

Force Fields for MD simulations

- Topology/parameter files
- Where do the numbers an MD code uses come from?
- How to make topology files for ligands, cofactors, special amino acids, ...
- How to obtain/develop missing parameters.
- QM and QM/MM force fields/potential energy descriptions used for molecular simulations.

The Potential Energy Function

$$U(\vec{R}) = \underbrace{\sum_{bonds} k_i^{bond} (r_i - r_0)^2}_{U_{bond}} + \underbrace{\sum_{angles} k_i^{angle} (\theta_i - \theta_0)^2}_{U_{angle}} + \underbrace{\sum_{dihedrals} k_i^{dihed} [1 + \cos(n_i \phi_i + \delta_i)]}_{U_{dihedral}} + \underbrace{\sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} 4\epsilon_{ij} \left[\left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right] + \sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{q_i q_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}}}_{U_{nonbond}}$$

U_{bond} = oscillations about the equilibrium bond length

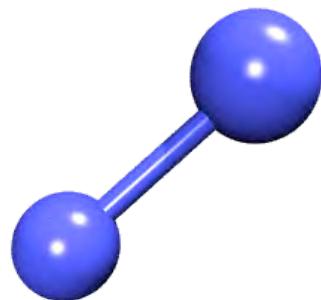
U_{angle} = oscillations of 3 atoms about an equilibrium bond angle

$U_{dihedral}$ = torsional rotation of 4 atoms about a central bond

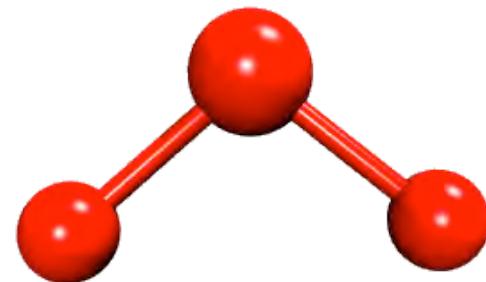
$U_{nonbond}$ = non-bonded energy terms (electrostatics and Lenard-Jones)

