

VMD Workshop

1

VISUALIZATION AND ANALYSIS OF MD
TRAJECTORIES

Problems to solve

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Analysis of 3.6-ns trajectory of an O₂ molecule diffusing within Mb (together):

- Make a picture of myoglobin (Mb) crystallized under Xe pressure (PDB 2W6W) using different drawing and coloring methods ([pic1](#))
- Make a picture of all positions of the O₂ molecule diffusing within Mb for 3.6 ns ([pic2a](#))
- Make a picture of O₂ density within Mb averaged over the 3.6-ns trajectory ([pic3a](#))
- Make a movie of the 3.6-ns diffusion of the O₂ molecule within Mb ([movie1](#))

Analysis of 48-ns trajectory of an O₂ molecule diffusing within Mb (self-practice):

- Find time of the O₂ escape from Mb and residues at the escape portal
- Make a picture of all positions of the O₂ molecule diffusing within Mb for 48 ns and show residues at the escape portal ([pic2b](#))
- Make a picture of O₂ density within Mb averaged over the 48-ns trajectory and compare the regions of high O₂ population with the experimental Xe cavities (see [pic1](#) as a reference) ([pic3b](#))
- Plot the opening of the escape portal vs time and compare with its opening at time of the O₂ escape (estimate the opening of the portal as the area of triangle between three C_α atoms of the residues lining the portal) ([plot1](#)).

1. Starting VMD

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General molecular visualization

- reads data files using an extensible plugin system,
- supports Babel for conversion of other formats.

Visualization of dynamic molecular data

- load atomic coordinate trajectories from AMBER, Charmm, DL POLY, Gromacs, MMTK, NAMD, X-PLOR, and others.

Visualization of volumetric data

- load, generate, and display, volumetric maps

Interactive molecular dynamics simulations

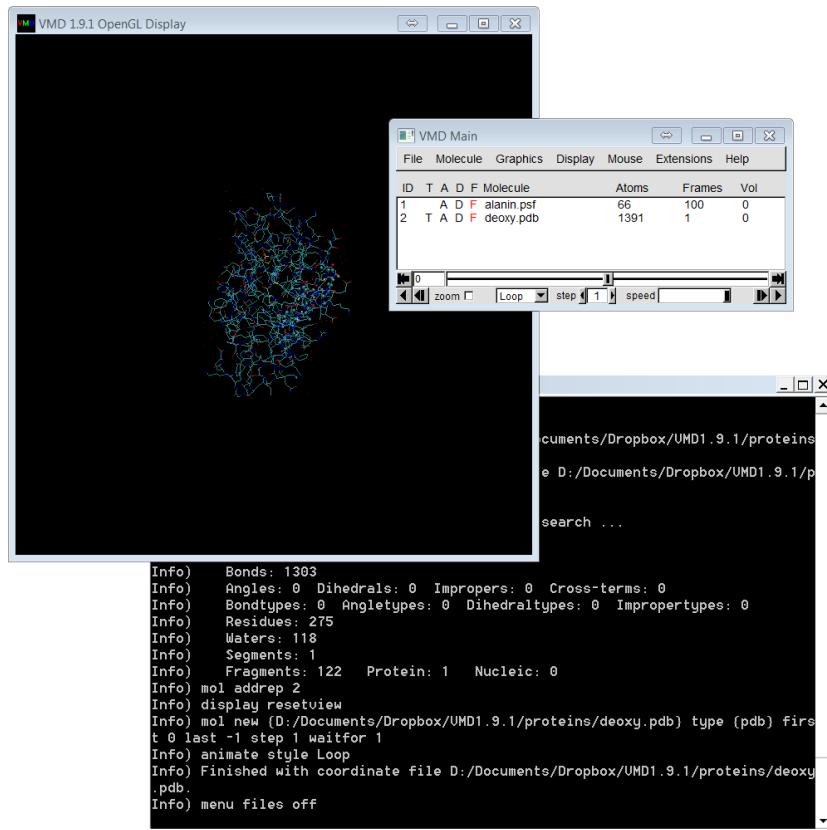
- interactively apply and visualize forces in an MD simulation as it runs

Molecular analysis commands

Tcl and Python scripting languages

1.1. Molecule manipulation

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VMD OpenGL Display

- display and manipulate molecules

VMD main menu

- manipulate molecules and trajectories
- run interfaces and extensions

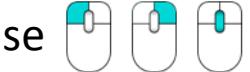
VMD console

- show info and run text commands

1.1. Molecule manipulation

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File → New Molecule... → load a crystal structure of Mb under Xe pressure from web
(Filename: 2W6W; Determine file type: Web PDB Download)

