

Molecular Dynamics Using GROMACS

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Software: GROMACS: <http://www.gromacs.org>

Manual: <http://www.gromacs.org/Documentation/Manual>

Platform: Linux

Initial Protein Structure: cns1_model1.pdb

1 Check GROMACS

GROMACS location:

```
/usr/local/gromacs/bin/
```

Set environment variable:

```
1. export PATH=$PATH:/usr/local/gromacs/bin/
2. #test if environment works
3. gmx -version
```

Result:

```
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Uppsala University, Stockholm University and
the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.
check out http://www.gromacs.org for more information.

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under the terms of the GNU Lesser General Public License
as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2.1
of the License, or (at your option) any later version.

GROMACS:      gmx, VERSION 5.0.7
Executable:    /home/ocean/Softwares/gromacs-5.0.7/build/bin//gmx
Library dir:   /home/ocean/Softwares/gromacs-5.0.7/share/top
Command line:  gmx -version

Gromacs version:  VERSION 5.0.7
Precision:        single
Memory model:     64 bit
MPI library:      thread mpi
OpenMP support:   enabled
GPU support:      disabled
invsqrt routine:  gmx_software_invsqrt(x)
SIMD instructions: AVX_128_FMA
FFT library:      fftw-3.3.3-sse2
RDTSOP usage:     enabled
C++11 compilation: enabled
TNG support:      enabled
Tracing support:  disabled
Built on:         2019年 01月 07日 星期一 11:24:41 CST
Built by:         root@elab4 [CMAKE]
Build OS/arch:    Linux 4.15.0-43-generic x86_64
Build CPU vendor: AuthenticAMD
Build CPU brand:  AMD Ryzen 7 1700 Eight-Core Processor
Build CPU family: 23 Model: 1 Stepping: 1
Build CPU features: aes apic avx clflush cmov cx8 cx16 f16c fma htt lahf_lm misalignsse mmx msr nonstop_tsc pclmuldq pdep1gb popcnt pse rdrnd rdtscp sse2 sse3 sse4a sse4.1 sse4.2 ssse3
C compiler:       /usr/bin/cc GNU 7.3.0
C compiler flags: -mavx -mfma4 -mxop -Wno-maybe-uninitialized -Wextra -Wno-missing-field-initializers -Wno-sign-compare -Wpointer-arith -Wall -Wno-unused -Wunused
-value -Wunused-parameter -O3 -DNDEBUG -fomit-frame-pointer -funroll-all-loops -fexcess-precision=fast -Wno-array-bounds
C++ compiler:     /usr/bin/c++ GNU 7.3.0
C++ compiler flags: -mavx -mfma4 -mxop -std=c++0x -Wextra -Wno-missing-field-initializers -Wpointer-arith -Wall -Wno-unused-function -O3 -DNDEBUG -fomit-frame-pointer -funroll-all-loops -fexcess-precision=fast -Wno-array-bounds
Boost version:    1.55.0 (internal)
```

So, it works.

2 cns1_model1 MD Simulation

2.1 protein pdb file preprocessing

1 . Remove the crystal waters in the pdb file

Use `grep` to delete these lines very easily:

```
1. grep -v HOH cns1_model1.pdb > cns1_clean.pdb
```

2.3 Molecule Dynamics Simulation

1 . Transfer pdb to gmx format, which contains:

- The topology for the molecule.
- A position restraint file.
- A post-processed structure file.

```
1. gmx pdb2gmx -ignh -ff amber99sb-ildn -f cns1_clean.pdb -o cns1_clean.gro  
   -p cns1_clean.top -water tip3p
```

- `-ignh`: Ignore all hydrogen atoms, because if H atoms are present, they must be in the named exactly how the force fields in GROMACS expect them to be. So dealing with H atoms can occasionally be a headache!
- `-ff`: We use Amber99SB-ILDN force field.
- `-f`: Specify the input file name
- `-o`: Specify the newly output GROMCAS file
- `-p`: Specify the newly output topology file, including the parameters of all atom-atom interactions.
- `-water`: Specify the water model. We use TIP3P water model.

