

**Dynamics of the ACE2 - SARS-CoV-2/SARS-CoV spike protein interface  
reveal unique mechanisms**

Amanat Ali and Ranjit Vijayan\*

Department of Biology, College of Science, United Arab Emirates University, PO Box 15551,  
Al Ain, United Arab Emirates.

\* Correspondence: Ranjit Vijayan

Tel: +971 3 7136302

Email: [ranjit.v@uaeu.ac.ae](mailto:ranjit.v@uaeu.ac.ae)

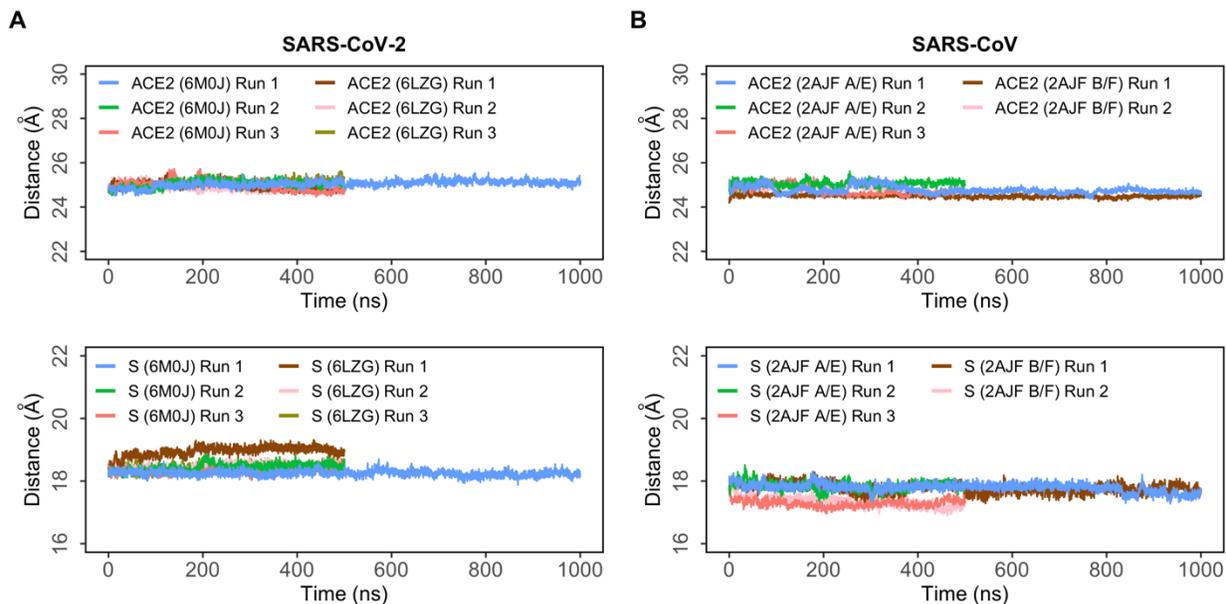
**Supplementary Information**

**Table S1.** Percentage of simulation time polar interactions were formed between ACE2 residues and residues in equivalent positions of SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV S RBD. For e.g., Lys417 of SARS-CoV-2 S protein RBD is in the same position as Val404 of SARS-CoV S RBD. For equivalent positions, see Figure 1.