Energy Terms Described in the CHARMM Force Field

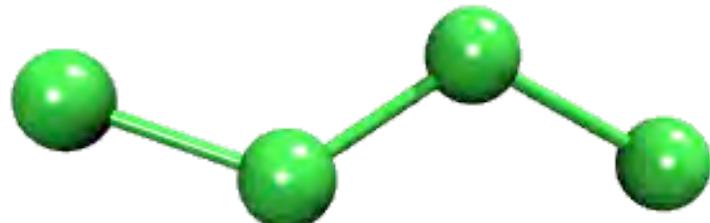
Bond



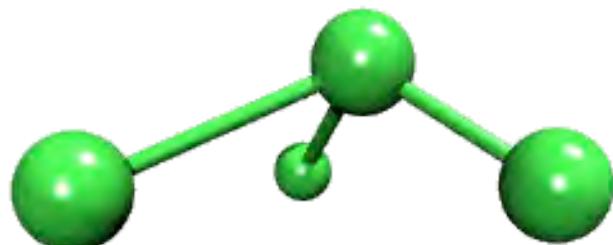
Angle



Dihedral



Improper



Classical Molecular Dynamics

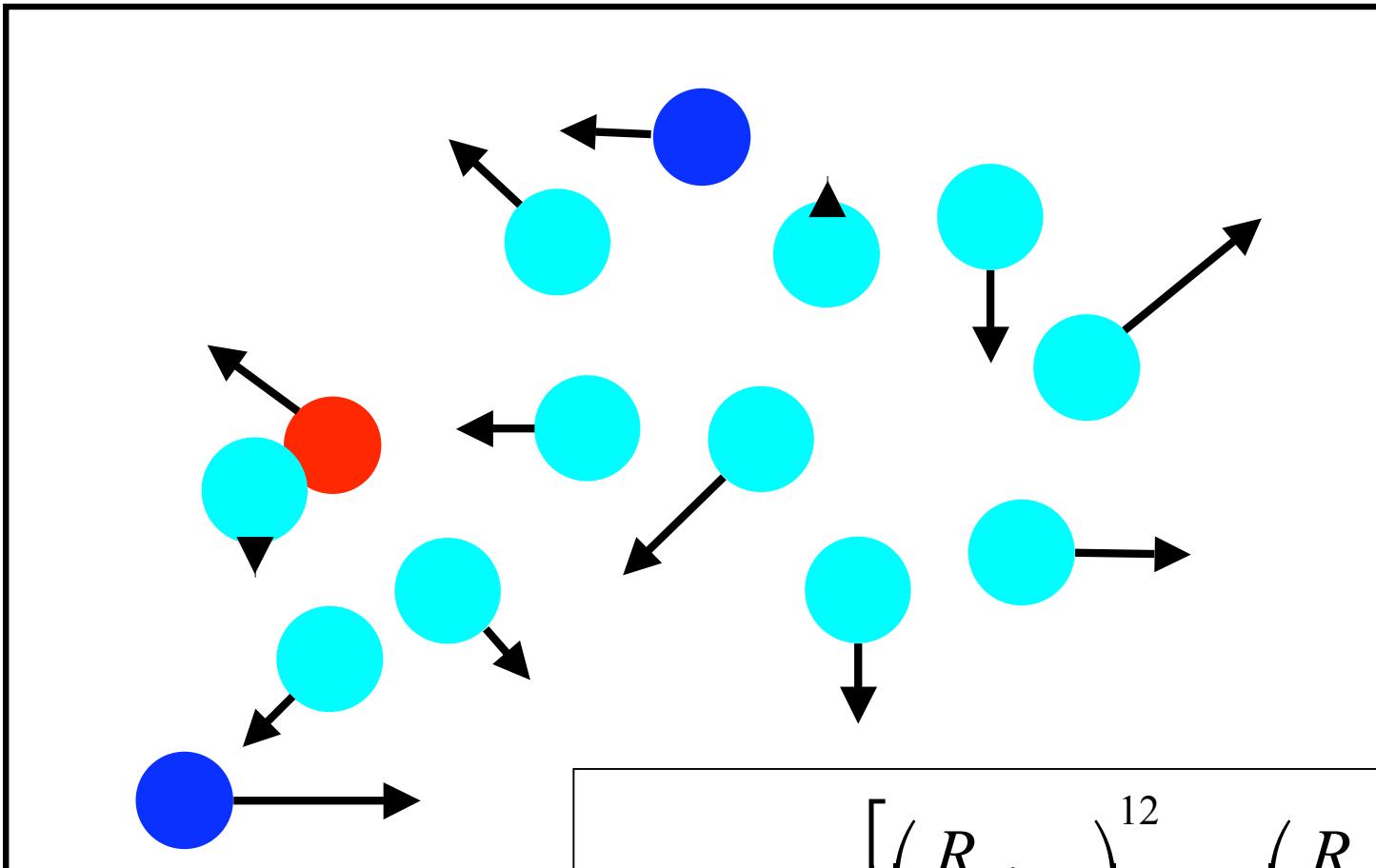
$$\mathbf{r}(t + \delta t) = \mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t)\delta t$$

$$\mathbf{v}(t + \delta t) = \mathbf{v}(t) + \mathbf{a}(t)\delta t$$

$$\mathbf{a}(t) = \mathbf{F}(t)/m$$

$$\mathbf{F} = -\frac{d}{dr}U(r)$$

Classical Molecular Dynamics



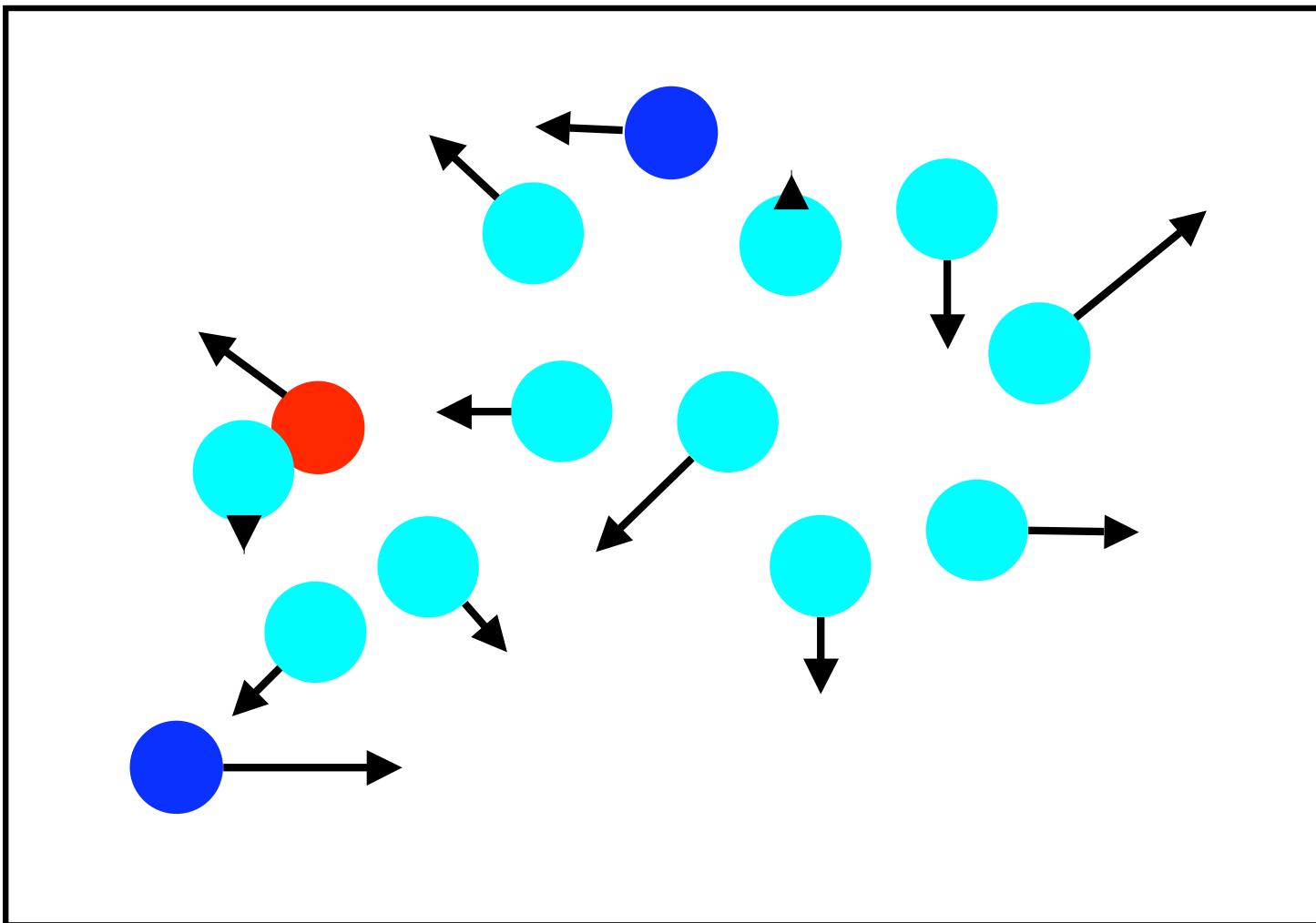
$$U(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}}$$

