

Biophysical Journal, Volume 121

Supplemental information

Characterizing fenestration size in sodium channel subtypes and their accessibility to inhibitors

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Table S1 | Summary of recently published cryo-EM eukaryotic sodium channel structures.

Structures simulated in bold. *5X0M was not part of the main study (addendum to the discussion).

| PDB ID | Subtype | Citation | Resolution (Å) | Voltage sensor state | Pore gate state | Inactivation Motif State | Co-resolved ligands/peptide toxins | Auxiliary subunits |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| 7DTD | Nav1.1 (human) | (Pan et al., 2021) | 3.3 | All activated | Partially open by detergent | Bound | - | β4 |
| 6J8E | Nav1.2 (human) | (Pan et al., 2019) | 3.0 | All activated | Partially open by detergent | Bound | μ-conotoxin KIIIA (blocking SF) | β2 |
| 6AGF | Nav1.4 (human) | (Pan et al., 2018) | 3.2 | All activated | Partially open by detergent | Bound | - | β1 |
| 6UZ0 | Nav1.5 (rat) | (Jiang et al., 2020) | 3.5 | All activated | Partially open by detergent | Bound | Flecainide (in central cavity/ DII-III) | - |
| 6UZ3 | Nav1.5 (rat) | | 3.5 | All activated | Partially open by detergent | Bound | - | - |
| 6LQA | Nav1.5 (human) | (Li et al., 2021a) | 3.3 | All activated | Tightly closed | Bound | Quinidine (in central cavity) | - |
| 7DTC | Nav1.5-E1784K (human) | (Li et al., 2021b) | 3.3 | All activated | Closed | Bound | - | - |
| 7K18 | Nav1.5 (rat) | (Jiang et al., 2021b) | 3.3 | All activated, VS-DIV partially activated | Partially open (shift in S6 helices) | Bound (less stable) | LqhIII toxin (bound to VS-DIV) | - |
| 7FBS | Nav1.5-QQQ (rat) | (Jiang et al., 2021a) | 3.3 | All activated | Open (allows conduction) | Unbound (IFM mutated to QQQ) | Propafenone (in central cavity, near selectivity filter) | - |
| 6J8G | Nav1.7 (human) | (Shen et al., 2019) | 3.2 | Only VS-DII inactivated | Closed | Bound | Tetrodotoxin (blocking SF), protoxin-II (bound to VS-DII) | β1, β2 |
| 6J8H | Nav1.7 (human) | | 3.2 | Only VS-DII inactivated | Closed | Bound | Saxitoxin (blocking SF), huwentoxin-II (bound to VS-DII) | β1, β2 |
| 6J8I | Nav1.7 (human) | | 3.2 | Only VS-DII inactivated | Closed | Bound | - | β1, β2 |
| 6J8J | Nav1.7 (human) | | 3.2 | Only VS-DII inactivated | Closed | Bound | - | β1, β2 |
| 5X0M* | NavPas (cockroach) | (Shen et al., 2017) | 3.8 | Varying degrees of activation | Tightly closed | No IFM motif (DIII-IV linker sequestered by CTD) | - | - |

Table S2 | System sizes for Nav subtype structures

| SYSTEM | BOX DIMENSIONS (x, y, z) | TOTAL ATOMS |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Nav1.1 | 164, 162, 143 | 336069 |
| Nav1.2 | 161, 161, 129 | 295219 |
| Nav1.4 | 158, 158, 128 | 280711 |
| Nav1.5 | 162, 161, 140 | 323456 |
| Nav1.5r | 162, 160, 135 | 310798 |
| Nav1.7 | 157, 157, 127 | 277117 |
| NavPas | 166, 165, 160 | 392809 |

Table S3 | MD Parameters for pre-equilibration setup and production steps using AMBER.

NPT (constant particle number, pressure and temperature); *NVT* (constant particle number, volume and temperature); *aniso* (anisotropic); *CYC* (cycles); γ_{ln} (collision frequency); τ_p (relaxation time); *CA* (protein α -Carbon atoms).

| | STEP | ENS | TIME / CYC | TEMPERATURE | | | PRESSURE | | | RESTRAINTS (kcal.mol ⁻¹ .Å ⁻²) |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|--|
| | | | | K | Thermostat | γ_{ln} (ps ⁻¹) | atm | Barostat | τ_p (ps) | |
| C P U | Minimisation1 | NVT | 1000cyc | - | - | - | - | - | - | 25 (all atoms except water and hydrogen) |
| | Minimisation2 | NVT | 1000cyc | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 (CA) |
| | Minimisation3 | NVT | 1000cyc | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Heat | NPT - aniso | 0.25ns | 0-310 | Langevin | 5 | - | Berendsen | 1 | 5 (CA) |
| | Hold1 | NPT - aniso | 0.5ns | 310 | Langevin | 5 | 1 | Monte Carlo | 1 | 5 (CA) |
| G P U | Hold2 | NPT - aniso | 9 x 0.5 = 4.5ns | 310 | Langevin | 5 | 1 | Monte Carlo | 1 | 5 (CA) |
| | Restraint Reduction | NPT - aniso | 12 x 2 = 24ns | 310 | Langevin | 5 | 1 | Monte Carlo | 1 | 4, 3, 2, 1, 0.8, 0.6, 0.4, 0.2, 0.1, 0.05, 0.02, 0.01 (CA) |
| | Production (Equilibrium MD) | NPT - aniso | 500ns | 310 | Langevin | 5 | 1 | Monte Carlo | 1 | - |

Table S4 | Parameters used for CAVER tunnel identification.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| starting_point_residue | <i>midpoint residue of DIS6*</i> |
| starting_point_residue | <i>midpoint residue of DIIS6*</i> |
| starting_point_residue | <i>midpoint residue of DIIS6*</i> |
| starting_point_residue | <i>midpoint residue of DIVS6*</i> |
| probe_radius | 0.8 |
| shell_radius | 15 |
| shell_depth | 15 |
| number_of_approximating_balls | 12 |
| bottleneck_contact_distance | 3 |
| clustering | average_link |
| weighting_coefficient | 1 |
| clustering_threshold | 10 |
| do_approximate_clustering | yes |
| cluster_by_hierarchical_clustering | 20000 |
| max_training_clusters | 14 |
| generate_unclassified_cluster | no |
| murtagh_matrix_size | <i>between 9000 to 12000</i> |

**geometric centre of the four starting_point_residues used to calculate the starting point for tunnel calculations (located roughly at the centre of the pore cavity)*

Table S5 | Summary of bottleneck radii statistics.

