1816-Pos  Board B660  
Lipid-Protein Interactions of Rhodopsin Investigated by Molecular Dynamics Simulations  
Alexander Vogel1, Alan Grossfield2, Michael C. Pitman3, Scott E. Feller4, Michael F. Brown5.
1Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany, 2University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY, USA, 3IBM TJ Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, USA, 4Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN, USA, 5University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA.
Rhodopsin is a primary visual pigment protein of the vertebrate photoreceptor, which is comprised of two outer membrane protein-opsin (GPRC) family for which an atomic-resolution structure is available and therefore it serves as a prototypical GPCR. Over 50% of recently launched drugs are targeted to GPCRs so that these proteins are of outstanding pharmaceutical interest. Yet many aspects of the structure-function relations of rhodopsin are only poorly understood. Especially interesting is the important role played by highly unsaturated lipids in achieving full functionality. In this study we investigated lipid-protein interactions of rhodopsin through a series of molecular dynamics (MD) simulations. Rhodopsin was inserted into a membrane consisting of a 2:1 mixture of 18:0:22:6n3PE, 18:0:22:6n3PC, and cholesterol. MD simulations with a total trajectory of ~4 microseconds were conducted on the IBM Blue Gene/L supercomputer. Additional simulations were carried out for rhodopsin in membranes consisting of 18:0,18:1PC and 14:0,14:1PC. This allowed direct comparison of the lipid-protein interactions of rhodopsin in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated environments as well as bilayers of varying thickness. Our analysis focuses on the palmitoylations of two adjacent cysteines in helix 8 of rhodopsin which are a common structural motif in many proteins related to signal transduction. As seen in our earlier studies on lipid modifications of smaller proteins, these are generally highly flexible and best characterized by their dynamical structure. We calculated order parameters and correlation functions from the simulation trajectories and compared them to experimentally obtained results on lipid modifications of other proteins. In general we find that the palmitoyl modifications of rhodopsin are highly flexible which can affect the binding free energy of the polypeptide to the membrane surface. Entropic contributions due to the configurational disorder of the posttranslational modifications reduce the binding energy so that doubly palmitoylated modifications are needed.

1817-Pos  Board B661  
Dynamic Structure Factors From Lipid Membrane Molecular Dynamics Simulations  
Erik G. Brandt, Olle Edholm.
Department Theoretical Physics, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden.
The dynamics of biological membranes is present on many time- and length scales, from the pico-second vibrations of single lipid tail groups to micro-second collective undulations of hundreds of lipid molecules. These motions can be probed as local density fluctuations, and characterized and measured in different ways. Inelastic scattering experiments as well as computer simulations of biological membranes are usually theoretically interpreted within the framework of generalized hydrodynamics, where the dynamic structure factor, \( S(k,w) \), is the quantity of interest. \( S(k,w) \) is the space and time Fourier transform of the density-density correlation function and contains all the relevant information about the dynamics of a liquid system. We have performed large-scale molecular dynamics simulations from which we have calculated the dynamic structure factors for a lipid bilayer in the high temperature phase, enabling a thorough test of theoretical predictions, especially in the hydrodynamic limit of low wave vectors. The frequency and wave vector resolutions are considerably improved compared to traditional experiments, which make it possible to directly resolve the lines of the power spectrum. Membrane material constants have been determined and compared in fair agreement to experimental data. In addition, from the power spectrum we can distinguish two dispersive contributions to the elastic scattering. These correspond to two exponential relaxation processes on separate time scales. For low wave vectors, this analysis was impossible due to insufficient frequency resolution. To be able to fully decouple and analyze the nature of these dispersive modes from simulations, longer trajectories are required.

