John D. Chodera

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New York, NY 10065

Education and positions

2013– **Assistant Professor, Physiology, Biophysics, and Systems Biology Program, Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences**

2012– **Assistant Member, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**

2008–2012 **Independent Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow, California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences (QB3), University of California, Berkeley**
Independent research funding, sponsors Phillip L. Geissler and Susan Marqusee

2006–2008 **Postdoctoral researcher, Department of Chemistry, Stanford University**
With Vijay S. Pande (head of Folding@Home distributed computing project)

1999–2006 **PH.D. in Biophysics, University of California, San Francisco**
Committee: Ken A. Dill, Matthew P. Jacobson, Vijay S. Pande

1995–1999 **B.S. in Biology, California Institute of Technology**
Undergraduate research with Paul H. Patterson (*experimental molecular neurobiology*) and Jerry E. Solomon (*computational chemistry*).

Fellowships and awards

2013–2016 Louis V. Gerstner Young Investigator Award
2013–2014 Google Exacycle for External Faculty
2008–2012 QB3-Berkeley Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley
2005–2006 IBM Predoctoral Fellowship
2005 Frank M. Goyan Award for outstanding work in physical chemistry, University of California, San Francisco
2000–2005 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Predoctoral Fellowship
1998–1999 Caltech Upperclass Merit Award Scholarship
1997, 1998 Caltech Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships

Research interests

Rational computational drug design of small-molecule therapeutics
Kinase inhibitor selectivity and resistance in cancer
Multiscale modeling of the effects of small molecules on biochemical pathways
Biomolecular dynamics and conformational heterogeneity, allosteric inhibitor design
Error and uncertainty in biophysical measurements
Computational chemistry, molecular modeling, and forcefield development

Publications

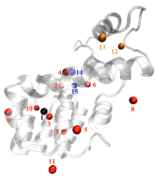
Google Scholar statistics: http://goo.gl/qO0JW

h-index: 22 / i10-index: 33 / first author: 10 / corresponding author: 7 / published or in press: 42

* asterisks denote that marked authors contributed equally

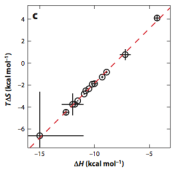
† daggers denote corresponding-author publication

RATIONAL DRUG DESIGN



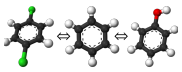
Wang K, **Chodera JD**, Yang Y, and Shirts MR. Identifying ligand binding sites and poses using GPU-accelerated Hamiltonian replica exchange molecular dynamics. *J. Comput. Aid. Mol. Des.*, in press · DOI

We show how bound ligand poses can be identified even when the location of the binding sites are unknown using the machinery of alchemical modern free energy calculations on graphics processors.



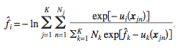
Chodera JD† and Mobley DL. Entropy-enthalpy compensation: Role and ramifications for rational ligand design. *Annu. Rev. Biophys.*, 42:121, 2013 · DOI

Entropy-enthalpy compensation is likely a universal phenomena, but not as severe as widely thought, and likely not of enormous concern for drug discovery and ligand design.



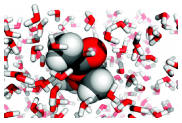
Chodera JD, Mobley DL, Shirts MR, Dixon RW, Branson KM, and Pande VS. Free energy methods in drug discovery and design: Progress and challenges. *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.*, 21:150–160, 2011 · DOI

A review of the opportunities and challenges for alchemical free energy calculations in drug discovery and design.



Shirts MR, **Chodera JD**. Statistically optimal analysis of samples from multiple equilibrium states. *J. Chem. Phys.* 129:124105, 2008 · DOI

We present a highly general, statistically optimal approach for producing estimates of free energies and equilibrium expectations from multiple simulations that provably extracts all useful information from the data.

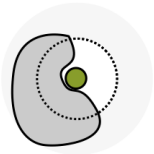


Nicholls A*, Mobley DL*, Guthrie JP, **Chodera JD**, and Pande VS. Predicting small-molecule solvation free energies: A blind challenge test for computational chemistry. *J. Med. Chem.* 51:769–779, 2008 · DOI

A blind evaluation of the accuracy of alchemical free energy methods for computing gas-to-water transfer free energies (solvation free energies) of small molecules demonstrates that modern forcefields are likely sufficiently accurate to be useful in drug design.

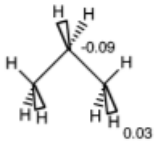
Mobley DL, Dill KA, and **Chodera JD**. Treating entropy and conformational changes in implicit solvent simulations of small molecules *J. Phys. Chem. B* 112(3):938–946, 2008 · DOI

An quantitative examination of how much conformational entropy contributes to hydration free energies of small molecules, with implications for ligand binding.



