

Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies



HPC for biomaterials: Why does it hurt to play soccer (and baseball)?

Frauke [フラウケ] Gräter, 02/2019











MOLECULAR (bio)mechanics – why?



Strain and fracture: force distribution

conventional design tools: force distribution

in constructions, cars ...



macroscopic structures: meters

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macroscopic structures: meters

new: force distribution in (bio)molecules

e.g. in collagen

microscopic structures:

~ 10⁻⁹ meters



in graphene



W. Stacklies, et al, PLoS Comp Biol, 2009 Costescu et al, BMC Biophys, 2012

Forces from classical Molecular Dynamics



Forces from classical Molecular Dynamics



F'ij force between atom i and j in relaxed state

 $\mathbf{\nabla}$

 F_{ij} force between atom i and j in stretched state



change in pairwise forces $\Delta F_{ij} = F_{ij} - F'_{ij}$

Proteins: a jiggling and wiggling (Feynman)



Mean velocity:

$$\hat{v} = \sqrt{\frac{2RT}{M}}$$

R: gas constant T: temperature M: molar mass

-> roughly 100-1000 m/s

Molecular Dynamics



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Mechanics of silk fibers



zigzag pattern of hydrogen bonds crucial for stabilization









Mechanics of bone & teeth:

Rupture mechanisms and stress concentration of flawed biominerals



Mechanics of polymer nanocomposites



Gromacs: fast, free, and flexible

- up to hundreds of millions of particles
- *extremely high performance* compared to all other MD programs.
- innermost loops are written in C using intrinsic functions that the compiler transforms to SIMD machine instructions
- excellent CUDA-based GPU acceleration
- tailored towards bio-simulations, but increasingly used in the materials science domain

Abraham, et al. (2015) SoftwareX **1-2** 19-25 GROMACS benchmarking: *Kutzner, et al.* (2015) J. Comput. Chem., **36** 1990-2008

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Molecular Dynamics & HPC





among the largest Molecular Dynamics simulations of a biological system

Yuji Sugita, Michael Feig and co-workers at RIKEN, on K-Computer



Molecular Dynamics & HPC





Collagen: major load-bearing structure of the body

Anatomic plate from Laskowski's "Anatomie normale du corps humain" (1894), illustrations by Sigismond Balicki



Molecular Biomechanics

Ana Herrera-Rodriguez, Csaba Daday, Vedran Miletic, Florian Franz, Fabian Kutzki, **Christopher Zapp, Agniezska Obarska-Kosinski** Tobias Jäger Fan Jin **Benedikt Rennekamp**

> \$\$: Klaus Tschira foundation DFG, Volkswagen Foundation, AvH, Toyota