Coulomb interaction

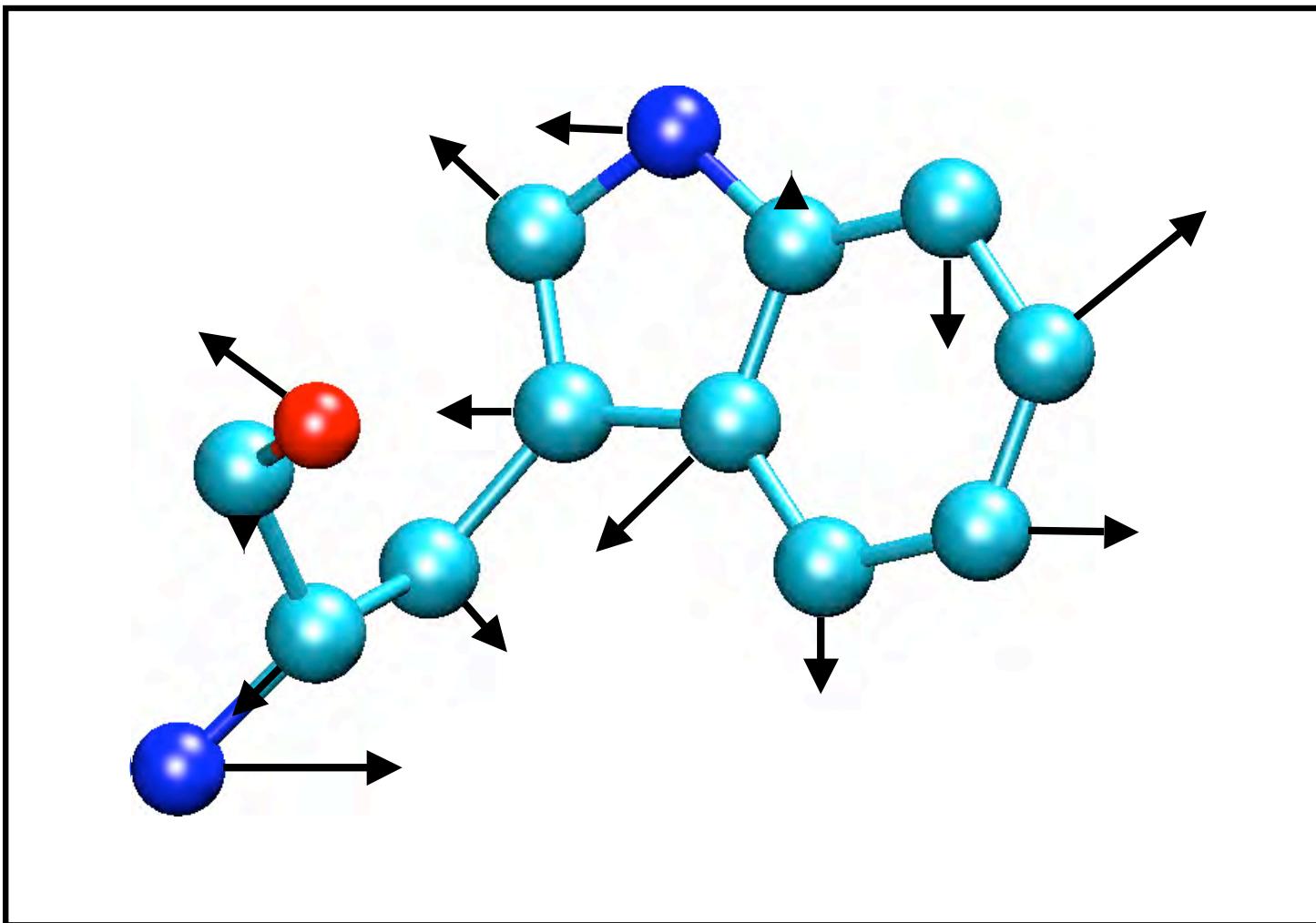
$$U(r) = \epsilon_{ij} \left[\left(\frac{R_{\min,ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left(\frac{R_{\min,ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]$$