- Press **R** for *rotate* mode (use  and check the VMD console)
- Press **T** for *translate* mode (use  and check the VMD console)
- Press **S** for *scale* mode (use  and check the VMD console)
- Press **C** to change *center* of rotation/scale
- Press **0** to get *info* about atom (check the VMD console)
- Press **1** to *label* atom
- Try **2** - **4** to *measure* distance, angle and dihedral angle
- Try **5** - **8** to *move* atom, residue, fragment and molecule

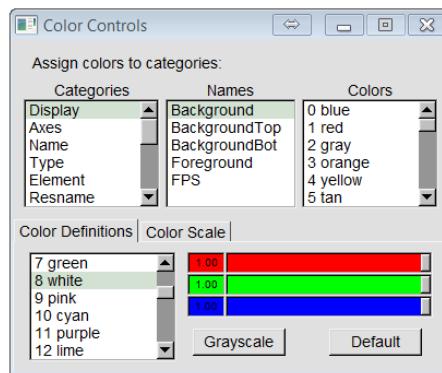
Go to Mouse →



1.2. Molecule display

Graphics → Representations...

- create representations using **atom selection**, **drawing method** and **coloring method**

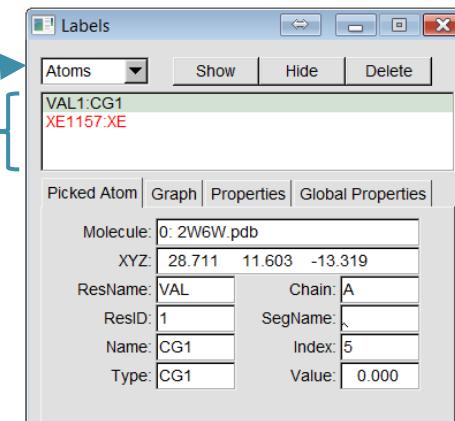


Graphics → Labels...

- manipulate labels

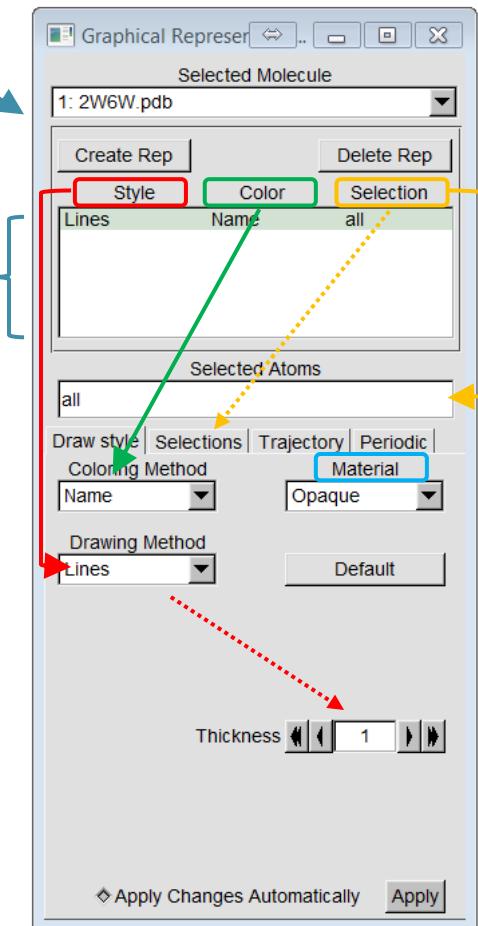
Graphics → Colors...

- assign colors to all categories



1. list of molecules

2. list of representations



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1.2. Molecule display

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Selection examples:

