



Incorporating Proteins into Geometrically Complex, Cell-Scale Membrane Models

Noah Trebesch^{1,2,3} and Emad Tajkhorshid^{1,2,3,4}

¹Center for Biophysics and Quantitative Biology

²NIH Center for Macromolecular Modeling and Bioinformatics

³Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology

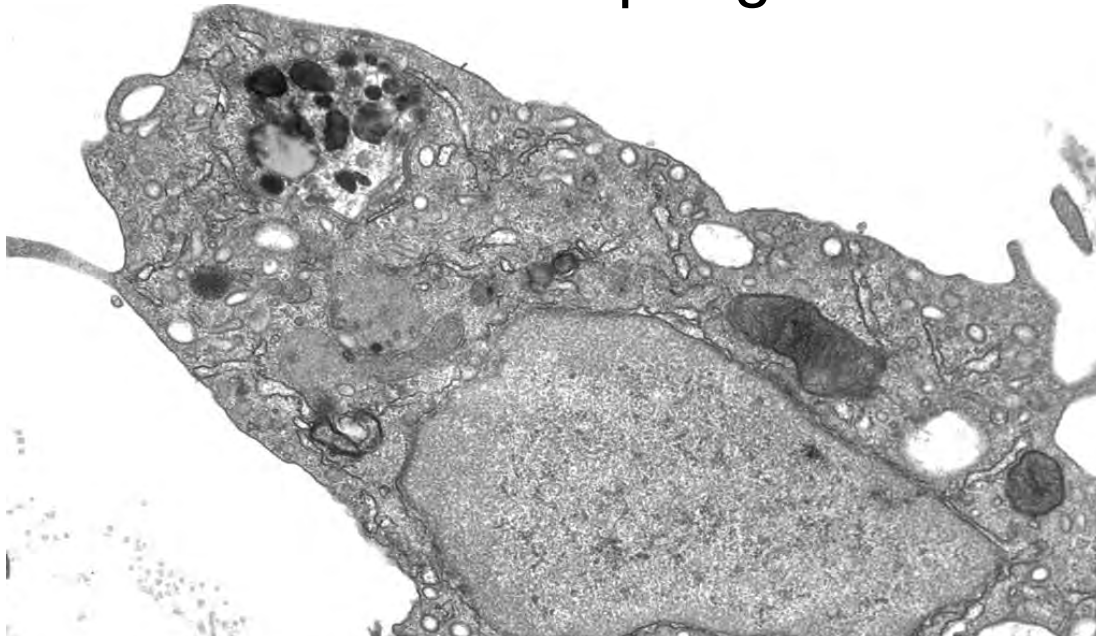
⁴Department of Biochemistry

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



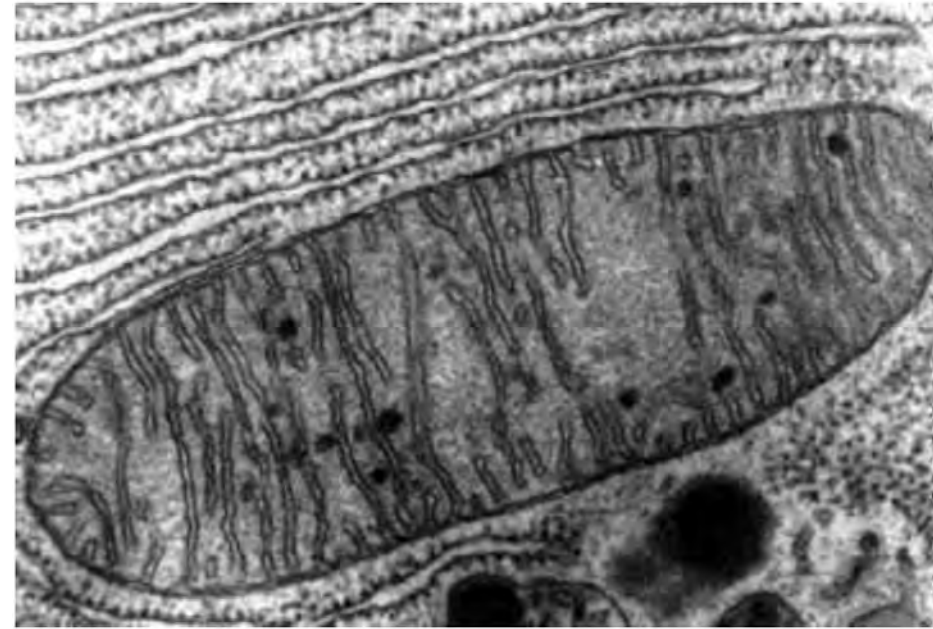
Cellular Membranes are Highly Complex

Macrophage



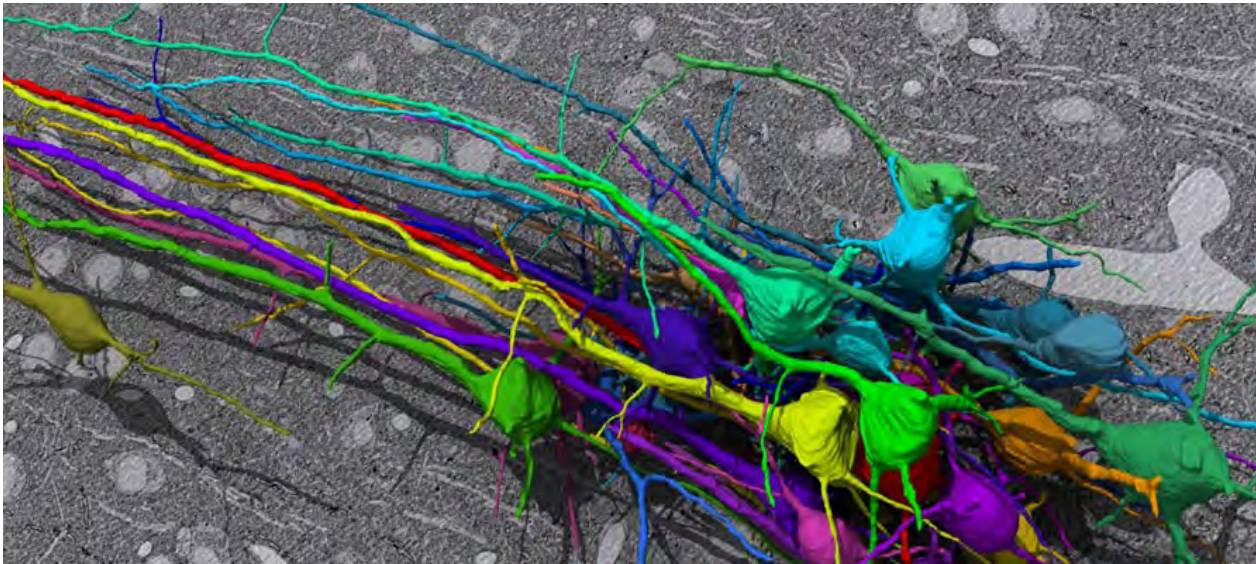
Yale University

Mitochondrion



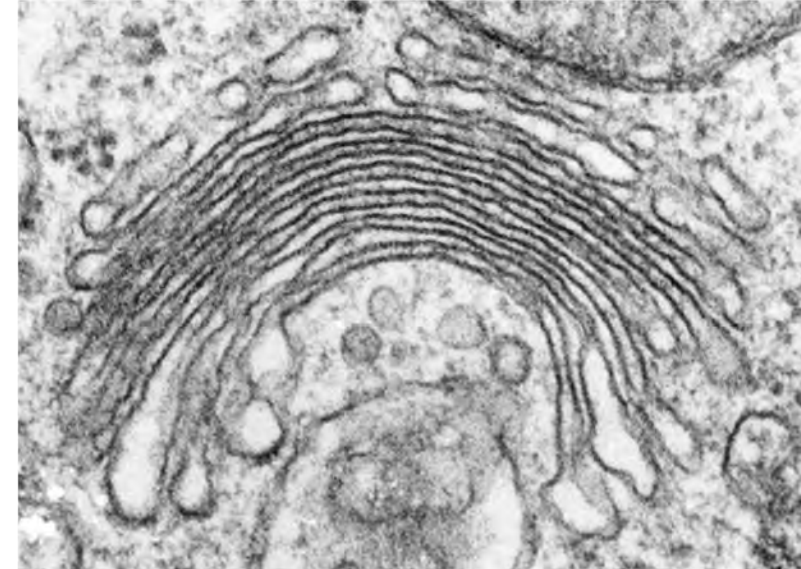
G. Angus McQuibban

Neurons



Daniel Berger

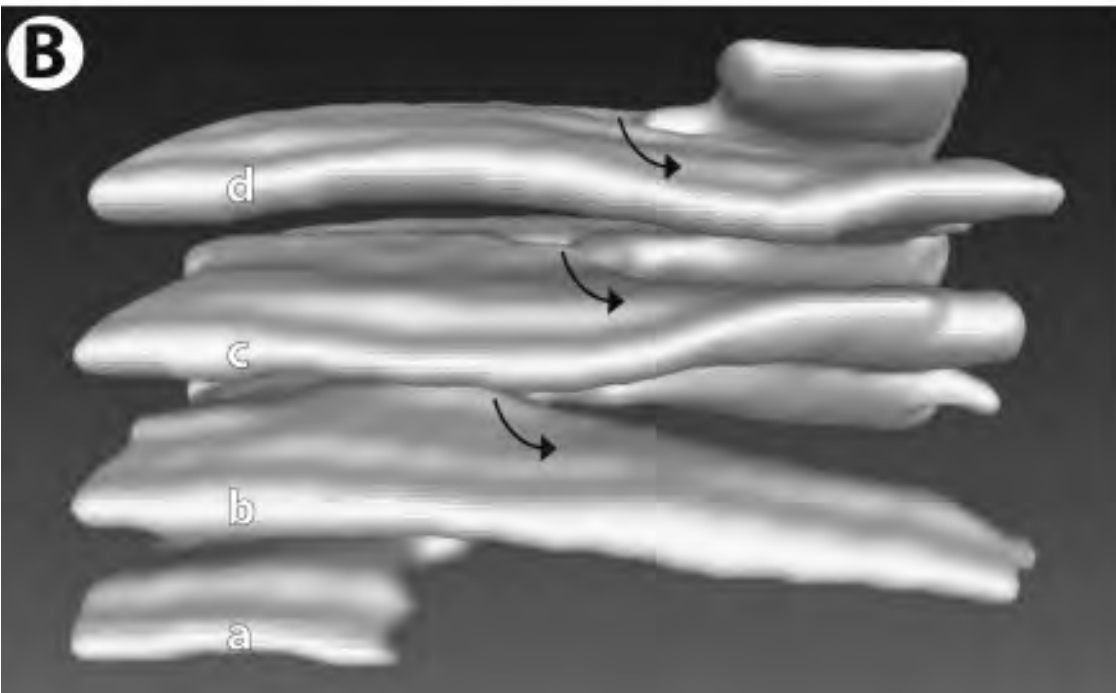
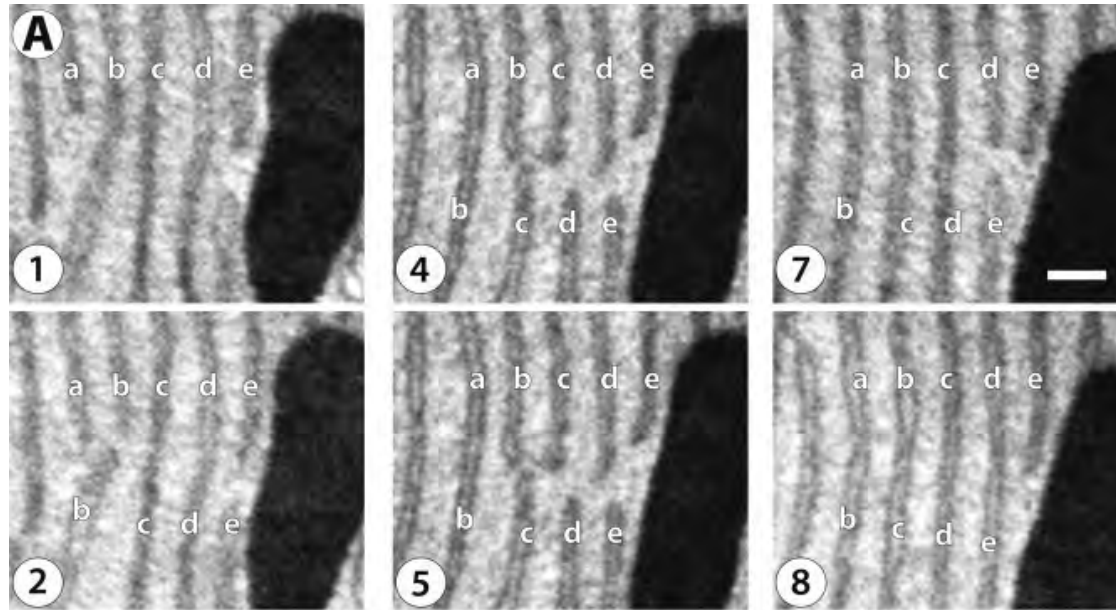
Golgi Apparatus



Yale University

ER Consists of Representative Cell Membranes

Structure: Electron Microscopy



Lipid Composition: Chromatography

14.19% — Cholesterol

