Personal Information

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Post and Contact

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Research Interests

Theoretical and computational biophysics on membrane proteins, in particular:

- Function mechanisms of ion channels
- Antimicrobial peptides and their potential as new antibiotics
- Development and application of computational methods in biophysics

Education

Shandong University, China

- PhD, Condensed Matter Physics, 2002 to 2007
- BSc, Physics, 1998 to 2002

Academic Experience

- Peking University, Beijing, China
 - Assistant Professor & Principal Investigator, Since 2016
- University of Oxford (Sansom Group), Oxford, United Kingdom
 - Marie Curie Research Fellow, Jan 2014 to Dec 2015
 - Newton International Fellow, Jan 2013 to Dec 2013
- Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry (de Groot Group), Göttingen, Germany
 - Max-Planck Postdoc Fellow, Feb 2012 to Dec 2012
 - Alexander von Humboldt Postdoc Fellow, Dec 2009 to Jan 2012
- University of Western Australia (Corry Group), Perth, Australia
 - Postdoc Research Associate, Jul 2007 to Jul 2009



International Awards and Honors

- Selected Speaker at the Future of Biophysics Symposium, Biophysical Society, 2021
- The Marie-Curie Fellowship, European Commission, 2014-2015
- The Newton International Fellowship, UK, 2013
- The BPS International Travel Awards, USA, 2012
- The DAAD Travel Grant, Germany, 2012
- The Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, Germany, 2010-2012

External Grants and Funding

- 2021-2024, Developing new models and methods for computational studies of membrane proteins, International Collaboration Grant, National Key Program of MOST, 2,640k RMB, Lead PI.
- 2021-2025, The gating and permeation mechanism of the mechanosensitive ion channel NompC, General Program of NSFC, 700k RMB, Sole PI.
- 2019-2023, Development of new calcium ion models for computational studies of biosystems, General Program of NSFC, 800k RMB, Sole PI.
- 2016-2021, Molecular machines for transmembrane signaling and transport, National Key Program of MOST, 2,000k (out of 34.5M) RMB, Co-PI.
- 2016-2019, The Global Recruitment Program, 2,000k RMB, Sole PI.

Events Organized

- Symposium on Computer Simulations and Cryo-ET/EM of Complex Biomolecular Systems, international (virtual), 18-19 Nov 2021
- The 3rd Worldwide Chinese Computational Biology Conference, international (virtual), 3-6 August 2020.
- International Biophysical Society Networking Meeting: Youth Workshop of Biophysics, Beijing, 7 Dec 2019.
- Songshan Lake Workshop and Summer School: Theoretical and Computational Biology: from Molecules to Systems, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Center for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Guangdong, 1-4 August 2019.
- Annual Meeting of Quantitative Biology: Computational and Single-Molecule Biophysics, Beijing, 23-27 June 2017.

Professional Society Affiliations

- Institute for Complex Adaptive Matter (ICAM), and board member of the ICAM-China branch
- Biophysical Society of China (board member of the molecular biophysics panel)

- Biophysical Society
- American Chemical Society
- Chinese Chemical Society

Referee Assistance for Funding Agencies

- National Science Foundation of China
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK
- Natural Science Foundation of Beijing

Referee Assistance for Journals

- Nature Communications
- · Journal of the American Chemical Society
- eLife
- Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters
- Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation
- Biophysical Journal
- ...

Presentations

International Talks

- 1. Invited Talk: Prediction of lipid contacting residues based on the simulation data of membrane proteins, The HECBioSim Seminar, UK (virtual), April 26, 2021.
- Oral Presentation: Molecular Dynamics Simulations on the Mechanosensitive Ion Channel NompC, The 20th Hünfeld Workshop of Computer Simulation and Theory of Macromolecules, Germany (virtual), April 24, 2021.
- 3. Invited Talk: Combining Physics-based and Knowledge-based Computational Methods for the Study of Membrane Proteins, The 65th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society (**The Future of Biophysics Symposium**, virtual), Feb 24, 2021.
- 4. Invited Talk: Multiscale molecular dynamics simulations for antimicrobial peptides study, Multiscale Modeling for Biotherapeutics Symposium (virtual), Schrödinger, Inc., Nov 19, 2020.
- 5. Invited Talk: The Ca²⁺ permeation mechanism of the open-state ryanodine receptor 1, University of California Irvine, Feb 5, 2020.
- 6. Invited Talk: Computational Studies of Ca²⁺-permeable channels, Riken, Japan, Aug 27, 2019.
- 7. Invited Talk: How Do Calcium Ions Permeate through the Ryanodine Receptor 1, The 1st KIAS-Beijing Workshop on Biological Sciences, Seoul, Korea, July 3-5, 2019.

