Simulating dynamics of rare events using discretised relaxation path sampling

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Discretised relaxation path sampling (DRPS)

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Rare events in nature

ratio of the largest and lowest relevant timescales $\gg 1$



(another definition: computer time > patience)

Towards dynamics of rare events

- coarse-graining / rigidification
- biasing the potential (metadynamics, ...)
- efficient sampling in the trajectory space (TPS)
- space partitioning (milestoning, TIS, FFS, MSM,...)



discrete path sampling (DPS)

Cell-to-cell rate constant



- soft cells were developed to allow complete space partitioning using surface-surface rate constants
- inconvenient for observables, incompatible with DPS



Discretised relaxation path sampling (DRPS)

Methods using hard cells

 boxed molecular dynamics (BXD) - sampling enhanced by space partitioning



- hyperdynamics (hyperMD) sampling enhanced by biasing the potential
- dividing surface defined by a certain plane involving the saddle point



Limits of TST

 transition state theory - rate constant = equilibrium flux / equilibrium population

$$k_{AB}^{TST} = \frac{\text{flux}}{\text{population}} = \frac{\langle P(\mathbf{x}) [\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \mathbf{v}] \rangle_{\partial A}}{\langle P(\mathbf{x}) \rangle_{A}} = \frac{\partial_t p_A(0)}{p_A(0)}$$

the rate constant is very sensitive to definition of the dividing surface



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Rate constants from trajectories

- (if we have to simulate trajectories) CAN WE DO BETTER?
- for system of 2 states, over damped dynamics, rate constant from mean exit times (formula proven for 1D):

$$k_{\rm AB}^{\rm ex} = \frac{p_{\rm B}^{\rm eq}}{p_{\rm A}^{\rm eq}\tau_{\rm B}^{\rm ex} + p_{\rm B}^{\rm eq}\tau_{\rm A}^{\rm ex}}$$

relaxation involves both exit and penetration - best approach



No-flux boundary conditions



- isolation of A and B from the rest by placing hard walls
- straightforward for overdamped dynamics



• impossible for Hamiltonian (deterministic) dynamics

Equilibrium boundary conditions

- placing an equilibrated neighbour at the boundary
- exiting particle is replaced by a particle from the equilibrium distribution



- the equilibrium distribution is not known *a priori*
- TRICK: independence of exiting and entering particles > reduction of dynamics to propagation of response functions

Insight into the response functions

- exit response function F_{i|k}(t) is the distribution of first passage times
- response to supply at the boundary L_{ij|k}(t) is the trajectory lengths
- analytical solution for 1 trajectory averaged over trajectories
- RIGHT: response function for a system with 2 cells (A and B)

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trajectories from equilibrium distribution

trajectories from the boundaries

$$F_{\rm B|A}(t) = \partial_t p_{\rm A}(t) ,$$
$$L_{\rm BB|A}(t) = \frac{\partial_t F_{\rm B|A}(t)}{F_{\rm B|A}(0)}$$

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Optimised simulation protocol

- different for over damped dynamics and inertial dynamics with large friction
- 1. partitioning of space into cells
- 2. constrained Monte Carlo sampling
- 3. molecular dynamics from random initial points terminated at cell boundaries
- 4. propagation of the response functions fit of the relaxation
- 5. graph transformation / lumping

Limits of the method

- decorrelation of exiting and entering trajectories at the boundaries is assumed
- internal barriers invalidate Markovian assumption
- some types of breakdowns can be identified from the simulation





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Application of estimator: Sinai billiards

- non-interacting particles with equal velocities elastically reflect from walls of the billiard and the circle inside
- circle forms a bottleneck transition through the dividing surface is a rare event
- small change in definition of the dividing surface should not cause large change in the rate constants



Application of estimator: Sinai billiards

- RXN "true" rate constant from relaxation
- TST rate constant analytical
- BXD constant from simulated equilibrium flux
- exit rate constant from mean exit times
- DRPS our estimator
- results for 2 dividing surfaces

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	position of the	
	dividing surface	
	good	poor
$k_{ m AB}^{ m RXN}$	11.1	10.8
$k_{\mathrm{AB}}^{\mathrm{TST}}$	12.11	31.58
$k_{\mathrm{AB}}^{\mathrm{BXD}}$	12.11	31.6
$k_{ m AB}^{ m ex}$	5.64	7.96
$k_{\rm AB}^{\rm DRPS}$	10.62	10.56

rate constants (in arbitrary units)

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Application of DRPS: Cluster of Lennard-Jones disks



- search for rotation-permutation isomers
- 10-50 cells placed along the collective coordinate root mean square distance from minimum 2

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Application of DRPS: Cluster of Lennard-Jones disks



Discretised relaxation path sampling (DRPS)

New application: Polymer reversal in a narrow pore

- polymer confined in a pore is a simple model of DNA or peptide in a synthetic or a biological pore
- dynamics of an LJ polymer can be directly studied by DPS
- at higher temperatures / truncated potentials ➤ DRPS



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Future applications







polymer reversal

polymer translocation

peptide dynamics



biomolecular folding

- surface reactions
- (with rigidification) conformational transitions of large proteins
- collaboration?

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Acknowledgements



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Rate constants from response functions

• simulating relaxation from cell *i* to *j* with neighbours *k*:

 $\begin{aligned} \partial_t F_{j|i}(s,t) &= \partial_s F_{j|i}(s,t) + F_{k|i}(0,t)L_{kj|i}(s) + F_{i|j}(0,t)L_{jj|i}(s) ,\\ \partial_t F_{k|i}(s,t) &= \partial_s F_{k|i}(s,t) + F_{k|i}(0,t)L_{kk|i}(s) + F_{i|j}(0,t)L_{jk|i}(s) ,\\ \partial_t F_{i|j}(s,t) &= \partial_s F_{i|j}(s,t) + F_{k|j}(0,t)L_{ki|j}(s) + F_{j|i}(0,t)L_{ii|j}(s) ,\\ \partial_t F_{k|j}(s,t) &= \partial_s F_{k|j}(s,t) + F_{k|j}(0,t)L_{kk|j}(s) + F_{j|i}(0,t)L_{ik|j}(s) \end{aligned}$