49.65% ● POPC

23.01% ● POPE

4.38% ● POPI

3.46% ● POPS

5.21% ● Sphingomyelin

0.09% ● Cardiolipin

Keenan and Huang. *J Dairy Sci.*
55:11, 1586-1596 (1972).

Classical Molecular Dynamics (MD) Simulations

Define Potential Energy Function (Force Field)

$$U_{CHARMM} = U_{bond} + U_{angle} + U_{UB} + U_{dihedral} + U_{improper} + U_{CMAP} + U_{LJ} + U_{elec}$$

$$U_{bond} = \sum_{bonds} K_b (b - b^0)^2$$

$$U_{angle} = \sum_{angles} K_\theta (\theta - \theta^0)^2$$

$$U_{UB} = \sum_{Urey-Bradley} K_{UB} (b^{1-3} - b^{1-3.0})^2$$

$$U_{dihedral} = \sum_{dihedrals} K_\varphi ((1 + \cos(n\varphi - \delta)))$$

$$U_{improper} = \sum_{impropers} K_\omega (\omega - \omega^0)^2$$

$$U_{CMAP} = \sum_{residues} U_{CMAP}(\Phi, \Psi)$$

$$U_{LJ} = \sum_{nonb.pairs} \epsilon_{ij} \left[\left(\frac{r_{ij}^{min}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left(\frac{r_{ij}^{min}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]$$