Average, maximum and standard deviation (StDev) calculated for each subtype and fenestration, combining across all three replicates.

| SUBTYPE (PDB) | FENESTRATION | BOTTLENECK RADIUS (Å) | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|-------|
| | | Starting Structure | Overall Average | Maximum | StDev |
| NAV1.1 (7DTD) | DI-II | 1.88 | 1.97 | 2.93 | 0.31 |
| | DII-III | 2.10 | 1.50 | 2.59 | 0.31 |
| | DIII-IV | 2.43 | 2.05 | 2.85 | 0.25 |
| | DI-IV | 1.95 | 1.42 | 2.75 | 0.56 |
| NAV1.2 (6J8E) | DI-II | 2.26 | 1.98 | 2.91 | 0.30 |
| | DII-III | 2.24 | 1.77 | 2.72 | 0.35 |
| | DIII-IV | 2.59 | 2.02 | 2.78 | 0.24 |
| | DI-IV | 1.92 | 1.65 | 2.82 | 0.56 |
| NAV1.4 (6AGF) | DI-II | 2.25 | 1.95 | 3.27 | 0.41 |
| | DII-III | 2.46 | 1.73 | 2.70 | 0.40 |
| | DIII-IV | 2.54 | 1.57 | 2.77 | 0.49 |
| | DI-IV | 1.92 | 1.00 | 2.48 | 0.31 |
| NAV1.5 - HUMAN (6UZ0 - HOMOLOGY) | DI-II | 2.19 | 2.25 | 3.35 | 0.25 |
| | DII-III | 1.64 | 1.61 | 2.84 | 0.48 |
| | DIII-IV | 2.15 | 1.84 | 2.71 | 0.35 |
| | DI-IV | 1.82 | 0.92 | 2.35 | 0.14 |
| NAV1.5 -RAT (6UZ0) | DI-II | 2.40 | 1.99 | 2.89 | 0.28 |
| | DII-III | 1.80 | 1.65 | 2.70 | 0.43 |
| | DIII-IV | 2.02 | 1.85 | 2.72 | 0.33 |
| | DI-IV | 1.03 | 1.04 | 2.21 | 0.20 |
| NAV1.7 (6J8G) | DI-II | 2.19 | 2.09 | 3.01 | 0.33 |
| | DII-III | 2.05 | 1.69 | 2.70 | 0.31 |
| | DIII-IV | 2.58 | 2.02 | 2.76 | 0.24 |
| | DI-IV | 0.91 | 1.01 | 2.40 | 0.29 |
| NAVPAS (5X0M) | DI-II | <0.8 | 0.87 | 1.62 | 0.12 |
| | DII-III | <0.8 | 0.87 | 1.66 | 0.13 |
| | DIII-IV | 1.34 | 1.45 | 2.76 | 0.40 |
| | DI-IV | 0.82 | 0.93 | 1.71 | 0.14 |

Table S6 | SCN1A (Nav1.1) disease-related mutations identified to be in fenestration bottleneck residues.

Mutations were extracted from UNIPROT website (Bateman et al., 2020)

DS; Dravet's syndrome; GEFS+2: Generalized epilepsy with febrile seizures plus 2; ICEGTC: Intractable childhood epilepsy with generalized tonic-clonic seizures.

| RESIDUE | MUTATION | CONDITION | FENESTRATION |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| 379 | M → R | DS | DI-II |
| 976 | M → I | DS, GEFS+2 | DI-II |
| 983 | V → A | ICEGTC | DII-III |
| 986 | L → F | DS | DII-III |
| 986 | L → P | DS | DII-III |
| 1472 | F → S | DS | DII-III |
| 1355 | L → P | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1358 | W → R | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1358 | W → S | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1426 | L → R | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1429 | A → D | ICEGTC | DIII-IV |
| 1429 | Deletion | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1475 | L → S | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1770 | I → F | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1770 | I → N | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1770 | I → T | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1771 | I → F | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1771 | I → N | DS | DIII-IV |
| 1677 | L → F | DS | DI-IV |
| 1721 | T → R | DS | DI-IV |
| 1780 | M → T | DS | DI-IV |
| 1781 | Y → C | DS, ICEGTC | DI-IV |
| 1781 | Y → H | DS | DI-IV |

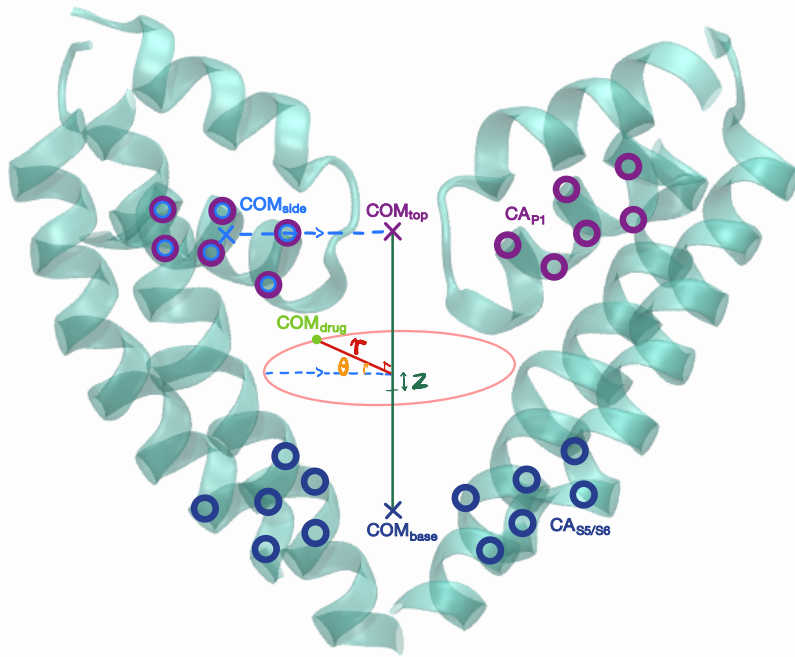


Figure S1 | Geometrically defining the collective variables for lidocaine position relative to the protein.

The three-dimensional coordinates for the centre of mass of lidocaine (COM_{drug}) was defined relative to the sodium channel structure, using six carbon-alpha (CA) atoms in P1 of each domain and six CA atoms at the S5-S6 helices of each domain to define the centre axis; and the same six CA atoms in P1 of only DI and DII to define the angular reference point. Only two opposite domains are shown here. z is the projected position of COM_{drug} along the axis from the midpoint; r is the perpendicular distance of COM_{drug} from the axis; and θ is the angle between the COM_{drug} vector and the reference.

