Molecular Modeling of Proteins: application to cancer immunotherapy

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Introduction & historical note

Theoretical milestones:

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Classical equations of motion: F(t) = m a(t)
Newton (1643-1727):
Schrödinger (1887-1961):
                              Quantum mechanical equations of motion:
                                      -ih \ \partial t \ \Psi(t) = H(t) \ \Psi(t)
                              Foundations of statistical mechanics
Boltzmann(1844-1906):
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Molecular dynamics milestones:

Liqu
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Pro
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Molecular Modeling Principles

1) Modeling of molecular interactions





Free energy landscape

2) Simulation of time evolution (Newton)



Connection micro/macroscopic: intuitive view



Central Role of the Partition Function



Dynamical aspects of molecular recognition



Free energy: classical definition



The free energy is the energy left for once you paid the tax to entropy:



Theoretical Predictions: • *Approximate:* empirical formula for all contributions • *Exact:* using statistical physics definition of *G* Free energy: computational approaches

$$\Delta G = G_A - G_B = -k_B T \ln\left(\frac{Z_A}{Z_B}\right)$$

Free energy simulations techniques aim at computing ratios of partition functions using various techniques.



The CHARMM Force Field

$$V = \sum_{\text{Bonds}} K_b (b - b_0)^2 + \sum_{\text{Angles}} K_\theta (\theta - \theta_0)^2$$
$$+ \sum_{\text{Impropers}} K_\omega (\omega - \omega_0)^2$$
$$+ \sum_{\text{Dihedrals}} K_\phi \left[1 - \cos(n_\phi \phi - \delta_\phi) \right]$$
$$+ \sum_{i > j} \frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi\varepsilon} \frac{1}{r_{i,j}}$$
$$+ \sum_{i > j} 4\varepsilon_{ij} \left[(\sigma_{ij} / r_{ij})^{12} - (\sigma_{ij} / r_{ij})^6 \right]$$



MD Techniques: Microcanonical sampling

For an Hamiltonian of the form $H(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} + \phi(r_{1, \dots, r_{3N}})$

in cartesian coordinates, the Hamilton equations of motion reduce to the Newton equations

$$\dot{r}_i = \frac{p_i}{m_i}$$
 $m_i a_i = \frac{-\partial}{\partial r_i} \phi(\mathbf{r})$ $i=1, ..., N$

Several numerical methods have been developed to integrate these equations. One of the most stable integrator is that of *Verlet*: for a small time increment dt, one can use a Taylor expansion of the function r(t):

$$r_{i}(t+\delta t) = r_{i}(t) + v_{i}(t) \,\delta t + \frac{1}{2} a_{i}(t) \,\delta t^{2} + \dots$$

$$r_{i}(t-\delta t) = r_{i}(t) - v_{i}(t) \,\delta t + \frac{1}{2} a_{i}(t) \,\delta t^{2} + \dots$$

Adding those equations, one gets r(t+dt) as a function of r(t) and r(t-dt).

$$\boldsymbol{r}_{i}(t+\delta t)=2\boldsymbol{r}_{i}(t)-\boldsymbol{r}_{i}(t-\delta t)+\boldsymbol{a}_{i}(t)\delta t^{2}$$

- In practice, this scheme is applied iteratively, starting from the initial conditions.
- Velocities are postcomputed as v(t) = [r(t+dt)-r(t-dt)] / 2dt.
- Positions are correct up to dt^4 and velocities to dt^2 .
- This scheme conserves energy with very good accuracy.

MD Techniques: Sampling of the various ensembles

1) Microcanonical ensemble (constant N, V,E)

$$H(\boldsymbol{p},\boldsymbol{q}) = \sum_{i}^{N} \frac{\boldsymbol{p}_{i}^{2}}{2m_{i}s^{2}} + \boldsymbol{\phi}(\boldsymbol{q})$$

2) Canonical ensemble (constant *N*, *V*, *T*)

$$H(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, p_s, s) = \sum_{i}^{N} \frac{\mathbf{p}_i^2}{2m_i s^2} + \phi(\mathbf{q}) + \frac{p_s^2}{2Q} + (3N+1)kT \ln s$$