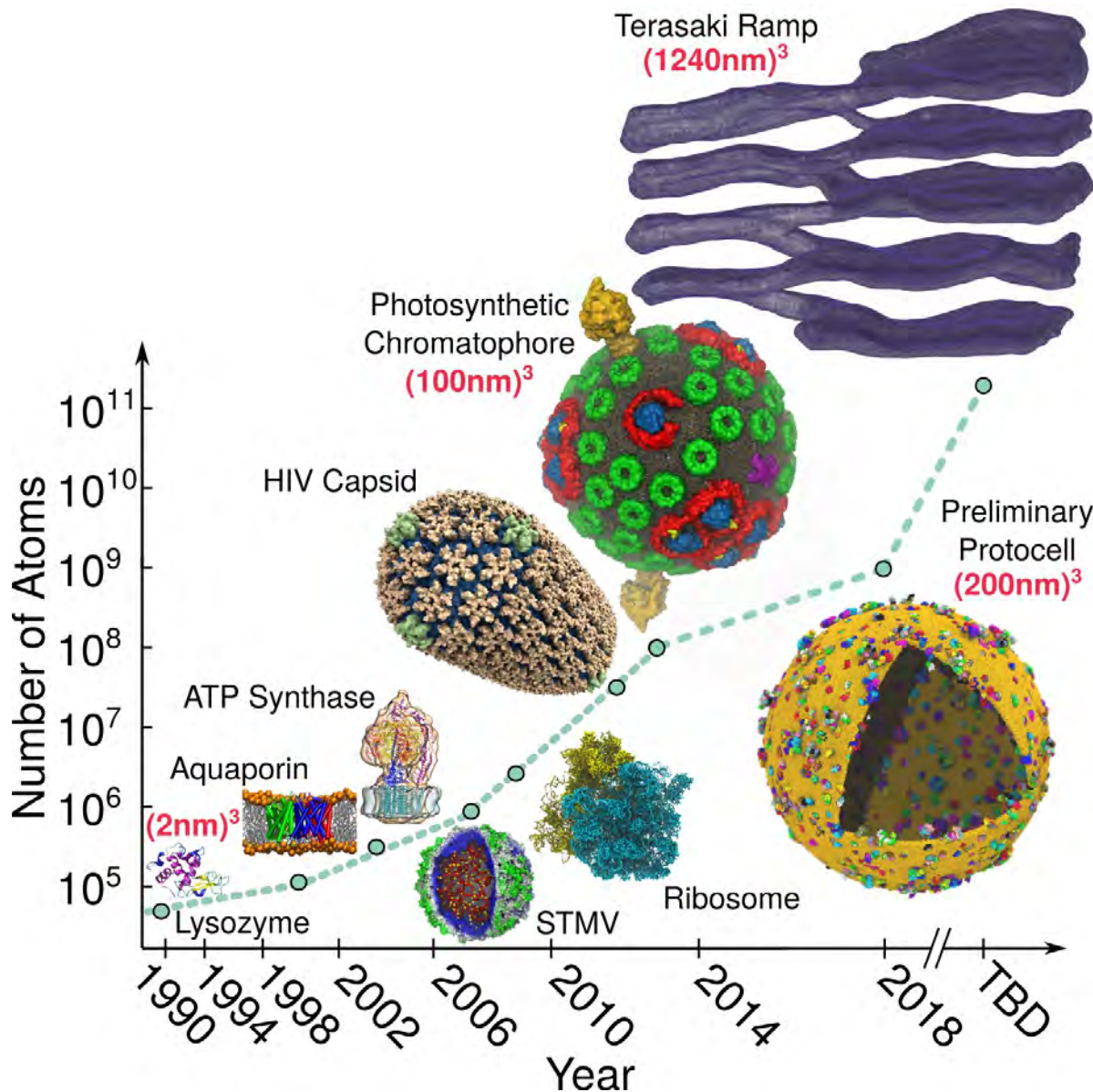
$$U_{elec} = \sum_{nonb.pairs} \frac{q_i q_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}}$$

Integrate Newton's Equations of Motion (Velocity Verlet)

$$\vec{r}_i(t + \delta t) = \vec{r}_i(t) + \vec{v}_i(t)\delta t + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}_i(t)(\delta t)^2$$

$$\vec{a}_i(t + \delta t) = \frac{\vec{F}_i(t + \delta t)}{m_i} = -\frac{1}{m_i}\vec{\nabla}_i U(\vec{r}_i(t + \delta t))$$

$$\vec{v}_i(t + \delta t) = \vec{v}_i(t) + \frac{1}{2}(\vec{a}_i(t) + \vec{a}_i(t + \delta t))\delta t$$



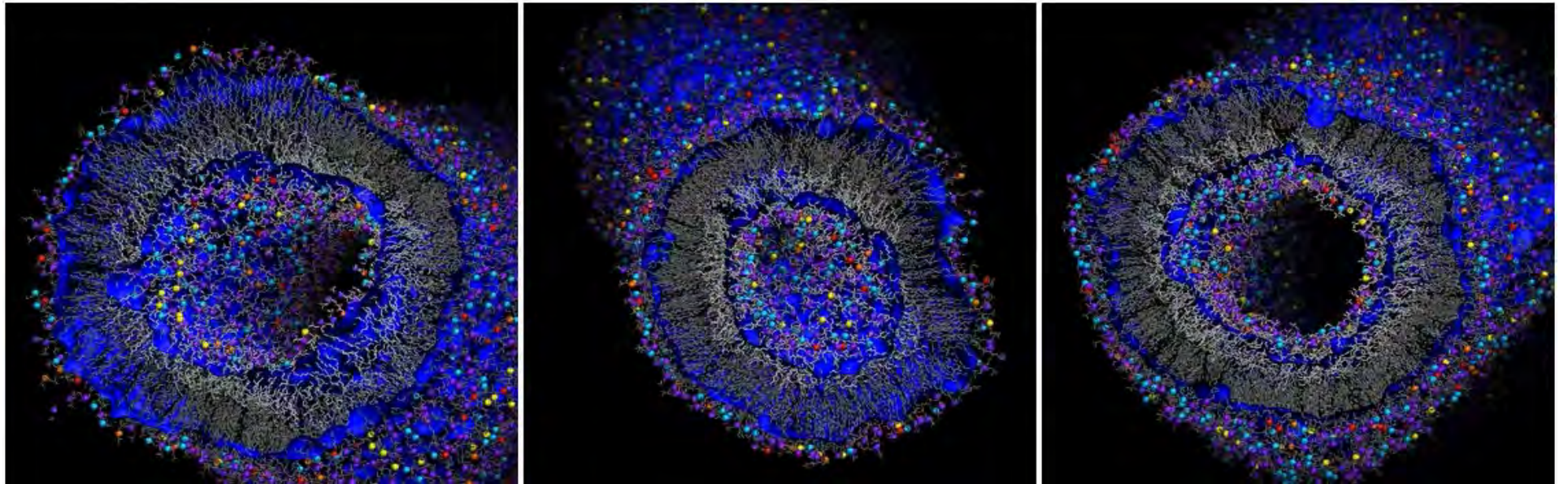
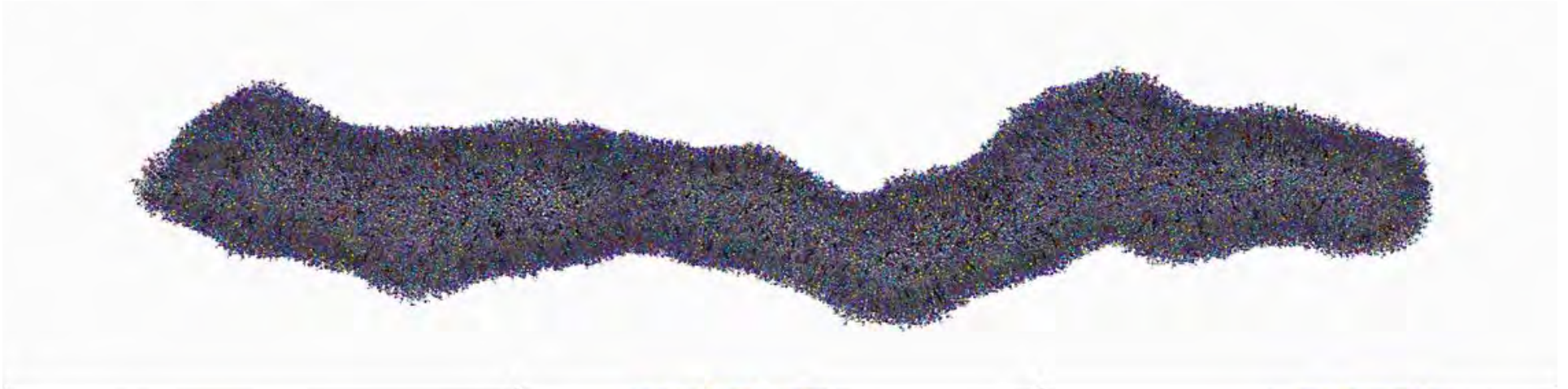
Classical MD Simulations Performed by the NIH Center for Macromolecular Modeling and Bioinformatics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Methodological Overview of xMAS Builder

