There and Back Again: The statistical dynamics of trajectories

Gavin E. Crooks



Steam Engines



19th Century Thermodynamics

meters kilojoules/cycle



21th Century Thermodynamics

Nanometers Out-of-equilibrium Large fluctuations Dissipation~kT per cycle





This fundamental law is the summit of statistical mechanics, and the entire subject is either the slide-down from this summit, as the principle is applied to various cases, or the climb-up to where the fundamental law is derived... — Feynman



Dynamics around equilibrium is always more interesting than equilibrium itself - John Doyle 2007 Information is physical — Rolf Landauer

Information is bits

$$\Delta S_{Melting} = 22 J / (mol K)$$

~ 2.5 nats / molecule
~ 4 bits / molecule

 $\Delta F_{\text{ATP Hydro.}} = 20 \text{ kJ / mol}$ $\beta \Delta F_{\text{ATP Hydro.}} \sim 8 \text{ nats / molecule}$ ~ 12 bits / molecule





Transition Path Sampling





Configurational Monte Carlo Transition Path Monte Carlo



Water Autoionization





Geissler et al 2000

Open Problem:

Assume we obtained a transition path ensemble between two conformations of a protein, how do we write a paper describing what happens? -Peter Bolhuis



Open Problem : Intermediate Metastable states





RNA hairpin unfolding (& refolding)



J. Liphardt, S. Dumont, S.B. Smith, I. Tinoco, C. Bustamante (2002) D. Collin, F. Ritort, C. Jarzynski, S.B. Smith, I. Tinoco, C. Bustamante (2005)









RNA hairpin unfolding (& refolding)



J. Liphardt, S. Dumont, S.B. Smith, I. Tinoco, C. Bustamante (2002) D. Collin, F. Ritort, C. Jarzynski, S.B. Smith, I. Tinoco, C. Bustamante (2005)







Non-Equilibrium Statistical Ensembles

What is the best description that we can construct of a thermodynamic system that is not in equilibrium, given only one (or a few) extra parameters over and above those needed for a description of the same system at equilibrium?



Non-Equilibrium Statistical Mechanics

What is the best description that we can construct of a thermodynamic system that is not in equilibrium, given only one (or a few) extra parameters over and above those needed for a description of the same system at equilibrium?

- Tsallis Statistics (Tsallis 1988) $S_q(\rho) = rac{1}{q-1}(1-\sum_i
 ho_i^q)$ Maximize generalized q-entropy
- Superstatistics (Beck & Cohen 2002)



Open Problems

- Design principles of molecular machines.
- Transition path sampling with meta-stable intermediate states.
- Extracting meaningful reaction coordinates.
- Statistical ensembles out-of-equilibrium.
- Measuring non-equilibrium entropy.