van der Waals interaction

Classical Molecular Dynamics



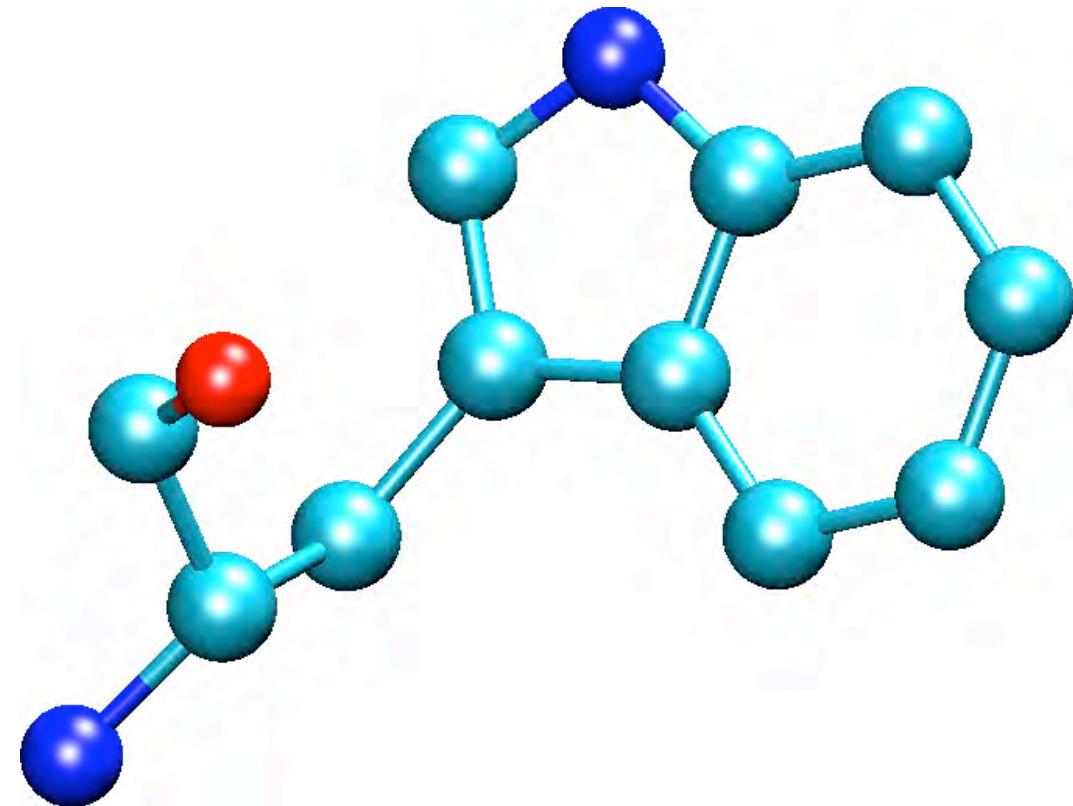
Classical Molecular Dynamics



Bond definitions, atom types, atom names, parameters,

What is a Force Field?

In molecular dynamics a molecule is described as a series of charged points (atoms) linked by springs (bonds).



To describe the time evolution of bond lengths, bond angles and torsions, also the non-bonding van der Waals and electrostatic interactions between atoms, one uses a **force field**.

The **force field** is a collection of equations and associated constants designed to reproduce molecular geometry and selected properties of tested structures.

