## Visualizing Gas Permeation Pathways Through Proteins at Sub-Angstrom Resolution water oxygen







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# **Molecular Dynamics Simulations**



nobelprize.org/nobel\_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2003/animations.html

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

#### Major limitations:

Time scale / sampling



Force field approximations

#### Major advantages:

- Providing a dynamical description
- Unparalleled spatial and temporal resolutions, simultaneously

## In situ Molecular Dynamics Simulations



Atom count: 100-500k ~10 ns/day on 128-1024 processors 100-500 ns for each system

## Fast Growth of Computational Power

HP 735 cluster 12 processors (1993)





SGI Origin 2000 128 processors (1997)



PSC LeMieux AlphaServer SC 3000 processors (2002)



Ranger/Kraken ~60,000 processors (2007)



Blue Waters (UIUC) 200,000+ processors (2013)



Anton/DESHAW/PSC 512 processors (2010)

## Capturing Biology at sub-Å Resolution







#### IF↔OF transition in an MFS Transporter in Membrane







Y. Wang, J. Cohen, W. Boron, K. Schulten, and E. Tajkhorshid, *J. Struct. Biol.*, 2007. Y. Wang, S. Shaikh, and E. Tajkhorshid, **Physiology**, 2010.



# Lipid/Water Partition Coefficients

#### Simulation

CO <sub>2</sub> in POPE	3.50
CO <sub>2</sub> in POPC	2.74
$O_{2(P)}$ in POPC	4.04
O <sub>2(N)</sub> in POPC	3.46
O <sub>2(P)</sub> in POPE	4.73
O <sub>2(N)</sub> in POPE	5.79

#### Experiment

CO<sub>2</sub>

Octanol: 1.3 Hexadecane: 1.5 Olive oil: 1.7

**O**2

Liposome: 3.9





# Gas Diffusion Inside the Lipid Bilayer



# Aquporin Water/Gas Channels





# Why Tetramers?

# Implicit Ligand Sampling





 $\mathcal{W}(\mathbf{r}) = -k_{\rm B}T \ln \left[\frac{\rho(\mathbf{r})}{\rho_{\rm o}}\right]$ 

 $F(z) = -RT \ln \sum_{x,y=0}^{L_x, L_y} \frac{e^{-F(x,y,z)/RT}}{L_x L_y}$ 

Cohen, et al., 2006; Wang, et al., 2007

#### **Oxido-reductase and Proton Pump**



#### Rapid O<sub>2</sub> Permeation via the Hydrophobic Channel in Cytochrome C Oxidase



## O<sub>2</sub> Pathway in Cytochrome C Oxidase

#### Implicit ligand sampling



#### Explicit O<sub>2</sub> simulation



Reddish solid:  $\Delta\Delta G$  map of ~ -3.5 kcal/mol ; Reddish wireframe:  $\Delta\Delta G$  map of ~ -3.0 kcal/mol

Observed Xenon binding in CcO ba<sub>3</sub> crystal structures



#### All located along the hydrophobic channel

Luna VM, Chen Y., Fee JA and Stout CD (2008) Biochemistry, 47, 4657-4665 (PDB entry 3BVD)

Luna VM, Fee JA, Deniz AA and Stout CD (2012) Biochemistry, 51, 4669-4676

# Simulating Membrane Gas Transport





## Identical total areas

Calculating permeation rate in MD simulations

AQP1 AQP4  $CO_2$   $O_2$  NO

# Gas Transport through Aquaporins





# A Role for the Central Pore!



## Gas Transport through Aquaporins

SYSTEM	<b>TOTAL (100x100 A<sup>2</sup>)</b>	WATER PORES (4)	<b>CENTRAL PORE (1)</b>
Equi POPE-CO <sub>2</sub>	3	N/A	N/A
Equi POPC-CO <sub>2</sub>	5	N/A	N/A
Equi POPC-O <sub>2(P)</sub>	16	N/A	N/A
Equi POPE-O <sub>2(P)</sub>	11	N/A	N/A
Press POPE-CO <sub>2</sub>	168	N/A	N/A
Press POPC-CO <sub>2</sub>	160	N/A	N/A
Press POPE-O <sub>2(P)</sub>	310	N/A	N/A
Press POPC-O <sub>2(P)</sub>	208	N/A	N/A
Press POPE-AQP1-CO <sub>2</sub>	76	6	4
Press POPE-AQP1-O <sub>2(P)</sub>	79	1	6





