MD Simulations: cont. lecture #2

Osmotic pressure calculations



Experimentally available value:

• Osmotic pressure coeff.

$$\varphi = \pi/\pi_{id}$$

$$\pi_{\rm id}(m) = \frac{RT}{V_{\rm m}} \nu \cdot m$$

$$\pi = F_{\text{memb}}/A$$

$$F_{\text{memb}} = -\sum_{i} k(z_i \pm D/2), \quad |z_i| > D/2$$

- Ensemble simulated: constrained NVT
 - Ratio of the unit cell in xy-plane is constant
 - Fluctuations along *z* axis is allowed

Savelyev & MacKerell, J. Phys. Chem. B, 2015, 119 Savelyev & MacKerell, J. Phys. Chem. B, 2014, 118

- Measure osmotic pressure of different electrolyte solutions (Na-DMP, K-DMP, Na-Cl, K-Cl,...) at different molar concentrations (~1M and ~3M) to optimize vdW interactions
- MD generates correct counter-ionic distributions around DNA
- Correct affinities of different ions towards binding to DNA

- **Mechanics:** A state is characterised by one minimum energy structure (global min.)
- **Statistical mechanics:** A state is characterized by an ensemble of structures
 - Very small energy differences between microstates (~kBT = 2.5 kJ/mol) resulting from summation over very many contributions
 - Entropic effects : Not only energy minima are of importance but whole range of x-values with energies ~kBT



• Implication of the Free Energy

In thermodynamic equilibrium free energy is at its minimum:

- \succ N,V,T \rightarrow Helmholtz: A = U -TS
- > N,P,T \rightarrow Gibbs: G = F + PV

Example:

Q: which of 2 phases (A,B) is more stable at given T and density?

A: compare Helmholtz free energies: A(A) vs. A(B)

$$A = -k_B T \ln Q_{NVT} \qquad Q_{NVT} = \frac{1}{h^{3N} N!} \int \int \exp[-\frac{1}{k_B T} H(x, p_x)] dx dp_x$$

- Free energies can NOT be expressed as averages of functions of space coordinates; rather they directly depend on the available volume in phase space that is available to the system at given T.
- A, S, G ("thermal quantities") can NOT be directly measured form MD simulations

BUT free energy differences CAN !!!

• Free Energy Perturbation (FEP)



• Free Energy Perturbation (FEP)

$$\Delta A = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \langle \exp\left[-\beta \Delta \mathscr{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}_x)\right] \rangle_0$$

- In FEP the instantaneous change from one state to another is sampled over a canonical ensemble.
- FEP corresponds to fast growth with the constraint *immediately* moved to the target value.
- The *term 'perturbation' is misleading* because the method is exact and does not correspond to a perturbation theory in the usual sense

• Free Energy Perturbation (FEP)

$$\Delta A = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \langle \exp\left[-\beta \Delta \mathscr{H}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}_x)\right] \rangle_0$$

- > Small ΔH does NOT imply that the free energy difference between the reference and the target states must be small.
- Small free energy differences do NOT imply successful application of the direct FEP technique
- FEP will only provide accurate estimates of free energy differences under the condition that the target system be <u>"sufficiently similar</u>" to the reference system.

In practice: while simulating system 0, we also assess the energy of state 1

- This means that partition functions, or density of states of 0 and 1 must overlap
- Is NOT always the case

• Free Energy Perturbation (FEP): example – hydration of benzene



$$\mathscr{H}_1(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{p}_x) = \mathscr{H}_0(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{p}_x) + \Delta \mathscr{H}(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{p}_x)$$

Solvent-solute interactions are turned ON (LJ, Coulomb)

Example: Although the hydration free energy of benzene is only <u>~0.767 kcal/mol at 298K</u>, this quantity cannot be successfully calculated by direct application of the FEP equation to a simulation of a reasonable length, because low–energy configurations in the target ensemble, which do not suffer from the overlap between the solute and solvent molecules, are not sampled in simulations of the reference state.