- 8. Invited Talk: Activation of the mechanosensitive ion channel OSCA. Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Sydney, Australia, Feb 15, 2019.
- 9. Invited Talk: To understand, predict and design membrane proteins. Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, Feb 6, 2019.
- Invited Talk: Ion permeation and gating mechanism of the mechanosensitive ion channel OSCA revealed by molecular dynamics simulations. The 18th KIAS Conference on Protein Structure and Function, Seoul, Korea, November 15-17, 2018.
- 11. Invited Talk: "Multiscale MD simulations on PSI and ion channel X", The 101st Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition, Edmonton, Canada, May 27-31, 2018.
- 12. Invited Talk: "Exploring permeation pathways of ion channels by multi-scale molecular dynamics simulations", The CECAM Workshop: Multiscale modelling in electrophysiology: from atoms to organs, Lugano, Switzerland, Mar 26-28, 2018.
- 13. Invited Talk: "Is Plant-specific insert a membrane fusion protein?", The CECAM Workshop: Frontiers in Computational Biophysics: understanding conformational dynamics of complex lipid mixtures relevant to biology, Lugano, Switzerland, Jan 10, 2018.
- 14. Oral Presentation: Dermcidin oligomer in action, presented at the Workshop on Computer Simulation and Theory of Macromolecules, Huenfeld, Germany, Apr 21, 2012.

Domestic Talks

- 1. Invited Talk: On the gating mechanisms of mechanosensitive ion channels, Xiamen Soft Matter Forum & ICAM-China Autumn Workshop, Xiamen, China, Dec 10, 2021.
- 2. Invited Talk: On the Valence Selectivity of Ryanodine Receptors, The First Greater Bay Area Biophysics and New Drug Discovery Forum, Zhuhai, China, April 10, 2021.
- 3. Invited Talk: The Gating Mechanisms of Two Mechanosensitive Ion Channels, International Symposium of Biophysics and Soft Matter Frontiers, Jinan, China, Dec 19, 2020.
- 4. Invited Talk: The Gating Mechanism of the Tethered Mechanosensitive Ion Channel NompC, The Ninth National Conference on Bioinformatics and Systems Biology, Shanghai, Sep 28, 2020.
- 5. Invited Talk: Lipid contact probability: an essential property of (membrane) proteins, Tsinghua Sanya International Mathematics Forum: Computational and Mathematical Bioinformatics and Biophysics, Sanya, China. Dec 9-13, 2019.
- Invited Talk: Visualizing Ca²⁺ Permeation through the Ryanodine Receptor by Molecular Dynamics Simulations, International Workshop on Multiscale Biological Imaging, Shanghai, China. Nov 9-10, 2019.
- 7. Invited Talk: Computational studies of mechanosensitive ion channels, The 6th Structural Biology Conference of China, Jixi, Anhui, China. Oct 11-14, 2019.

- 8. Invited Talk: Simulating the gating mechanism of the mechanosensitive ion channels in biological systems, Nationwide Mechanics Forum for PhD Students, Beijing, China. Sep 22, 2019.
- Invited Talk: How Do Calcium Ions Permeate through the Ryanodine Receptor 1, Songshan Lake Workshop and Summer School, Dongguan, Guangdong, China. Aug 1, 2019.
- Invited Talk: Molecular details of gating in mechanosensitive ion channels, NYU Shanghai, China, May 31, 2019.
- 11. Invited Talk: Understanding dimerization of kinases with computer simulations. Workshop on the Methods of Protein Structure and Dynamics, CSRC, Beijing, China, December 12-13, 2018.
- 12. Invited Talk: "Studying Ion Channel Permeation with Molecular Dynamics Simulations", The 16th Chinese Biophysics Congress, Chengdu, China, Aug 24-27, 2018.
- 13. Invited Talk: Computational Study on the Dimerization of the Fam20 Kinases, The Fifth National Conference on Biological Physical Chemistry, Taiyuan, China, Jul 22-25, 2018.
- 14. Invited Talk: Development of Ca²⁺ Model for Simulating Biological Systems, The 2nd Worldwide Chinese Computational Biology and Molecular Simulation Conference, Guangzhou, China, Jun 10, 2018.
- 15. Oral Presentation: Computational Studies on the Function Mechanisms of Two Antimicrobial Peptides, Quantitative Biology 2017: Computational and Single-Molecule Biophysics, Beijing, China, Jun 25, 2017.
- 16. Invited Talk: Computational Electrophysiology in Ion Channel Research, Workshop on Modeling and Analysis in Molecular Biology and Electrophysiology, Suzhou, China, Jun 16, 2016.