(Experimentally-Derived Membranes of Arbitrary Shape)



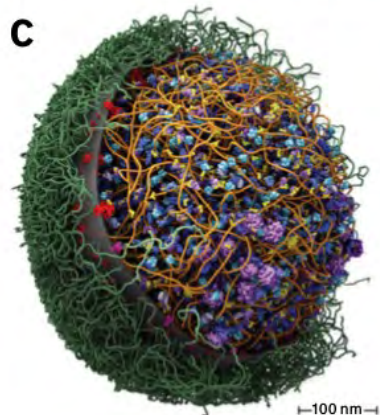
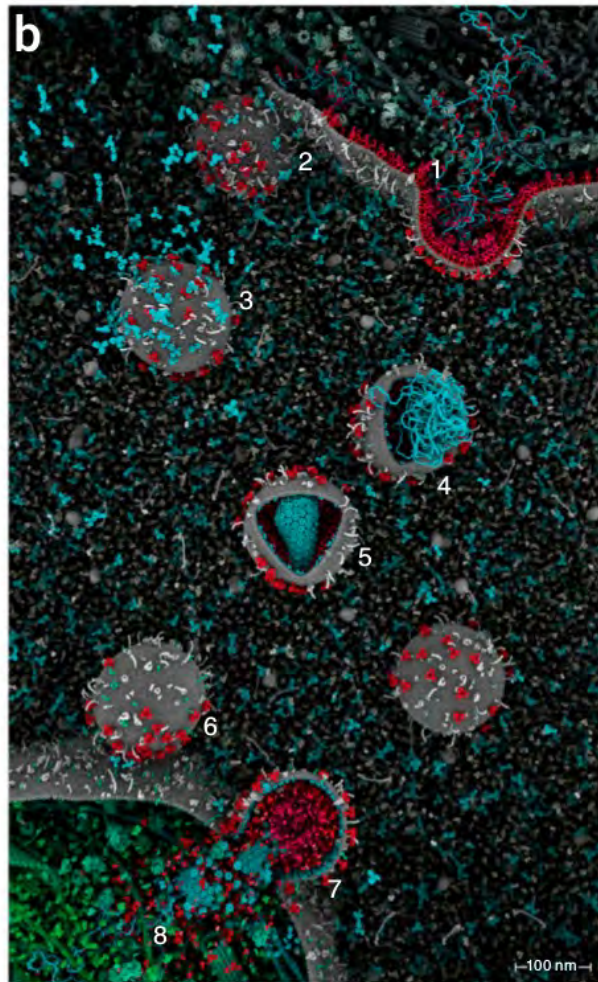
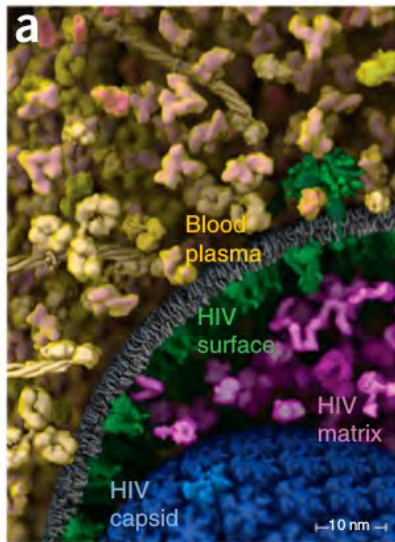
Membrane Stable During Unbiased Simulation



16,754 Lipids
~2.1 Million Lipid Atoms
~12.0 Million Atoms Total

~180ns Simulation

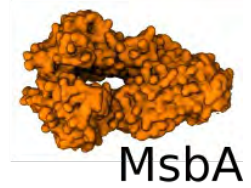
Generate Protein Packing



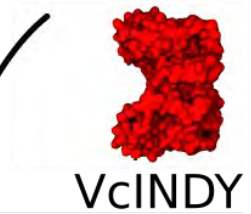
Johnson *et al.* *Nat Methods*. **12**:1, 85-91 (2015).

Membrane
Mesh

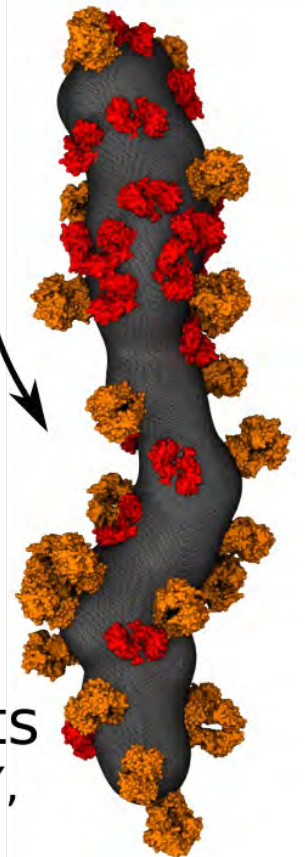
Protein
Meshes



MsbA



VcINDY

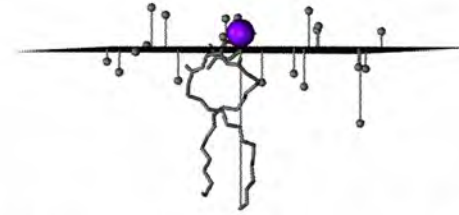


Packing Results
(25 copies VcINDY,
25 copies MsbA)

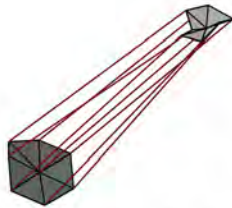
Methodological Overview of xMAS Builder



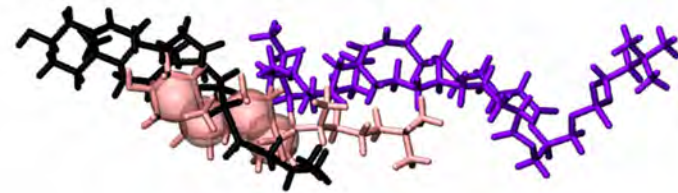
Obtain 3D mesh from an experimental technique



