

BioSim Talk #4

An IPR seminar series supported by WPI-PRIME & ASPIRe

Ai Shinobu

Specially appointed associate professor (PI)
WPI PRIME, Osaka University

August 23rd 2024 (Fri)

4.30 – 6.00 pm

Institute for Protein Research

Osaka U. (Suita Campus)

2nd floor conference room (#202)



Review of recent MD simulation methods for calculating kinetics of molecular binding events

Binding events including drug-target interactions, substrate binding, and protein-protein interactions are integral to cellular processes and their malfunction often leads to disease. Thus, understanding their mechanism on a molecular level is crucial for developing effective therapeutics. Molecular Dynamics (MD) simulations are valuable for characterizing such events, providing detailed atomic-level insights. Their bottom-up approach allows precise control over system setup and environmental conditions, making them a powerful complementary tool to experimental methods. Recent studies indicate that the rates of binding and unbinding (k_{on} , k_{off}) are better predictors of drug efficacy compared to binding affinity (ΔG_{bind}). However, accurate calculation of kinetic parameters is challenging due to the long timescales required for protein binding events, challenging for conventional MD simulations to capture. To address this, enhanced sampling techniques and other advanced MD methods have been developed, enabling calculation of rate constants for biological binding events at various accuracy levels. I will review recent MD methods for calculating binding kinetics, showcasing their applications and discuss their accuracy with reference to experimental values. Such advanced methods have the potential to integrate with larger scale cellular models, to simulate entire pathways and provide a comprehensive understanding of molecular interactions within the biological cell.

Link for online participation via Zoom:



Meeting ID: 886 7231 0518

Passcode: 541272

Please inform us if you will be participating online or joining our slack

sandhyatiwari@protein.osaka-u.ac.jp, shinobu.ai.prime@osaka-u.ac.jp