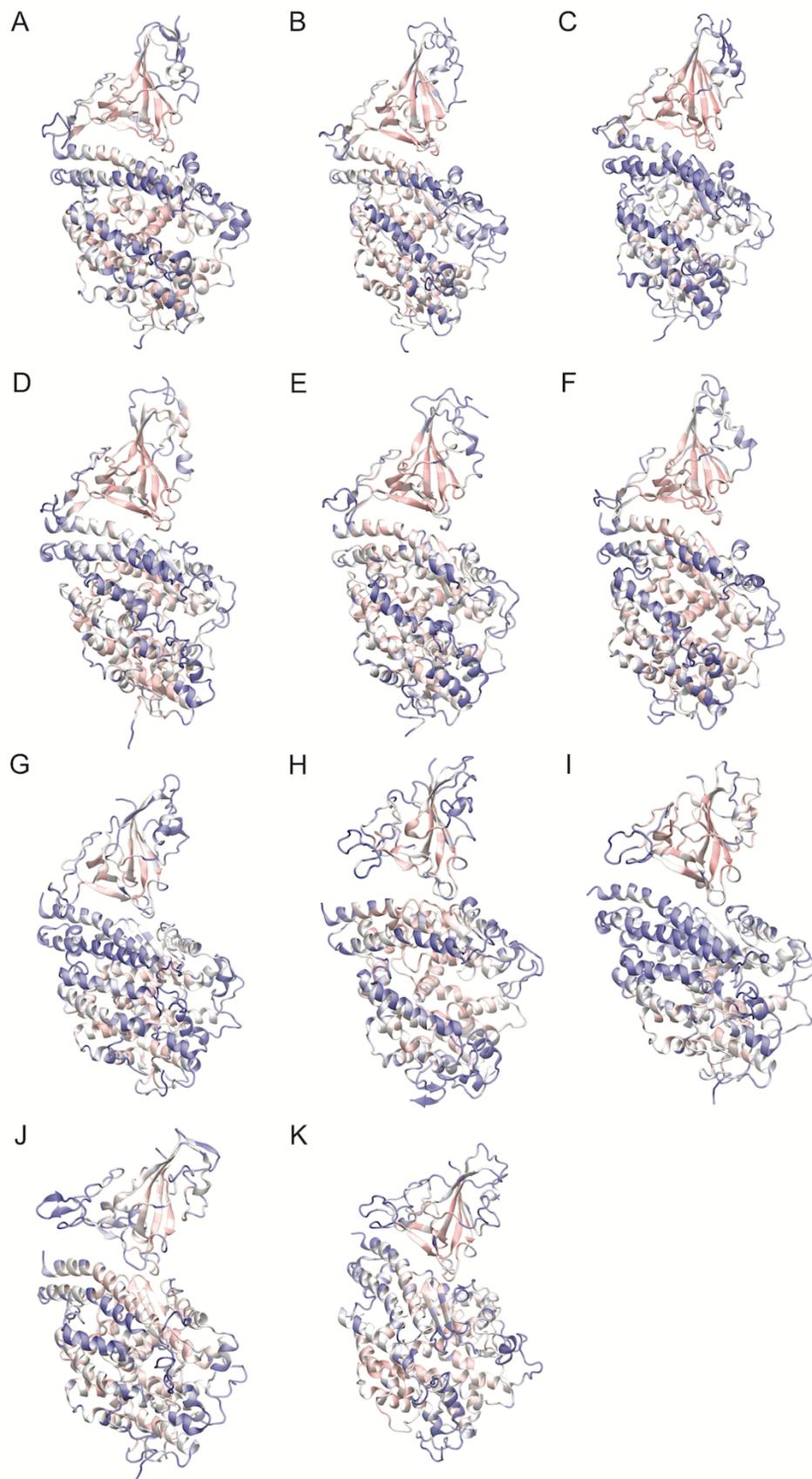
ACE2 residue	SARS-CoV-2 spike protein residue	Contact time (%) (PDB ID: 6M0J)			Contact time (%) (PDB ID: 6LZG)			SARS-CoV spike protein residue	Contact time (%) (PDB ID: 2AJF, chains A/E)			Contact time (%) (PDB ID: 2AJF, chains B/F)	
		Run1	Run2	Run3	Run1	Run 2	Run3		Run1	Run2	Run3	Run1	Run2
Asp30	Lys417	93.2	96.3	98.6	98.0	92.8	86.4	Val404	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Glu35	Gln493	82.3	81.3	91.2	90.3	86.0	84.6	Asn479	11.7	11.5	16.4	3.9	Nil
Asp38	Tyr449	54.8	88.6	80.8	10.0	13.2	45.9	Tyr436	10.0	6.5	2.7	3.3	2.6
Lys353	Gln498	73.5	95.3	95.5	90.7	22.3	90.7	Tyr484	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6
Gln24	Tyr489	2.8	48.7	61.1	0.04	24.5	22.2	Tyr475	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Asp38	Gln498	33.6	95.4	81.5	84.6	57.4	95.6	Tyr484	2.0	4.1	0.4	0.7	0.4
Lys353	Gly496	79.9	37.6	55.6	83.6	11.6	28.8	Gly482	12.0	4.4	1.8	2.2	1.8
Thr27	Tyr489	0.77	91.8	91.8	0.06	0.02	13.2	Tyr475	Nil	0.2	Nil	0.13	Nil
His34	Tyr453	39.0	23.9	83.1	36.1	29.4	12.6	Tyr440	0.01	Nil	20.3	Nil	20
Glu37	Tyr505	88.5	3.8	1.1	71.0	36.1	6.6	Tyr491	17.8	9.85	61.1	71.6	69.31
Gln42	Gly446	15.8	55.5	40.3	0.04	10.1	37.7	Thr433	0.15	2.5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lys353	Gly502	99.9	16.0	26.7	99.8	6.7	2.4	Gly488	99.5	96.7	99.3	99.5	97.0
Asp355	Thr500	52.3	1.6	18.5	56.9	4.7	1.5	Thr486	99.1	97.9	98.5	99.3	96.1
His34	Lys417	55.6	0.23	0.2	34.9	54.6	25.2	Val404	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lys31	Leu455	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Tyr442	86.2	1.2	3.5	4.6	2
Tyr83	Phe486	8.6	26.8	29.2	17.9	25.6	29.1	Leu472	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lys31	Tyr489	0.3	0.02	Nil	2.1	0.2	0.2	Tyr475	70.6	0.76	1.9	6.9	1.1
Gln24	Ala475	30.6	18.4	35.7	27.5	10.7	10.6	Pro462	Nil	0.2	Nil	0.12	Nil
Tyr41	Thr500	35.2	0.75	0.22	Nil	1.5	92.3	Thr486	0.41	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lys31	Glu484	30.5	21.5	39.52	15.2	6.3	6.7	Pro470	Nil	0.05	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lys31	Gln493	41.8	42.8	21.9	54.5	57.6	62.5	Asn479	1.7	Nil	0.5	Nil	Nil