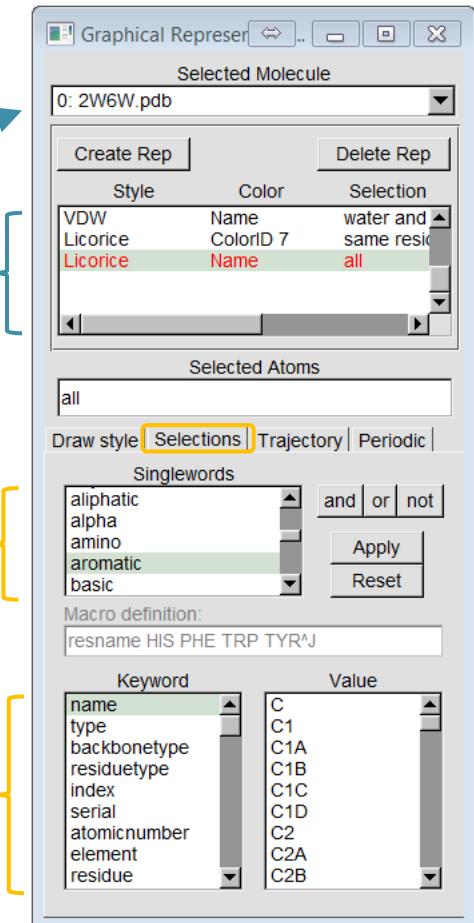
name CA
resid 35 and noh
name CA CB and resname ALA ARG
backbone and resid 1 to 6
not protein
protein (backbone or name SD)
name "C.*"
mass > 50
numbonds = 2
abs(charge) > 1
 $x > 30 \text{ and } x < 40$
 $\text{sqr}(x-33)+\text{sqr}(y-10)+\text{sqr}(z-7) < \text{sqr}(15)$
within 10 of name FE
exwithin 3 of protein
protein within 5 of name FE
same resid as (protein within 5 of name FE)
protein sequence "K.K"

1. list of molecules

2. list of representations

singlewords

keywords and
corresponding lists
of values



1.2. Molecule display



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- (1) Try Display → Reset View, Orthographic/Perspective, Depth cueing (what do they do?)
- (2) Show protein backbone with coordinates of $z > 15$ and $y > 4$ as yellow tube (radius = 0.1)
- (3) Show rest protein backbone as NewRibbons coloured by secondary structure
- (4) Find and show as red Licorice all acidic residues among residues 1-20
- (5) Show heme molecule as CPK colored by atom name
- (6) Find atoms heavier than sulphur and show them as VDW (sphere scale = 0.5) coloured by mass
- (7) Find an internal water molecule (near Fe) and show it as VDW (sphere scale = 0.5)
- (8) Show residues, those atoms closer than 5 Å to the internal water, as orange licorice
- (9) Label distance between the internal water and the closest Xe atom (red color, text size = 1.2, text thickness = 3)
- (10) Show external water molecules as Solvent
- (11) Build a protein's volumetric surface using Surf as drawing method and Glass1 as material and color it by atom name
- (12) Change background color to white and carbon atom color to green

1.3. Molecule scene rendering

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File → Save Visualization State...

- save the visualization state as VMD file

File → Render...



- render the current scene using Snapshot (pic1.bmp)
- render the current scene using Tachyon (pic1.dat)
- render the current scene using VRML 2.0 (pic1.wrl)

low quality image
high quality image
3D interactive vector graphics



1.4. Working with MD trajectories

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File → New Molecule... → Browse... → C:/cermm/VMD_workshop/Mb_O2.psf

protein structure file

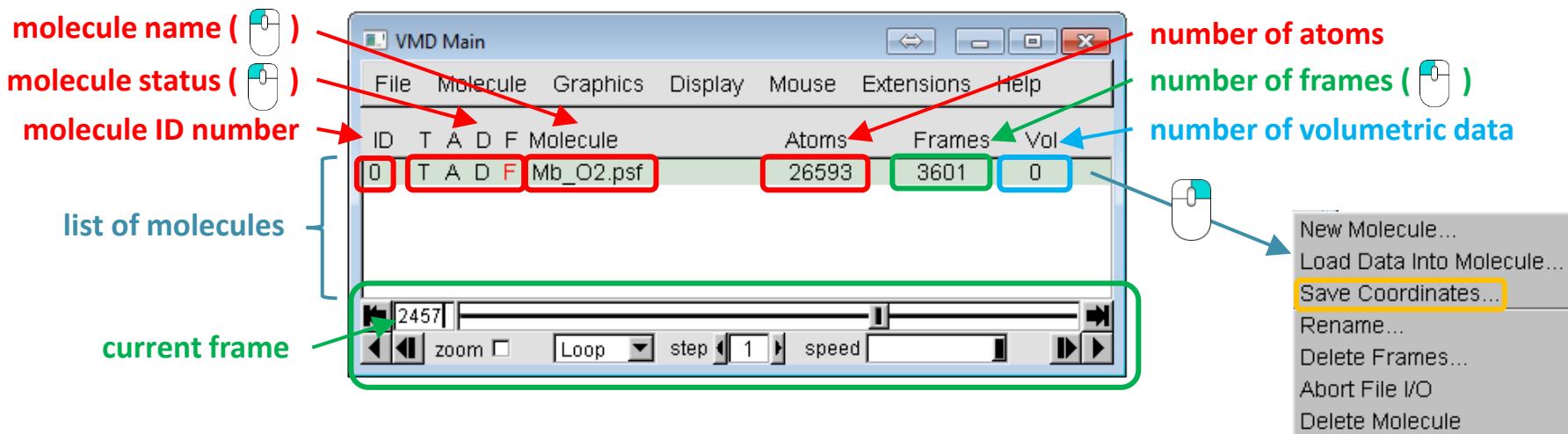
File → Load Data Into Molecule... → Browse... → C:/cermm/VMD_workshop/Mb_O2.pdb

crystal coordinates (frame 0)