1818-Pos  Board B662  
Anomalous Diffusion Of Lipid Atoms And Molecules In Phospholipid Bilayers: A Combined Molecular Dynamics And Theoretical Study  
Jhuma Das1, Elijah Flenner1,2, Maikel Rheinstädt1,4, Ioan Kosztin1.
1University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, USA, 2Arizona State University, Glendale, AZ, USA.
Individual atoms and lipid molecules in biologically relevant phospholipid bilayers have an extremely rich dynamics that extend on a wide range of time and length scales. Computer modeling approaches can be used effectively to both investigate the dynamics of such complex systems and to interpret the results from a variety of experimental techniques employed to probe such systems. Here we present an all-atom molecular dynamics (MD) simulation, combined with theoretical modeling, to investigate the dynamics of selected lipid atoms and lipid molecules in a hydrated dihyrirotyl-phosphatidylcholine (DMPC) lipid bilayer. From the analysis of a 0.1 microsecond MD trajectory we find that the time evolution of the mean square displacement (MSD) of lipid atoms and molecules exhibits three well separated dynamical regions: (1) for short times (t < 10 fs) the motion is ballistic with a quadratic in time MSD; (2) for intermediate times (10 ps < t < 30 ns) the MSD is linear in time, corresponding to ordinary Fickian diffusion. The origin of the extended anomalous, sub-diffusive region is attributed to the polymeric nature of the lipid molecules, characterized by connectivity and flexibility. We propose a memory function approach for calculating the MSD over the entire time range, from the ballistic to the Fickian diffusion regimes. The lateral self-diffusion coefficient of lipid molecules determined by employing the memory function approach is found to be in good agreement with the one calculated directly from the long time MD trajectory of the lipid bilayer. The proposed memory function approach is a useful tool for interpreting neutron scattering experiments on lipid membranes. Computer time was generously provided by the University of Missouri Bioinformatics Consortium.

1819-Pos  Board B663  
Fusion of Biomimetic ‘Stealth’ Probes into Lipid Bilayer Cores  
Benjamin D. Almquist, Nicholas A. Melosh.
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, USA.
The ability to specifically and non-destructively incorporate inorganic structures into or through biological membranes is essential to realizing full bio-inorganic integration. This research explores a new method for interfacing inorganic structures with cellular membranes using nanometer-scale hydrophobic bands to specifically interact with the lipid bilayer core. Similar to the structure of transmembrane proteins, thin hydrophobic bands allow targeted formation of interfaces between lipid bilayers and macroscopic inorganic objects. In this work, we show that by fabricating custom atomic force microscopy (AFM) probes that possess 2-10 nm hydrophobic bands formed through molecular self assembly, specific interaction with the hydrophobic core of lipid bilayers can be achieved. When hydrophilic probes are penetrated through stacks of lipid bilayers they exhibit distinct breakdown distances of 2.9 +/− 0.3nm, corresponding to the hydrophobic core thickness of 2:1 SOPC:Cholesterol bilayers, followed by linear relaxation through the water layer between bilayers. In contrast, ‘stealth’ probes possessing a thin hydrophobic band exhibit strong association with the bilayer core, “jumping” 5.6 +/− 0.6nm from bilayer core to bilayer core, which corresponds to the compressed lamellar spacing of the bilayer stacks. In addition, by using AFM, it is possible to examine how the properties of the hydrophobic band affect the adhesion strength between the bilayer and stealth probe. Molecular mobility, hydrophobicity, and orientation all have a role in determining the interface behavior, and in turn the potential applications for a given surface functionalization.

1820-Pos  Board B664  
Simulations of the Morphological Evolution of Lipid Bilayer Membranes Using a Phase-Field Method  
Chloe M. Funkhouser1, Francisco J. Solis2, Katsuyo Thornton1.
1University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA, 2Arizona State University, Glendale, AZ, USA.
We present a continuum-level simulation method for modeling phase separation and morphological evolution of multicomponent lipid bilayer membranes. Our objective is to investigate how various physical parameters input into the model, such as spontaneous curvature, phase fraction, and interleaflet coupling strength, affect the dynamics and equilibrium morphological phases formed in two-phase lipid bilayer membrane systems. The model applies to membranes with planar and spherical background geometries, simulating a nearly planar portion of membrane or entire vesicle, respectively. The compositions and shape of the membrane are coupled through a modified Helfrich free energy. The planar model treats the composition of each leaflet, and thus includes a term coupling the composition across the bilayer. The compositional evolution is modeled using a phase-field method and is described by a Cahn-Hilliard-type equation, while shape changes are described by relaxation dynamics. For nearly planar bilayer systems with each leaflet having the same phase fraction, we find that domains in both leaflets align to reduce the interaction energy, as expected. When the coupling effect is stronger, this alignment occurs more
quickly and more precisely, showing that the coupling affects the dynamics. This leaflet coupling is found to heavily influence morphological evolution; in some cases the equilibrium morphological phase observed is very different from what was observed with our simpler monolayer model using similar conditions. We construct a phase diagram of equilibrium morphological phases in the composition space for a few values of the strength of the leaflet coupling. This model has been able to reproduce results found in lipid bilayer experiments probing interleaflet interactions, including the effect of domain registration across leaflets. For the vesicle model, we investigate how an ellipsoidal geometry imposed in the initial conditions affects the phase and morphological evolution.