Energy Functions

$$U(\vec{R}) = \underbrace{\sum_{bonds} k_i^{bond} (r_i - r_0)^2}_{U_{bond}} + \underbrace{\sum_{angles} k_i^{angle} (\theta_i - \theta_0)^2}_{U_{angle}} + \underbrace{\sum_{dihedrals} k_i^{dihed} [1 + \cos(n_i \phi_i + \delta_i)]}_{U_{dihedral}} + \underbrace{\sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} 4\epsilon_{ij} \left[\left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right] + \sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{q_i q_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}}}_{U_{nonbond}}$$

U_{bond} = oscillations about the equilibrium bond length

U_{angle} = oscillations of 3 atoms about an equilibrium bond angle

$U_{dihedral}$ = torsional rotation of 4 atoms about a central bond

$U_{nonbond}$ = non-bonded energy terms (electrostatics and Lenard-Jones)

Parameter optimization of the CHARMM Force Field

Based on the protocol established by

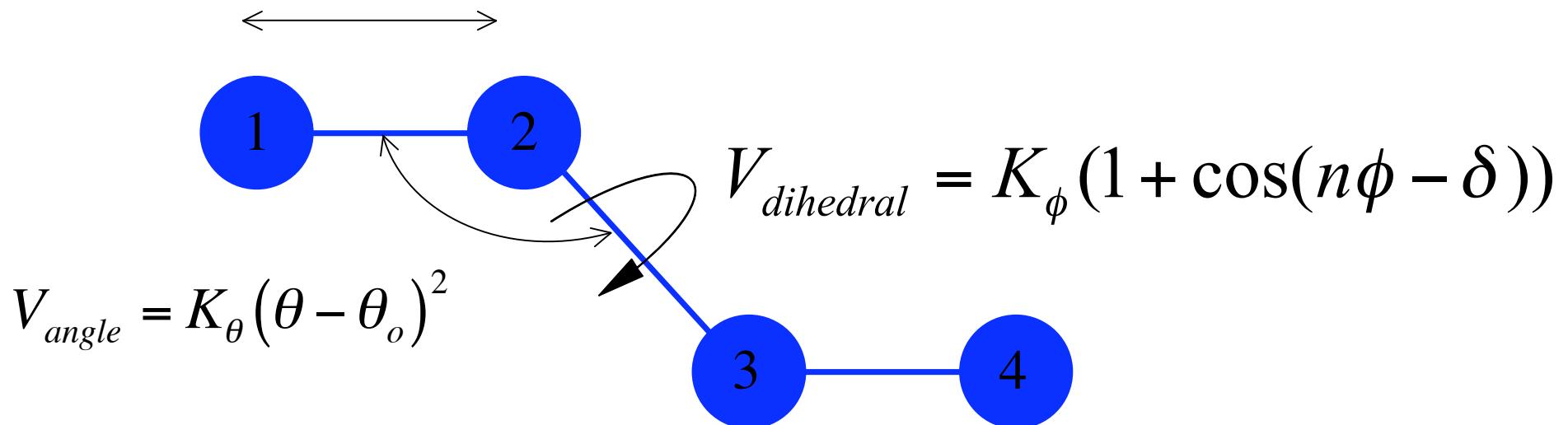
Alexander D. MacKerell, Jr , U. Maryland

See references: www.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/faculty/amackere/force_fields.htm

Especially Sanibel Conference 2003, JCC v21, 86,105 (2000)