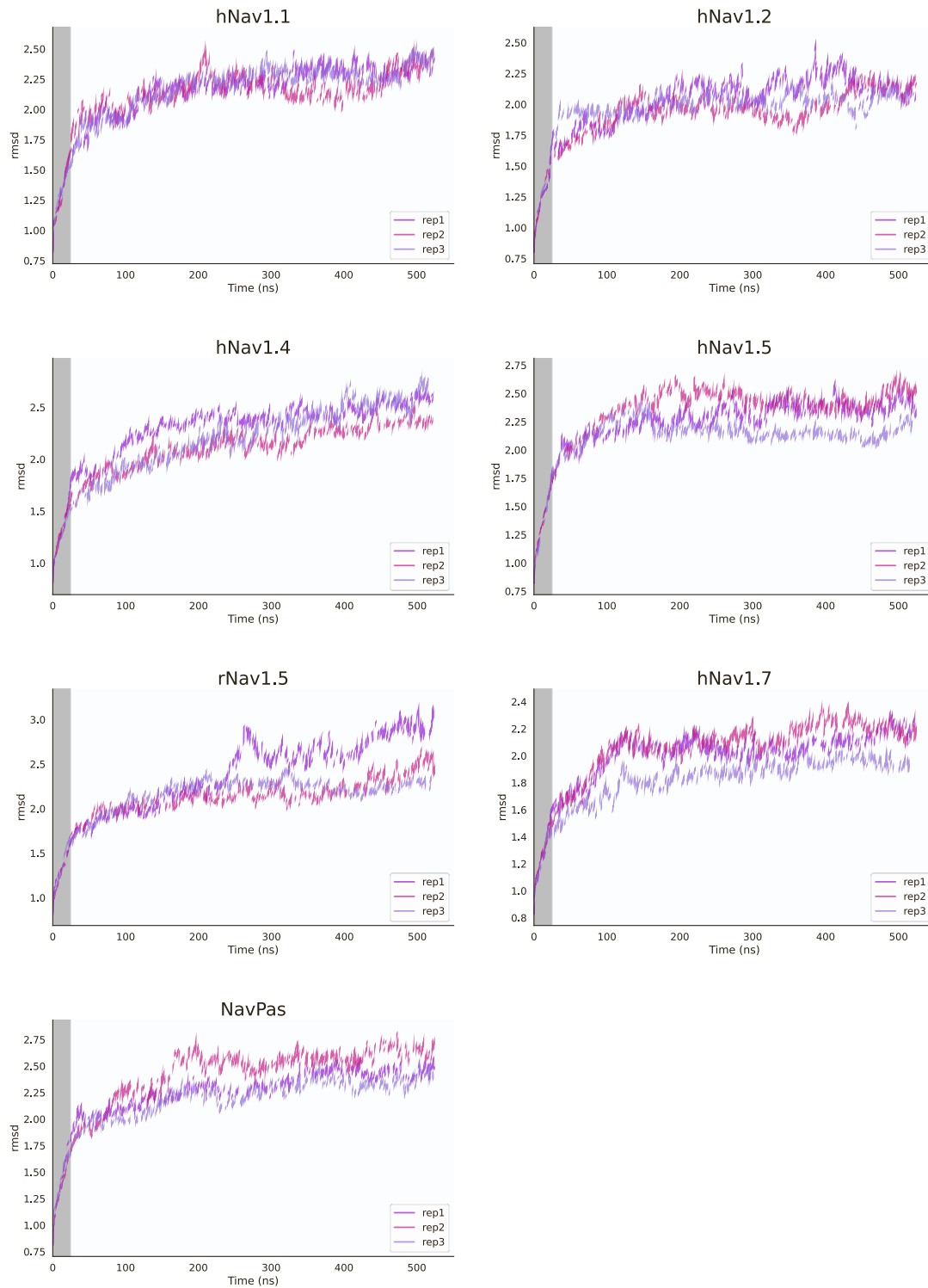


Figure S2 | RMSD of the pore module for three replicates of all seven simulation systems. *First 24ns of reducing restraints (pre-equilibration step) indicated by grey region, followed by 500ns of equilibrium MD production runs.*

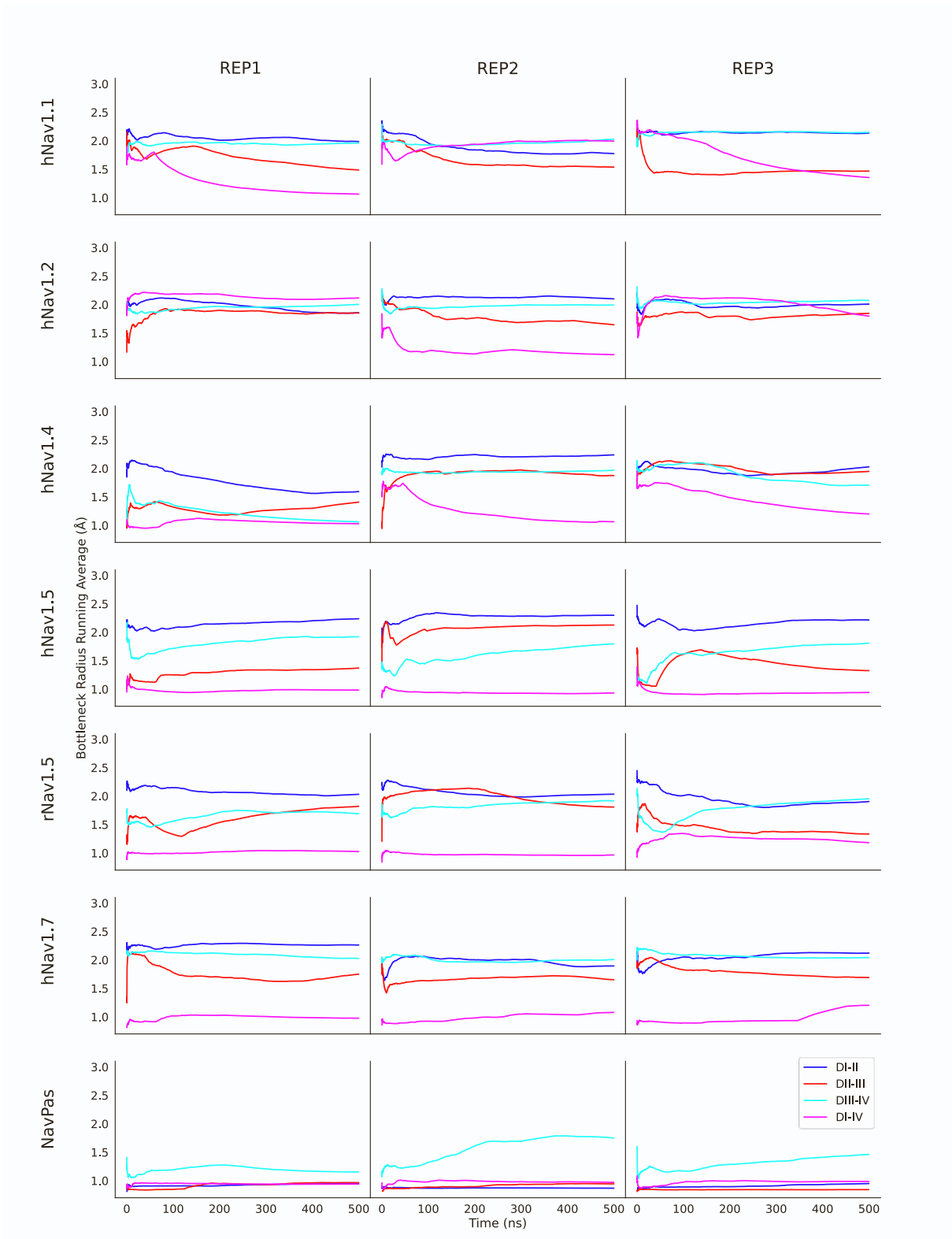


Figure S3 | Running average of bottleneck radius for each fenestration of each equilibrium simulations.