- Dealing with large perturbations / bad or insufficient sampling
 - The difficulty in applying FEP theory can be circumvented through a *stratification strategy*, or *staging*.
 - It relies on constructing several **intermediate states** between the reference and the target state such that the direct evaluation of the free energy difference between 2 consecutive states, $A_{i:i+1}$, is reliable.

$$\Delta A = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \Delta A_{i,i+1} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \ln \left\langle \exp\left(-\beta \Delta U_{i,i+1}\right) \right\rangle_i$$

- Intermediate states do not need to be physically meaningful, i.e. they do not have to correspond to systems that actually exist.
- More generally, the Hamiltonian can be considered to be a function of some parameter, λ, an order parameter.
- Without loss of generality λ can be defined between 0 and 1, such that $\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda = 1$ for the reference (U_0) and target (U_1) states, respectively.
- A simple choice for the dependence of the Hamiltonian on λ , the coupling parameter:

$$\mathscr{H}(\lambda_i) = \lambda_i \mathscr{H}_1 + (1 - \lambda_i) \mathscr{H}_0 = \mathscr{H}_0 + \lambda_i \Delta \mathscr{H}$$

$$\Delta A = -\frac{1}{\beta} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \ln \langle \exp(-\beta \Delta \lambda_i \Delta \mathscr{H}) \rangle_{\lambda_i} \qquad \qquad \Delta \lambda_i = \lambda_{i+1} - \lambda_i \\ \lambda_1 = 0 \text{ and } \lambda_N = 1$$



Graduate switching ON solvent-solute interactions

There are alternative (more commonly used) thermodynamic cycles for solvation free energies

Thermodynamic Integration

Free energy difference is calculated by defining a **thermodynamic path** between the states and integrating over ensemble-averaged enthalpy/internal energy changes along the path.

$$\Delta A_{a \to b} = A(\lambda_{b}) - A(\lambda_{a}) = \int_{\lambda_{a}}^{\lambda_{b}} \frac{dA(\lambda)}{d\lambda} d\lambda$$
$$\Delta A_{a \to b} = \int_{\lambda_{a}}^{\lambda_{b}} \left\langle \frac{\partial H(x, p_{x}; \lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \right\rangle_{\lambda} d\lambda$$

Thermodynamic paths can either be real chemical processes or alchemical processes.

- > Free energies of solvation
- > Free energies of binding
- > Free energy differences associated with chemical transformations of species

Thermodynamic Integration

Alchemistry

Modern alchemistry, done computationally, can turn structural information into "gold" of free energies of binding, mutations, or other chemical modifications...

Example:

Relative binding free energies of benzene and phenol to lysozyme





• Example of alchemical calculations: Relative binding free energies of benzene and phenol to lysozyme



- Processes A & B are real (binding)
- > Processes C & D are alchemical (B → P)

$$\Delta G(C) - \Delta G(D) = \Delta G(A) - \Delta G(B)$$

Free energy difference of the binding of benzene vs. phenol to Lysozyme is equal to the free energy difference of the (alchemical) transformation of the benzene to phenol in the bound and free state.

 Example of alchemical calculations: Relative binding free energies of benzene and phenol to lysozyme
 Morphing benzene to phenol



WHY?

- Calculations are done both in solution and in a bound (to lysozyme) state
- Each step (1-3) is broken into the "windows" (λ_i); All procedure is turned to many independent (parallel) jobs
- Assumptions: no major conformational changes to the protein;

• Solvation free energies: relative (solvent 0 and solvent 1)



- solvation processes are described by the upper and lower horizontal legs, which corresponds to the transfer of the solute from the gas phase to the bulk solvent
- relative solvation free energies of two solutes can be determined by transforming one into another (alchemical transformations) in both the gas phase and in solution

$$\Delta A_{\rm solvation}^1 - \Delta A_{\rm solvation}^0 = \Delta A_{\rm forward}^1 - \Delta A_{\rm forward}^0$$

Pohorille et al, J. Phys. Chem. B, 2010, 114, Good Practices in Free-Energy Calculations



- solvation free energy can be measured by coupling the solute to its environment (gas or solution)
- annihilation (transformation to nothing) should not be taken literally inter- and intra-molecular solute interactions are turned OFF

$$\Delta A_{\rm solvation} = \Delta A_{\rm creation}^1 - \Delta A_{\rm creation}^0$$

Pohorille et al, J. Phys. Chem. B, 2010, 114, Good Practices in Free-Energy Calculations

• Solvation free energies: estimate for DMP

What if we need to develop computational model (all-atom force field)?

- > We do not have experimental solvation free energy
- We need non-bonded force field parameters to reproduce experimental free energy of solvation...

