

1 – Molecular Biomechanics

Length, Time & Forces in Biology

Thermal energy scale $E_{th} \sim k_B T \approx 4 \cdot 10^{-21}$ J (and $RT = N_A k_B T \approx 2.5$ kJ.mol⁻¹) at 298°K

Thermal force scale $F_{th} \sim E_{th} / L_{th} \approx 4 \cdot 10^{-21} / 10^{-9} = 4$ pN

Orders of magnitude in biology

Brownian motion in d dimensions $\langle \underline{r} \cdot \underline{r} \rangle = 2d D t$ with $D \sim k_B T / \xi$

ξ drag coefficient defined by $\underline{F}_{cl} = -\xi \underline{v}$ (Stokes law for spheres: $\xi = 6\pi \mu a$)

Langevin equation (very difficult to solve but good for dynamics)

$$m \frac{d^2 \underline{r}(t)}{dt^2} = -\xi \frac{d\underline{r}(t)}{dt} + \underline{f}(t) + \underline{G}(t)$$

Stochastic model for \underline{f} and equipartition theorem yield

$$\langle \underline{r} \cdot \underline{r} \rangle = \frac{2k_B T}{\xi} \delta \cdot t + \frac{m}{\xi} \left[\exp\left(-\frac{\xi}{m} t\right) - 1 \right]$$

Limiting cases

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} t \ll \frac{m}{\xi} \Rightarrow \langle \underline{r} \cdot \underline{r} \rangle = \frac{k_B T}{m} \delta \cdot t^2 \rightarrow \text{ballistic} \\ t \gg \frac{m}{\xi} \Rightarrow \langle \underline{r} \cdot \underline{r} \rangle = \frac{2k_B T}{\xi} \delta \cdot t \rightarrow \text{diffusive} \end{array} \right.$$

General Thermodynamics & Statistical Mechanics

Fondamental energy equation

$$dU = TdS - pdV + \underline{F}_{rev} \cdot d\underline{r}$$

Helmholtz free energy

$$dA = d(U - TS) = -pdV + \underline{F}_{rev} \cdot d\underline{r} - Sdt \Rightarrow \left(\frac{\partial A}{\partial \underline{r}} \right)_{T,V} = \underline{F}_{rev}$$

2 postulates

- ergodic: Time average = ensemble average
- Gibbs: All microstates with same N, V, U are equally probable

Entropy

$$S = k_B \ln W = -k_B \sum_{i=1}^I p_i \ln p_i$$

Boltzmann distribution

$$p_i = \frac{\exp\left(\frac{-U_i + \underline{f} \cdot \underline{r}_i}{k_B T}\right)}{Q'}$$

Partition function

$$Q' = \sum_i \exp\left(\frac{-U_i + \underline{f} \cdot \underline{r}_i}{k_B T}\right)$$

Thermodynamic system $(T, V, N, \underline{f}_{rev})$, equilibrium for minimized $A' = A - \underline{f}_{rev} \cdot \underline{r}$

Also enthalpy $H = U + pV$, and Gibbs free energy $G = H - TS$

For one macrostate

$$A = -k_B T \ln Q$$

Forces tilt energy profiles and change distribution

$$\frac{p_1}{p_2} = \frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = \exp\left(-\frac{A_1 - A_2}{k_B T}\right) \exp\left(\frac{\underline{f} \cdot (\underline{r}_1 - \underline{r}_2)}{k_B T}\right)$$

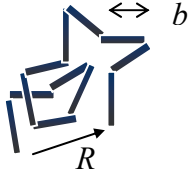
Polymer Chain Model & Entropic Elasticity

Freely-jointed chain model
(polymers are coiled at equilibrium)

$$\underline{R} = \sum_{i=1}^N \underline{b}_i, \langle \underline{R} \rangle = 0, \sqrt{\langle \underline{R} \cdot \underline{R} \rangle} = \sqrt{N}b$$

Probability distribution for \underline{R} in d dimensions

$$p(x, y, z, N) \approx p_{Gaussian} = \left(\frac{d}{2\pi N b^2} \right)^{d/2} \exp\left(-\frac{dR^2}{2Nb^2} \right)$$

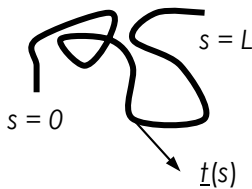


In 3D

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \langle \underline{f} \rangle &= -T \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial \underline{R}} \right)_{T,V} = -k_B T \frac{\partial}{\partial \underline{R}} (\ln p(\underline{R})) = \frac{3k_B T}{b} \cdot \frac{\underline{R}}{L} \\ \langle \underline{r} \rangle &= Nb \left[\coth\left(\frac{fb}{k_B T} \right) - \frac{k_B T}{fb} \right] \frac{\underline{f}}{f} \end{aligned} \right.$$

