

Simulating Life Processes Across Scales

Garegin Papoian

DeepOrigin's Simulation Stack

We build atomistic and coarse-grain models across **biological scales** to address every stage of drug discovery and find drugs faster.

In Development

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Outline

- Mesoscale modeling of the cytoskeleton and towards simulating eukaryotic cells
- Modeling protein complexes: For some important drug discovery tasks, AWSEM leaves AlphaFold2 in the dust
- Virtual Screening of Small Molecules

MEDYAN Work

James Komianos U.

Aravind Chandrasekaran Qin Ni

U.

NSF CHEMISTRY: CTMC NSF PHYSICS: POLS

Carlos Floyd

-
- Haoran Ni

External Radek Erban (Englished Manusian Dengton)

T-cell activation Eric Betzig

We would like to simulate cellular dynamics based on the microscopic laws of physics and chemistry

Theory

A Whole-Cell Computational Model Predicts Phenotype from Genotype

Jonathan R. Karr,^{1,4} Jayodita C. Sanghvi,^{2,4} Derek N. Macklin,² Miriam V. Gutschow,² Jared M. Benjamin Bolival, Jr.,² Nacyra Assad-Garcia.³ John I. Glass,³ and Markus W. Covert^{2,*} ¹Graduate Program in Riophysics

Cell

MEDYAN: Mechanochemical Dynamics of Active Networks

- **3D simulation region is divided into compartments.**
- **Diffusion (Actin, Capping protein, Arp2/3) between compartments.**
- **Chemical reactions in compartments:**
	- **Polymerization, Depolymerization, Capping, Branching...**
- **Monte Carlo algorithm to generate stochastic trajectories**

✏ **K. Popov, J. Komianos, G. A. Papoian, PLOS Comp Bio,** *2016***, DOI:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1004877** ✏ **L. Hu and G. A. Papoian, Biophys. J.;** *2010***, 98,1375** ✏ **L. Hu and G. A. Papoian, J. Phys.: Condens. Matter;** *2011***, 23, 374101**

The reaction-diffusion master equation

- **Discretize space into locally well-mixed compartments (massaction kinetics)**
- **Includes both chemical reactions within compartments and diffusion between compartments**
- **Simulated using accelerated Gillespie algorithm variant (NRM)**

Spatially resolved chemistry

✏ **K. Popov, J. Komianos, G. A. Papoian, PLOS Comp Bio, 2016, DOI:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1004877**

MEDYAN: Mechanics

Finite-width Filament Model

- Designed a filament model that includes **shearing, twisting, stretching, and bending**
- Built on the **Cosserat theory** of elastic rods
- **Spline functions** used to parameterize rod configuration

✏ **C. Floyd, H. Ni, R. Gunaratne, R. Erban, G. A. Papoian, "On Stretching, Bending, Shearing and Twisting of Actin Filaments I: Variational Models", J Chem Theor Comp, (2022), 18, 4865**

Membrane crumpling in hyperosmotic solution

Tension:
$$
F = k_s/(2A_0)(A - A_0)^2
$$

\nBending: $F = \int 2k_b(H - c_0)^2 dA$
\nVolume Conservation: $F = k_V/(2V_0)(V - V_0)^2$

Volume Exclusion:

$$
F=k_{vol}\int dA/|r_b-r_p|^4
$$

G.

Surface Reaction-Diffusion: Receptor Signaling & Clustering

Time Evolution: An Adiabatic Ansatz

Popov K, Komianos J, and Papoian GA, PLoS Comp. Biol. 2016

Timings on 1 core of 1 CPU

Wall times required to obtain **1000 seconds** long trajectories

Mouse embryonic fibroblasts have a volume of approximately 1000 μm³

Axon Growth Cone Simulation

- 279283 actin monomers.
- The initial conditions and parameters for these simulations were ported from the 5 nM Arp2/3 simulations from:
	- Aravind Chandrasekaran et al., MBoC 33.11 (2022)
- A MEDYAN.jl simulation takes 3 days to run on a single core with 4 GB memory.
- Previously took multiple weeks using C++ version.

Documentation Download Publications Gallery Contact Home

MEDYAN - Mechanochemical Dynamics of Active Networks

Welcome to the webpage of the MEDYAN, an efficient and scalable computational model for mechanochemical simulations of active matter networks created by the Papoian lab at the University of Maryland. This webpage contains documentation and examples for the MEDYAN software package, which is implemented in C++. The source code for this package is downloadable for scientific use.

Background

The cell cytoskeleton plays a key role in human biology and disease, contributing ubiquitously to such important processes. as embryonic development, wound repair. and canoer metestasis. The Papoian laboratory is interested in gaining deeper. understanding of the physical chemistry behind these complex, far-from-equilibrium mechanochemical processes.

