First Passage Time Boxed Molecular Dynamics

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Chemical dynamics

• states = boxes in configuration space



• general problem in chemical dynamics - given species A, what will the population of species be after time *t*?

Liouville equation is the answer

• density ρ at phase space point (\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) and time t $\frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\frac{\partial H(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p})}{\partial q_{i}} \frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, t)}{\partial p_{i}} - \frac{\partial H(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})}{\partial p_{i}} \frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, t)}{\partial q_{i}} \right)$

- limit of Newton equations of motion for infinite number of particles
- basic equation of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics
- example motion on a circle with $V\equiv 0$



$$\frac{\partial \rho(x,t)}{\partial t} = -\dot{x} \frac{\partial \rho(x,t)}{\partial x}$$

Discretisation of the Liouville equation

• partial differential equation - can be discretised on a mesh



• dynamics are given by the transition matrix

$$\boldsymbol{\rho}(n\Delta t) = \mathbf{T}^n(\Delta t) \ \boldsymbol{\rho}(0)$$

- transition matrix can be estimated from MD
- not directly applicable for molecular (high-dimensional) systems

Master equation

- special form of the generalised master equation
- continuous limit of the description in terms of a transition matrix (**T**' = lim_{Δt→0} **T**(Δt)/Δt)
 ρ(t) = e^{**T**'t} ρ(0)
- population $P_{\rm A}$ defined as $P_{\rm A}(t) = \int_{\rm A} \rho({\bf p},{\bf q},t) {\rm d}{\bf p} {\rm d}{\bf q}$
- assumption that the rate constant k_A is constant in time $\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}P_A(t) = -\sum_{\mathrm{i}} k_{\mathrm{A}\mathrm{i}} \ P_A(t) + \sum_{\mathrm{j}} k_{\mathrm{j}A}P_{\mathrm{j}}(t)$
- idealisation of real systems

Rate constants for master equations

- definition fits the evolution of population by an exponential
- all "reactive flux" methods are approximate!
 - Wigner's original transition state theory
 - Bennet-Chandler's method and all derived methods
- equilibrium box-to-box rate constants are not suitable for master equation
- \bullet box-to-box \rightarrow the transmission coefficient is unity



Boxed molecular dynamics (BXD)

- enhanced sampling by high number of short simulations
 - similar to milestoning and transition interface sampling
- BXD proposed by Glowacki, Shalashilin and Paci in 2009
 - peptide cyclisation
 - theory is based on previous methods of the authors
 - not benchmarked on simple systems
 - reaction coordinate required
 - Langevin dynamics
 - 2012 good agreement with experiment on ps to $\mu\mathrm{s}$ scale
- advantages over standard MD
 - exponential enhancement
 - diffusion
 - trivial parallelisation
- advantages over other enhanced sampling methods
 - natural connection to master equation (and NGT)
 - anharmonicity and diffusion effects included

Theory of chemical dynamics

single box



- P_A(t) population in box A from equilibrium
 absorbing boundary conditions
- $F_{\rm A}(t)$ first passage time distribution
- $R_{\rm A}(t)$ return time distribution also distribution of trajectory lengths

$$F_{\rm A}(t) = -\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} P_{\rm A}(t) \qquad \qquad R_{\rm A}(t) = \frac{-\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} F_{\rm A}(t)}{F_{\rm A}(0)}$$

mean values can be used as the rate constants

Toy models

single box

• simple models - simulation of master equation possible



Rate constants from MFPT I

two boxes

- MFPT to the boundaries is not reciprocal of the rate constant
 - also does not satisfy the equilibrium limit
- the whole process = exit A + penetration of B
- Bicout and Szabo 1997

$$\tau_{\rm rx}^{\rm BS} = \frac{K_{\rm AB}M_{\rm A} + M_{\rm B}}{K_{\rm AB} + 1}$$

