

# VMD Workshop

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VISUALIZATION AND ANALYSIS OF MD  
TRAJECTORIES

# Problems to solve

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## **Analysis of 3.6-ns trajectory of an O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> molecule diffusing within Mb for 3.6 ns ([pic2a](#))
- Make a picture of O<sub>2</sub> density within Mb averaged over the 3.6-ns trajectory ([pic3a](#))
- Make a movie of the 3.6-ns diffusion of the O<sub>2</sub> molecule within Mb ([movie1](#))

## **Analysis of 48-ns trajectory of an O<sub>2</sub> molecule diffusing within Mb (self-practice):**

- Find time of the O<sub>2</sub> escape from Mb and residues at the escape portal
- Make a picture of all positions of the O<sub>2</sub> molecule diffusing within Mb for 48 ns and show residues at the escape portal ([pic2b](#))
- Make a picture of O<sub>2</sub> density within Mb averaged over the 48-ns trajectory and compare the regions of high O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> escape (estimate the opening of the portal as the area of triangle between three C<sub>α</sub> 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, DLPOLY, 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

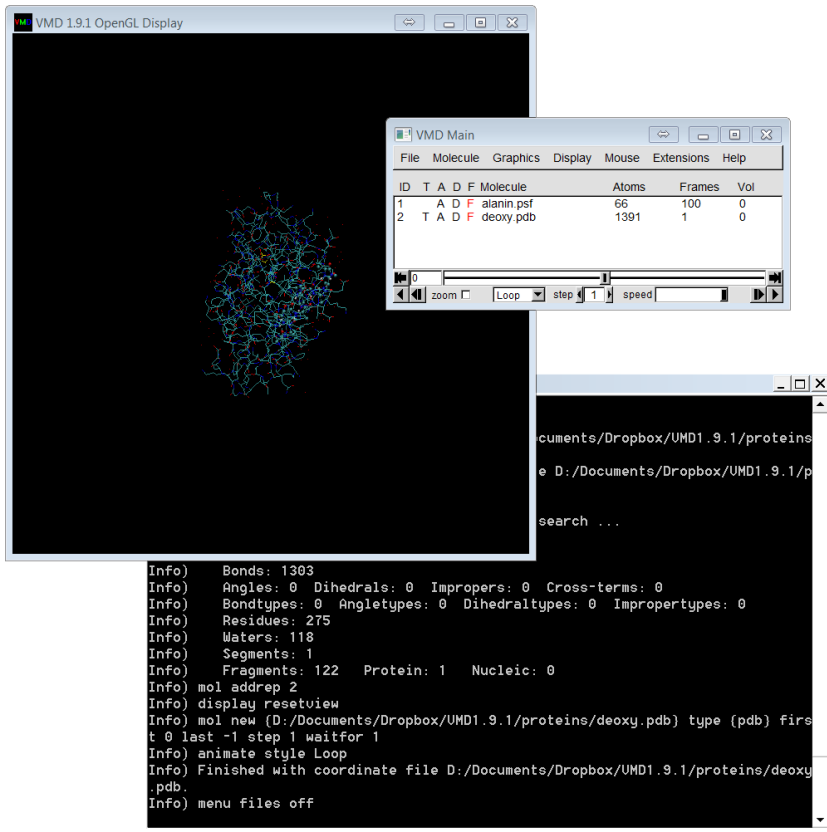
- display and manipulate molecules

## VMD main menu

- manipulate molecules and trajectories
- run interfaces and extensions

## VMD console

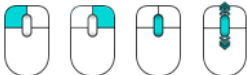
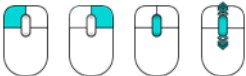

- show info and run text commands



# 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 **O** 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 →

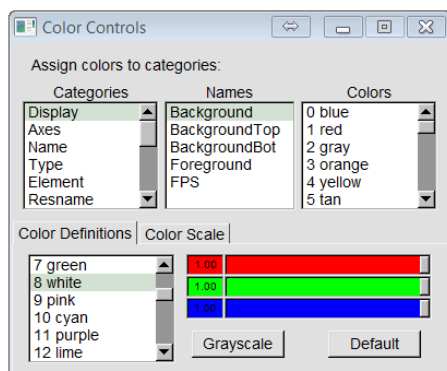


# 1.2. Molecule display

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Graphics → Representations...

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



Graphics → Colors...

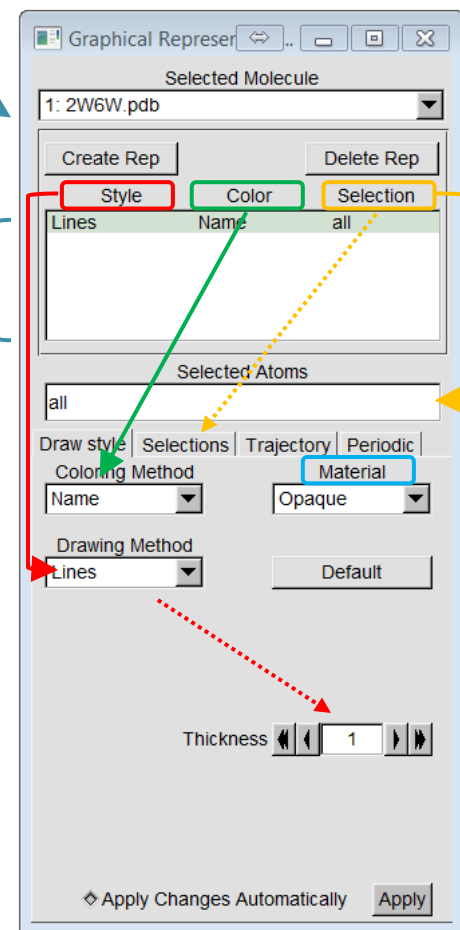
- assign colors to all categories

Graphics → Labels...