Read more

Latest news

March 2022 - MEDYAN 5.4.0 is published. [Dawnload] March 2022 - MEDYAN 5.3.0 is published. February 2022 - MEDYAN 5.2.1 is published. December 2021 - MEDYAN 5.1.0 is published. August 2021 - Our paper litted Membrane-MEDYAN: Simulating Deformable Vesicles Containing Complex Cytoskaletal Networks was published in JPCB and chosen as the cover. July 2021 - MEDYAN 5.0.0 is published. July 2021 - MEDYAN 4.3.0 is published. July 2021 - MEDYAN 4.2.0 is published. March 2021 - Our paper titled Segmental Lennard-Jones Inferactions for semi-fiexible polymer networks was published in Molecular Physics.

Funding sources

September 30, 2021 Volume 125 Number 38 pubs.acs.org/JPCB

Membrane-MEDYAN: Simulating Deformable Vesicles Containing **Complex Cytoskeletal Networks**

Published as part of The Journal of Physical Chemistry virtual special issue 'Dave Thirumalai Festschrift'. Haoran Ni and Garegin A. Papoian®

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Towards Simulating a Whole Cell

Towards Simulating a Whole Cell

Entropy Production and Avalanches in Actomyosin Networks

- **Measuring entropy production in active matter phases is a necessary step to understand their self-organization**
- **Experimental measurements of forces produced by migrating cells suggests that dissipation of mechanical energy during migration is poorly understood**
- **We developed an algorithm in MEDYAN to quantify dissipation rates**

Floyd C, Papoian GA, Jarzynski C, Interface Focus, 10.1098/rsfs.2018.0078, (2019) Liman, …, Wolynes, Levine, Cheung, PNAS, v 117, 10825, (2020)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Understanding cytoskeletal avalanches using mechanical stability analysis

Carlos Floyd, C Herbert Levine, C Christopher Jarzynski, and C Garegin A. Papoian + See all authors and affiliations

PNAS October 12, 2021 118 (41) e2110239118; https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2110239118

- *In vivo* studies of cytoskeletal motions reveal **heavy-tailed distributions of event sizes** - similar to Gutenberg-Richter law
- "Cytoquakes" have been introduced as **large, sudden events** in cytoskeletal dynamics

Shi, Y., et al., PNAS (2019)

Cal Floyd

Soft and Stiff Vibrational Modes

- **Numerically constructed Hessian matrix of** U **to find the** vibrational modes \mathbf{v}_k with stiffness λ_k and delocalization r_k
- **Soft modes more spatially spread out than stiff modes**

Avalanches in in vitro Actomyosin Systems

(left). $G_s(x,t)$ for system approximately equivalent to that with MEDYAN. (Papoian Lab) (right).

Nathan Zimmerberg

Patrick Kelly Murrell

Michael

Myosin walking on two parallel filaments with a third perpendicular filament blocking its path leads to motor stalling

This kind of motor stalling has been observed experimentally

Melli, L., et al. (2018) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5829915/#video3

MEDYAN Application: Dendritic Spine

Dendritic Spine: A small protrusion on a neuron's dendrite. Most spines have a bulbous head (the spine head), and a thin neck. Our study concentrated on the post-synaptic spine consisting of branched F-actin, membrane and membrane proteins.

Cadherin: an intercellular protein anchored to F-actin via the catenin proteins, positioned to dynamically regulate spine actin cytoskeleton and is required for the growth and persistence of a spine.

[Bozdagi, O., 2010. Persistence of coordinated long-term potentiation and dendritic spine enlargement at mature hippocampal CA1 synapses requires N-cadherin. *Journal of Neuroscience*, *30*(30), pp.9984-9989.]

[Gumbiner, B.M., 2005. Regulation of cadherinmediated adhesion in morphogenesis. *Nature reviews Molecular cell biology*, *6*(8), pp.622-634.]

[Bucher, M., Fanutza, T. and Mikhaylova, M., 2020. Cytoskeletal makeup of the synapse: Shaft versus spine. *Cytoskeleton*, *77*(3-4), pp.55-64.]

Simplified spine model

[Efimova, N., 2017. βIII spectrin is necessary for formation of the constricted neck of dendritic spines and regulation of synaptic activity in neurons. *Journal of Neuroscience*, *37*(27), pp.6442-6459.]

Spectrin is model as slip bond. Spectrin distributes from the base of the neck to the base of the head.

Time Evolution of A Spine: with both spectrin and cadherin, a mushroom-like shape is achieved

200nm

Actin filaments

Effects of Arp2/3 Distribution

The closer the Arp2/3 area to the PSD, the larger the spine head is. And the upwards branching is one of the reason for a expansion of spine upper surface and contributes to the negative curvature of the post-synaptic membrane.