2 . Create the simulation box

We use `editconf` operation to create periodic simulation box.

```
1. gmx editconf -f cns1_clean.gro -o cns1_clean-PB.gro -bt cubic -d 1.2  
2. #-bt dodecahedron (dodecahedron is probable better in other  
   situations)
```

- `-f`: Input protein structure.
- `-o`: Output structure file with the simulation box information.
- `-bt`: Simulation box type, default: rectangle box.
- `-d`: The minimum distance of the protein from the X, Y, Z direction of the simulation box.

We use `-bt` option to create the rhombic dodecahedron, because its volume is ~71% of the cubic box of the same periodic distance, thus saving on the number of water molecules that need to be added to solvate the protein. `-d` option specifies the minimum distance of the molecule to the box margin, using nm as the unit. It specifies the size of the box. In theory, of the majority of the systems, `-d` can not be less than 0.9nm, so we use 1.2nm.

We can check the structure of the protein with the added box. We need to transfer the gro format to pdb format using `editconf` operation

For example, we can convert the file.gro to file.pdb

```
1. gmx editconf -f file.gro -o file.pdb
```

3 . Energy minimization of the protein molecule in vacuum

We should design the specific .mdp file to specify parameters.

em-vac-pme.mdp

```
1. ; Definition delivered to preprocessor
2. define          = -DFLEXIBLE      ; Use flexible water model rather than
   rigid water model, thus steepest descent method will further minimize
   the energy
3.
4. ; Model type, Ending control, input control parameter
5. integrator      = steep           ; Algorithm (steep = steepest descent m
   inimization)
6. emtol           = 500.0           ; Stop minimization when the maximum fo
   rce < 1000.0 kJ/mol/nm
7. emstep          = 0.01            ; Minimization step size
8. nsteps          = 1000            ; Maximum number of (minimization)
   steps to perform
9. nstenergy       = 1               ; Energy writing frequency
```

```

10.  energygrps      = System          ; Writing energy group
11.
12.  ; Nearst list, interaction calculation parameter
13.  nstlist          = 1              ; Frequency to update the neighbor list
    and long range forces
14.  ns_type          = grid           ; Method to determine neighbor list (si
    mple, grid)
15.  coulombtype      = PME            ; Treatment of long range electrostatic
    interactions
16.  rlist            = 1.0            ;
17.  rcoulomb          = 1.0           ; Short-range electrostatic cut-off
18.  vdwtpe           = cut-off        ; Method for calculating van der waals
    interaction
19.  rvdw             = 1.0            ; Short-range Van der Waals cut-off
20.  constraints      = none           ; Set the restriction of the model
21.  pbc              = xyz            ; Periodic Boundary Conditions in all 3
    dimensions

```

Gromacs pre-processor (grompp) can integrate all information including simulated parameter, molecular structure, molecular structure, acquired force field parameter into a single binary file (tpr file), so it requires only tpr file while running `mdrun`.

```

1.  gmh grompp -f em-vac-pme.mdp -c cns1_clean-PB.gro -p cns1_clean.top -o
    cns1_em-vac.tpr

```

- `-f` option specifies the input parameter file
- `-c` option specifies the input structure file
- `-p` option specifies the input topology file
- `-o` option specifies the output file which is used for `mdrun`

After that, we get file `cns1_em-vac.tpr` and parameter file `mdout.mdp`.