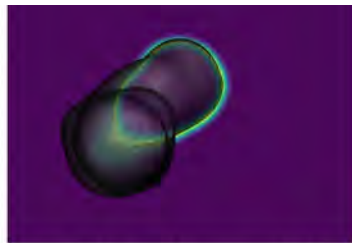
Replace particles with atomistic lipids



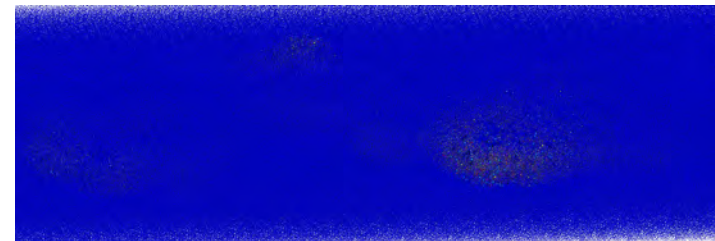
Construct inner leaflet mesh



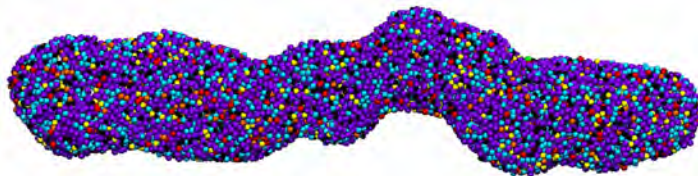
Fix ring piercings



Generate attractive grid densities from inner and outer leaflet meshes

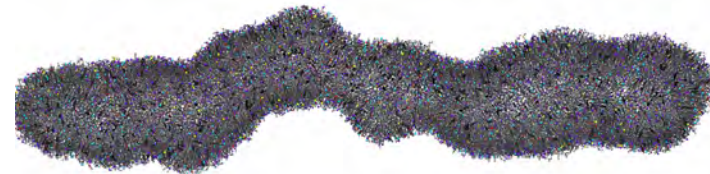


Solvate bilayer



Optimize lipid placement

Simulate particles while restrained to attractive densities



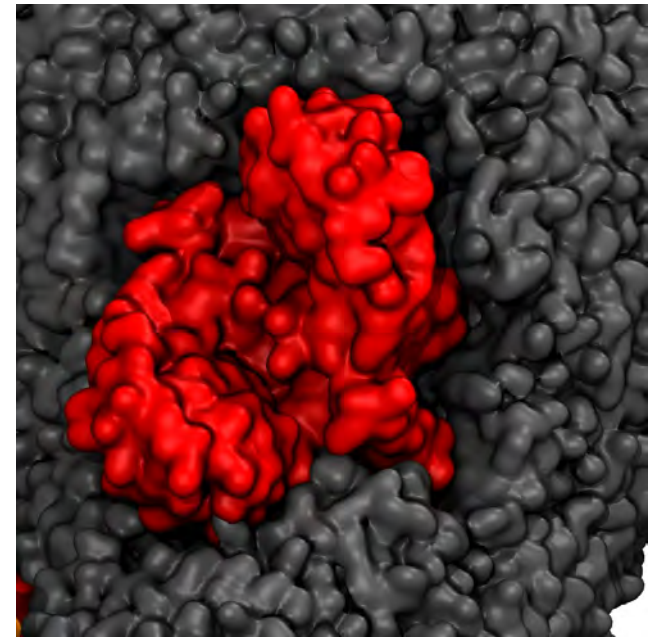
Run simulation

Generate a Membrane with Proteins

Overlay Packed Proteins with Lipids

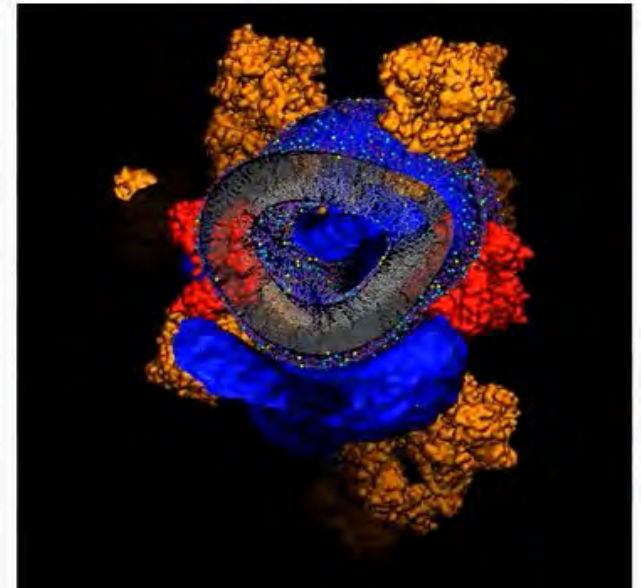
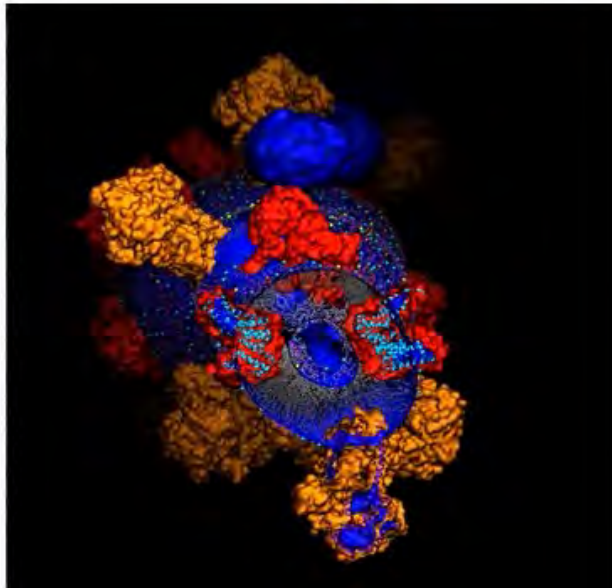
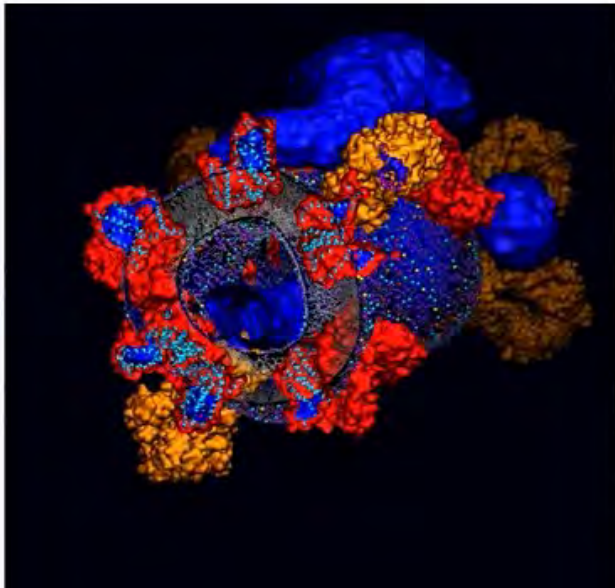
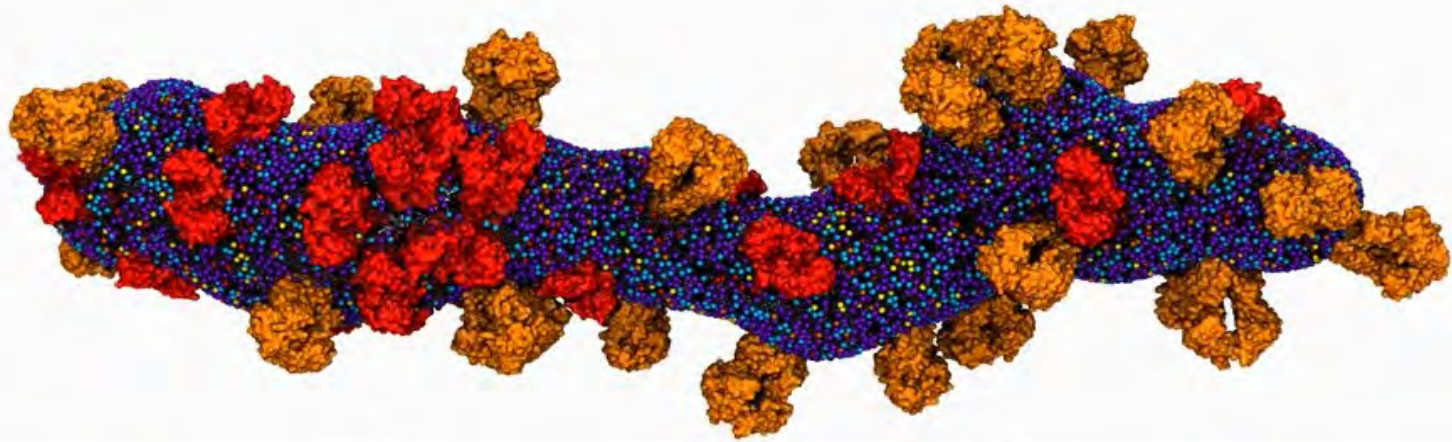