Selected Publications

- 1. Wang, D.#; Li, J.#; Wang, L.; Cao, Y.; Li, S.*; **Song, C.*** Toward an Atomistic Model of SARS-CoV-2. Preprint.
- 2. Wang, L.; Zhang, J.; Wang, D.; **Song, C.*** Membrane Contact Probability: An Essential and Predictive Character for the Structural and Functional Studies of Membrane Proteins. **Preprint** (accepted by *PLoS Comput. Biol.*).
- 3. Liu, Y.; Ke, P.; Kuo, Y.-C.; Wang, Y.; Zhang, X.*; **Song, C.***; Shan, Y.* A Putative Structural Mechanism Underlying the Antithetic Effect of Homologous RND1 and RhoD GTPases in Mammalian Plexin Regulation. *eLife* 2021, 10, e64304.
- 4. Wang, Y.#; Guo, Y.#; Li, G.; Liu, C.; Wang, L.; Zhang, A.; Yan, Z.*; **Song, C.*** The Push-to-Open Mechanism of the Tethered Mechanosensitive Ion Channel NompC. *eLife* 2021, 10, e58388.
- 5. Liu, C.; Zhang, A.; Yan, N.; **Song, C.*** Atomistic Details of Charge/Space Competition in the Ca²⁺ Selectivity of Ryanodine Receptors. *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* 2021, 12, 4286.

- Zhao, X.#; Tian, J.#; Yu, H.#; Bryksa, B. C.; Dupuis, J. H.; Ou, X.; Qian, Z.; Song, C.*; Wang, S.*; Yada, R. Y.* Insights into the Mechanism of Membrane Fusion Induced by the Plant Defense Element, Plant-Specific Insert. J. Biol. Chem. 2020, 295 (43), 14548. (Editor's Picks & Cover Story)
- 7. Wang, D.; Liu, X.; Liu, J.; **Song, C.*** Phosphorylation-Dependent Conformational Changes of Arrestin in the Rhodopsin-Arrestin Complex. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 2020, 22, 9330.
- 8. Zhang, A.; Yu, H.; Liu, C.; **Song, C.*** The Ca²⁺ Permeation Mechanism of the Ryanodine Receptor Revealed by a Multi-Site Ion Model. *Nat. Commun.* 2020, 11 (1), 1.
- Song, C.*; de Groot, B. L.; Sansom, M. S. P. Lipid Bilayer Composition Influences the Activity of the Antimicrobial Peptide Dermcidin Channel. *Biophys. J.* 2019, 116 (9), 1658.
- 10. Zhang, M.; Wang, D.; Kang, Y.; Wu, J.-X.; Yao, F.; Pan, C.; Yan, Z.*; **Song, C.***; Chen, L.* Structure of the Mechanosensitive OSCA Channels. *Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.* 2018, 25 (9), 850.
- 11. Wang, D.; Yu, H.; Liu, X.; Liu, J.; **Song, C.*** The Orientation and Stability of the GPCR-Arrestin Complex in a Lipid Bilayer. *Sci. Rep.* 2017, 7 (1), 16985.
- 12. Köpfer, D. A.#; **Song, C.#,***; Gruene, T.; Sheldrick, G. M.; Zachariae, U.*; de Groot, B. L.* Ion Permeation in K⁺ Channels Occurs by Direct Coulomb Knock-On. *Science* 2014, 346 (6207), 352. (co-first and co-corresponding author)
- 13. **Song, C.**; Weichbrodt, C.; Salnikov, E. S.; Dynowski, M.; Forsberg, B. O.; Bechinger, B.; Steinem, C.; de Groot, B. L.; Zachariae, U.*; Zeth, K.* Crystal Structure and Functional Mechanism of a Human Antimicrobial Membrane Channel. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 2013, 110 (12), 4586.
- 14. **Song, C.**; Corry, B.* Testing the Applicability of Nernst-Planck Theory in Ion Channels: Comparisons with Brownian Dynamics Simulations. PLoS One 2011, 6 (6), e21204–e21204.
- 15. **Song, C.**; Corry, B.* Ion Conduction in Ligand-Gated Ion Channels: Brownian Dynamics Studies of Four Recent Crystal Structures. Biophys. J. 2010, 98 (3), 404–411.
- 16. **Song, C.**; Corry, B.* Intrinsic Ion Selectivity of Narrow Hydrophobic Pores. J. Phys. Chem. B 2009, 113 (21), 7642–7649.

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