We use `mdrun` instruction to run the energy minimization

```

1.  gmh mdrun -v -deffnm cns1_em-vac

```

- `-deffnm` specifies default file name
- `-v` shows the information of the simulation process

After 1001 steps, result is :

```
Energy minimization reached the maximum number of steps before the forces
reached the requested precision Fmax < 500.

writing lowest energy coordinates.

Steepest Descents did not converge to Fmax < 500 in 1001 steps.
Potential Energy   = -6.9249328e+04
Maximum force      =  3.4546157e+03 on atom 755
Norm of force      =  4.1397404e+01

gcq#243: "Let's Unzip And Let's Unfold" (Red Hot Chili Peppers)
```

As a result, we get the record file `cns1_em-vac.log`, Binary full-precision trajectory `cns1_em-vac.trr`, Energy-minimized structure `cns1_em-vac.gro`.

If we only need the molecule dynamics simulation in vaccum, the above steps have got what we want, the `.trr` file, which can be depicted to movies using VMD software. However, if we need simulation in the solvent, water, for example, we have to go further.

4 . Infusing solvent and ion into the box and conduct energy minimization

We use `gmx solvate` to infuse the water into the box, simulating the solvation of the protein molecule.

```
1.  gmx solvate -cp cns1_em-vac.gro -cs spc216.gro -p cns1_clean.top -o cns1-b4ion.gro
```

- `-cp` specifies the model of the simulating protein box
- `-cs` specifies the water model to be SPC water model used for infilling
- `spc216` is the general 3-site water structure in GROMACS
- `-p` adjusts the topology file, adding the physical parameters of the corresponding water molecule
- `-o` specifies the output file after filling the water molecule

As a result, we get `cns1-b4ion.gro`.

Then we need to minimize the energy of the system, using another `em-sol-pme.mdp` file.

em-sol-pme.mdp

```
1.  define          = -DFLEXIBLE
2.
3.  integrator       = steep
4.  emtol            = 250.0
5.  nsteps           = 5000
6.  nstenergy        = 1
7.  energygrps       = System
8.
9.  nstlist           = 1
10. ns_type          = grid
11. coulombtype       = PME
12. rlist            = 1.0
13. rcoulomb          = 1.0
14. rvdw             = 1.0
15. constraints       = none
16. pbc              = xyz
```

Likewise, we need to use `grompp` to process the .mdp file, after which we start to conduct `mdrun`.

```
1.  gmx grompp -f em-sol-pme.mdp -c cns1-b4ion.gro -p cns1_clean.top -o ion.tpr
```

The generated `ion.tpr` is the result, and the output message is as follows:

```

Setting the LD random seed to 4222617473
Generated 2211 of the 2211 non-bonded parameter combinations
Generating 1-4 interactions: fudge = 0.5
Generated 2211 of the 2211 1-4 parameter combinations
Excluding 3 bonded neighbours molecule type 'Protein_chain_A'
Excluding 2 bonded neighbours molecule type 'SOL'

NOTE 3 [file cns1_clean.top, line 117939]:
  System has non-zero total charge: -3.999995
  Total charge should normally be an integer. See
  http://www.gromacs.org/Documentation/Floating_Point_Arithmetic
  for discussion on how close it should be to an integer.

Removing all charge groups because cutoff-scheme=Verlet
Analysing residue names:
There are:   792      Protein residues
There are: 270889      Water residues
Analysing Protein...
Number of degrees of freedom in T-Coupling group rest is 2475219.00
Calculating fourier grid dimensions for X Y Z
Using a fourier grid of 192x192x192, spacing 0.118 0.118 0.118
Estimate for the relative computational load of the PME mesh part: 0.22
This run will generate roughly 68 Mb of data

There were 3 notes

gcq#215: "I'm Not Gonna Die Here !" (Sphere)

```

We can see from the message that the total charge is -3.999995. Since the total charge should be described in integers, there are around -4e charge.

Then, we need to add the ion into the system, using the `ion.tpr` file. The ion we add should neutralise the charge original in the system. Since we have -4e charge in the system, we need to add more negion than cation.