3) Isothermic-isobaric ensemble (constant *N*,*P*,*T*)

$$H = \sum_{i}^{N} \frac{p_{i}^{2}}{2m_{i}s^{2}V^{2/3}} + \phi(V^{1/3}q) + \frac{p_{s}^{2}}{2Q} + (3N+1)kT\ln s + \frac{p_{V}^{2}}{2W} + P_{ex}V$$



Ergodic Hypothesis



Free energy calculation: Main approaches



Medical background: Cytotoxic activity of T lymphocytes



Tumor cell recognition by CD8+ T cells: the TCR-p-MHC complex



CD8+ T Lymphocyte





X-ray structure of bound TCR-p-MHC

Goals of the molecular modeling approach



Principles of peptide based immunotherapy



Regression of pulmonary melanoma metastases after vaccination with Melan-A peptide (patient LAU 446)



July 9, 2001 < 0.1 % of Melan-A specific CD8+ T cells in PBL September 24, 2001 0.3 % of Melan-A specific CD8+ T cells in PBL

Immunotherapy using adoptive transfert



Lymphodepletion combined with adoptive transfert



Dudley & al, JCO 2005

Goals of the molecular modeling approach



Free energy calculations:



Free energy calculation: Main approaches



Binding free energy decomposition: MM-PBSA, MM-GBSA



$$\begin{split} S &= S_{trans} + S_{rot} + S_{vib} & \text{B. Tidor and M. Karplus, J. Mol. Biol., 1994, 238, 405} \\ \Delta G_{solv} &= \Delta G_{solv,elec} + \Delta G_{solv,np} \\ \Delta G_{desolv} &= \Delta G_{solv,elec}^{comp} - \left(\Delta G_{solv,elec}^{lig} + \Delta G_{solv,elec}^{prot}\right) + \sigma \left(SASA^{comp} - \left(SASA^{lig} + SASA^{prot}\right)\right) \end{split}$$

Depending on the way $\Delta G_{solv,elec}$ is calculated:

Molecular mechanics – Poisson-Boltzmann Surface Area (MM- PBSA) J. Srinivasan, P.A. Kollmann *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **1998**, *120*, 9401

Molecular mechanics – Generalized Born Surface Area (MM- GBSA)

H. Gohlke, C. Kiel and D.A. Case, J. Mol. Biol., 2003, 330, 891

MM-GBSA Method: application to TCR-p-MHC $\Delta G_{bind} = \langle \Delta E_{gaz} \rangle + \langle \Delta G_{desolv} \rangle - T \langle \Delta S \rangle$





Examples of TCR optimization: 2C TCR

Residue	Domain	$\langle E^{sc}_{vdW}\rangle$	$\langle E^{sc}_{elec}\rangle$	$\langle \Delta G^{sc}_{elec,solv} \rangle$	$\langle \Delta G^{sc}_{np,solv} \rangle$	$-\langle TS^{sc}_{vib} \rangle$	$\langle \Delta G^{sc}_{bind} \rangle$
Sor03	CDB3	0.63	0.06	3.04	0.01	0.17	5.92
DI 100	CDR3	0.05	-9.00	3.04	-0.01	0.17	-0.20
Phe100	CDR3	-3.59	-0.74	1.36	-0.72	0.65	-3.04
Tyr31	CDR1	-3.46	-2.37	3.31	-0.61	0.75	-2.38
Tyr50	CDR2	-3.70	-4.02	5.63	-0.57	0.58	-2.08
Lys68	HV4	0.87	-56.18	53.34	-0.34	0.59	-1.72
Ser27	CDR1	-0.52	-5.14	4.32	-0.32	0.06	-1.60
Lys48	CDR2	0.63	-65.57	62.44	-0.26	1.25	-1.51
Tyr26	CDR1	-1.06	-1.46	1.79	-0.11	-0.11	-0.95
Ala28	CDR1	-0.73	0.49	-0.37	-0.33	0.13	-0.81
Ala101	CDR3	-0.40	-0.38	0.24	-0.08	0.02	-0.60
Leu104	CDR3	-0.10	-0.15	0.06	-0.00	-0.33	-0.52
Ser51	CDR2	-0.57	-1.58	1.77	-0.46	0.47	-0.37
Gln1	-	-0.16	-0.44	0.28	-0.00	0.00	-0.32
Ala103	CDR3	-0.04	-0.17	0.11	0.00	-0.19	-0.29
Pro30	CDR1	-0.10	-3.20	3.14	0.00	-0.12	-0.28
Phe66	-	-0.08	-0.10	0.18	0.00	-0.26	-0.26
Tyr49	CDR2	-0.21	0.15	-0.05	-0.00	-0.13	-0.24
Ser102	CDR3	-0.96	-4.31	5.08	-0.17	0.13	-0.23
Thr29	CDR1	-0.37	-1.55	3.03	-0.18	-0.12	0.81
Asp53	CDR2	-0.10	28.56	-27.32	-0.01	0.02	1.15