**Table S2.** Percentage of simulation time hydrophobic interactions were formed between ACE2 residues and residues in equivalent positions of SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV S RBD. For e.g., Phe486 of SARS-CoV-2 S protein RBD is in the same position as Leu472 of SARS-CoV S RBD. For equivalent positions, see Figure 1.

ACE2 residue	SARS-CoV-2 spike protein residue	Contact time (%) (PDB ID: 6M0J)			Contact time (%) (PDB ID: 6LZG)			SARS-CoV spike protein residue	Contact time (%) (PDB ID: 2AJF, chains A/E)			Contact time (%) (PDB ID: 2AJF, chains B/F)	
		Run1	Run2	Run3	Run1	Run2	Run3		Run1	Run2	Run3	Run1	Run2
<b>Leu79</b>	<b>Phe486</b>	99.2	98.4	99.7	97.7	99.0	99.4	<b>Leu472</b>	6.9	3.8	0.89	1.2	1.9
<b>Met82</b>	<b>Phe486</b>	99.7	99.9	99.9	99.2	98.7	99.9	<b>Leu472</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Tyr83</b>	<b>Phe486</b>	98.8	99.8	99.8	99.4	99.5	99.7	<b>Leu472</b>	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.03	2.2
<b>Phe28</b>	<b>Tyr489</b>	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.6	<b>Tyr475</b>	25.3	18	2.3	7.2	5.4
<b>Tyr83</b>	<b>Tyr489</b>	78.7	95.8	98.9	61.4	78.1	79.4	<b>Tyr475</b>	0.54	7.2	3.4	0.7	2.2
<b>Thr27</b>	<b>Phe456</b>	98.6	99.9	99.9	99.9	93.7	99.9	<b>Leu443</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Thr27</b>	<b>Tyr489</b>	90.9	97.7	97.7	96.4	98.0	99.5	<b>Tyr475</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Thr27</b>	<b>Ala475</b>	77.4	90.4	94.9	77.9	70.3	87.6	<b>Pro462</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Thr27</b>	<b>Tyr473</b>	66.4	98.5	96.5	79.3	76.7	99.4	<b>Phe460</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Tyr41</b>	<b>Gln498</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<b>Tyr484</b>	97.1	98.3	96.6	98.8	80.8
<b>Leu45</b>	<b>Gln498</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<b>Tyr484</b>	83.4	36.3	77.2	65.8	48.9
<b>Phe28</b>	<b>Ala475</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.003	<b>Pro462</b>	98.9	0.05	Nil	11	0.02
<b>Leu79</b>	<b>Ala475</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<b>Pro462</b>	88.4	Nil	Nil	0.05	0.05
<b>Phe32</b>	<b>Tyr489</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<b>Tyr475</b>	56	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Phe72</b>	<b>Tyr489</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<b>Tyr475</b>	83.9	Nil	Nil	0.03	Nil



**Figure S1.** Radius of gyration (Rg) of ACE2 and spike (S) protein of SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV. Six simulations of the ACE2-SARS-CoV-2 complex were performed using two structures (6M0J and 6LZG). Five simulations of ACE2-SARS-CoV complex were performed; three using chains A and E of structure 2AJF and two using chains B and F. All simulations were run for at least 500 ns while the first simulation of the ACE2-SARS-CoV-2 complex (6M0J), and the first simulation of chains A/E and B/F of ACE2-SARS-CoV complexes were extended up to 1  $\mu$ s. A) Top: Rg of ACE2 in ACE2-SARS-CoV-2 complex, Bottom: Rg of S in ACE2-SARS-CoV-2 complex; B) Top: Rg of ACE2 in ACE2SARS-CoV- complex, Bottom: Rg of S in ACE2-SARS-CoV complex.