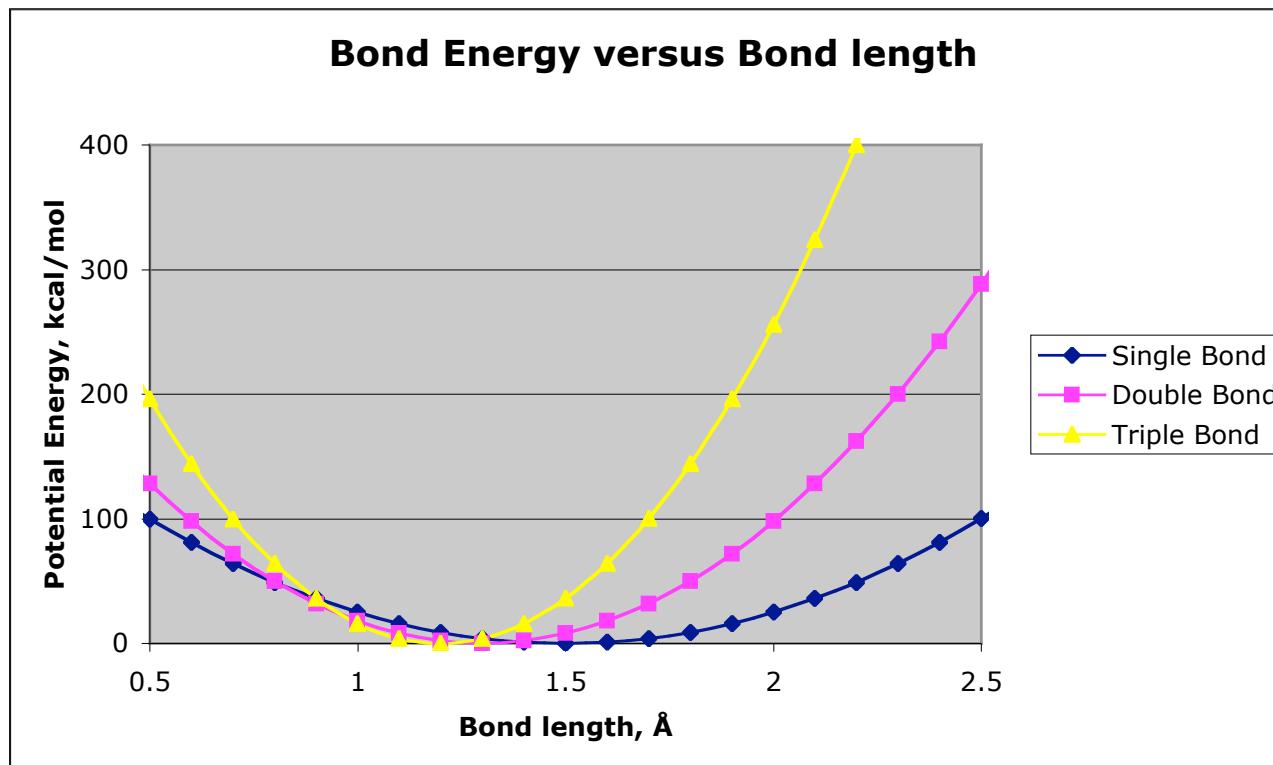
Interactions between bonded atoms

$$V_{bond} = K_b(b - b_o)^2$$



$$V_{bond} = K_b (b - b_o)^2$$

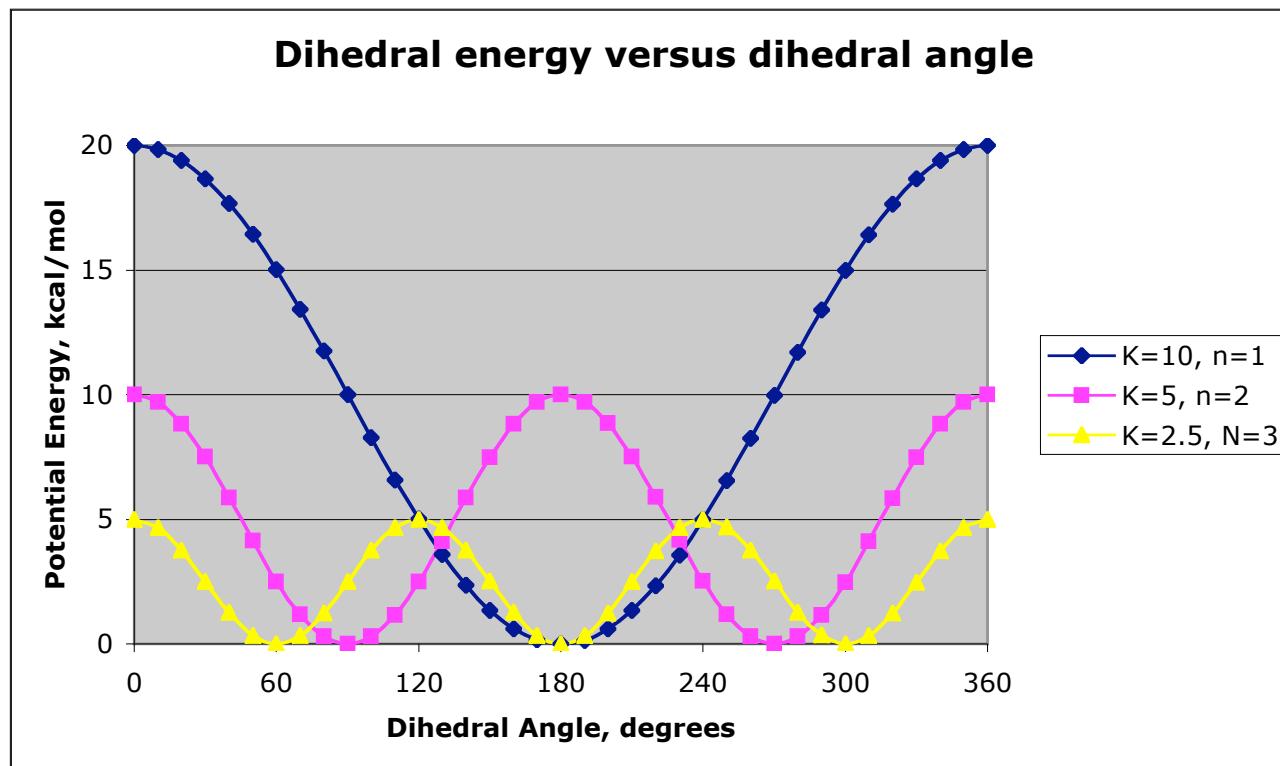
Chemical type	K_{bond}	b_o
C-C	100 kcal/mole/Å ⁻²	1.5 Å
C=C	200 kcal/mole/Å ⁻²	1.3 Å
C≡C	400 kcal/mole/Å ⁻²	1.2 Å



Bond angles and improper terms have similar quadratic forms, but with softer spring constants. The force constants can be obtained from vibrational analysis of the molecule (experimentally or theoretically).