File → Load Data Into Molecule... → Browse... → C:/cermm/VMD_workshop/traj1.dcd

MD trajectory (frames 1-3600)

- Look at the VMD console for the information about the molecule loaded



1.5. Analysis of MD trajectories



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(1) Try Graphics → Representations... → Periodic ([what can it be used for?](#))

(2) Using Extensions → Analysis → RMSD Trajectory Tool:

- align frames by positions of C_α atoms of protein (Trace) using crystal structure (frame 0) as a reference
- plot RMSD of C_α atoms vs frame (check Plot to make a plot with MultiPlot console)
- [Note: TkConsole interactively shows data from MultiPlot](#)

(3) Hide water, show protein as tube, heme molecule as Licorice and O_2 molecule as CPK

(4) Label the distance between the O_2 molecule and the Fe atom

(5) Plot the distance vs frame using Graphics → Labels... ([at what time does \$O_2\$ diffuse from the heme cavity to the neighbouring cavity?](#))



1.5. Analysis of MD trajectories

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- (6) Create a new representation for the O₂ molecule as lines
- (7) Draw multiple frames typing **0:3600** in Graphics → Representations... → Trajectory
- (8) Color the representation according Timestep of the trajectory
- (9) Using Extensions → Visualization → Color Scale Bar, add a heat bar for 0 to 3600 frames (autoscale off, 4 axis labels, Decimal), corresponding Timestep coloring
- (10) Save a picture ([pic2a](#))

- (11) Using Extensions → Analysis → VolMapTool, create a density volumetric map of the O₂ molecule ([only!](#)) averaged over all frames of the trajectory
- (12) Find a new Isosurface representation and try different Isovalues
- (13) Change to Isovalue of 0.005 (white color, wireframe, without box)
- (14) Save a picture ([pic3a](#))

1.6. Making a movie in VMD

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(1) Hide all representations except protein, heme and O₂

(2) Go to Extensions → Visualization → Movie Maker

- click Help to get a link to VideoMach, a movie compression soft ([it is installed](#))
- set up working directory, name of movie ([movie1](#)), rotational angle (0), trajectory step (10)
- choose Trajectory in Movie Settings
- press Make Movie

1.7. Extensions

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General:

Extensions → Analysis →

Collective variable analysis (PLUMED)
NAMD Energy
NAMD Plot
VolMap Tool

Biochemistry:

Extensions → Analysis →

Contact Map
Hydrogen Bonds
Salt Bridges
Timeline Plugin

RMSD Trajectory Tool
RMSD Visualizer Tool
Ramachandran Plot
Sequence Viewer
MultiSeq
PropKa

Inorganic chemistry:

Extensions → Analysis →

IR Spectral Density Calculator
Radial Pair Distribution Function
Symmetry Tool

2. Scripting with Tcl/Tk in VMD

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Tcl (Tool Command Language)

- powerful and highly extensible
- easy to learn and deploy
- dynamic programming language
- uses the standard I/O commands to access disk files and web and ftp sites
- suitable for a very wide range of uses
- open source and free
- cross platform (Windows, Mac OS X, Linux)

Tk (graphical user interface toolkit)

- supports many dynamic languages
- cross platform (Windows, Mac OS X, Linux)



2.1. Starting with Tcl/Tk

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Open Extensions → Tk Console

Commands **puts** and **set**

puts value ;# creates output (in Tk Console)

puts Apple

puts Apple; **puts** Cake ;# to separate lines

puts -nonewline Apple; **puts** Cake ;# to remove new line at the end of output

puts Apple\n; **puts** Cake ;# to add another new line at the end of output

puts Milk and Cookies

puts "Milk and Cookies" ;# to group elements

set variable value ;# assigns values to variables

\$variable ;# refers to values of variables

unset variable ;# removes a variable use

set a 10

puts \$a

set text Milk

puts "Glass of \$text"

puts {Glass of \$text} ;# to ignore \$variable

Try   in Tk Console 



2.1. Starting with Tcl/Tk

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Commands **expr** and relational operators

expr *math_expression*

```
expr 5/3
expr 5/3.0
expr 5%3
set a 10
expr - 3 * $a
```



eq ne || && == != < > <= >= | & ;# relational operators

```
expr { {apple} eq {banana} } ;# returns 1 if true, 0 if false
expr { 1 > 0 }
expr { 9 == 9.0 }
expr { 9 eq 9.0 }
expr { $a > 3 } & { $a < 30 }
```