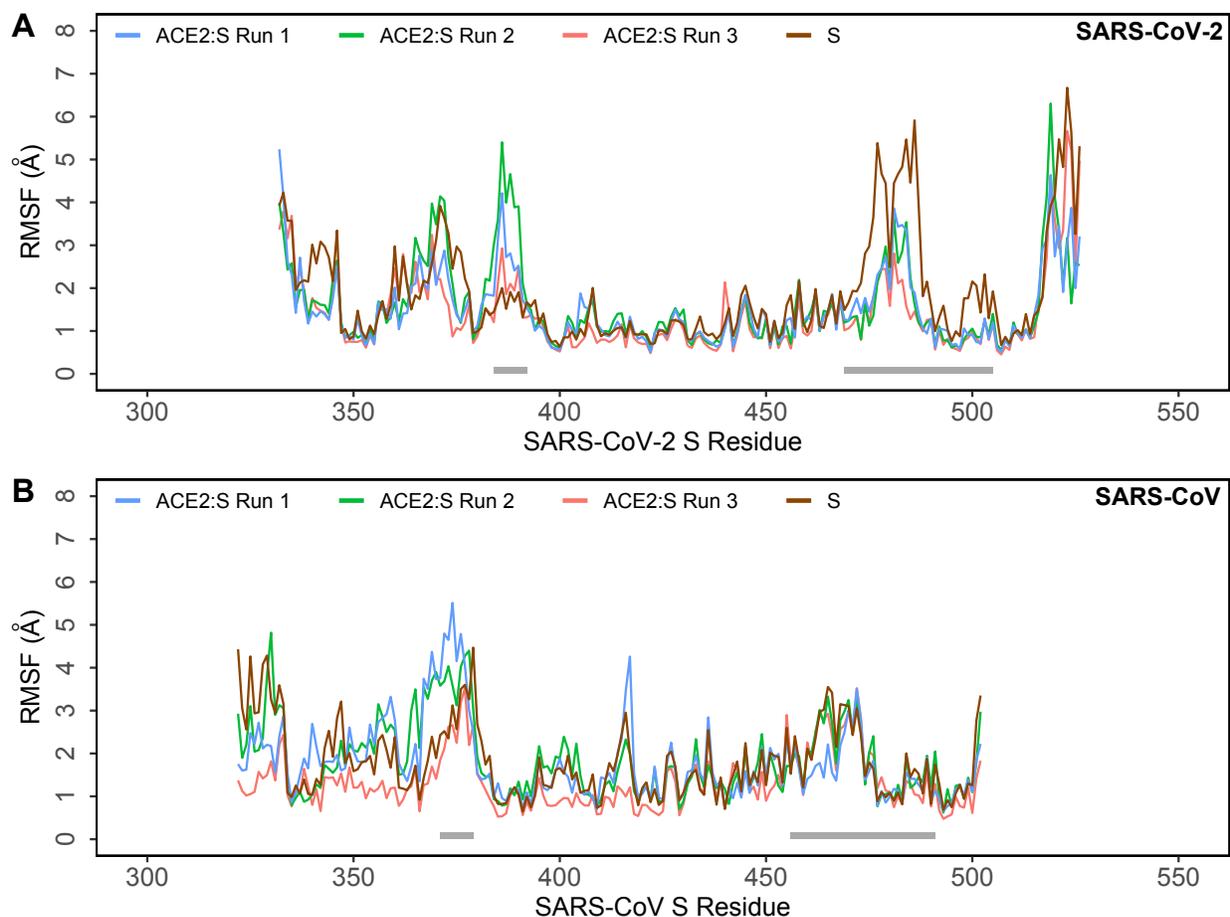
**Figure S2.** RMSF projected as beta factors to representative structures of ACE2-SARS-CoV-2 and ACE2-SARS-CoV complexes. Pink shows regions of low flexibility and blue shows regions of high flexibility.

A-C) ACE2-SARS-CoV-2 complex in three runs of 6M0J;