Dihedral Potential

$$V_{dihedral} = K_\phi (1 + \cos(n\phi - \delta))$$



$$\delta = 0^\circ$$

Nonbonded Parameters

$$\sum_{nonbonded} \frac{q_i q_j}{4\pi D r_{ij}} + \epsilon_{ij} \left[\left(\frac{R_{min,ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left(\frac{R_{min,ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]$$

q_i : partial atomic charge

D : dielectric constant

ϵ : Lennard-Jones (LJ, vdW) well-depth

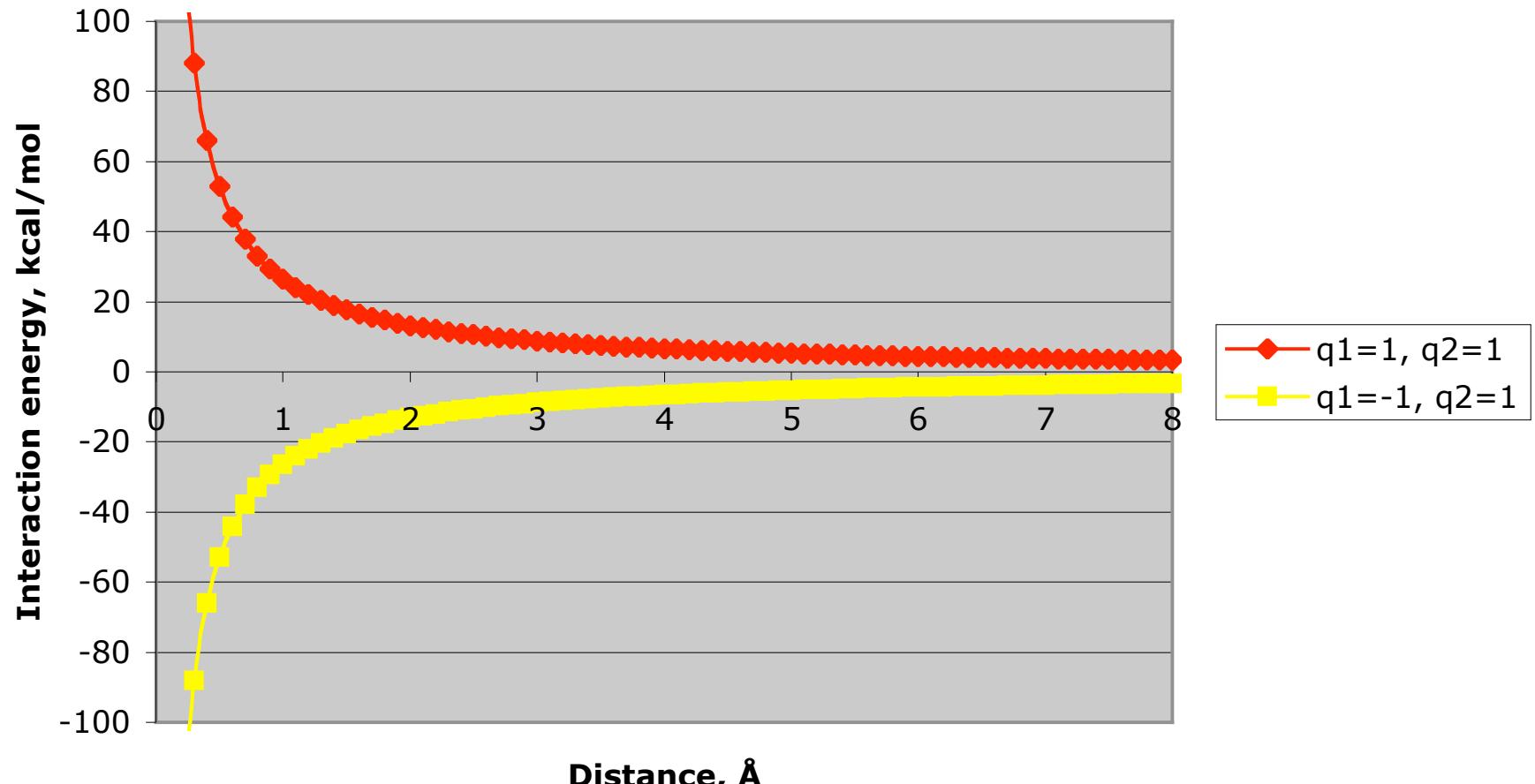
R_{min} : LJ radius ($R_{min}/2$ in CHARMM)