[function] ;# returns the result of function

```
puts "2^8 = [expr pow(2,8)]"
```



2.1. Starting with Tcl/Tk

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Commands **if** and **for**

```
#### if {expr1} then {commands} elseif {expr2} then {commands} else {commands}
```

```
if { 3.0 == 3 } {  
    puts "3.0 and 3 are equal as they are numbers"  
}  
puts "3.0 and 3 are not equal as they are strings"  
  
if { 3.0 eq 3 } {  
    puts "3.0 and 3 are equal as they are numbers"  
}  
puts "3.0 and 3 are not equal as they are strings"
```

```
#### for {initialization} {test} {increment} {commands}
```

```
for {set a 0} {$a <= 10} {incr a} {  
    puts "$a * 3 = [ expr $a * 3]"  
}
```



2.1. Starting with Tcl/Tk

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Working with files from Tk console

dir

cd C:/cermm/VMD_workshop

open *file* w; open *file* r; close \$*file*

puts \$*file* \$*variable* ;# creates output in a file

set file1 [open "myoutput.dat" w] ;#opens file to write
puts \$file1 "All\ncats\nare\ngrey\nin\nthe\ndark"
close \$file1

file exists myoutput.dat ;# returns 1 if file exists, 0 if file does not exist

set file2 [open "myoutput.dat" r] ;# opens file to read

set file_data [read \$file2] ;# reads data from a file
close \$file2

puts \$file_data

file delete myoutput.dat



2.1. Starting with Tcl/Tk

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Working with lists

`set llist {c "o" {r4 r5} duck!} ;#makes a list`

`llength $llist ;# returns length of the list`

`lindex $llist 0 ;# lists an element by index`

`lindex $llist 2`

`lindex [lindex $llist 2] 0`



`lappend llist {i7 i8 i9} {a} ;#add elements to the list`

`set llist [lreplace $llist 2 4 r d i] ;#replaces elements`

`set llist [linsert $llist 0 hi on] ;#inserts elements`

`lset llist 0 c ;#replaces one element`

`lsearch $llist c ;# returns the 1st index of element in the list`

`lsearch -all $llist c ;# returns all indexes of element`

`lsort $llist ;#sorts elements in a list`

`lsort -unique $llist ;#sorts a list and removes repetitions`

`join $llist - ;# converts list to string`



2.1. Starting with Tcl/Tk

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Working with lists

```
set llist [split "1,2,3,4" ","]  
set llist [split "12345" ""] ;# string to list
```

```
set llist "A B C"
```

```
puts $llist
```

```
list $llist
```

```
llength $llist
```

```
llength [list $llist]
```

```
llength [list A B C]
```

```
llength [list "A B C"]
```



2.1. Starting with Tcl/Tk

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Command **foreach**

foreach *element* \$list1 {*commands*}

```
set fruit_list {apples oranges grapes pears}
```

```
foreach fruit $fruit_list {  
    puts $fruit  
}
```

foreach *element_list1* \$list1 *element_list2* \$list2 ... {*commands*}

```
set fruit_list {apples oranges grapes pears}
```

```
set color_list {red juicy seedless Chinese}
```

```
set mass_list {2 5 1 3}
```

```
foreach fruit $fruit_list color $color_list mass $mass_list {  
    puts "$mass kg of $color $fruit"  
}
```



2.2. Working with molecules using Tcl

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Commands **mol** and **molinfo**

mol *command arguments* ;# loads, modifies, or deletes a molecule in VMD

mol new Mb_O2.psf

mol addfile Mb_O2.pdb

mol addfile traj1.dcd waitfor all

Type **mol** to see a full list of its functions



molinfo *command arguments* ;# returns information about loaded molecules

molinfo num ;# number of loaded molecules

molinfo top ;# gets ID of top molecule

molinfo top get numatoms ;# returns number of atoms

molinfo top get numframes ;# returns number of frames

molinfo top get filename ;# returns file names

Type **molinfo** to see a full list of its functions



2.2. Working with molecules using Tcl

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Command **atomselect**

atomselect <molid> *selection* ;# to access information about the atoms in a molecule
<molid> \leftrightarrow top \leftrightarrow (top by default)

```
set sel [atomselect top "protein resid 1 to 3"]
```