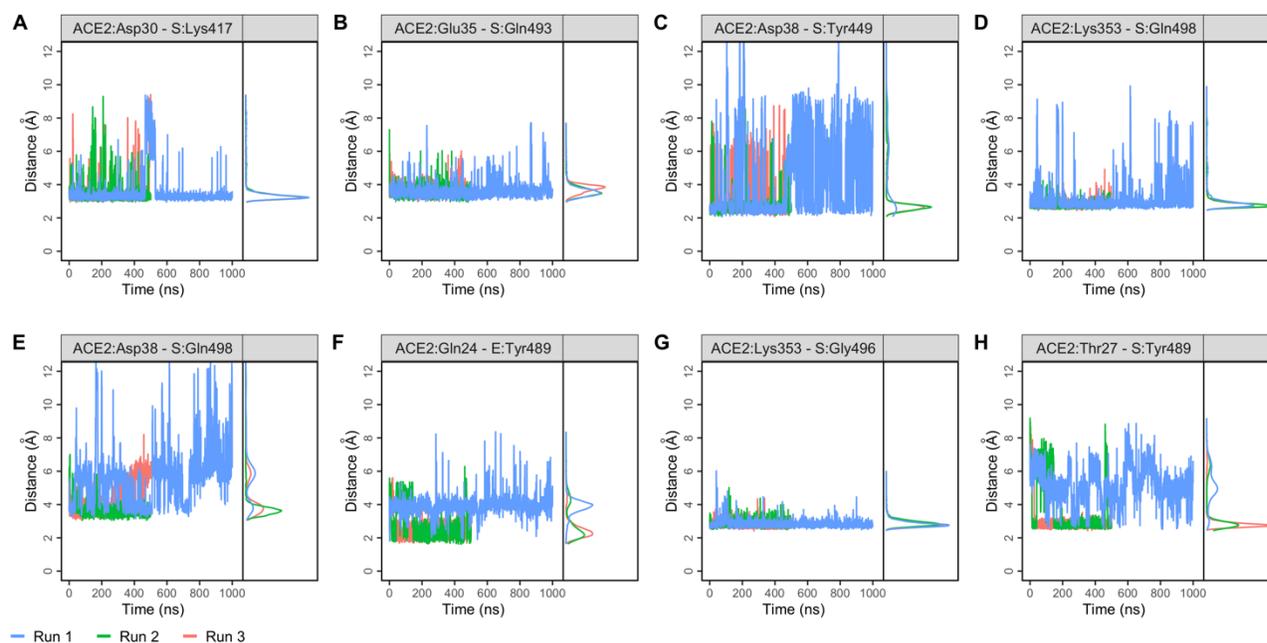
D-F) ACE2-SARS-CoV-2 complex in three runs of 6LZG;

G-I) ACE2-SARS-CoV complex in three runs of 2AJF chains A/E;

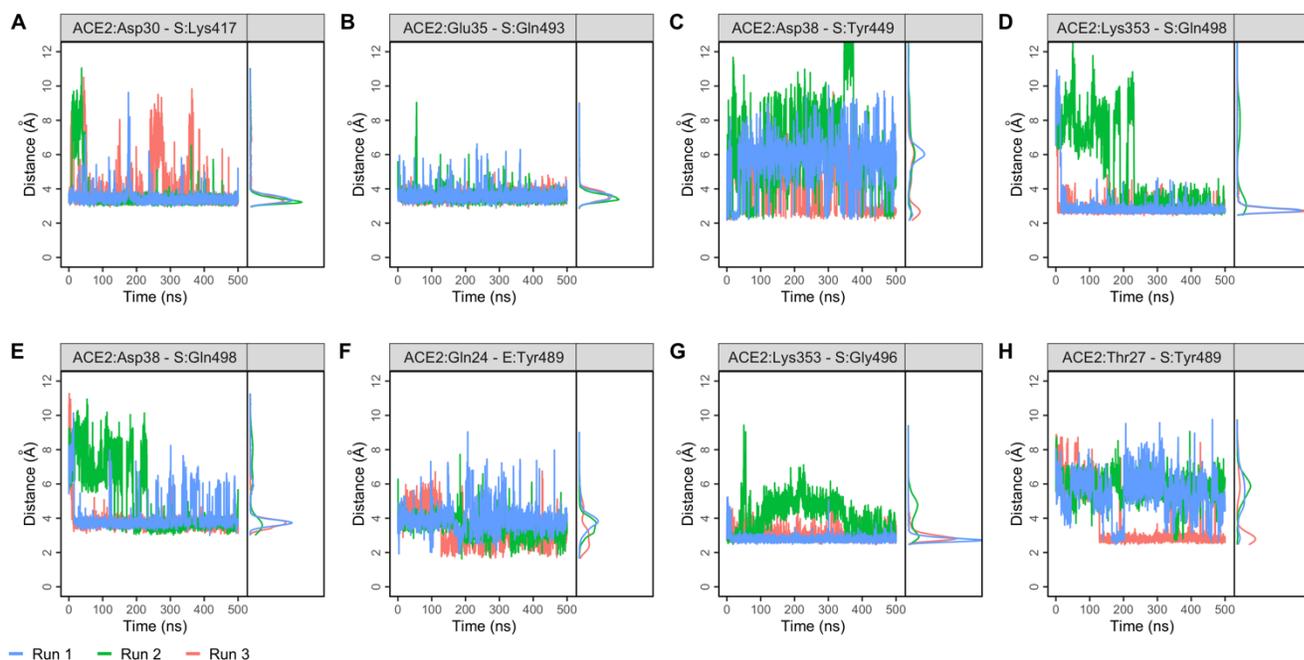
J-K) ACE2-SARS-CoV complex in two runs of 2AJF chains B/F.