- manipulate labels

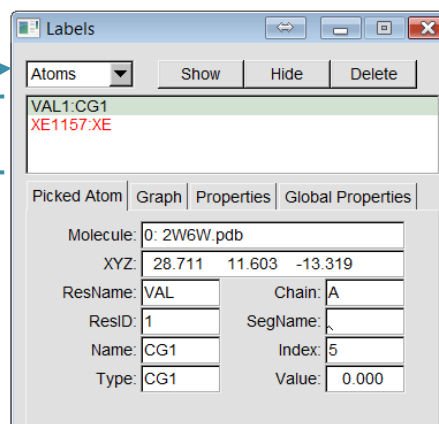
1. list of molecules

2. list of representations



1. label types

2. list of labels



# 1.2. Molecule display

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## Selection examples:

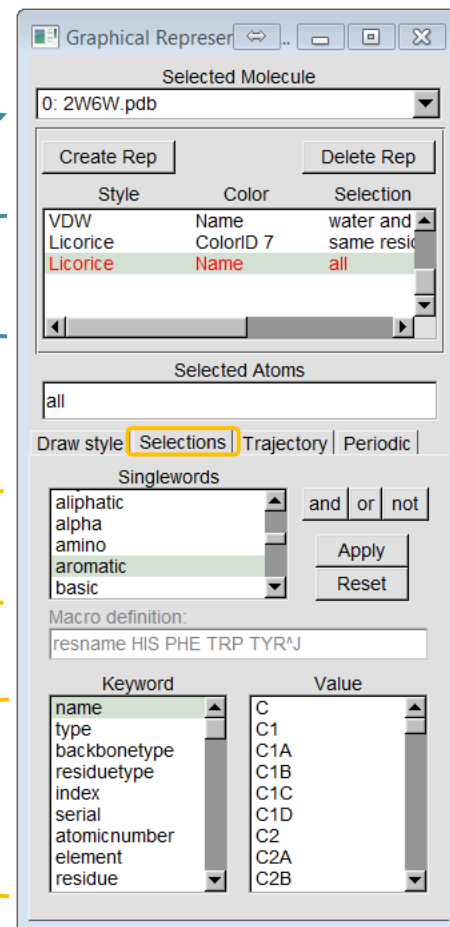
name CA  
resid 35 and noh  
name CA CB and resname ALA ARG  
backbone and resid 1 to 6  
not protein  
protein (backbone or name SD)  
name "C.\*"  
mass > 50  
numbonds = 2  
abs(charge) > 1  
x > 30 and x < 40  
 $\text{sqr}(x-33) + \text{sqr}(y-10) + \text{sqr}(z-7) < \text{sqr}(15)$   
within 10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

molecule name ( )  
molecule status ( )  
molecule ID number

list of molecules

current frame

number of atoms  
number of frames ( )  
number of volumetric data

The screenshot shows the VMD Main window with a table of loaded molecules. The table has columns: ID, T, A, D, F, Molecule, Atoms, Frames, and Vol. The first row shows ID 0, T A D F, Molecule Mb\_O2.psf, Atoms 26593, Frames 3601, and Vol 0. A context menu is open over the 'Frames' column, showing options: New Molecule..., Load Data Into Molecule..., Save Coordinates... (highlighted), Rename..., Delete Frames..., Abort File I/O, and Delete Molecule.

ID	T	A	D	F	Molecule	Atoms	Frames	Vol
0	T	A	D	F	Mb_O2.psf	26593	3601	0

Save Coordinates...

# 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  $C_{\alpha}$  atoms of protein (Trace) using crystal structure (frame 0) as a reference
- plot RMSD of  $C_{\alpha}$  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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub>
- (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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## Biochemistry:

Extensions → Analysis →

Contact Map

Hydrogen Bonds

Salt Bridges

Timeline Plugin

RMSD Trajectory Tool

RMSD Visualizer Tool

Ramachandran Plot

Sequence Viewer

MultiSeq

PropKa

## General:

Extensions → Analysis →

Collective variable analysis (PLUMED)

NAMD Energy

NAMD Plot

VolMap Tool

## 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`

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

`index $llist 2`

`index [index $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 o n] ;#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`

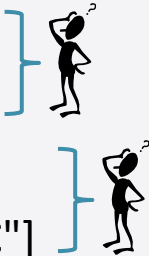


## 2.1. Starting with Tcl/Tk

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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 O<sub>2</sub> molecule and the Fe atom vs time
- (2) Measure distance between the O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> molecule diffusing within Mb for 3.6 ns ([pic2a](#))
- Make a picture of O<sub>2</sub> density within Mb averaged over the 3.6-ns trajectory ([pic3a](#))
- Make a movie of the 3.6-ns diffusion of the O<sub>2</sub> molecule within Mb ([movie1](#))

## **Analysis of 48-ns trajectory of an O<sub>2</sub> molecule diffusing within Mb (self-practice):**

- Find time of the O<sub>2</sub> escape from Mb and residues at the escape portal
- Make a picture of all positions of the O<sub>2</sub> molecule diffusing within Mb for 48 ns and show residues at the escape portal ([pic2b](#))
- Make a picture of O<sub>2</sub> density within Mb averaged over the 48-ns trajectory and compare the regions of high O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> escape (estimate the opening of the portal as the area of triangle between three C<sub>α</sub> 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,

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