Type **atomselect** and \$sel to see a full list of their functions



\$sel num ;# gets number of atoms

\$sel molid ;# gets selection's molecule ID

\$sel text ;# gets selection's text

\$sel get name ;# gets names of selection's atoms

\$sel get {resname resid} ;# gets residues names and numbers of selection's atoms

\$sel get {index name mass resname} ;# gets atom indices, names, mass and residues names

\$sel get {x y z} ;# gets coordinates of selection's atoms

\$sel delete ;# deletes the selection

mol delete top ;# deletes the top molecule



2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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A few examples of what we can do with tcl scripts:

- (1) Measure distance between the O₂ molecule and the Fe atom vs time
- (2) Measure distance between the O₂ molecule and the center of mass of protein vs time
- (3) Align protein structures over trajectory (by rigid-body translations and rotations)
- (4) Remove water from the trajectory
- (5) Find residues, which collide with the diffusing O₂ molecule

```
#### Load the first part of the MD trajectory (traj1.dcd)
```

```
mol new Mb_O2.psf
mol addfile Mb_O2.pdb
mol addfile traj1.dcd waitfor all
```

2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(1) Measure distance between the O₂ molecule and the Fe atom vs time

```
set fe_sel [atomselect top "resname HEME and name FE"]
set o2_sel [atomselect top "resname O2G and name O1"]
set fe_index [$fe_sel get index]
set o2_index [$o2_sel get index]

##### measure command arguments ;# supplies algorithms for analyzing molecular structures
##### Type measure to see a full list of its functions
##### measure bond {$index1 $index2} frame <frame>
##### measure angle {$index1 $index2 $index3} frame <frame>
##### measure dihed {$index1 $index2 $index3 $index4} frame <frame>
##### frame <frame> ↔ frame all ↔ (current frame by default)
##### first <frame> last <frame> step <step>

measure bond "$fe_index $o2_index" first 0 last 100 ;# distances for frames 0 - 100
set bond_list [measure bond "$fe_index $o2_index" first 0 last 100 ]
for {set i 0} {$i <= 100} {incr i} {
    puts "frame $i bond [lindex $bond_list $i]"}
```



2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(1) Measure distance between the O₂ molecule and the Fe atom vs time

```
#### Put data for all frames in a file

set nf [molinfo top get numframes]
set file [open "dist_o2_fe.dat" w]
puts $file "time|distance(o2-fe)"
puts $file "ns|A"

for {set i 0 } {$i < $nf } {incr i } {
    set dist [measure bond "$fe_index $o2_index" frame $i]
    set time [expr ($i/1000.0)]
    puts $file "$time|$dist"
}

close $file
```

2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(2) Measure distance between the O₂ molecule and the center of mass of protein vs time

```
set o2_sel [atomselect top "resname O2G and name O1"]
$o2_sel frame 0 ;# updates selection for the frame
$o2_sel get {x y z}
$o2_sel frame 1
$o2_sel get {x y z}

set prot [atomselect top "protein"]
measure center $prot weight mass ;# returns coordinates of COM of selection at current frame

##### Measure distance between O2 and COM of protein at frame 0

$o2_sel frame 0
$prot frame 0
set o2_coord [$o2_sel get {x y z}]
set prot_center [measure center $prot weight mass]
set dist [veclength [vecsub $o2_coord $prot_center]]

##### expr {{list}} ;# to return a list without {}
set dist [veclength [vecsub [expr ($o2_coord)] $prot_center]]
```



2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(2) Measure distance between the O₂ molecule and the center of mass of protein vs time

```
#### Put data for all frames in a file  
  
set file [open "dist_o2_prot.dat" w]  
puts $file "time|distance(o2-prot_com)"  
puts $file "ns|A"  
  
set nf [molinfo top get numframes]  
  
for {set i 0 } {$i < $nf } {incr i } {  
    $o2_sel frame $i  
    $prot frame $i  
    set o2_coord [$o2_sel get {x y z}]  
    set prot_center [measure center $prot]  
    set dist [veclength [vecsub [expr ($o2_coord)] $prot_center]]  
    set time [expr ($i/1000.0)]  
    puts $file "$time|$dist"  
}  
  
close $file
```