EXAMPLE: Force-field parametrization



Solvation of Dimethyl phosphate, part of the DNA backbone

Savelyev et al, J. Phys. Chem. B, 2014

 ΔG_1 – gas acidity data

- ΔG_3 from pK of a protonated DMP
- ΔG_2 start from free en. hydr. of related TMP, then compute relative solv. free en. btw TMP and HDMP (with QM AMSOL)
- $\Delta G(H^{\scriptscriptstyle +})$ hydration free energy of the proton

We use the above thermodynamic cycle to estimate experimental free energy of solvation of DMP to tune interaction parameters (vdW, Coulomb)

• Example of alchemical calculations: Free energy difference of counterion partitioning btw. DNA and bulk (chloride solution)



$$\Delta G \equiv G(\lambda = 1) - G(\lambda = 0) = \int_{0}^{1} d\lambda \left\langle \frac{\partial H(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \right\rangle$$

Savelyev and Papoian, Mendeleev Commun., 2007, 17, 97-99

- Summary: why do we use thermodynamic cycles?
 - The "alchemical" transformations require two set of simulations instead of one, one of them involving only the solute in the gas phase and is much less computationally intensive.
 - Discrepancies between the forward and the reverse transformations yield the hysteresis of the reaction, which constitutes a measure of the error in the free energy calculation
 - If the hysteresis is markedly larger than the estimated statistical errors, it is usually indicative of ergodicity issues during the transformations

- Potential of Mean Force (PMF)
 - Concept of the reaction coordinate, or order parameter (ξ) which is used to distinguish between thermodynamic states
 - Often ξ is defined on geometric grounds: distance, (pseudo-) torsion angle, RMSD etc.
 - $\,\,$ But ξ can also be more exotic quantity such as principal components or normal modes of the molecule
 - PMF can be 1D or of higher dimensions

$$Q(\xi) = \frac{\int \delta[\xi(r) - \xi] \exp[(-\beta E)d^N r]}{\int \exp[(-\beta E)d^N r]}$$
$$A(\xi) = -1/\beta \ln Q(\xi)$$

Potential of mean force: the rest of degrees of freedom are effectively integrated out



- Means of effective sampling rare events (events of interest):
 - Constrained MD
 - Non-equilibrium MD
 - Adaptive umbrella sampling
 - Local elevation/flooding
 - Adaptive biasing force
 - Metadynamics
 - · Adaptively biased MD
 - Replica exchange MD

Umbrella Sampling

• A bias, an additional energy term, is applied to the system to ensure efficient sampling along the whole reaction coordinate.

$$E^{\rm b}(r) = E^{\rm u}(r) + w_i(\xi) \quad \omega_i(\xi) = K/2(\xi - \xi_i^{\rm ref})^2$$



Umbrella Sampling

~11 nm

All-atom MD simulations of approaching 2 DNAs in NaCl and KCl buffers





NaC

• WHAM is used for reconstruction of the PMF from AA MD



- Distance R is broken into "windows"
- Biasing harmonic potential is applied to each window to keep 2 DNA segments at certain distance and in-parallel orientation

Savelyev A. and Papoian G. JACS (2007) 129

- WHAM weighted histogram analysis method is used to combine results from many simulations corresponding to different "windows" to compute the resulting free energy profile
 - MD at each window generates biased P'(R_i)
 - WHAM takes care of proper re-weighting of all P'(r) to generate unbiased P(r), or resulting free energy profile
 - It is also called Potential of mean force as the rest of degrees of freedom are effectively "integrated out"

Developed: Torrie, Valleau 1974,1977 Implemented in MD: Alan Grossfield, 2003

WHAM is used for reconstruction of the PMF from AA MD



• Potential of Mean Force (PMF): example of coarse-graining NaCl solutions



Potential of Mean Force (PMF): example of coarse-graining NaCl solutions



• Potential of Mean Force (PMF): generalization

Cartesian order parameter: conventional form

$$Q(\xi) = \frac{\int \delta[\xi(r) - \xi] \exp[(-\beta E)d^N r]}{\int \exp[(-\beta E)d^N r]}$$

Non-Cartesian order parameter: different set of coordinates *q* {ξ*i*}

$$Q(\xi) = \int \exp(-\beta E) |J(q)| d^{N-1} q / Q$$

$$J_{ij} = dq_i / dr_j \qquad |J(q)| \Rightarrow \text{ Jacobian determinant}$$

 Integrate over all generalized coordinates but ξ

• Potential of Mean Force (PMF): generalization example, PCA



MD simulation protocol:

NPT ensemble;

P = 1 atm;

T = 300K; (additional thermostat at 1K for Drude particles)

 $\Delta t = 2$ fs (non-polarizable); 1 fs (Drude polarizable)