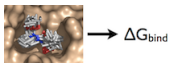
Shirts MR*, Mobley DL*, **Chodera JD**, Bayly CI, Cooper MD, and Pande VS. Accurate and efficient corrections for missing dispersion interactions in molecular simulations. *J. Phys. Chem. B* 111(45):13052–13063, 2007 · DOI

We identify a major source of systematic error in absolute alchemical free energy calculations of ligand binding and show how a simple procedure can inexpensively and accurately eliminate it.



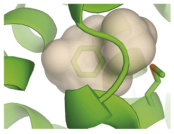
Mobley DL, Dumont E, **Chodera JD**, and Dill KA. Comparison of charge models for fixed-charge force fields: Small-molecule hydration free energies in explicit solvent. *J. Phys. Chem. B* 111:2242–2254, 2007 · DOI

We compare a number of popular methods for deriving charge models for small molecules, deriving lessons about best practices for accurate simulations.



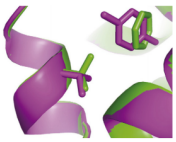
Shirts MR, Mobley DL, **Chodera JD**. Alchemical free energy calculations: Ready for prime time? *Ann. Rep. Comput. Chem.* 3:41–59, 2007 · DOI

A review of current alchemical free energy methodologies assessing whether they are ready for practical use in drug discovery and ligand design.



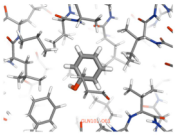
Mobley DL, Graves AP, **Chodera JD**, McReynolds AC, Shoichet BK, and Dill KA. Predicting absolute ligand binding free energies to a simple model site. *J. Mol. Biol.* 371(4):1118–1134, 2007 · DOI

We show how alchemical free energy calculations are capable of accurate blind prediction of small-molecule binding affinities to a simple model protein binding site.



Mobley DL, **Chodera JD**, and Dill KA. Confine-and-release method: Obtaining correct binding free energies in the presence of protein conformational change. *J. Chem. Theor. Comput.* 3(4):1231–1235, 2007 · DOI

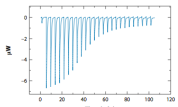
We present a general scheme for obtaining correct ligand binding affinities when protein conformational change is implicated in ligand binding.



Mobley DL, **Chodera JD**, and Dill KA. On the use of orientational restraints and symmetry corrections in alchemical free energy calculations. *J. Chem. Phys.* 125:084902, 2006 · DOI

We illustrate how orientational restraints can be used to greatly reduce the computational effort in alchemical calculations of ligand binding free energies, and clarify how symmetry corrections are necessary when molecules contain symmetric or pseudosymmetric substituents.

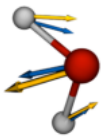
Analytical Biochemistry



Tellinghuisen JT and **Chodera JD**. Systematic errors in isothermal titration calorimetry: Concentrations and baselines. *Anal. Biochem.*, 414:297–299, 2011 · DOI

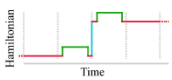
A word of caution about large errors in isothermal titration calorimetry measurements arising from ligand concentration errors.

Molecular Simulation Theory and Algorithms



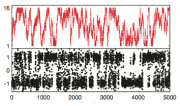
Wang L-P, Head-Gordon TL, Ponder JW, Ren P, **Chodera JD**, Eastman PK, Martines TJ, and Pande VS. Systematic improvement of a classical molecular model of water. *J. Phys. Chem. B*, 117:9956–9972, 2013 · DOI

A new inexpensive polarizable model of liquid water for next-generation forcefields is derived using an automated parameterization engine.



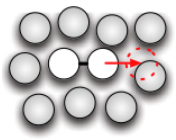
Sivak DA, **Chodera JD**, and Crooks GE. Using nonequilibrium fluctuation theorems to understand and correct errors in equilibrium and nonequilibrium discrete Langevin dynamics simulations. *Phys. Rev. X.*, 3:011007, 2013 · DOI

The finite-timestep errors in molecular dynamics simulations can be interpreted as a form of nonequilibrium work. We show how this leads to straightforward schemes for correcting for these errors or assessing their impact.



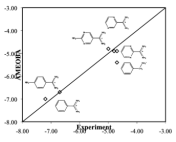
Chodera JD and Shirts MR. Replica exchange and expanded ensemble simulations as Gibbs sampling: Simple improvements for enhanced mixing. *J. Chem. Phys.*, 135:194110, 2011 · DOI

We show how a simple change to the way exchanges are handled in the popular replica-exchange simulation methodology can enormously increase efficiency at no increase in computational cost.