Fenestration bottleneck radius averages in all the replicates flatten out over the course of the 500 ns runs; however, the three replicates do not appear to converge to the same values.

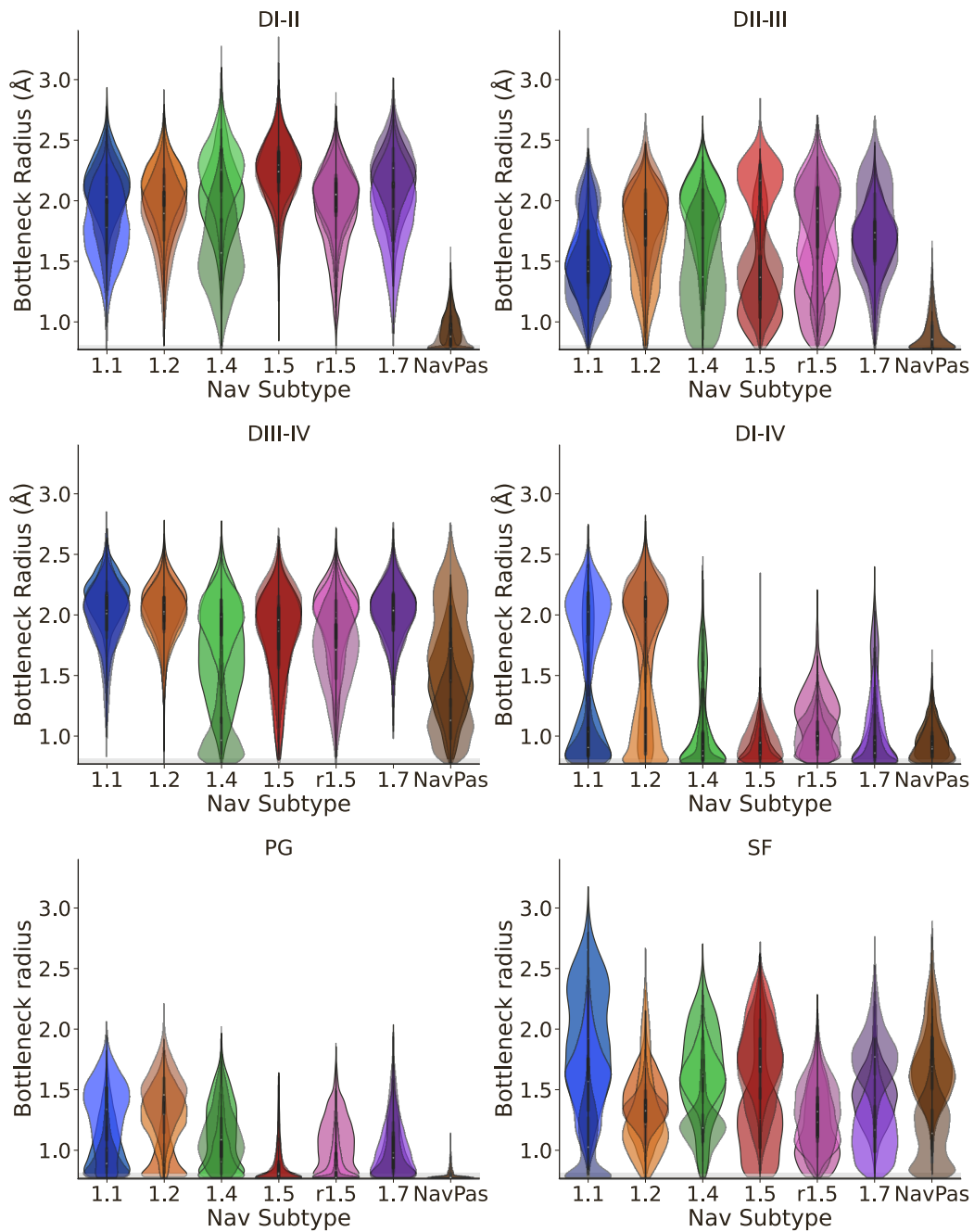


Figure S4 | Bottleneck radius distributions across Nav subtypes distinguishing between the three separate replicates.

Extended version of Figure 4, showing the difference in bottleneck radius distribution across the different fenestrations, as well as variability in pore gate (PG) and selectivity filter (SF) bottleneck radius distributions.

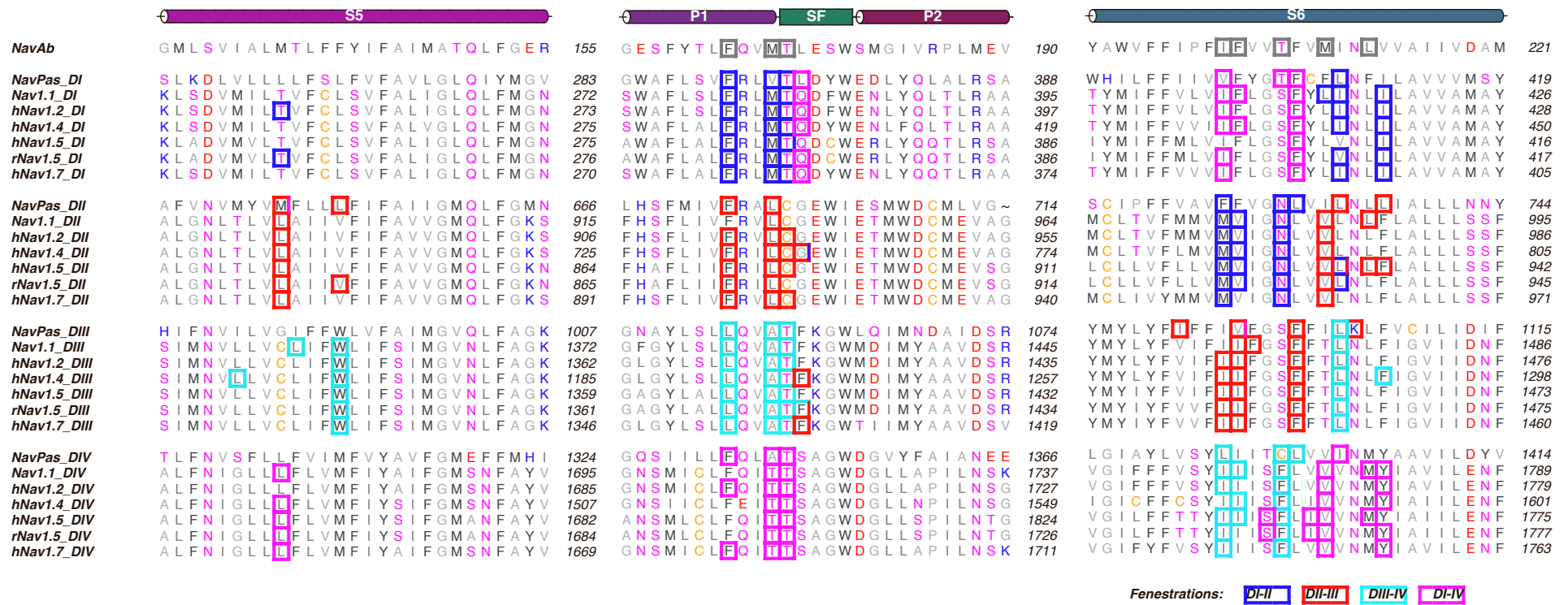


Figure S5 | Sequence Alignment of Pore Modules of Sodium Channel Subtypes by Fenestration