We use `geion` operation to replace some water molecules by ions.

```

1.  gmx genion -s ion.tpr -o cns1-b4em.gro -neutral -conc 0.15 -p cns1_clean.top

```

- `-neutral` option guarantee the whole charge in the system equals zero, and the system is neutralized.
- `-conc` option sets the required ion concentration (here we use 0.15M)

- `-g` option specifies the name of the output record file
- `-norandom` option set the ion according to the electric potential, not random (default). However, here we use random set, so we do not use this option

After executing this operation, it appears a consecutive solvent molecule group. Here we choose 13(SOL). Typing `Enter`, the procedure will tell your solvent molecules have been replaced by Cl ion.

In order to run energy minimization by `mdrun`, we have to use the `grompp` operation again.

```
1. gmx grompp -f em-sol-pme.mdp -c cns1-b4em.gro -p cns1_clean.top -o cns1_em-sol.tpr
```

Then, we run energy minimization:

```
1. gmx mdrun -v -deffnm cns1_em-sol
```

We can see that after 5001 steps, it reaches convergence.

```
Energy minimization reached the maximum number of steps before the forces
reached the requested precision Fmax < 250.

writing lowest energy coordinates.

Steepest Descents did not converge to Fmax < 250 in 5001 steps.
Potential Energy   = -1.4573758e+07
Maximum force      =  1.5033184e+04 on atom 5593
Norm of force      =  2.1465935e+01

NOTE: 6 % of the run time was spent in domain decomposition,
      14 % of the run time was spent in pair search,
      you might want to increase nstlist (this has no effect on accuracy)
```

Note: `genion` uses NaCl in default. If users want any other negion and cation, they can use `-pname` (cation) and `-nname` (negion) to specify the name of the ions. Users can refer to the `ion.itp` file to see how to call different ions

5 . Position-restricted pre-equalization simulation

We now need to construct position-restricted pre-equalization simulation, that is to say, we fix the position of the protein atoms and keep the solvent molecules moving, just like soaking the protein

molecules into the water, enabling the further equilibration of the system.

We need to perform two stages of position-restricted pre-equalizations: 100ps NVT and 100ps NPT, with the temperature of 310 K, which is similar to the experiment room temperature. It is appropriate to simulate in 310 K, since it is similar to the body temperature.

Likewise, we need another .mdp file called `nvt-pr-md.mdp` file.

```
1.  define                      = -DPOSRES ; Tell GROMACS run position
    restricted siulation
2.
3.  integrator                  = md
4.  dt                          = 0.002 ; step length, the unit of which is ps
    , here we use 2fs
5.  nsteps                      = 50000 ; number of steps, the simulation time
    is nsteps*dt
6.
7.  ; output control parameter
8.  nstxout                     = 500 ; Writing frequency, nstxout=500 and
    dt=0.002, so it writes out every 1 ps
9.  nstvout                     = 500 ; Velocity saving frequency
10. nstenergy                   = 500 ; Energy saving frequency
11. nstlog                      = 500 ; log file output frequency
12. energygrps                  = Protein Non-Protein
13.
14. ;
15. nstlist                     = 5
16. ns_type                     = grid
17. pbc                         = xyz
18. rlist                       = 1.0
19.
20. ;
21. coulombtype                  = PME
22. pme_order                    = 4
23. fourierspacing               = 0.16
24. rcoulomb                     = 1.0 ; unit is nm
25. vdw-type                    = Cut-off
26. rvdw                        = 1.0
27.
28. ;
29. tcoupl                      = v-rescale
30. tc-grps                     = Protein Non-Protein
31. tau_t                       = 0.1 0.1
```

```

32.  ref_t                = 300      300
33.
34.  ;
35.  DispCorr              = EnerPres
36.
37.  ;
38.  pcoupl                 = no
39.
40.  ;
41.  gen_vel                = yes
42.  gen_temp               = 300
43.  gen_seed               = -1
44.
45.  ;
46.  constraints            = all-bonds
47.  continuation          = no
48.  constraint_algorithm    = lincs
49.  lincs_iter             = 1
50.  lincs_order            = 4