Delete Overlapping Lipids



- Removes too many lipids
- Does not maintain lipid composition

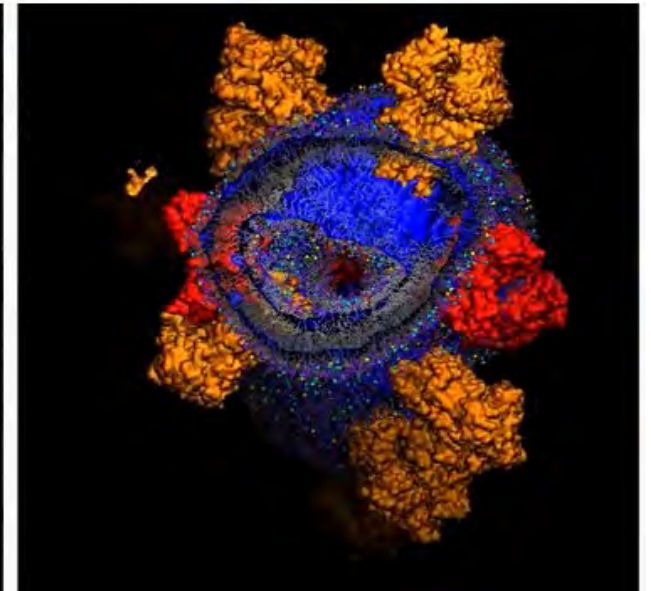
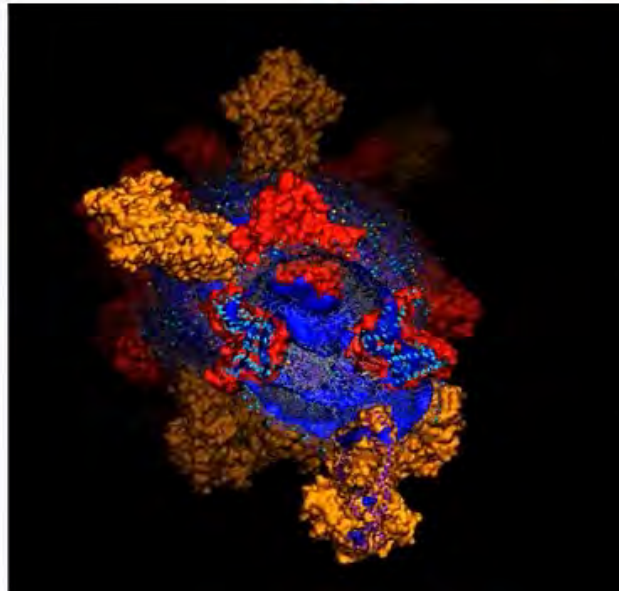
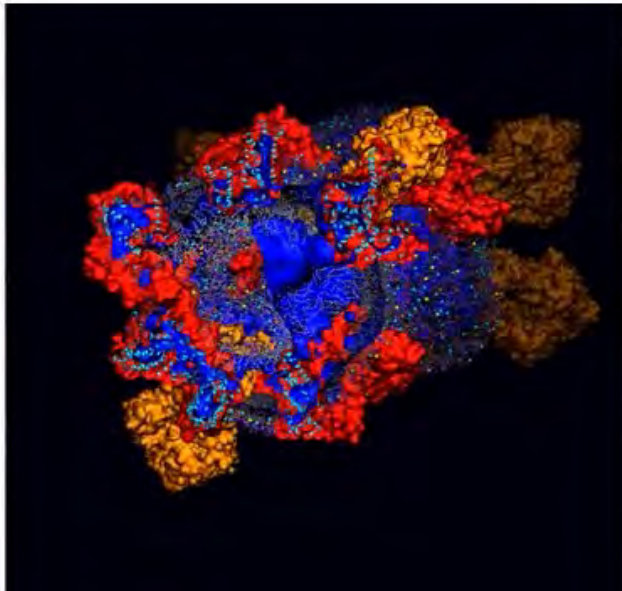
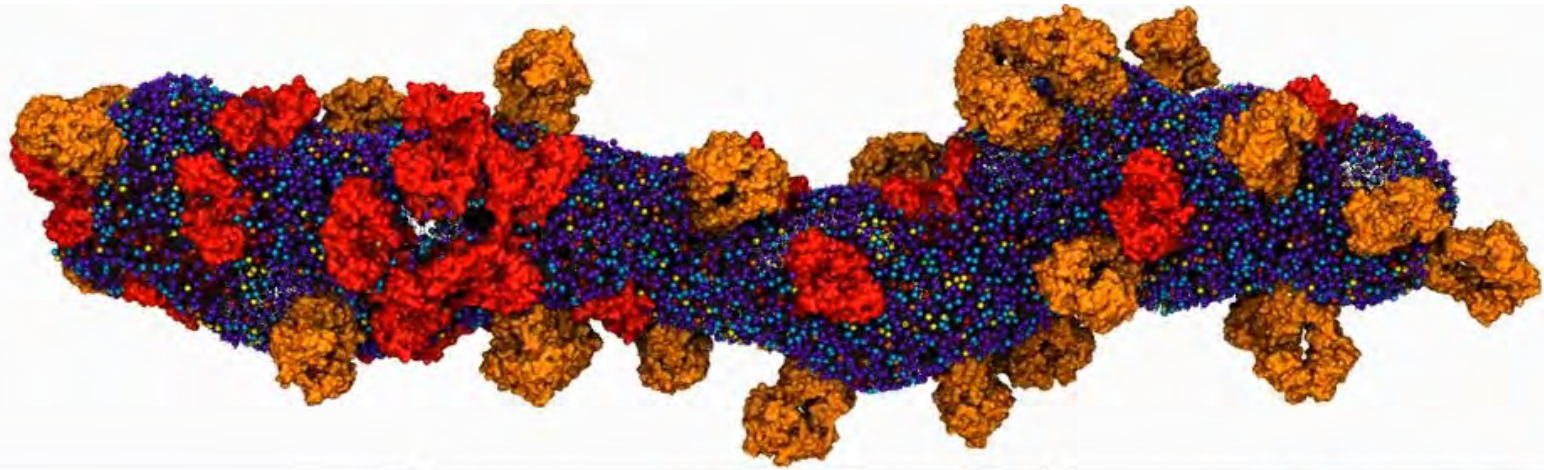
Apply Restrained Equilibration