2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(3) Align protein structures over trajectory (by rigid-body translations and rotations)

```
set ca_sel [atomselect top "protein and name CA"] ;# sets up a protein selection
set ca_ref [atomselect top "protein and name CA" frame 0] ;# sets up a reference selection
set all_sel [atomselect top all] ;# sets up a selection of all atoms

set nf [molinfo top get numframes]

for {set i 0} {$i < $nf} {incr i} {
    $ca_sel frame $i ;# updates a selection
    $all_sel frame $i

    set trans_mat [measure fit $ca_sel $ca_ref] ;# measures a 4x4 transformation matrix

    $all_sel move $trans_mat ;# applies the transformation matrix to the coordinates of each
    # atom in the selection
}
```

2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(4) Remove water from the trajectory

```
mkdir nowater

set nowater_sel [atomselect top "protein or resname HEME O2G"] ;# sets up a new
selection
$nowater_sel writepsf nowater/nowater.psf ;# creates a new psf file
set nf [molinfo top get numframes]
for {set i 0} {$i < $nf} {incr i} {
    $nowater_sel frame $i
    $nowater_sel writepdb nowater/$i.pdb ;# creates pdb files for each frame
}
##### If you need to free memory #####
$nowater_sel delete
unset nowater_sel
```

2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(4) Remove water from the trajectory

```
mol load psf nowater/nowater.psf ;# loads the new psf file
##### animate command arguments ;# controls the animation of a molecular trajectory, reads
      and writes animation frames to/from a file
##### Type animate to see a full list of their functions

for {set i 1} {$i < $nf} {incr i} {
    animate read pdb nowater/$i.pdb ;# loads the new pdb files
}
animate write dcd nowater/nowater.dcd waitfor all top ;# writes a new dcd file
mol delete top
for {set i 0 } {$i < $nf} {incr i } {
    file delete nowater/$i.pdb ;# deletes the pdb files
}
##### Open nowater.psf and nowater.dcd and check the new trajectory
```



2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(5) Find residues, which collide with the diffusing O₂ molecule

```
set o2_sel [atomselect top "resname O2G"]
set o2_list [$o2_sel get index] ;# gets indexes of atoms of the O2 molecule
set prot_sel [atomselect top "protein and noh"]
set prot_list [$prot_sel get index] ;# gets indexes of not-hydrogen atoms of the protein

##### Find protein residues, which are closer than 4 Å to O2 at frame 0

set coll_list "" ;# set up a blank list

foreach o2_atom $o2_list { ;# runs over atom indexes of the O2 molecule
    foreach prot_atom $prot_list { ;# runs over atom indexes of the protein
        set dist [measure bond "$o2_atom $prot_atom" frame $i]
        if {$dist < 4} {
            append coll_list "$prot_atom" ;# adds indexes of the protein atoms to the list
        }
    }
}
puts $coll_list

set coll_list [lsort -unique $coll_list] ;# removes repetitions from the list

##### Create a representation with the found atoms and compare with the O2 position
```

2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(5) Find residues, which collide with the diffusing O₂ molecule

```
#### Find protein residues, which are closer than 4 Å to O2 over the trajectory
set coll_list "" ;# set up a blank list
set nf [molinfo top get numframes]
for {set i 0} {$i < $nf} {incr i} { ;# runs over frames
    foreach o2_atom $o2_list { ;# runs over atom indexes of the O2 molecule
        foreach prot_atom $prot_list { ;# runs over atom indexes of the protein
            set dist [measure bond "$o2_atom $prot_atom" frame $i]
            if {$dist < 4} {
                append coll_list " $prot_atom" ;# adds indexes of the protein atoms to the list
            }
        }
    set coll_list [lsort -unique $coll_list] ;# removes repetitions from the list
}
puts $coll_list
```

2.3. Working with molecular trajectories via Tcl

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(5) Find residues, which collide with the diffusing O₂ molecule

```
#### Find residues corresponding to the atoms from the created index list
set coll_sel [atomselect top "index $coll_list"] ;# selects atoms from the list
$coll_sel get resid ;# finds residues numbers of the atoms
lsort -unique -real [$coll_sel get resid] ;# sorts and removes repetitions from the list of residues

#### Show the found residues as a new representation and compare with the O2
trajectory
```

2.4. Customizing VMD

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Command **proc** and procedures

proc name {*arguments*} {*commands*} ;# *creates a new command*

```
proc eucl_division {arg1 arg2} {  
    set q [expr {$arg1/$arg2}]  
    set r [expr {$arg1%$arg2}]  
    return "$arg1=$arg2*$q+$r (the quotient is: $q; the remainder is: $r)"  
}
```

eucl_division 29 3 ;# *works as a command now*

2.4. Customizing VMD

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Working with molecule representations