1821-Pos Board B665
The Ionic State Of Ceramide 1-phosphate Affects Raft Domain Morphology And Fluidity
Zhaping Jiang, Arne Gericke.
Kent State University, Kent, OH, USA.
Ceramide 1-phosphate (C1P) is involved in cell survival, cell proliferation, inflammation and phagocytosis processes. Physiological processes that have been associated with C1P have been shown to be in some cases lipid raft dependent. Lipid rafts are proposed to exist in a liquid-ordered state it has been suggested that raft domains are involved in a variety of important biological processes. It has been shown that ceramide forms gel phase domains within the liquid-ordered raft domains and the question arises what kind of phase state C1P adopts when immersed in a raft domain. The physicochemical behavior of C1P is mainly routed in the protonation state of the phosphate headgroup. To investigate the phase behavior of C1P in raft domains, giant unilamellar vesicles (GUVs) composed of POPC/Sphingomyelin:Chol (1:1:1) with different concentrations of C1P were studied by fluorescence microscopy at buffers with different pH (pH5, pH7 and pH9). For a pH 7 buffer, the presence of C1P disrupted raft domains and induced lipid phase reorganization and the appearance of a C1P-enriched gel phase. In contrast to the large platforms reported for ceramide, the presence of C1P disrupts rafts. For pH 5 buffer, with increasing concentrations of C1P, the domain patterns were totally different from those observed for pH 7 buffer. The C1P gel phase disappeared completely and the raft type liquid disordered phase became dominant. In pH 9 buffer, the ability of C1P to disrupt rafts was attenuated. These experiments demonstrate that the protonation state of the phosphate headgroup affects the phase behavior of C1P within the raft. The headgroup of C1P might function as an electrostatic switch that drives the lipid in and out of gel phase domains which may modulate its availability to the relevant proteins.

1822-Pos Board B666
Interdigitation, Domains and Morphology, in Membranes of the Chain Asymmetric C24:1 Ceramide
Sandra N. Panto1, Liaana C. Silva1, Rodrigo F.M. de Almeida2, Manuel Prieto1.
1Centro de Quimica-Fisica Molecular and IN, Lisbon, Portugal.
2Centro de Quimica e Bioquimica, Faculdade de Ciencias, UL, Lisbon, Portugal.
Ceramide (Cer) is involved in the regulation of several biological processes, such as apoptosis and cell signaling. The alterations induced by Cer in the physical properties of membranes are thought to be one of the major routes of Cer action. To gain further knowledge about the alterations induced by Cer, membrane reorganization by the very long chain asymmetric nervonoylcera-
mide (NCer) was studied. The application of an established fluorescence multiprobe approach, together with x-ray diffraction, differential scanning calorimetry, and confocal fluorescence microscopy, allowed the characterization of NCer and the determination of the phase diagram of palmitoyloleyloleoylphospha-
diglycerides (POPC) and NCer binary mixtures. Nervonoylceramidation can lead to a transition from a mixed interdigitated gel phase to a partially interdigitated gel phase at 20°C, and a broad main transition to the fluid phase at 52°C. The solubility of NCer in the fluid POPC is low, driving gel-fluid phase separation, and the binary-phase diagram is characterized by multiple and large coexistence regions between the interdigitated gel phases and the fluid phase. At 37°C, the relevant phases are the fluid and the partially interdigitated gel. Moreover, the formation of NCer interdigitated gel phases leads to strong morphological alterations in the lipid vesicles, driving the formation of cockleate-type tubular structures.
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1823-Pos Board B667
Interaction of Antimicrobial Oligomers with Lipids Studied by Solid-State NMR
Weiguo Hu, Abhigyan Som, Gregory N. Tew.
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA.
A family of synthetic mimic of antimicrobial peptides (SMAMP), amphiphilic meta-phenylene ethynylene (mPE) molecules show a wide range of antimicro-
biologic activity and specificity. The interaction of a specifically active mPE mole-
cule (AMO-2) with mixed DOPE/DOPG lipid was studied by solid-state NMR. The AMO-2 molecules do not preferentially interact more strongly with either lipid component, but rather are well dispersed in the lipid matrix. AMO-2 intimately interacts with all parts of lipid molecules, including head groups. Magic-angle spinning sideband analysis indicated that in samples with co-existing lamellar and inverted hexagonal phases (H2), neither lipid component aggregate in either phase. The presence of AMO-2 molecules causes dynamic disorder in lipid head groups, as evidenced by the broadening of both static and MAS 13C spectra. AMO-2 molecules do not massively transform the lamellar lipid into H2 phase.