Filament Severing by Cofilins

Cofilins sever actin filaments by depolymerizing sequences to free monomers. The structure of cytoskeleton can be obviously changed.

Cytoskeleton is discreted

Single F-actin to F-actin bundle Cofilins play a key role in Long-term Potentiation (LTP)

[Ohashi, K., 2015. Roles of cofilin in development and its mechanisms of regulation. *Development, growth & differentiation*, *57*(4), pp.275-290.] [Hlushchenko, I., Koskinen, M. and Hotulainen, P., 2016. Dendritic spine actin dynamics in neuronal maturation and synaptic plasticity. *Cytoskeleton*, *73*(9), pp.435- 441.]

A tug of war between filament treadmilling and myosin induced contractility generates actin ring

✏ **eLife, 2022, v11, e82658**

Thanking colleagues at DeepOrigin and Peter

Michael Antonov Co-Founder and CEO

Aram Davtyan Scientific Development

Garik Petrosyan Scientific Development

Grigor Arakelov Partnerships

Hayk Saribekyan Scientific Development

Natalie Ma Business Development

Ashot Papoyan COO-Scientific Development

Peter Wolynes (Rice U)

DeepOrigin's Simulation Stack

We build atomistic and coarse-grain models across **biological scales** to address every stage of drug discovery and find drugs faster.

ML models have not solved key challenges in the study of proteins

- Can predict:
	- Static folded structure
	- Some structural changes due to mutation (e.g., single amino acid substitution)
- Cannot predict very well:
	- Protein-protein interactions (e.g., dimer and multimer formation, antibody interactions)
	- Interaction with other macromolecules (e.g., DNA, within a lipid membrane)
	- Actual protein folding pathways and kinetics
	- Protein dynamics

ML models are incredibly useful, but not for every problem*

Summery: Mativation, Predicting the native state of a protein has tong been considered a gateway problem for understanding protein folding. Repart advances in atructural modeling driven by deep learning have achieved unprecedented success at predicting a problem anystal structure, but it is not clear if these models are learning the physics of how preains dynamically fold into their equilibrium atrusture or are just accureds knowledge-based prodictors of the final state. leadts. In this work, we compare the pathways generated by state-of-the-en protein structure prediction methods occurimental data about protein folding pathways. The methods considered were AlphaFold 2. RoseTTAPold, ReptorX, DMMold, EVfold, SAINT2 and Rosetts. We find evidence that their simulated dynamics capture one information about the folding pathway, but their predictive ability is worse than a blaid classifier using equence-agrostic features like chain length. The folding trajectories produced are slap uncorrolated with experirestal closevables such as intermediate structures and the folding rate constant. These results suggest that recent advances in structure prediction do not yet provide an enhanced understanding of protein folding.

What ML cannot predict is critical to many R&D problems

Optimization of protein-protein interactions (e.g., antibody design)

Optimizing macromolecular interactions (e.g., nanopore sequencing)

Predicting changes in conformation from binding (e.g., peptide drug design)

Predicting structural changes from larger or multiple mutations (e.g., target discovery, drug design)

Modeling complex therapeutics with multistep rate constants (e.g., PROTACs, molecular glues)

Current Landscape in Protein Structure Prediction

Multiple sequence alignment (MSA)-based approaches

- AlphaFold2/3 (Google)
- RoseTTAFold (Baker lab)

Pros:

- High accuracy for natural proteins that have many analogs in sequence databases (MSA data)
- Use both MSA and structural data for training
- Database of ~200 million predicted structures available

Cons:

- Costly to train and run predictions
- Provide single or small number of conformation
- Conformations may not be biologically relevant
- Do not work well for sequences with no MSA data (antibodies, orphan and synthetic proteins).
- Not well applicable to sequences with mutations
- Not well suited for prediction of protein-protein binding and multi-protein assembly

Large language model (LLM)-based approaches

- ESMFold (Facebook)
- OmegaFold (Helixon)

Pros:

- Predictions are an order of magnitude faster to run
- Work better for synthetic, mutant sequences and orphan proteins due to using single sequence input for training
- Database of ~600 million predicted structures available

Cons:

- Training is very costly (15 billion parameters)
- Provide single or small number of conformation
- Conformations may not be biologically relevant
- **Lower accuracy for sequences with MSA data**
- Not well suited for prediction of protein-protein binding and multi-protein assembly
- Only 1/3 of the database is considered of "high accuracy"

The combination of physical and bioinformatics potentials allows for *de novo* **prediction of protein structure**

The superposition of native and predicted structures

✏ Davtyan, Schafer, Zheng, Clementi, Wolynes, Papoian, **J. Chem Phys B**, 116, (**2012**), 1709–1715