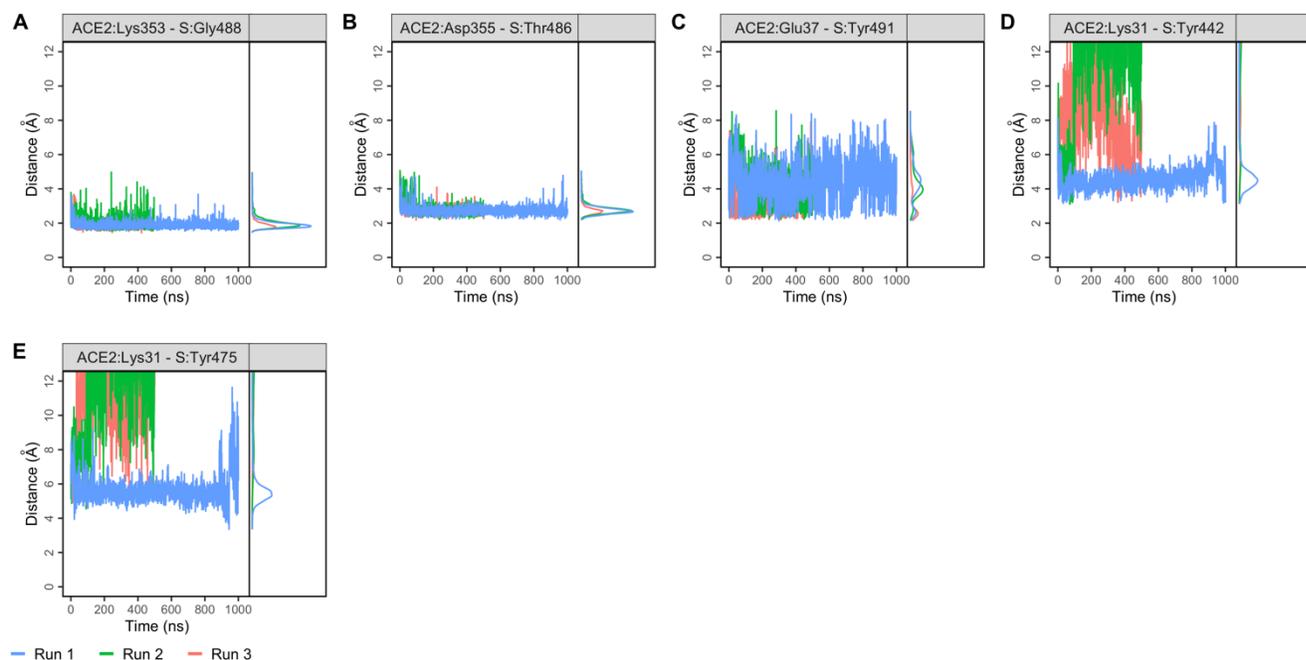
**Figure S3.** Root mean square fluctuation (RMSF) of spike (S) protein RBD C $\alpha$  atoms obtained from three independent runs ( $1 \times 1 \mu\text{s}$  and  $2 \times 500 \text{ ns}$ ) of SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV S protein bound to ACE2 compared to 500 ns unbound S only simulations of SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV. A) RMSF of C $\alpha$  atoms of SARS-CoV-2 S protein RBD in complex with ACE2 and without ACE2; B) RMSF of C $\alpha$  atoms of SARS-CoV S protein RBD in complex with ACE2 and without ACE2. Notable difference in RMSF of loop regions of SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV are marked with a grey line.