```

Also, we need to use `grompp` and then `mdrun` again.

```

1.  gmx grompp -f nvt-pr-md.mdp -c cns1_em-sol.gro -p cns1_clean.top -o cns
    1_nvt-pr.tpr
2.  #gmx mdrun -deffnm cns1_nvt-pr

```

If `mdrun` requires so much time, users can use `nohup` to run the program background.

```

1.  nohup gmx mdrun -deffnm cns1_nvt-pr &
2.
3.  #If you want to check the state of the program
4.  tail -n 25 cns1_nvt-pr.log

```

NPT simulation uses `npt-pr-md.mdp` as the parameter file

```

1.  define                = -DPOSRES
2.
3.  integrator             = md
4.  dt                    = 0.002
5.  nsteps                 = 50000
6.

```

```

7.      nstxout                = 500
8.      nstvout                = 500
9.      nstfout                = 500
10.     nstenergy              = 500
11.     nstlog                  = 500
12.     energygrps              = Protein Non-Protein
13.
14.     nstlist                  = 5
15.     ns-type                  = Grid
16.     pbc                      = xyz
17.     rlist                    = 1.0
18.
19.     coulombtype              = PME
20.     pme_order                = 4
21.     fourierspacing           = 0.16
22.     rcoulomb                  = 1.0
23.     vdw-type                  = Cut-off
24.     rvdw                      = 1.0
25.
26.     Tcoupl                   = v-rescale
27.     tc-grps                   = Protein Non-Protein
28.     tau_t                     = 0.1      0.1
29.     ref_t                     = 300      300
30.
31.     DispCorr                  = EnerPres
32.
33.     ;
34.     Pcoupl                    = Parrinello-Rahman
35.     Pcoupltype                = Isotropic
36.     tau_p                     = 2.0
37.     compressibility            = 4.5e-5
38.     ref_p                     = 1.0
39.     refcoord_scaling           = com
40.
41.     gen_vel                    = no
42.     constraints                = all-bonds
43.     continuation              = yes
44.     constraint_algorithm        = lincs
45.     lincs_iter                 = 1
46.     lincs_order                 = 4

```

We use the result .gro file as the input of the nvt simulation.

```

1.      gmx grompp -f npt-pr-md.mdp -c cns1_nvt-pr.gro -p cns1_clean.top -o cns

```

```

1. 1_npt-pr.tpr
2. nohup gmx mdrun -deffnm cns1_npt-pr &
3. #tail -n 25 cns1_npt-pr.log

```

6 . Final simulation

After equalization, we are able to conduct the final simulation

Still, we need another .mdp file

npt-nopr-md.mdp

```

1.  integrator          = md
2.  dt                  = 0.002
3.  nsteps               = 500000 ; 1 ns
4.
5.  nstxout              = 1000
6.  nstvout              = 1000
7.  nstfout              = 1000
8.  nstenergy            = 1000
9.  nstlog               = 1000
10. energygrps           = Protein Non-Protein
11.
12. nstlist               = 5
13. ns-type              = Grid
14. pbc                   = xyz
15. rlist                 = 1.0
16.
17. coulombtype           = PME
18. pme_order             = 4
19. fourierspacing        = 0.16
20. rcoulomb               = 1.0
21. vdw-type              = Cut-off
22. rvdw                  = 1.0
23.
24. Tcoupl                = v-rescale
25. tc-grps               = Protein Non-Protein
26. tau_t                 = 0.1      0.1
27. ref_t                 = 300      300
28.
29. DispCorr              = EnerPres
30.
31. Pcoupl                = Parrinello-Rahman

```

```

32.  Pcoupltype           = Isotropic
33.  tau_p                = 2.0
34.  compressibility      = 4.5e-5
35.  ref_p                = 1.0
36.
37.  gen_vel               = no
38.
39.  constraints           = all-bonds
40.  continuation         = yes
41.  constraint_algorithm  = lincs
42.  lincs_iter            = 1
43.  lincs_order           = 4