Worm-like chain model
Total internal energy from bending

$$U_{tot} = \int_{chain} \frac{E_{arc}}{L_{arc}} = \int_{chain} \frac{\kappa_f}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{R_c^2} = \frac{YI}{2} \int_{s=0}^{s=L} \left(\frac{\partial \underline{t}}{\partial s} \right)^2 ds$$



Persistence length

$$\langle \underline{t}(s) \cdot \underline{t}(s + \Delta s) \rangle = \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta s \cdot k_B T}{\kappa_f} \right)$$

$$\lambda_p = \frac{b}{2} = \frac{\kappa_f}{k_B T}$$

Coil size

$$\langle R^2 \rangle = 2\lambda_p \left[\frac{L}{\lambda_p} + \exp\left(\frac{-L}{\lambda_p} \right) - 1 \right]$$

Interpolation of force/elongation

$$f_z \approx \frac{k_B T}{\lambda_p} \left[4 \left(1 - \frac{\langle z \rangle}{L} \right)^{-2} + \frac{\langle z \rangle}{L} - \frac{1}{4} \right]$$

Filament Polymerization & Forces

At equilibrium

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = k_{on}[M] - k_{off}$$

$$K_{eq} = \frac{k_{on}}{k_{off}} = K_{eq}^0 \exp\left(\frac{f \cdot \Delta x}{k_B T} \right) = \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G^0}{k_B T} \right) \left(\frac{f \cdot \Delta x}{k_B T} \right)$$

Lower dissociation constant if pulling ($f > 0$)

$$K = \frac{k_{off}}{k_{on}} = \frac{1}{K_{eq}} = [M^c(f)] = [M^c]^0 \exp\left(\frac{-f \cdot \delta}{k_B T} \right)$$

Equilibrium force: Depending on monomer reserve $[M]$, system can push or pull

$$f^{eq} = -f = -\frac{k_B T}{\delta} \ln\left(\frac{[M^c(f)]}{[M^c]^0} \right)$$

Eyring & Kramers rate theories (see reading "Chapter 5 – Howard")

Reaction-limited & diffusion-limited polymerization (see reading "Chapter 10 – Howard")

Brownian ratchet for kinesin-microtubule & myosin-actin

Dimensional analysis

2 – Tissue Biomechanics

Linear Elasticity

Concepts of linear elasticity, isotropic or anisotropic materials, homogeneous materials
 Methods for measuring elastic properties: extension, shear, confined or unconfined compression

Generalized Hooke's law
 (continuum, homogeneous, linearly elastic, isotropic)

$$\sigma_{ij} = C_{ijkl} \varepsilon_{kl} = \lambda \delta_{ij} \varepsilon_{kk} + 2G \varepsilon_{ij}$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) = \frac{1+\nu}{E} \sigma_{ij} - \frac{\nu}{E} \delta_{ij} \sigma_{kk}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\nu E}{(1+\nu)(1-2\nu)} \quad G = \frac{E}{2(1+\nu)} \quad H = 2G + \lambda \quad K = \lambda + \frac{2}{3}G = \frac{E}{3(1-2\nu)} = \frac{\sigma_{kk}}{3\varepsilon_{kk}}$$

Force balance relation in differential form

$$\rho \frac{Dv_i}{Dt} = \rho \left(\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial t} + v_j \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_j} \right) = f_i + b_i = \frac{\partial \sigma_{ij}}{\partial x_j} + b_i$$

For Hookean solid → Navier-Stokes

$$\rho \frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial t^2} = G \frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + (\lambda + G) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_j} \right) + b_i$$

Neglecting inertia & body forces

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{ij}}{\partial x_j} = 0$$

Strain energy density
 scales as $U_0 \sim G \varepsilon^2$ or $U_0 \sim \sigma^2 / G$

$$U_0 = \frac{dU}{dV} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\lambda (\varepsilon_{kk})^2 + 2G \varepsilon_{kk}^2 + 4G (\varepsilon_{12}^2 + \varepsilon_{23}^2 + \varepsilon_{13}^2) \right]$$

$$U_0 = \frac{1}{2E} \sigma_{kk}^2 - \frac{\nu}{E} (\sigma_{11} \sigma_{22} - \sigma_{22} \sigma_{33} - \sigma_{11} \sigma_{33}) + \frac{1}{2G} (\sigma_{12}^2 + \sigma_{23}^2 + \sigma_{13}^2)$$

For bending of a rod

$$U = \frac{1}{2} M \theta = \int_V \frac{\sigma_{11}^2}{2E} dV = \int_V \frac{1}{2E} \left(\frac{M x_2}{I} \right)^2 dx_1 dA = \frac{M^2 L}{2EI}$$

and because $\theta = L / R_c$

$$M = \frac{\kappa_f}{R_c} = \frac{EI}{R_c}$$

Composition & Structure of Biological Materials

Extracellular Matrix

- Collagen (stiff)
- Proteoglycans (compressive, glycosaminoglycan charge repulsion)
- Elastin (elastic, compliant, random)
- Adhesion proteins

Other examples in handouts