## Free Energy Profiles for O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>



Y. Wang, J. Cohen, W. Boron, K. Schulten, and E. Tajkhorshid, *J. Struct. Biol.*, 2007. Y. Wang, S. Shaikh, and E. Tajkhorshid, *Physiology*, 2010.

## Major Barrier Generated by Structured Water





Barrier identified and characterized through combining the implicit and explicit approaches

Y. Wang, J. Cohen, W. Boron, K. Schulten, and E. Tajkhorshid, *J. Struct. Biol.*, 2007.Y. Wang, S. Shaikh, and E. Tajkhorshid, *Physiology*, 2010.

# NO<sup>•</sup> Permeation Through AQP4



Y. Wang, and E. Tajkhorshid, *Proteins*, 2010.

# NO<sup>•</sup> Permeation Through AQP4





#### 50 ns equilibrium simulation

Y. Wang, and E. Tajkhorshid, *Proteins*, 2010.

# Comparison of the Central Pore in AQP1 and AQP4



## Gas Transport through Aquaporins

✦ Computational evidence for gas transport through a membrane channel

✦ Central Pore in AQPs is an optimal pathway for gas diffusion

Shared by other oligomeric membrane proteins?

✦ AQPs can be physiologically relevant gas channels in lipid bilayer with low gas permeability

✦ We can simulate very efficiently the process of gas diffusion, but we rely heavily on reliable initial configurations of lipids/ protein



## Free Energy of O<sub>2</sub> Permeation Across Charged Lipid Bilayers







DOPS / Na<sup>+</sup>

# Lipid Phase and Gas Permeation

Liquid phase (30 ns) Gel phase (30 ns)





## Highly Mobile Membrane Mimetic (HMMM) Model for Membrane Proteins and Phenomena









Ohkubo, Pogorelov, Arcario, Christensen, Tajkhorshid, *Biophysical J. May 2012*.





## Spontaneous and Rapid Formation of a Bilayer



Zenmei Ohkubo



60 x 60 x 120 Å DVPSs at 3 x 3 x 6 grid points (22 ns)



### HMMM- Preserving the "Face" of the Lipid Bilayer

Perfect match in the membrane profile particularly in the head group region

Critical for proper description of lipid protein interactions







# Spontaneous Insertion of FVII-GLA

# Spontaneous Membrane Binding (*n* = 10)

HMMM

ANALASIA ANA





#### **Quantitative Characterization and Optimization of HMMM**



#### **Quantitative Characterization and Optimization of HMMM PMF of Amino Acid Insertion** ARG (full-atom >30 ns) ARG 1 (HMMM 5 ns) ARG 2 10 Free Energy (kcal/mol) Free energy (kcal/mol) 0 5 0 -5 ALA 1 (HMMM 5 ns) Arginine ALA 2 Alanine ALA (full-atom 30 ns) -10 – 0 20 30 30 10 ່ດ 10 20 Distance from bilayer center (Å) Distance from center of bilayer (Å) 20 ASP (full-atom > 30 ns) ASP (HMMM-JVS 3 ns) ASP (HMMM-DCLE 5 ns) 15 0 Energy (kcal/mol) Free energy (kcal/mol) -2 10 **Solvent optimization** Free Isoleucine 5 ILE 1 (HMMM 3 ns) **Aspartate** ILE 2 ILE (full-atom > 30 ns) 0 -6 30 0 10 20 30 'n 10 20 Distance from bilayer center (Å) Distance from center of bilayer (Å)

\* Black lines: Full membrane data from Biophys. J. 94, 3393, 2008.



#### Highly Mobile Membrane Mimetic Model (HMMM)



#### Computational Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics Group (CSBMB)



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- Xue Qin
- Robert Gennis

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