```

Coding:

```

1.  gmx grompp -f npt-nopr-md.mdp -c cns1_npt-pr.gro -p cns1_clean.top -o c
    nsl_npt-nopr.tpr
2.  nohup gmx mdrun -deffnm cns1_npt-nopr &
3.  #tail -n 25 cns1_npt-nopr.log

```

In order to save disk space, users can use `trjconv` operation to compress `.trr` trace file to `xtc` file, which is calculated faster in analysis. Also we should use `-pbc nojump` option to ensure all the atoms in the box.

```

1.  gmx trjconv -f cns1_npt-nopr.trr -s cns1_npt-nopr.tpr -o cns1_npt-nopr.
    xtc -pbc nojump -ur compact -center
2.  #Choose 0 in the two choice options. If the xtc file size is too large
    , choose 1 in thsese 2 options.

```

Note: If the resulting `.trr` file is to big, which is more than 10GB and even 20GB, you'd better alter the `npt-nopr-md.mdp`, changing the writing frequency (`nstxout`, `nstvout`, `nstfout`, `nstenergy`, `nstlog`) from 100 to 5000 or even 10000.

2.4 Simulation result analysis

Once we get the `.xtc` trace file, we'd like to analyse it.

2.4.1 Make an animation of the MD process

Instead of using `VMD` software, we choose Pymol alternatively, since latest VMD only support 32-bit program, which means that the max number of memory addresses is 2GB. When we used VMD, we could not even be able to operate 300M `xtc` trace file together with `.gro` structural file. Additionally, the movie made from Pymol is better than from VMD, and the UI is more friendly.

Firstly, we need to convert the `xtc` file and `gro` file together to `pdb` file, which can be processed by Pymol.

```
1. trjconv -s cns1_npt-nopr.gro -f cns1_npt-nopr.xtc -o movie.pdb
```

Then open `movie.pdb` in Pymol.

```
1. 1. Pre-review the movie of the frames
2. PyMOL> mplay
3. Type "mstop" to stop the animation
4. 2. Saving frames in PNG format
5. PyMOL> mpng frame
6. It will produce .npg files in Pymol directory
```

Then, use gif conversion software of linux operation to convert the npg files to gif format.

In linux, the operation is:

```
1. convert -delay 10 -loop 0 frame*.png movie.gif
```

`-delay 10`: the time interval between frames

`frame*.png`: the frames which compose the animation

In `VideoMach` software, load the `npg` format files and export the media in `gif` format.

2.4.2 Plot the parameter fluctuation

Use `gmx g_energy` operatio to extract the data

```
1. gmx energy -f cns1_npt-nopr.edr -o cns1_enrg-npt.xvg
```

It will appears some options of the data we would like to extract:

```
Select the terms you want from the following list by
selecting either (part of) the name or the number or a combination.
End your selection with an empty line or a zero.
-----
 1  Angle                2  Proper-Dih.          3  Improper-Dih.        4  LJ-14
 5  Coulomb-14           6  LJ-(SR)             7  Disper.-corr.        8  Coulomb-(SR)
 9  Coul.-recip.         10 Potential           11 Kinetic-En.         12 Total-Energy
13  Temperature         14 Pres.-DC            15 Pressure            16 Constr.-rmsd
17  Box-X               18 Box-Y               19 Box-Z               20 Volume
21  Density             22 pV                  23 Enthalpy            24 Vir-XX
25  Vir-XY              26 Vir-XZ              27 Vir-YX              28 Vir-YY
29  Vir-YZ              30 Vir-ZX              31 Vir-ZY              32 Vir-ZZ
33  Pres-XX             34 Pres-XY             35 Pres-XZ             36 Pres-YX
37  Pres-YY             38 Pres-YZ             39 Pres-ZX             40 Pres-ZY
41  Pres-ZZ             42 #Surf*SurfTen       43 Box-Vel-XX          44 Box-Vel-YY
45  Box-Vel-ZZ          46 Coul-SR:Protein-Protein
47  LJ-SR:Protein-Protein 48 Coul-14:Protein-Protein
49  LJ-14:Protein-Protein 50 Coul-SR:Protein-non-Protein
51  LJ-SR:Protein-non-Protein 52 Coul-14:Protein-non-Protein
53  LJ-14:Protein-non-Protein 54 Coul-SR:non-Protein-non-Protein
55  LJ-SR:non-Protein-non-Protein 56 Coul-14:non-Protein-non-Protein
57  LJ-14:non-Protein-non-Protein 58 T-Protein
59  T-non-Protein       60 Lamb-Protein
61  Lamb-non-Protein
```