Particle mesh Ewald summation for long-range electrostatics

Periodic boundary conditions ($I \sim 50$ Å)

atoms: ~15,000 / ~22,000 (Additive/Drude polarizable)

Ensemble: ~10⁵ frames (every 6ps: ~600 ns)

1DCV (10 b.p.)	[B form]
Ecor1 (12 b.p.)	[B form]

AMBER setup:

- Parmbsc0 FF for DNA;
- TIP3P water model;

Cheatham&Joung monovalent ion parameters for Ewald and TIP3P water

• Potential of Mean Force (PMF): generalization example, PCA



Ensemble: ~10⁵ frames (every 6ps: ~600 ns)

- How do we uncover distinct conformational modes of DNA oligomer?
- How strength/content of ionic buffer affect these conformational modes ?

• Numerical SAXS DNA profiles

$$I(\mathbf{q}) = \sum_{j}^{N} \sum_{k}^{N} A_{j} A_{k} e^{i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{r}_{j,k}}$$
$$I(q) = \left\langle I(\mathbf{q}) \right\rangle_{\Omega} = \sum_{j}^{N} \sum_{k}^{N} A_{j} A_{k} \frac{\sin qr_{j,k}}{qr_{j,k}}$$

$$A_{j} = f_{j}(q) - \rho_{0}g_{j}(q)$$
$$g_{j}(q) = G(q)V_{j}e^{-q^{2}V_{j}^{2/3}/4\pi}$$

$$G(q) = \frac{V_o}{V_m} e^{-q^2 (V_o/3 - V_m/3)/4\pi}$$

0< q < 25 A⁻¹

$$f(q) = \sum_{i=1}^{4} a_i \exp\left(-b_i \left(\frac{q}{4\pi}\right)^2\right) + c,$$

(NIST web site)



I(q)

Tiede et al, JACS, 127, 16, 2005



Numerical SAXS DNA profiles

 DNA minor groove width correlates the most with scattering profiles changes as function of ion type

(among numerous other DNA geometric parameters: roll, twist, base-pait rise etc.)



Savelyev & MacKerell, J.Phys. Chem. Lett. 6, 212, 2014

Hydrated cations modulate minor groove via hydrogen bond formation between ion's water and DNA strands







Savelyev & Mackerell, J. Chem. Theory Comput., 11, 4473, 2015

- Construct covariance matrix in dihedral-angle phase space
 $$\begin{split} &C_{ij} = \left\langle (x_i(t) - \overline{x}_i)(x_j(t) - \overline{x}_j) \right\rangle \\ &x_i = \{\cos \varphi_i, \ \sin \varphi_i\}, \quad \varphi = \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon, \varsigma, \chi_{PUR}, \chi_{PYR}\} \end{split}$$
- Diagonalize covariance matrix

 $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{T} \mathbf{\Lambda} \mathbf{T}^{T} \qquad \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{ii} \\ \mathbf{t}^{(i)} \end{cases}$

Project entire MD trajectory onto few largest PCs

 $P_i(t) = \mathbf{t}^{(i)} \cdot (\mathbf{x}(t) - \overline{\mathbf{x}})$

• Build 1D and 2D free energy landscapes $F(P_1) = -k_B T \ln \left[\rho_1(P_1) \right]$ $F(P_1, P_2) = -k_B T \ln \left[\rho_{12}(P_1, P_2) \right]$

Savelyev A. in preparation



1DCV in LiCI [DRUDE]: Dynamics Inferred from dPCA



Use of dPCA to Characterize SAXS DNA Data



Tiede et al, JACS, 127, 16, 2005



Savelyev A. in preparation

Other PCA applications: Essential Protein Dynamics

• Use of dPCA to describe proteins:

how sub-basins are split into smaller basins in a hierarchically constrained fashion





Zhuravlev et al, J Phys Chem B 113, 26, 2009

Other PCA applications: Polymorphism of G-Quadruplexes



А

Figure 5. Porcupine plots of the first eigenvectors for 143D (A), 1KF1 (B), 2GKU (C), 2HY9 (D), 2JSM (E), 2JPZ (F), 2JSL (G), 2KF8 (H), 2KKA-G (I), and 2KKA-I (J). Principal component analysis was carried out on MD trajectories in order to determine the major patterns of motions. Motions associated with stem residues are colored green, loop residues are red, flanking residues are blue, and central ions are yellow.



Huy T. Le, William L. Dean, Robert Buscaglia, Jonathan B. Chaires, and John O. Trent, J Phys Chem B, 2014