AWSEM demonstrates exceptional performance in predicting protein-protein interactions

DeepOrigin

⊘ **Following Zheng,** Schafer, Davtyan, Papoian, Wolynes, **PNAS**, 109, (**2012**), 19244-19249

Crystal structure

Application of AWSEM to complex problems: Design of PROTACs and molecular glues

- Targeted protein degradation and modification is the fastest growing area in drug discovery with over 25 candidates in clinical trials for various diseases.
- However, development and optimization of PROteolysis Targeting Chimeras (PROTACs) and molecular glues remains challenging, especially in absence of structural data.
- Accurate binding simulations with AWSEM can enable rational development and optimization of PROTACs and molecular glues.
- The ability to sample dynamics and assembly of large protein complexes is key to address unsolved problems similar to this.

Preliminary results of binding prediction between E3 ligase and target proteins

Q over 0.6 indicates high degree of similarity to the native structure

Overlap with native complex of Cereblon and BRD4^{BD1} mediated by dBET6 PROTAC PDB ID: 6BOY

RMSD: 1.5 Å

The native structure is shown in white and prediction in orange

E3 ligase/target complex predictions: AWSEM outperforms AlphaFold2

Virtual Screening

- Problem: Current VS tools produce mostly false positives and likely miss \ highest quality binders
- **How BiosimVS addresses this problem:**
	- Provides new algorithms with significantly better accuracy than then current SOTA
	- Efficiently screens multibillion ligand databases
		- Optimizes for binding affinity and desirable molecular properties
		- Highly efficient: Screening of 5B ligand library in 3 days
		- SOTA property predictors for logS, logP, logD, hERG and other molecular properties
	- Novel Molecular Generative AI

Docking

The test dataset is PDBBind 2020 core set 285 complexes

AutodockVina [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pm](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3041641/) c/articles/PMC3041641/ (25K citations) DiffDock: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.01776> DOCK 6: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/do](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jcc.23905) i/abs/10.1002/jcc.23905

Docking: AF3 Results

Scoring versus Binding Energies

Virtual Screening

- Significantly outperforms the rest on new target proteins not seen during the training
- IGN was trained on DUD-E dataset, which contained major overlap with the target proteins of DEKOIS2.0 benchmark

Results as reported in "*Jiang, Dejun, et al. "Interactiongraphnet: A novel and efficient deep graph representation learning framework for accurate protein–ligand interaction predictions." Journal of medicinal chemistry 64.24 (2021)*"

Property predictors

1. TDC.Solubility_AqSolDB

2. Ulrich N., Goss K. U., Ebert A. Exploring the octanol–water partition coefficient dataset using deep learning techniques and data augmentation // Communications Chemistry. – 2021. – Т. 4. – №. 1. – С. 90.

3. TDC.Lipophilicity_AstraZeneca

Case Studies JAK2 (PK Domain)

Tests with small scale virtual screens to answer the following questions:

Can we rediscover known binders and drugs?

How do we perform compared to other tools?

A comparison to Schrödinger's GLIDE

CD73

Cell surface-anchored nucleotidase implicated in cancer

KRAS (G12D)

GTPase and classical challenging target

Beyond nucleotide binders: DPP4

Undruggables: targeting KRAS G12D

The GTPase mutated in 15-25% of all cancers and classical challenging target

Targeting KRAS is challenging due to lack of apparent binding interfaces

Given the critical functions of KRAS, drugs must target only **mutant form**

Only a handful are in development:

Our performance persists on KRAS G12D

Methods:

- Dock a larger library:
	- 100,000 random molecules from Enamine's virtual library
	- 16 experimentally-validated binders
- Rank compounds based on score of top docking pose
- Top 100 enrichment factors
	- **BiosimAI: 813x**
	- Autodock Vina: 313x

BiosimAI: Autodock Vina:

We rediscover assets in development for KRAS G12D

asset from Mirati Therapeutics

These compounds are patented

The top hit is MRTX1133, a Phase Inc. **BiosimAI: BiosimAI: Autodock Vina:**

An AI Assistant Interface to Democratize Access

And Blanch All Analysis \bullet

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PERSONAL PROPERTY

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What are its drug likeness and synthesizability scores?

The Steater Annistorit

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- Renthesiasishing (SAK): 2.254 (Sentratic Accordinity ware on a scale) Wern 1 to 15, with higher scores indicating bacter to eyethecost

Drawing materials

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Assessing syndramously(y of the resincular

How can I help you today?

Find pockets of 1eby protein

How similar are caffeine and aspirin molecules ?

Show me functional groups of Aspirin

Which of these molecules is more drug-like ? [C=CCc...

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Workspace