1824-Pos Board B668
Phase Separation in Binary Mixtures of Bipolar and Monopolar Lipid Dispersions Revealed by Solid-State 2H NMR Spectroscopy and Small Angle X-ray Scattering
1University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA, 2Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA, 3Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN, USA.
Binary mixtures of C20BAS and POPC membranes have been studied by 2H NMR spectroscopy and small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) over a wide range of concentrations and at different temperatures. Experiments tested the possibility of formation of phase-separated lipid domains predicted by the mean field theory [1]. Membranes composed of three specifically deuterated C20BAS derivatives [1,2,19,21H4]C20BAS; [2,2,19,19-2H4]C20BAS, and [10,11-2H2]C20BAS with protiated POPC and with membranes containing POPC-d31 and fully protiated bolalipid were used in NMR experiments to obtain structural information for the mixture. The 2H NMR spectra of 10,11-2H2-C20BAS:POPC membrane dispersion reveal that the bolalipid is predominantly in the transmembrane conformation at high bolalipid concentrations. At 50 mole percent C20BAS and lower, components appear in the spectra with smaller quadrupolar couplings, most likely indicating the presence of U-shaped conformers. The proportion of U-shaped bolalipids becomes more prominent as the amount of POPC in the membrane increases. However, the transmembrane component is still the dominant bolalipid conformation in the membrane even at 45°C and 10 mole percent C20BAS, where it accounts for roughly 50% of the bolalipid population. The large fraction of C20BAS transmembrane conformers regardless of the C20BAS:POPC ratio together with POPC-bolalipid hydrophobic mismatch can be explained by co-existence of bolalipid-rich domains separate from the POPC-rich domains. In SAXS experiments only a single distinct lamellar repeat distance was observed, corresponding roughly to the average of bolalipid-rich and POPC-rich domains. These observations are consistent with the presence of microphase-separated domains in the mixed membrane samples. [1] G.S. Longo et al. (2007) Biophys. J. 93, 2609.

1825-Pos Board B669
Interactions of Ceramide and Sphingomyelin Quantified in Mixtures with an Unsaturated Phosphatidylcholine
Bruno M. Castro1, Rodrigo F.M. de Almeida2, Manuel Prieto1.
1CQFM and IN, IST, Lisbon, Portugal, 2CQB, FCUL, Lisbon, Portugal. Over the past two decades, the discovery of sphingolipid signaling pathways has stimulated research on the biochemistry and biophysics of these molecules. The involvement of membrane biophysical changes is important but difficult to assess. A detailed characterization of these changes can be obtained in systems where the global lipid composition is controlled and known, as in the case of model membranes.
To better understand how sphingolipids modulate the biphysical properties of the membrane, the interactions between palmitoyl-ceramide (PCer) and palmitoyl-sphingomyelin (PSM) were studied in the presence of the fluid and naturally abundant phospholipid palmitoyl-oleoyl-phosphatidylcholine (POPC) in membrane model systems [1]. The use of two fluorescent membrane probes, distinctly sensitive to lipid phases allowed a thorough biophysical characterization of the system. In these mixtures, PCer recruits POPC and PSM in the fluid phase to form extremely ordered and compact gel domains. Gel domain forma-
tion by low PCer mol fraction (up to 12 mol %) is enhanced by physiological PSM levels (20-30 mol % total lipid). For higher PSM content, a three-phase situation, consisting of fluid (POPC-rich)/gel (PSM-rich)/gel (PCer-rich) coex-
istence, is clearly shown. To determine the fraction of each phase a quantitative method was developed. This allowed establishing the complete ternary phase