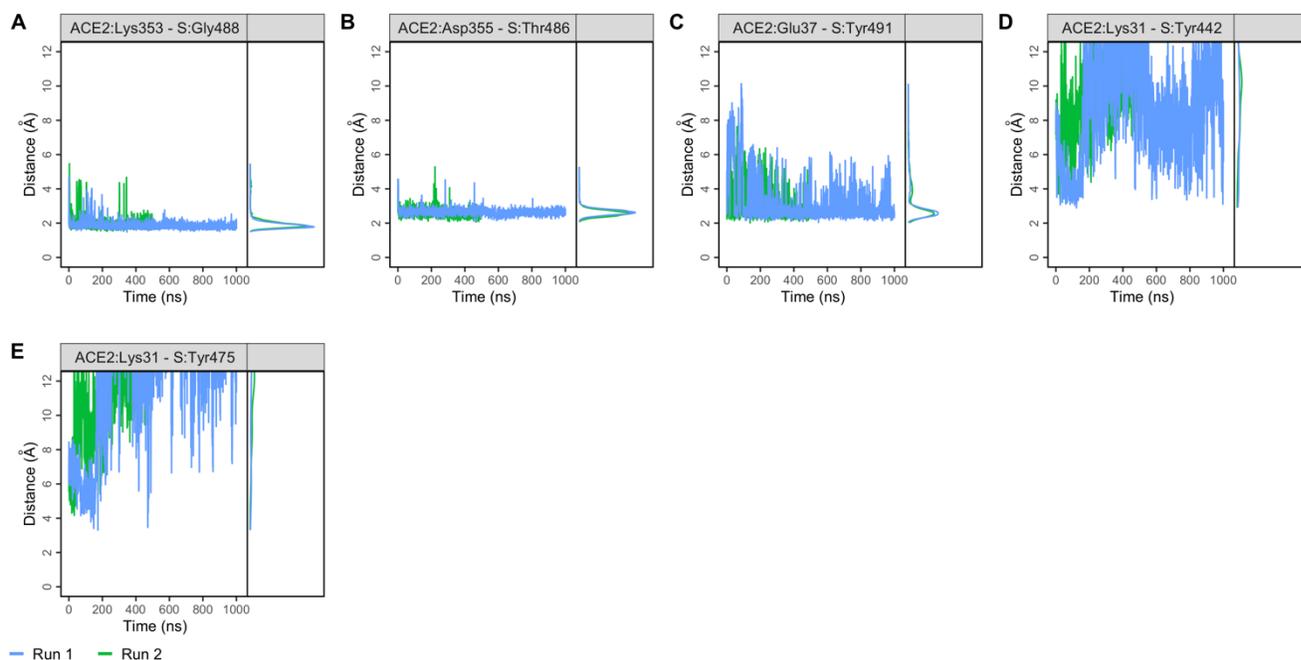
**Figure S4.** Contact distance plots of interfacial polar interactions between ACE2 and SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) protein RBD from three simulations of 6M0J. The contact distance was evaluated between specific atoms as indicated below to account for the possibility of switches between different hydrogen atoms (in Lys) or oxygen atoms (in Asp/Glu) that is involved in a hydrogen bond. Data from the three runs are shown in red, green, and blue. The contact distance density plot of consistently interacting residues showed sharper peaks in the density plot adjacent to each distance plot. A) Distance between ACE2:Asp30<sub>CG</sub> and S:Lys417<sub>NZ</sub>; B) Distance between ACE2:Glu35<sub>CD</sub> and S:Gln493<sub>NE2</sub>; C) Distance between ACE2:Asp38<sub>CG</sub> and S:Tyr449<sub>HH</sub>; D) Distance between ACE2:Lys353<sub>NZ</sub> and S:Gln498<sub>OE1</sub>; E) Distance between ACE2:Asp38<sub>CG</sub> and S:Gln498<sub>NE2</sub>; F) Distance between ACE2:Gln24<sub>O</sub> (backbone) and S:Tyr489<sub>HH</sub>; G) Distance between ACE2:Lys353<sub>NZ</sub> and S:Gly496<sub>O</sub> (backbone); H) Distance between ACE2:Thr27<sub>OG1</sub> and S:Tyr489<sub>OH</sub>.