Each domain is aligned to the NavAb sequence, showing that the transmembrane portions of the pore module (i.e., S5, P1, SF, P2 and S6) for each domain is highly conserved between subtypes but less so between the four domains. Extracellular/turret loops were omitted for conciseness. Top identified bottleneck residues for each fenestration, which are boxed with different colours – DI-II (blue), DII-III (red), DIII-IV (cyan), DI-IV (magenta), are also fairly consistent across subtypes. Bottleneck residues identified in NavAb from a previous study (Kaczmarek and Corry, 2014) boxed in grey.

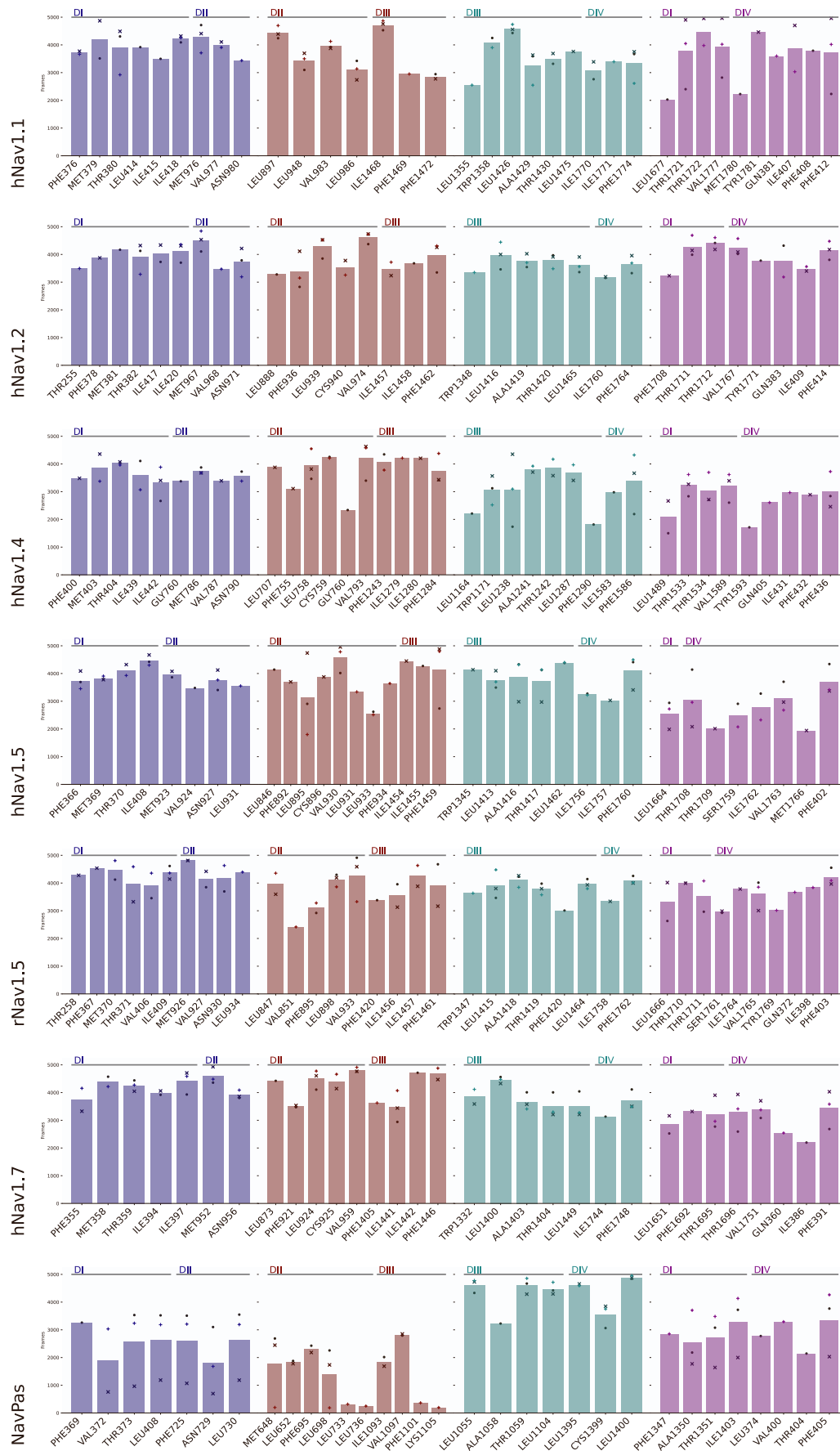


Figure S6 | Top bottleneck residues in each fenestration.

Top six bottleneck residues were identified in each of the three replicates, showing the average number of frames the specific residue was identified across all three replicates; number of frames for individual replicates depicted by · (Replicate 1), × (Replicate 2), and + (Replicate 3). Coloured according to fenestration each bottleneck residue is found in - DI-II (blue), DII-III (red), DIII-IV (cyan), DIV (green), DI-IV (magenta).

