

Contents

Introduction	1
1 Modeling Conformational Dynamics	6
1.1 Thermodynamics and Biomolecular Conformations	6
1.2 Single System Dynamics and Markov Processes	8
1.3 Ensemble Dynamics and Transfer Operators	9
2 The Model Systems	13
2.1 Deterministic Hamiltonian System	13
2.2 Hamiltonian System with Randomized Momenta	14
2.3 Langevin Equation	15
2.4 Smoluchowski Equation	17
3 Metastability	21
3.1 Characterizing Metastability	21
3.2 Identifying Metastable Subsets	22
3.3 Metastable Subsets and Eigenvalues Close to 1	23
4 Analysis of Transfer Operators	31
4.1 The Spectrum and its Parts	31
4.2 Bounds on the Essential Spectral Radius in $L^1(\mu)$	34
4.3 Peripheral Spectrum and Properties in $L^1(\mu)$	39
4.4 Reversibility and Properties in $L^2(\mu)$	45
5 Discretization of Transfer Operators	50
5.1 Galerkin Discretization	50
5.2 Convergence of Discrete Eigenvalues	52
5.3 Evaluating the Stochastic Transition Matrix	53
5.4 The Numerical Identification Algorithm	55
6 Theoretical and Numerical Investigations	56
6.1 Deterministic Hamiltonian System	57
6.2 Hamiltonian System with Randomized Momenta	57
6.3 Langevin Equation	61
6.4 Smoluchowski Equation	68
6.5 Comparison of Model Systems	71
7 Application to Large Systems	73
7.1 Monte Carlo methods	73
7.2 Adaptive Discretization Techniques	73
7.3 Analyzing a Small Biomolecule	75
Summary	78