Free energy calculation: Main approaches



Computation of absolute TCR binding free energy



Simulation setup

- Gromos96 Force Field
- Gromacs Engine
- Particle Mesh Ewald (PME)
- Periodic boundary conditions
- Box: 80x80x150 A
- 26000 Water molecules
- 85000 Atoms
- Hydrogen shaken
- 2 fs timestep
- 0.5 ns / 24h on 4 alpha CPU



TCR binding free energy profile:





Application to the design of small molecule inhibitors EADock



Conformational sampling using genetic algorithms



Eadock: Evolutionary Parameters



Eadock: Definition of the fitness

A multi-objective fitness is used during the evolutionary process:

1) Simple fitness: CHARMM total energy with ε =4 and Rdie

2) Full fitness:

Simple

CHARMM total energy with solvation free energy computed using Generalized Born implicit solvent model

The simple fitness selects individuals

The full fitness selects between best ranked clusters

Minima of the simple fitness coincide with those of the full fitness



Choice of an optimal fitness Analysis of 700 decoys with two solvation models



Eadock: Evolutionary Parameters



Eadock: Evolutionary Parameters



Example of smart operator: Barbatruc

Starting conformation at 4.2 Å all atom RMSD



Barbatruc: final RMSD 0.7 Å

Standard minimization: final RMSD 3.2 Å

Test set for EADock benchmark

37 complexes, involving 11 different proteins

Protein	PDB	q	DoF	Hb A.	Hb D.	Mass	% B. Sur.	Protein	PDB	q	DoF	Hb A.	Hb D.	Mass	% B. Sur.
Anhydrase	1cil	-1	3	6	2	323.4	85.1	Penicillopepsin	1apt	1	17	6	5	501.7	85.9
	1cnx	0	10	6	3	331.4	74.2		1apu	0	15	6	4	485.7	85.0
	1okl	0	2	4	1	249.3	87.7	Ribonuclease	1asp	0	2	9	3	360.3	80.2
Arabinose	1abe	0	0	5	4	150.1	100.0		1rhl	-2	3	10	4	361.2	78.1
	1abf	0	0	5	4	164.2	100.0		1rls	-2	3	10	4	361.2	79.2
	5abp	0	1	6	5	180.2	100.0	Thermolvsin	3tmn	0	5	3	3	303.4	73.0
Carbocypeptidase	1cbx	-1	3	4	1	207.2	98.2	•	5tln	-1	7	5	3	320.3	79.8
	Зсра	0	4	4	3	238.2	97.7		6tmn	-1	11	8	3	471.5	73.2
	6сра	-1	9	8	2	477.4	82.3	Thrombin	1etr	0	7	6	4	504.6	87.9
FABP	1icm	-1	11	2	0	227.4	95.6		1ets	1	7	4	4	522.7	88.3
	1icn	0	14	2	1	282.5	96.0		1ett	1	7	3	3	429.6	88.2
	2ifb	-1	13	2	0	255.4	96.9	Trypsin	1pph	1	7	3	3	429.6	69.9
Neuraminidase	1nnb	-1	4	8	5	290.3	89.7	<i>/</i> F -	1tna	1	1	0	1	114.2	91.6
	1nsc	-1	4	9	6	308.3	92.0		1tni	1	4	0	1	150.2	85.6
	1nsd	-1	4	8	5	290.3	92.6		1tni	1	2	0	1	122.2	92.4
Cyt. P450	1phf	0	1	1	1	144.2	100.0		1tnk	1	3	0	1	136.2	91.0
	1phg	0	3	3	0	226.3	100.0		1tnl	1	1	0	1	134.2	92.7
	2cpp	0	0	1	0	152.2	100.0		1tpp	0	2	3	2	206.2	86.9
									3ptb	1	1	0	2	121.2	94.6