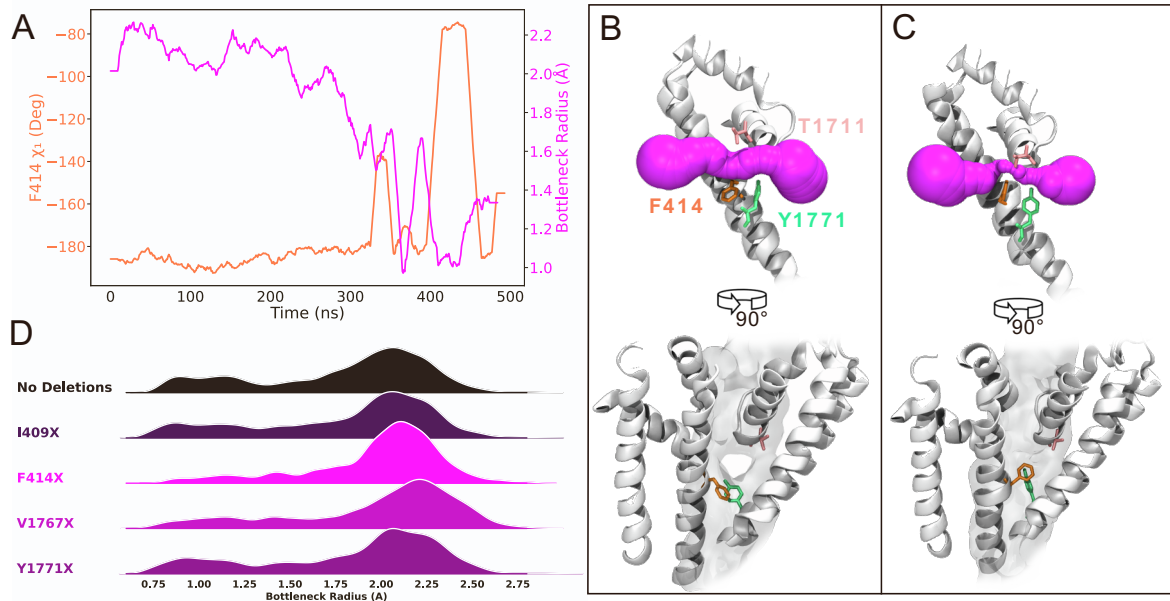


Figure S7 | S6 phenylalanine residue (F414) at position 15 is responsible for gating fenestration DI-IV.

F414 χ_1 dihedral angle is correlated with DI-IV bottleneck radius in hNav1.2 (A). Representative snapshots for F414 being in the 'down' configuration resulting in a wide fenestration bottleneck radius (B); compared to F414 being in the 'up' configuration resulting in a narrowed fenestration bottleneck radius (C). Bottleneck radius distributions after individual sidechain deletions of bottleneck residues in DI-IV of on replicate of hNav1.2 (D) demonstrates that deletion of the F414 aromatic sidechain reduced occurrence of the narrowed fenestration bottleneck radius (however, the effects are less profound compared to DII-III of Nav1.5 shown in Figure 5).

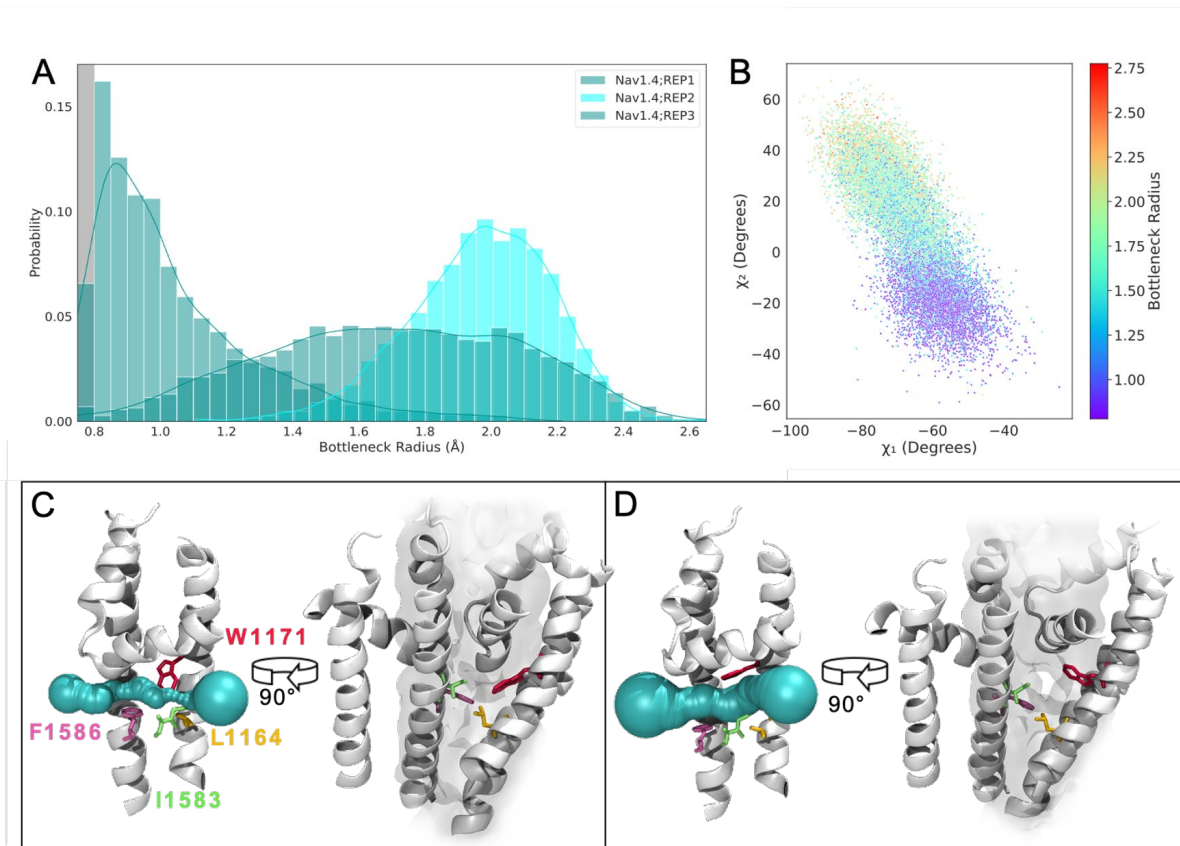


Figure S8 | Bulky S5 residues can also influence fenestration bottleneck radius

Three replicates of Nav1.4 DIII-IV bottleneck radius show highly variable distributions (A). The residue W1171 on DIII-S5 was observed to be highly correlated in its sidechain rotation (both χ_1 and χ_2 dihedrals) with the size of the bottleneck radius (B). Snapshots are showing the closed (C) and open (D) fenestration appearances, and the positioning of bottleneck residues; the lateral bottleneck created by W1171 on S5 appears to be more significant than the medial bottleneck created by F1586 on S6.