~23.8 Million Atoms
5ns Simulation

Water Restrained
Membrane Restrained
Protein C α Fixed

Apply Unrestrained Equilibration

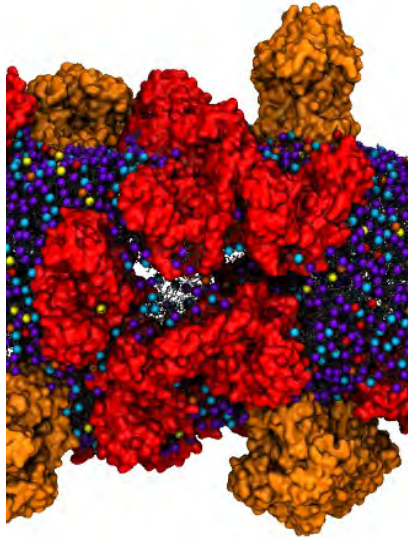


~24.5 Million Atoms
10ns Simulation

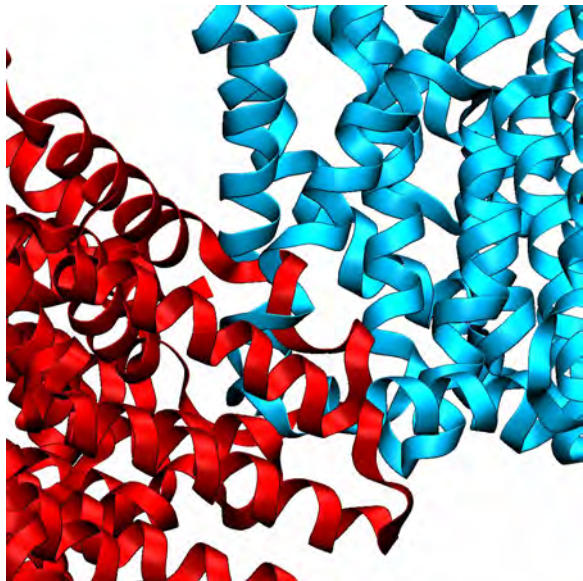
Water Unrestrained
Membrane Unrestrained
Protein C α Free