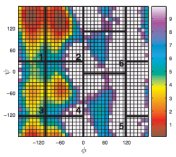
Nilmeier JP, Crooks GE, Minh DDL, and **Chodera JD**†. Nonequilibrium candidate Monte Carlo is an efficient tool for equilibrium simulation. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.*, 108:E1009, 2011 · DOI

We present a significant generalization of Monte Carlo methods that provide an enormously useful tool for enhancing the efficiency of molecular simulations and enabling molecular design.



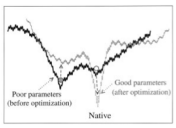
Ponder JW, Wu C, Ren P, Pande VS, **Chodera JD**, Mobley JD, Schnieders MJ, Haque I, Lambrecht DS, DiStasio RA Jr., Head-Gordon M, Clark GNI, Johnson ME, and Head-Gordon T. Current status of the AMOEBA polarizable force field. *J. Phys. Chem. B* 114:2549, 2010 · DOI

A report on the status of the AMOEBA polarizable force field and its ability to reproduce a diverse set of physical chemical phenomenon to high accuracy.



Chodera JD, W. C. Swope, J. W. Pitera, C. Seok, and K. A. Dill. Use of the weighted histogram analysis method for the analysis of simulated and parallel tempering simulations. *J. Chem. Theor. Comput.* 3(1):26–41, 2007 · DOI

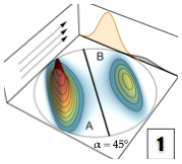
The weighted histogram analysis method (WHAM), a mainstay of molecular dynamics simulation analysis, is thoroughly explained and modernized for the analysis of simulated and parallel tempering simulation data.



Seok C, Rosen JB, **Chodera JD**, Dill KA. MOPED: Method for optimizing physical energy parameters using decoys. *J. Comput. Chem.* 24(1):89–97, 2003 · DOI

We propose a novel way to optimize parameters for a physical energy function for protein folding studies by making use of 'decoy' structures.

Single-molecule biophysics and nonequilibrium statistical mechanics

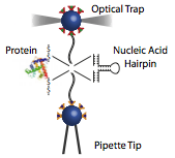


Prinz J-H, **Chodera JD**, and Noé F. Spectral rate theory for two-state kinetics. *Phys. Rev. X.*, in press · arχiv

We present a new mathematical framework for unifying various two-state rate theories presented in the physical chemistry literature over many decades, and provide a quantitative way to measure reaction coordinate quality.

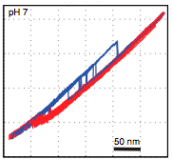
Eastman P, Friedrichs MS, **Chodera JD**, Radmer RJ, Bruns CM, Ku JP, Beauchamp KA, Lane TJ, Wang L, Shukla D, Tye T, Houston M, Stich T, Klein C, Shirts MR, and Pande VS. OpenMM 4: A reusable, extensible, hardware independent library for high performance molecular simulation. *J. Chem. Theor. Comput.*, 9:461, 2012 · DOI

We describe the latest version of an open-source, GPU-accelerated library and toolkit for molecular simulation.



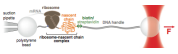
Elms PJ, **Chodera JD**, Bustamante CJ, Marqusee S. The limitations of constant-force-feedback experiments. *Biophys. J.*, 103:1490, 2012 · DOI

Popular constant-force-feedback single-molecule experiments can cause severe artifacts in single-molecule force spectroscopy data. We demonstrate a simple alternative that eliminates these artifacts.



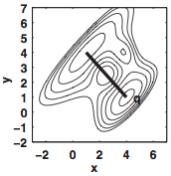
Elms PJ, **Chodera JD**, Bustamante C, Marqusee S. The molten globule state is unusually deformable under mechanical force. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.*, 109:3796, 2012 · DOI

We measure the physical properties of the molten globule state of apo-myoglobin, and show that it is unusually deformable compared to typical protein native states.



Kaiser CM, Goldman DH, **Chodera JD**, Tinoco I, Jr., and Bustamante C. The ribosome modulates nascent protein folding. *Science*, 334:1723, 2011 · DOI

Using single-molecule force spectroscopy, we show how the ribosome itself modulates the folding dynamics of nascent protein chains emerging from the exit tunnel.



Chodera JD and Pande VS. Splitting probabilities as a test of reaction coordinate choice in single-molecule experiments. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 107:098102, 2011 · DOI

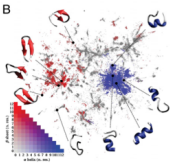
We demonstrate a simple test for identifying poor reaction coordinates in single-molecule experiments.