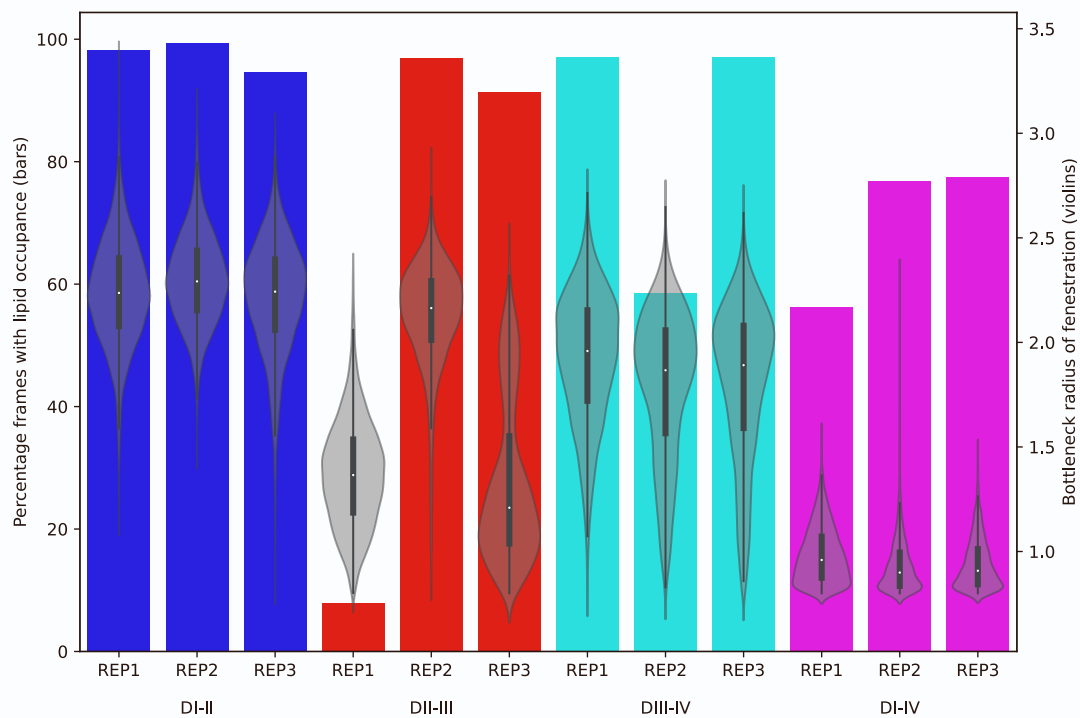


Figure S9 | Comparison between the degree of lipid molecule occupancy in each fenestration and the corresponding fenestration bottleneck radius across the three replicates for hNav1.5.

Lipid tail molecules were detected within a 5 Å cutoff of the S6 position 14/15 bottleneck residue within each fenestration for each frame of the 500 ns simulation replicates. Across most wider fenestration bottlenecks (i.e. DI-II and DIII-IV), there is significant prolonged lipid occupancy throughout simulations. The narrower fenestrations of DII-III and DI-IV show a decreased percentage of frames with lipids present in the fenestrations.

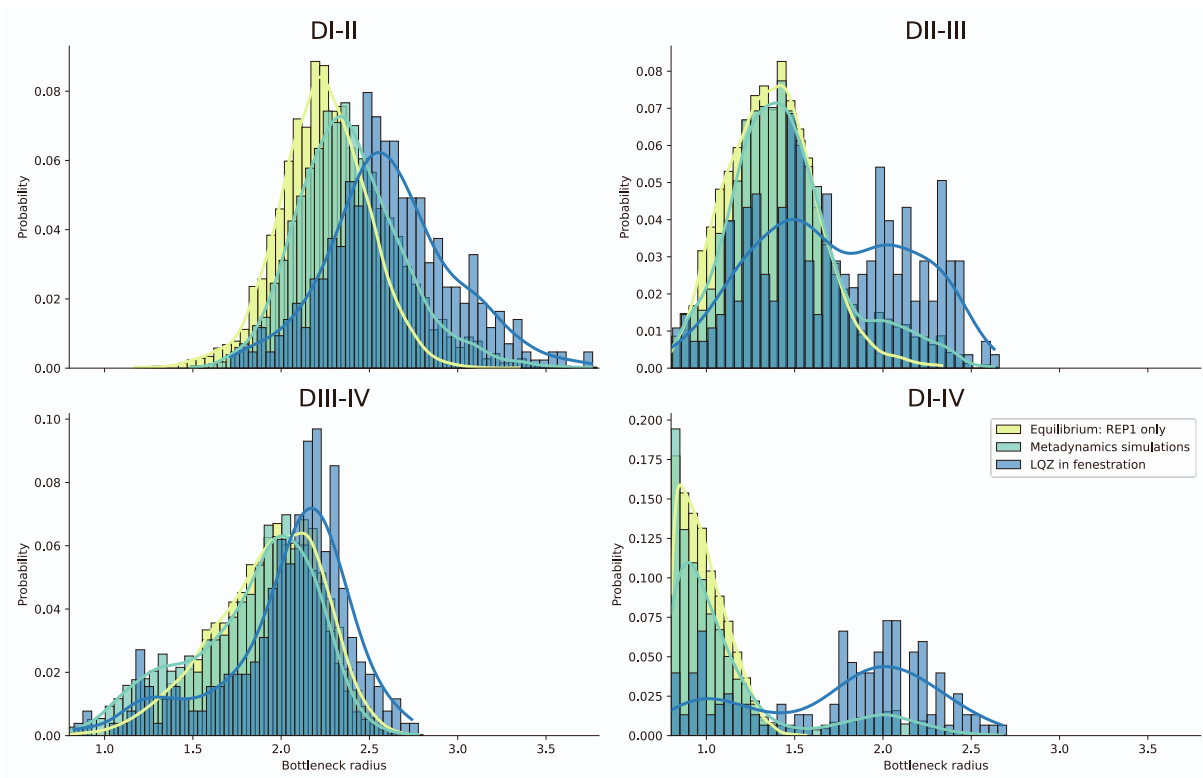


Figure S10 | Effect of lidocaine's (LQZ) presence on the bottleneck radius distributions in Nav1.5 metadynamics simulations.

Bottleneck radius of hNav1.5 throughout metadynamics simulations in the presence of lidocaine (green) show an overall right-shifted distributions compared to the bottleneck distributions in REP1 of hNav1.5 equilibrium simulations (yellow), which suggests noticeable widening of fenestrations. When clustering and selecting for frames where lidocaine was present in each fenestration individually (blue), the widening effect was even more pronounced, highlighting that when lidocaine is located within a fenestration, there is an increased probability of said fenestration adopting a larger bottleneck radius.