- works only for strong diffusion
- does not agree with the transition state formula

$$\tau_{\rm rx}^{\rm TST} = \frac{\tau_{\rm rx}^{\rm BS}}{2}$$

Rate constants from MFPT II

two boxes

 description for all FPT distributions - numerical integration of the system

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}F_{\rm A}(t,s) = \frac{\partial}{\partial s}F_{\rm A}(t,s) + F_{\rm B}(t,0) R_{\rm A}(s)$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}F_{\rm B}(t,s) = \frac{\partial}{\partial s}F_{\rm B}(t,s) + F_{\rm A}(t,0) R_{\rm B}(s)$$

with boundary conditions

$$F_{\rm A}(0,s) = F_{\rm A}(s)$$

$$F_{\rm B}(0,s) \equiv 0.$$

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} F_{\rm A}(t,s) = \lim_{t \to \infty} F_{\rm B}(t,s) = 0.$$
where $P_{\rm A}(s)$ is obtained directly from a PXD simulation.

where $R_{\rm B}(s)$ is obtained directly from a BXD simulation

Optimised simulation protocol

multiple boxes

- obtaining the initial structures
- Metropolis Monte Carlo \rightarrow canonical distribution of starting structures
- MD simulation starting from the MC initial structures, terminated at box boundaries
- assumption of total decorrelation of input and exit trajectories is too strong
 - downhill passage of the box (equilibrium)
 - recrossing (non-equilibrium)
- assumption of ergodic sampling
- boundaries with other boxes can be replaced by hard walls

Equilibrium fluxes

multiple boxes

• Average length of the trajectories with endpoints i and j:

$$L_{\rm ij|A} = \frac{n_{\rm ij}}{\sum_{l=1}^{n_{\rm ij}} \frac{1}{\tau_{\rm ij}^l}}$$

analogously: probability of endpoints for a trajectory,



the equilibrium (TST) rate constant

$$k_{\rm AB}^{\rm eq} = \frac{1}{n_{\rm BB} + n_{\rm BC} + n_{\rm CC}} \left(\sum_{l=1}^{n_{\rm BB}} \frac{1}{\tau_{\rm BB}^l} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{l=1}^{n_{\rm BC}} \frac{1}{\tau_{\rm BC}^l} \right)$$

Rate constants

multiple boxes

Discretisation of system from slide 11 for multiple boxes:

$$F_{\rm BB|A}^{\rm i}(t) = \int_{(\rm i-1)\Delta t}^{\rm i} \Delta t F_{\rm BB|A}(t,s) \, \mathrm{d}s$$

leads to

$$F^{i}_{\rm BB|A}(t+\Delta t) = F^{i+1}_{\rm BB|A}(t) + \left[F^{1}_{\rm AA|B}(t) + F^{1}_{\rm AD|B}(t)\right] P_{\rm BB|A} R^{i}_{\rm BB|A}$$

and 7 more analogous equations. Boundaries ∂AC and ∂BD are replaced by randomising hard walls. Population

$$P_{\rm A}(t) = \sum_{\rm i} \left(F^{\rm i}_{\rm BB|A}(t) + F^{\rm i}_{\rm BC|A}(t) + F^{\rm i}_{\rm CB|A}(t) + F^{\rm i}_{\rm CC|A}(t) \right)$$

can be fitted to an exponential.

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Test system -
$$LJ_7^{2D}$$



Free energy profile



Rate constants





Limitations for boxes



• a problem is indicated by an inequality:

$$p_{\rm BB|A} \neq \left(2p_{\rm BB|A} + \sum_{\rm B\neq i} p_{\rm Bi|A}\right)^2$$

FPT-BXD - current state and future work

- enhanced sampling
- general definition of states (weighted Voronoi construction, slicing along a collective coordinate)
- deterministic dynamics
- works for non-exponential FPT distributions
- larger LJ clusters
 - benchmarking
 - minima lumping error studies
- simplistic polymers
- alanine dipeptide

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- towards large proteins
 - hyperdynamics
 - local rigidification
 - systematic coarse-graining

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