Structural Biology

$$f_{\mathrm{exp}} = \int \mathrm{d}\vec{r}\, f(\vec{r})\, p_1(\vec{r})$$

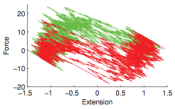
Pitera JW and **Chodera JD**. On the use of experimental observations to bias simulated ensembles. *J. Chem. Theor. Comput.*, 8:3445, 2012 · DOI

We show how the concept of maximum entropy can be used to recover unbiased conformational distributions from experimental data, and how this concept relates to the popular 'ensemble refinement' schemes for NMR data analysis.



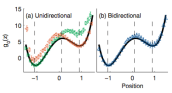
Chodera JD† and Pande VS. The Social Network (of protein conformations). *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 108:12969, 2011 · DOI

Commentary: A new methodology for mapping protein conformational spaces is reminiscent of how we use two-dimensional maps to navigate a three-dimensional world.



Minh DDL, **Chodera JD**†. Estimating equilibrium ensemble averages using multiple time slices from driven nonequilibrium processes: Theory and application to free energies, moments, and thermodynamic length in single-molecule pulling experiments. *J. Chem. Phys.* 134:024111, 2011 · DOI

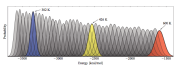
We derive a new estimator for estimating equilibrium expectations from nonequilibrium experiments, and show how it can be used to estimate a variety of useful quantities in simulated single-molecule force spectroscopy experiments.



Minh DDL, **Chodera JD**†. Optimal estimators and asymptotic variances for nonequilibrium path-ensemble averages. *J. Chem. Phys.* 131:134110, 2009 · DOI

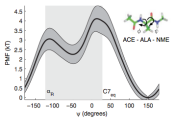
We derive an optimal estimator and corresponding statistical uncertainties for inferring expectations of bidirectional nonequilibrium processes. These estimators have widespread applicability in single-molecule biophysical force-spectroscopy experiments and nonequilibrium molecular simulations.

Biomolecular Conformational Dynamics



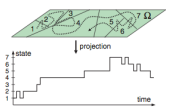
Prinz J-H, **Chodera JD**, Pande VS, Smith JC, and Noé F. Optimal use of data in parallel tempering simulations for the construction of discrete-state Markov models of biomolecular dynamics. *J. Chem. Phys.* 134:244108, 2011 · DOI

We demonstrate how multitemperature data from parallel tempering simulations can be used to construct fully temperature-dependent models of the dynamics of biomolecular systems.



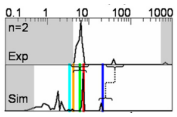
Chodera JD†, Swope WC, Noé F, Prinz J-H, Shirts MR, and Pande VS. Dynamical reweighting: Improved estimates for dynamical properties from simulations at multiple temperatures. *J. Chem. Phys.* 134:244107, 2011 · DOI

We describe how reweighing techniques can provide optimal estimates of temperature-dependent dynamical properties from simulations conducted at multiple temperatures.



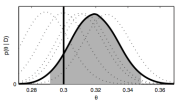
Prinz JH, Wu H, Sarich M, Keller B, Fischbach M, Held M, **Chodera JD**, Schütte, and Noé F. Markov models of molecular kinetics: Generation and validation. *J. Chem. Phys.* 134:174105, 2011 · DOI

A review of current best practices for the generation and validation of Markov state models for describing the stochastic dynamics of biomolecular systems.



Noé F, Doose S, Daidone I, Löllmann M, Sauer M, **Chodera JD**, and Smith JC. Dynamical fingerprints: A theoretical framework for understanding biomolecular processes by combination of simulation and kinetic experiments. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 108:4822, 2011 · DOI

We present a new framework for comparing essential features of the dynamics between experiment and simulation to identify the kinetics processes contributing to individual relaxation timescales in perturbation-response or correlation spectroscopy experiments.

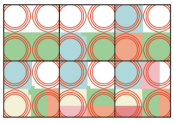


Chodera JD and Noé F. Probability distributions of molecular observables computed from Markov models. II. Uncertainties in observables and their time-evolution. *J. Chem. Phys.* 133:105102, 2010 · DOI

A simple Bayesian approach for the modeling of statistical uncertainties in kinetic and equilibrium quantities computed from Markov state models of biomolecular dynamics.

Adelman JL, **Chodera JD**, Kuo IW, Miller TF, and Barsky D. The mechanical properties of PCNA: Implications for the loading and function of a DNA sliding clamp. *Biophys. J.* 98:3062, 2010 · DOI

Molecular simulations of the PCNA clamp responsible for DNA polymerase processivity show a surprisingly small energetic penalty for the deformation required for clamp loading. Featured on issue cover.