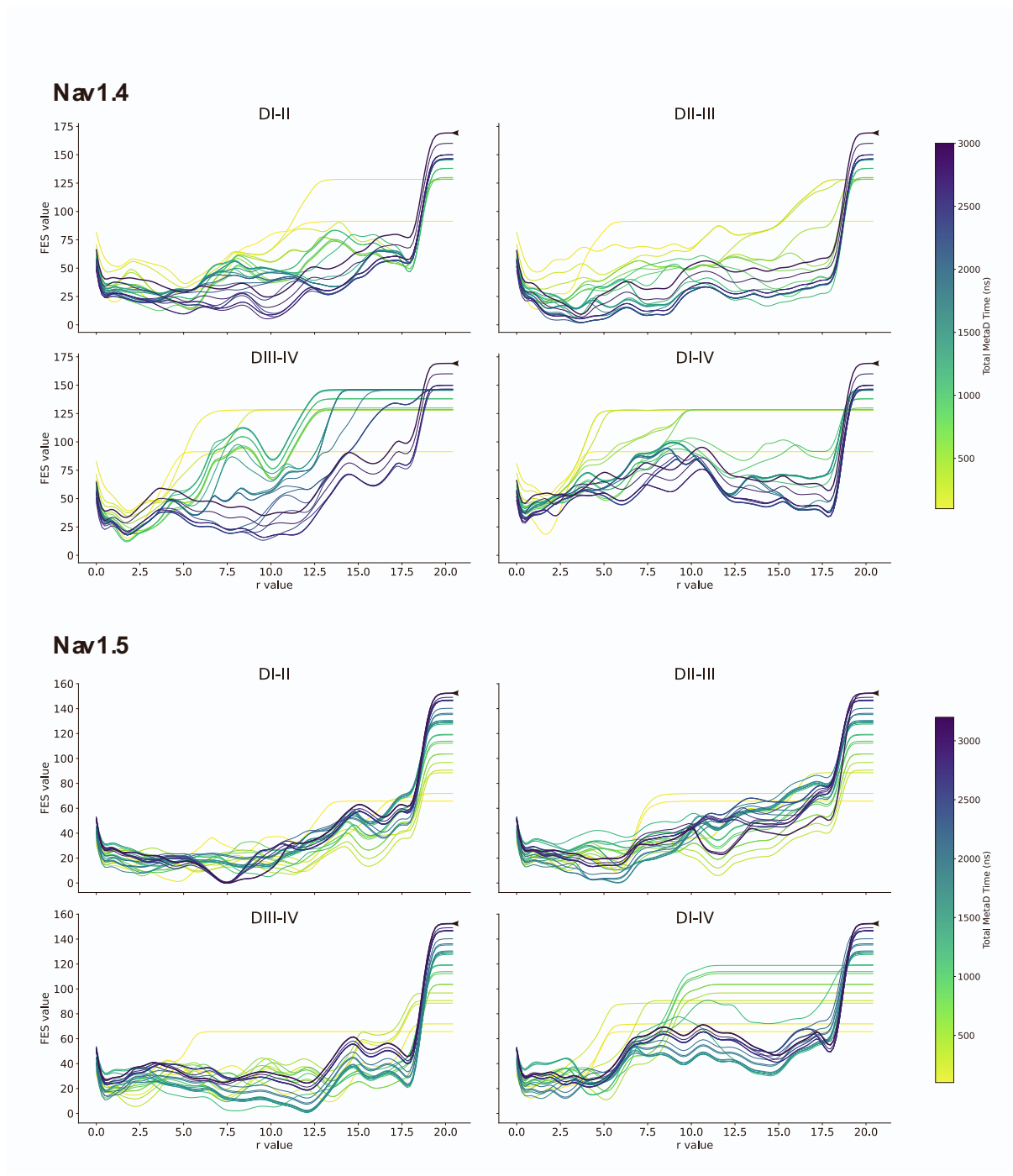


Figure S11 | Convergence of FES from metadynamics simulations.

One-dimensional free energy profiles along the axis of each of the four fenestrations shown for every cumulative 100ns increment of the metadynamics simulations of Nav1.4 (upper four panels) and Nav1.5 (lower four panels). The most recent profile outlined in bold and indicated by the arrow.

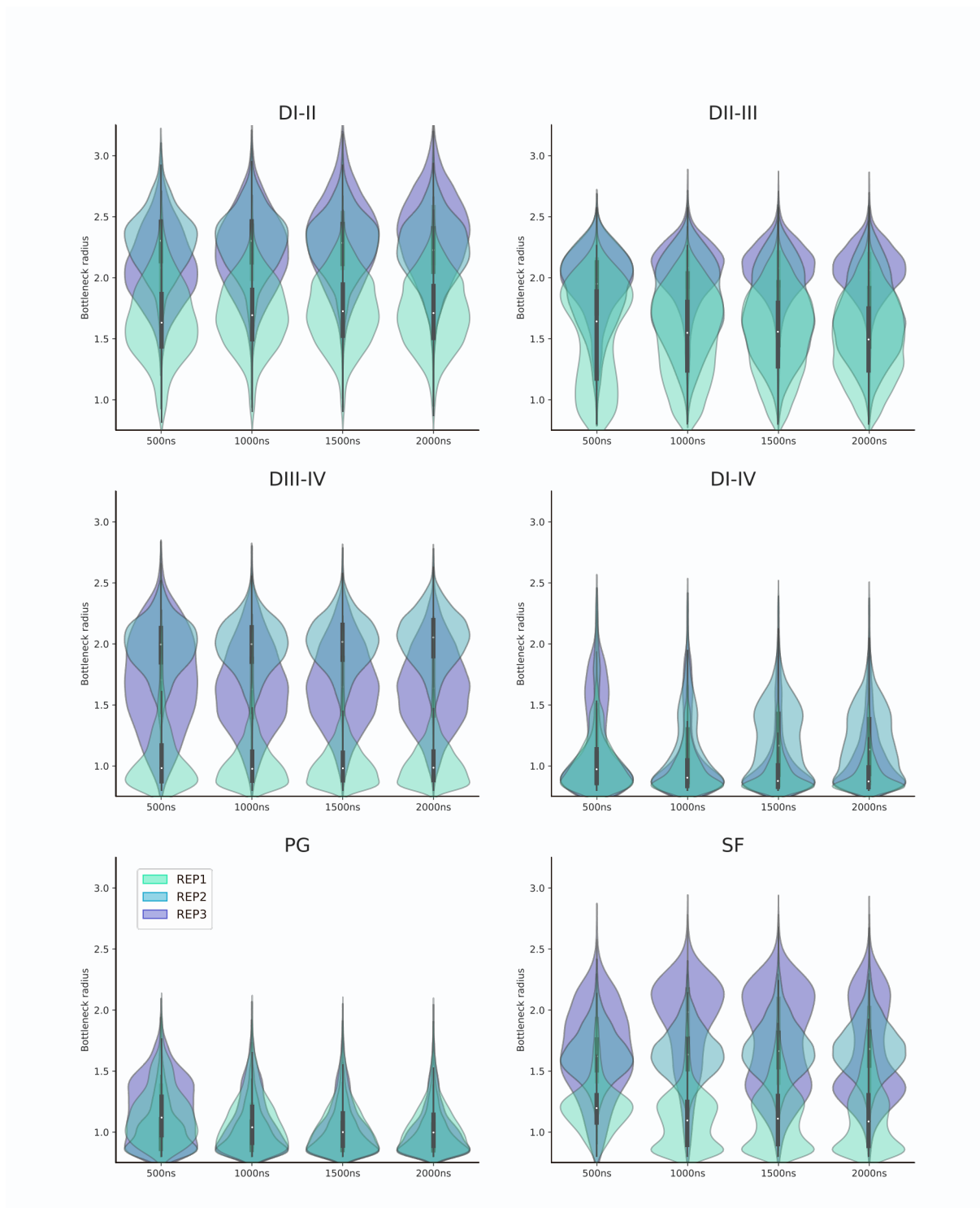


Figure S12 | Assessing convergence of Nav1.4 replicates, after extending equilibrium simulations (to a total of 2 μ s).

Bottleneck radius distributions between the replicates, REP1 (cyan), REP2 (blue) and REP3 (purple), remain distinctive when assessed at each 500 ns increment, suggesting convergence is unlikely to be reached in the μ s timescale. This suggests that the replicates exist in distinctive conformations and would require significantly longer simulations to converge their structural differences.