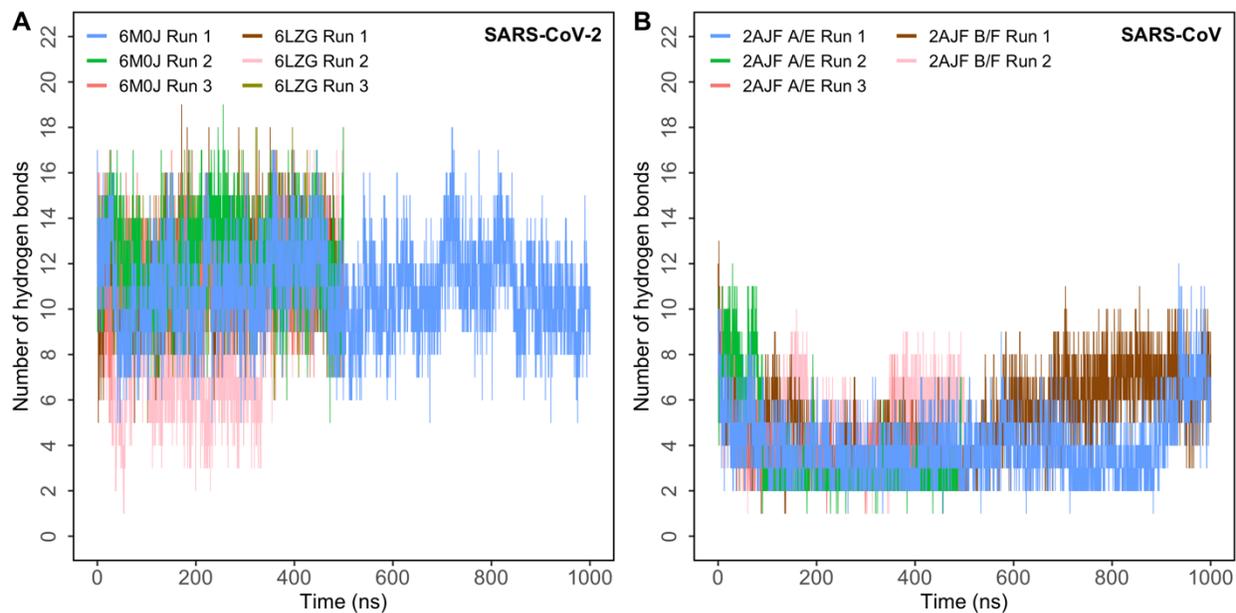
**Figure S5.** Contact distance plots of interfacial polar interactions between ACE2 and SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) protein RBD from three simulations of 6LZG. The contact distance was evaluated between specific atoms as indicated below to account for the possibility of switches between different hydrogen atoms (in Lys) or oxygen atoms (in Asp/Glu) that is involved in a hydrogen bond. Data from the three runs are shown in red, green, and blue. The contact distance density plot of consistently interacting residues showed sharper peaks in the density plot adjacent to each distance plot. A) Distance between ACE2:Asp30<sub>CG</sub> and S:Lys417<sub>NZ</sub>; B) Distance between ACE2:Glu35<sub>CD</sub> and S:Gln493<sub>NE2</sub>; C) Distance between ACE2:Asp38<sub>CG</sub> and S:Tyr449<sub>HH</sub>; D) Distance between ACE2:Lys353<sub>NZ</sub> and S:Gln498<sub>OE1</sub>; E) Distance between ACE2:Asp38<sub>CG</sub> and S:Gln498<sub>NE2</sub>; F) Distance between ACE2:Gln24<sub>O</sub> (backbone) and S:Tyr489<sub>HH</sub>; G) Distance between ACE2:Lys353<sub>NZ</sub> and S:Gly496<sub>O</sub> (backbone); H) Distance between ACE2:Thr27<sub>OG1</sub> and S:Tyr489<sub>OH</sub>.



**Figure S6.** Contact distance plots of interfacial polar interactions between ACE2 and SARS-CoV spike (S) protein RBD from three simulations of chains A/E of the structure 2AJF. Data from the three runs are shown in red, green, and blue. The contact distance density plot of consistently interacting residues showed sharper peaks in the density plot adjacent to each distance plot. A) Distance between ACE2:Lys353\_O (backbone) and S:Gly488\_H (backbone); B) Distance between ACE2:Asp355\_CG and S:Thr486\_HG1; C) Distance between ACE2:Glu37\_CD and S:Tyr491\_HH; D) Distance between ACE2:Lys31\_NZ and S:Tyr442\_CZ (cation- $\pi$ ); E) Distance between ACE2:Lys31\_NZ and S:Tyr475\_CZ (cation- $\pi$ ).



**Figure S7.** Contact distance plots of interfacial polar interactions between ACE2 and SARS-CoV spike (S) protein RBD from three simulations of chains B/F of the structure 2AJF. Data from the three runs are shown in red, green, and blue. The contact distance density plot of consistently interacting residues showed sharper peaks in the density plot adjacent to each distance plot. A) Distance between ACE2:Lys353\_O (backbone) and S:Gly488\_H (backbone); B) Distance between ACE2:Asp355\_CG and S:Thr486\_HG1; C) Distance between ACE2:Glu37\_CD and S:Tyr491\_HH; D) Distance between ACE2:Lys31\_NZ and S:Tyr442\_CZ (cation- $\pi$ ); E) Distance between ACE2:Lys31\_NZ and S:Tyr475\_CZ (cation- $\pi$ ).



**Figure S8.** Number of intermolecular hydrogen bonds formed between ACE2 and SARS-CoV-2/SARS-CoV spike (S) protein RBD. A) Number of hydrogen bonds formed between ACE2 and SARS-CoV-2 S from three simulations ( $1 \times 1 \mu\text{s}$  and  $2 \times 500 \text{ ns}$ ) of 6M0J and three simulations ( $3 \times 500 \text{ ns}$ ) of 6LZJ structures; B) Number of hydrogen bonds formed between ACE2 and SARS-CoV S from three simulations ( $1 \times 1 \mu\text{s}$  and  $2 \times 500 \text{ ns}$ ) of chains A/E, and two simulations ( $1 \times 1 \mu\text{s}$  and  $1 \times 500 \text{ ns}$ ) of chains B/F of 2AJF.