Bacallado S, **Chodera JD**, and Pande VS. Bayesian comparison of Markov models of molecular dynamics with detailed balance constraint. *J. Chem. Phys.* 131:045106, 2009 · DOI

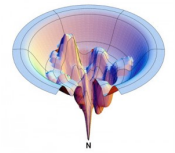
A Bayesian scheme for comparing state space decompositions for Markov state models of biomolecular dynamics that incorporates the fact that physical systems must obey detailed balance. This paper utilizes recent results from Markov chain theory on edge-reinforced random walks.

Chodera JD*, Singhal N*, Swope WC, Pitera JW, Pande VS, and Dill KA. Automatic discovery of metastable states for the construction of Markov models of macromolecular conformational dynamics. *J. Chem. Phys.* 126:155101, 2007 · DOI

Proposing one of the first automated algorithms for discovering kinetically metastable states of biomolecules from molecular simulations, this paper shows how many biomolecules can possess numerous distinct long-lived conformational states even though the the equilibrium populations of these states may too small for standard structural biology techniques to detect.

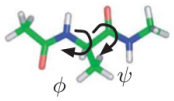
Ozkan SB, Wu GA, **Chodera JD**, and Dill KA. Protein Folding by Zipping and Assembly. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 104(29):11987–11992, 2007 · DOI

A review of the utility of the proposed zipping and assembly mechanism for the concomitant formation of secondary and tertiary structure in protein folding for predicting folding pathways and native structures.



Dill KA, Ozkan SB, Weikl TR, **Chodera JD**, and Voelz VA. The protein folding problem: When will it be solved? *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.* 17(3):342–346, 2007 · DOI

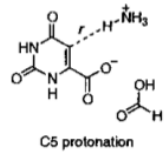
A review of the current state of the protein folding problem.



Chodera JD†, Swope WC, Pitera JW, and Dill KA. Long-time protein folding dynamics from short-time molecular dynamics simulations. *Multiscale Model. Simul.* 5(4):1214–1226, 2006 · DOI

We show how the long-time dynamics of biomolecular systems can be recapitulated from statistics collected from short molecular simulations sampling transitions between kinetically metastable states.

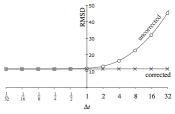
Enzyme catalysis



Lee TS*, Chong LT*, **Chodera JD**, and Kollman PA. An alternative explanation for the catalytic proficiency of orotidine 5'-phosphate decarboxylase. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 123(51):12837-12848, 2001 · DOI

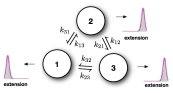
A combined QM and MD analysis of potential plausible mechanisms to explain the enormous catalytic acceleration of one of the most proficient enzymes known.

Manuscripts in review



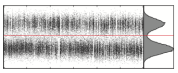
Sivak DA, **Chodera JD**, and Crooks GE. Time step rescaling recovers continuous-time dynamical properties for discrete-time Langevin integration of nonequilibrium systems. *Submitted* · arχiv

We derive a simple, easy-to-implement Langevin integrator that has universally useful properties in molecular simulations.



Chodera JD†, Elms PJ, Noé F, Keller B, Kaiser CM, Ewall-Wice A, Marqusee S, Bustamante C, and Hinrichs NS. Bayesian hidden Markov model analysis of single-molecule biophysical experiments. *In revision at Biophys. J.* · arχiv

We present a Bayesian hidden Markov model analysis scheme that allows biomolecular conformational dynamics to be inferred from single-molecule trajectories.



Chodera JD, Elms PJ, Swope WC, Prinz J-H, Marqusee S, Bustamante C, Noé F, and Pande VS. A robust approach to estimating rates from time-correlation functions. *Submitted* · arχiv

We present a simple, robust approach to estimating two-state rate constants from experimental or simulation data.

Conferences organized

Boston
May 2014
Free Energy Methods in Drug Design Workshop
Hosted at Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Berlin
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World Molecular Kinetics Workshop 2013
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May 2010
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May 2009

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Research grants

Louis V. Gerstner Young Investigator Award (2013–2016)
Google Exacycle Grant for Visiting Faculty (2013–2014)
Over 100 million core-hours.
Teragrid large-scale allocation on NCSA Lincoln (2010, renewed 2011)
1.3 million service units in 2011. Grant number TG-MCB100015.
co-PIs: Michael R. Shirts (University of Virginia); David L. Mobley (University of New Orleans)
GPU-accelerated calculation of ligand binding affinities to biological macromolecules

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