 $-2 \le q \le 1$ ligand charge $0 \le DoF \le 17$ number of ligand degrees of freedom $0 \le Hb A. \le 10$ number of ligand hydrogen bond acceptors $0 \le Hb D. \le 6$ number of ligand hydrogen bond donnors $114 \le Mass \le 523$ ligand mass (g/mol) $69.9 \le \% B. Sur. \le 100$ % of ligand SASA buried upon complexation



Rureulava at al ICAMD 2002

Docking results for the 37 test ligands

ALL RESULTS	_				Rank1	ALL RESULTS	-				Rank1
	Seeding w/ n	ative bind	ling mode	Э	Seeding 8-11Å		Seeding w/ native binding mode			Seeding 8-11Å	
Testcase Complex	AutoDock	DOCK	FlexX	GOLD	EADock	Testcase Complex	AutoDock	DOCK	FlexX	GOLD	EADock
Trypsin						€-Thrombin					
3ptb	0.8	0.59	1.11	1.09	0.51	1etr	4.61	6.66	7.26	5.99	11.07
1tng	0.62	0.86	1.08	1.89	0.27	1ets	5.06	3.93	2.11	2.39	1.25
1tnj	1.21	1.56	1.73	1.9	0.69	1ett	8.12	1.33	6.24	1.3	5.07
1tnk	1.69	1.87	1.7	3.08	1.28	Thermolysin					
1tni	2.61	5.26	2.73	4.93	2.25	3tmn	4.51	7.09	5.3	3.96	0.61
1tnl	0.41	2.08	3.74	1.61	0.88	5tln	5.34	1.39	6.33	1.6	8.35
1tpp	1.8	3.25	1.95	2.33	0.38	6tmn	8.72	7.78	4.51	8.54	8.92
1pph	5.14	3.91	3.27	4.23	0.98	Penicillopepsin					
Cytochrome P-450cam						1apt	1.89	8.06	5.95	8.82	1.65
1phf	2.09	2.39	4.68	4.42	4.58	1apu	9.1	7.58	8.43	10.7	1.19
1phg	3.52	5.57	4.87	4.2	1.68	Intestinal FABP					
2cpp	3.4	2.48	0.44	3.49	0.2	1icm	1.8	3.99	2.94	2.3	1.02
Neuraminidase						1icn	3.99	3.88	2.95	2.05	1.86
1nsc	1.4	4.86	6	1.02	0.48	2ifb	3.09	1.43	8.94	2.61	0.6
1nsd	1.2	4.51	1.56	0.96	0.55	Ribonuclease					
1nnb	0.92	4.51	0.92	0.84	1.17	1gsp	2.67	1.16	3.71	0.7	0.39
Carbocypeptidase						1rhl	0.96	0.71	1.15	1.08	1.02
1cbx	1.33	3.13	1.32	1.87	0.42	1rls	0.98	1.75	4.33	1.16	1.01
Зсра	2.26	6.48	1.51	1.87	0.81	Carbonic anhydrase					
6сра	8.3	8.3	9.83	4.96	3.7	1cil	5.81	2.78	3.52	6.04	3.48
L-Arabinose						1okl	8.54	5.65	4.22	3.55	5.79
1abe	0.16	1.87	0.55	0.18	0.22	1cnx	10.9	7.35	6.83	6.32	2.33
1abf	0.48	3.25	0.76	0.5	0.24	Overall success	46%	30%	35%	46%	76%
5abp	0.48	3.89	4.68	0.59	0.68						

> 2.0

Unsuccessful Prediction

≤ 2.0 Successful Prediction

Convergence of the 5 best clusters



Testcase: ribonuclease (1gsp)

Other EAdock examples:





Evolutionnary Process $G0 \rightarrow G150$









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