Modeling Problems Revealed by Simulation

Proteins Packed Too Close Together

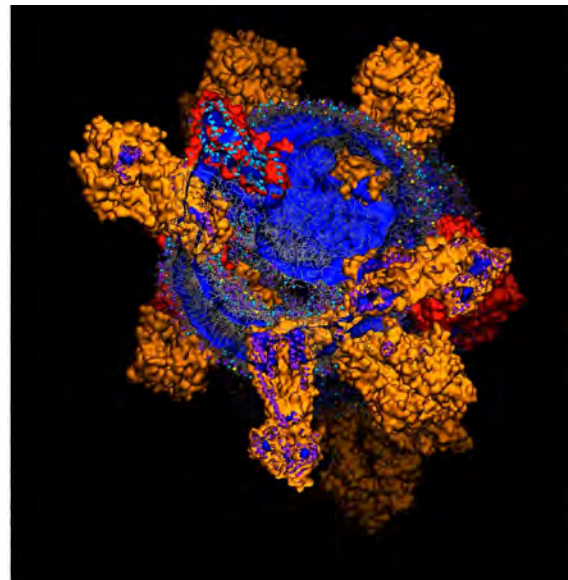


Few Lipids Between Proteins

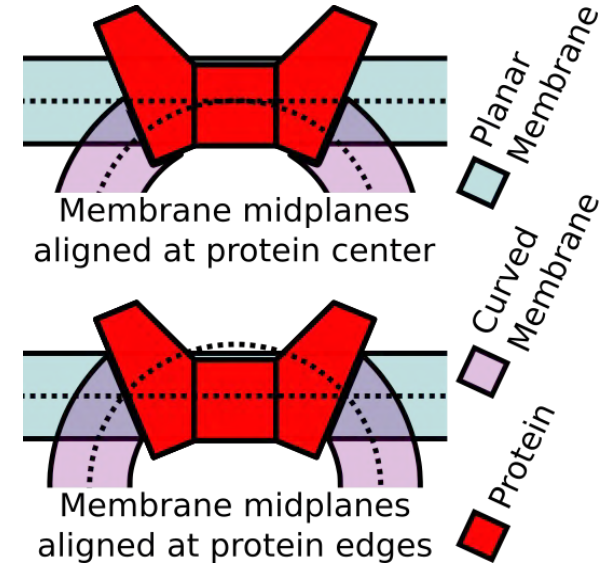


Polypeptide Chains Linked

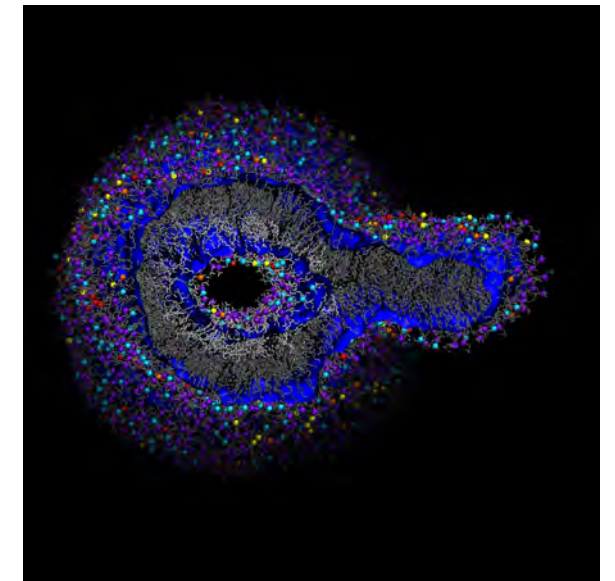
Inner and Outer Leaflets Unzip



After 10ns Unrestrained Equilibration

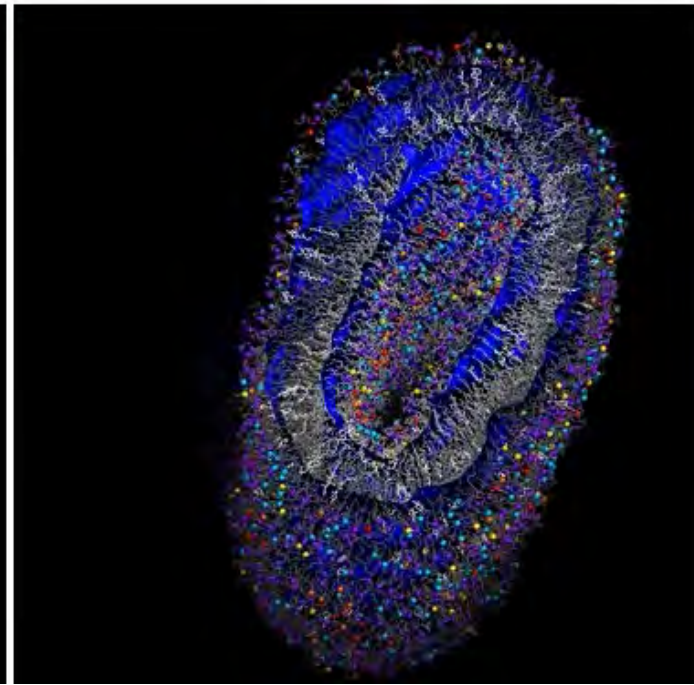
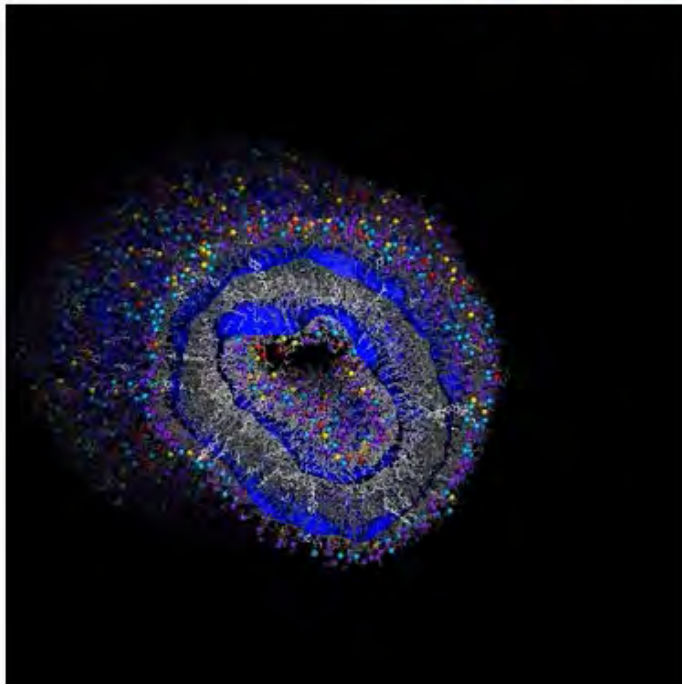
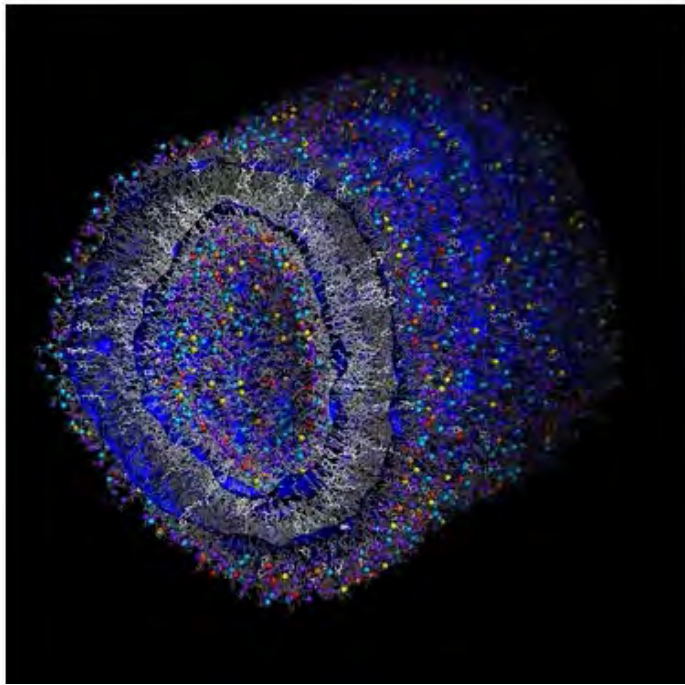
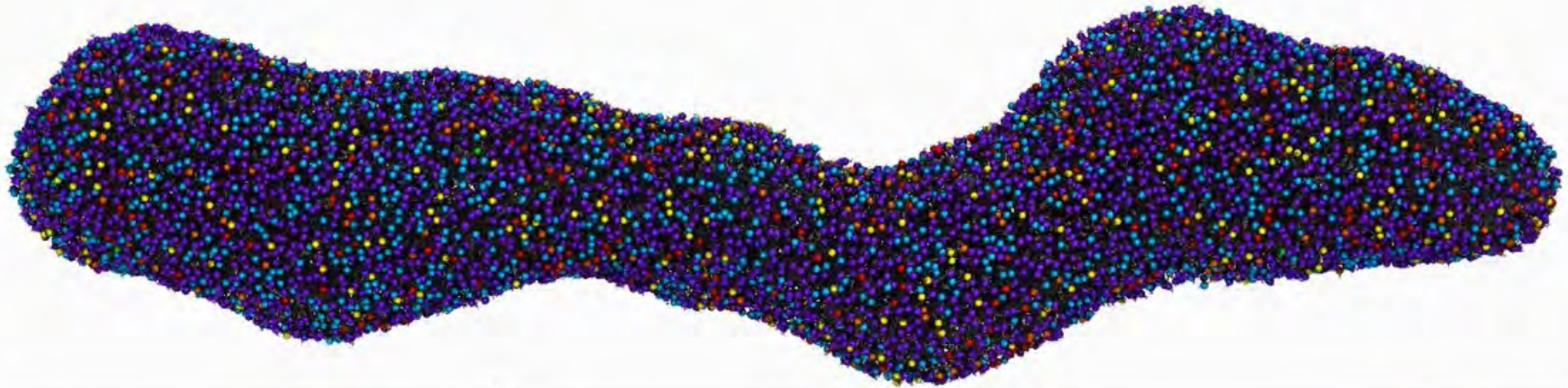


Proteins Inserted Too Shallowly



Outer Leaflet Overfilled

Revisiting Calculation of Lipids per Leaflet



16,100 Lipids
~2.0 Million Lipid Atoms
~11.5 Million Atoms Total

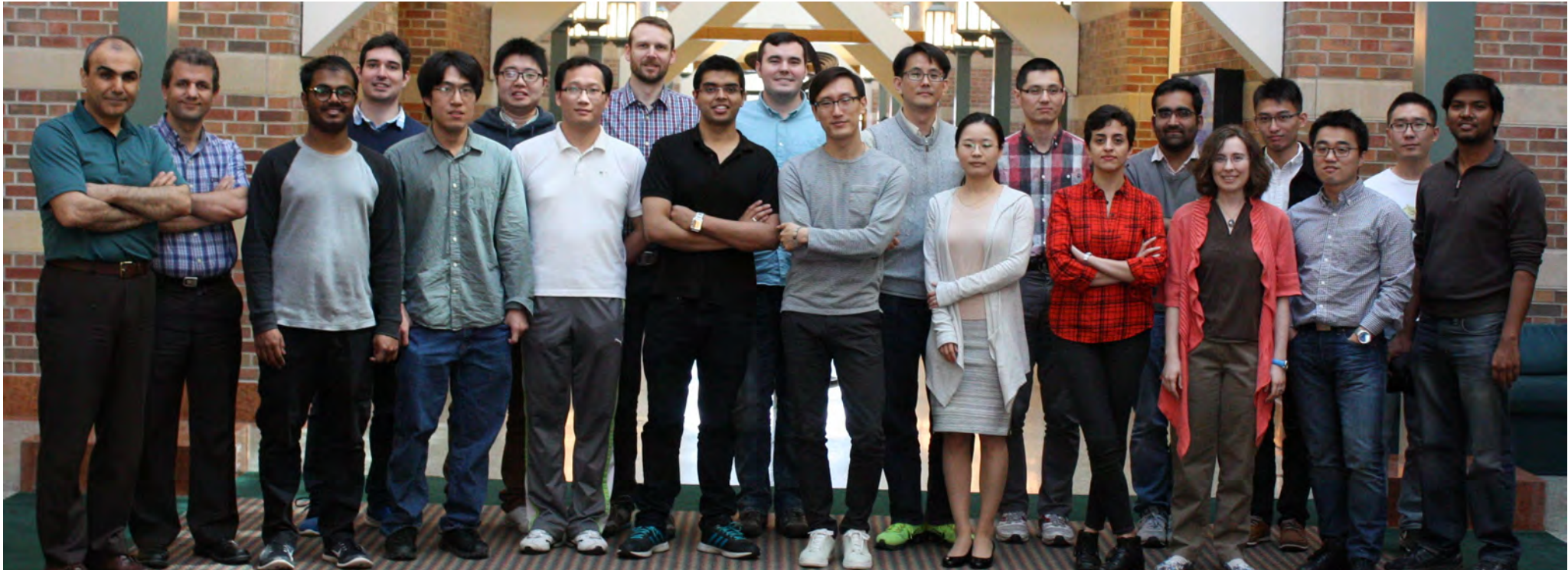
~225ns Simulation

Future Work



- Implement full modeling protocol
- Fix existing modeling problems
- Choose different membrane proteins
- Run simulation again

Acknowledgements



Emad Tajkhorshid, Tajkhorshid Group
NIH Center for Macromolecular Modeling and Bioinformatics



Grants
P41-GM104601
U54-GM087519

XSEDE

Extreme Science and Engineering
Discovery Environment