Here, we'd like to extract the energy and temperature data, so we type `10 11 12 13` and key in `Enter` twice to execute the operation.

```
Last energy frame read 500 time 1000.000

Statistics over 500001 steps [ 0.0000 through 1000.0000 ps ], 4 data sets
All statistics are over 5001 points

Energy                Average    Err.Est.    RMSD    Tot-Drift
-----
Potential             -1.6266e+07    550    4475.16    -3429.22    (kJ/mol)
Kinetic En.           2.91022e+06    37     2822.23    77.3609    (kJ/mol)
Total Energy          -1.33558e+07    540     5516    -3351.75    (kJ/mol)
Temperature            299.995      0.0038    0.290924    0.00797177    (K)
```

The result will show in `cns1_enrg-npt.xvg`, and we can draw the picture using `Microsoft Office Excel`.

2.4.3 Alignment to the initial structure

Firstly, we need to convert the `cns1_npt-nopr.pro` to `pdb` file.

```
1. gmx editconf -f cns1_npt-nopr.gro -o cns1_npt-nopr.pdb
```


Use `align` operation in Pymol to align the two structures

After loading the structures into pymol software, we should remove the `waters` and `ions` of the MD result structure.

In pymol, on the right bar of `cns1_npt-nopr`, click `action|remove waters` to remove waters, and alert the selecting state of `Residue` on the bottom right to `Molecule`.

Click on the protein molecule and it appears an object called (sele), and click `action|extract object` and it created an object called `obj01`. Rename it to `cns1_MD`.

Load the initial structure file `cns1_model1.pdb` and we can align the two structures.

```
1. align cns1_MD, cns1_model1
```

After alignment, we can get the RMSD value in the console.

If we want to make a movie of the 360-degree-view about the alignment, we need to use pymol console.

```
1. PyMOL> mset 1 x360
2. This command creates a movie with 60 frames
3. PyMOL> util.mroll 1,360
4. This command rotates the protein molecule 360 deg in 360 frames
5. #the number of the frames can control the speed of the rotation, more
   frames means lower speed.
6. PyMOL> mplay
7. Type "mstop" to stop the animation
8. 2. Saving frames in PNG format
9. PyMOL> mpng frame
```

It saves 360 frames `png` file in the `python36` directory, use `VideoMach` to generate `gif` file.

2.4.4 Calculation of RMSD fluctuation

Use `gmx rms` to calculate the RMSD between the backbone after molecular dynamics simulation and the initial backbone.

```
1. gmx rms -s cns1_npt-nopr.tpr -f cns1_npt-nopr.xtc -o cns1-bkbone-rmsd.xvg
```

Choose option 4 (backbone) when it alerts.

Use `gmx rmsdist` to calculate the RMSD of the distance fluctuation between the atoms.

```
1. gmx rmsdist -s cns1_npt-nopr.tpr -f cns1_npt-nopr.xtc -o cns1_distrmsd.xvg
```

Likewise, use `Excel` to draw the picture.