Remove all representations of the molecule except one

`<repid>` `<molid>`

`mol modselect 0 top protein ;# changes the selection for a rep`

`mol modcolor 0 top colorid 8 ;# changes the color for a rep`

`mol modstyle 0 top tube 0.2 26 ;# changes the drawing style for a rep`

`mol addrep top ;# adds a new representation`

`mol modselect 1 top "resname HEME and not hydrogen"`

`mol modcolor 1 top colorid 1`

`mol modstyle 1 top licorice 0.3 30`

`mol addrep top`

`mol modselect 2 top "resname O2G"`

`mol modstyle 2 top lines 2`

`mol modcolor 2 top timestep`

`mol drawframes top 2 0:3600 ;# sets drawn frame range`

`mol delrep 2 top ;# deletes a rep`

Type `mol` to see a full list of its functions



2.4. Customizing VMD

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Drawing shapes

graphics *molid command arguments* = **draw** *command arguments*

mol load graphics grph ;# *creates a new graphics molecule*

graphics top sphere {3 3 0} radius 2 resolution 30 ;# *creates a sphere of default color*

graphics top color yellow ;# *changes graphics color*

graphics top line {6 0 0} {0 0 0} width 5 style dashed ;# *creates a line of current graphics color*

graphics top text {3 -3 0} "dashed line" size 2 thickness 2 ;# *creates a text label*

graphics top list ;# *lists all graphics IDs*

graphics top info 0 ;# *returns info about graphics 0*

graphics top delete all ;# *deletes all graphics*

set cyl_id [**graphics** top cylinder {0 0 0} {6 0 0} radius 2 resolution 30 filled 1] ;# *a cylinder*

graphics top delete \$cyl_id



2.4. Customizing VMD

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Changing VMD defaults

Open a file vmd.rc in the VMD directory

Changes turning-on of menus

menu main on ;# should be always on

menu graphics on ;# shows representations dialog

after idle { menu tkcon on }

Changes display defaults

display resize 600 600

axes location off

display projection orthographic

color Display Background white

Changes defaults for molecule representations

mol default style VDW ;# sets default style for representations (VDW not Lines)

mol default selection protein

Sets up user keys

user add key o {display projection orthographic}

user add key p {display projection perspective}

2.4. Customizing VMD

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Working with scripts

Save the following strings as a tcl file (load.tcl) in the VMD directory

```
cd C:/cermm/VMD_workshop
mol new Mb_O2.psf
mol addfile Mb_O2.pdb
mol addfile traj1.dcd waitfor all
set nf [molinfo top get numframes]
return "$nf frames are loaded"
```

Three ways to run a tcl script:

1) copy its content into TkConsole

2) run VMD with -e

vmd -e load.tcl ;# starts VMD executing a specific script at startup

3) source scripts from TkConsole at any time or from vmd.rc at startup

source load.tcl

Problems to solve

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Analysis of 3.6-ns trajectory of an O₂ molecule diffusing within Mb (together):

- Make a picture of myoglobin (Mb) crystallized under Xe pressure (PDB 2W6W) using different drawing and coloring methods ([pic1](#))
- Make a picture of all positions of the O₂ molecule diffusing within Mb for 3.6 ns ([pic2a](#))
- Make a picture of O₂ density within Mb averaged over the 3.6-ns trajectory ([pic3a](#))
- Make a movie of the 3.6-ns diffusion of the O₂ molecule within Mb ([movie1](#))

Analysis of 48-ns trajectory of an O₂ molecule diffusing within Mb (self-practice):

- Find time of the O₂ escape from Mb and residues at the escape portal
- Make a picture of all positions of the O₂ molecule diffusing within Mb for 48 ns and show residues at the escape portal ([pic2b](#))
- Make a picture of O₂ density within Mb averaged over the 48-ns trajectory and compare the regions of high O₂ population with the experimental Xe cavities (see [pic1](#) as a reference) ([pic3b](#))
- Plot the opening of the escape portal vs time and compare with its opening at time of the O₂ escape (estimate the opening of the portal as the area of triangle between three C_α atoms of the residues lining the portal) ([plot1](#)).

Problems to solve

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Heron's formula:

the area of a triangle whose sides have lengths a , b , and c is

$$A = \sqrt{s(s - a)(s - b)(s - c)}$$

where s is the semiperimeter of the triangle; that is,

$$s = \frac{a + b + c}{2}.$$