Combining rules (CHARMM, Amber)

$$R_{min\ i,j} = R_{min\ i} + R_{min\ j}$$

$$\epsilon_{i,j} = \text{SQRT}(\epsilon_i * \epsilon_j)$$

Electrostatic Energy versus Distance



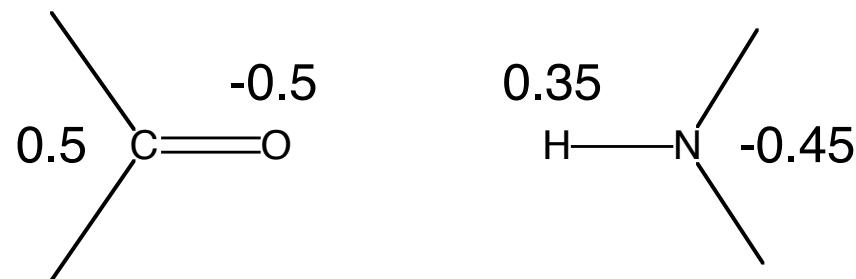
Note that the effect is long range.

Charge Fitting Strategy

CHARMM- Mulliken*

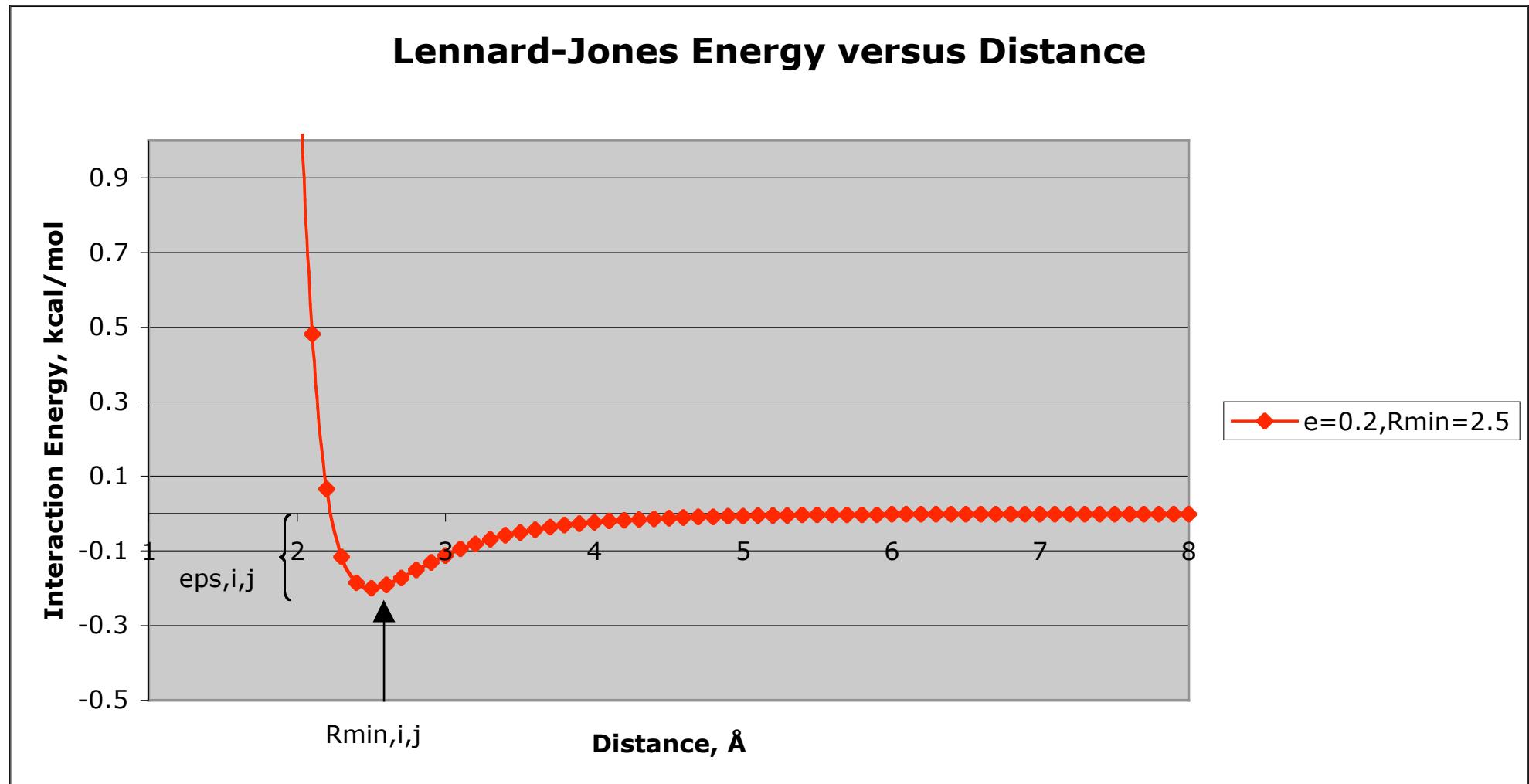
AMBER(ESP/RESP)

Partial atomic charges



*Modifications based on interactions with TIP3 water

van der Waals interaction



$$\epsilon_{ij} \left[\left(\frac{R_{\min,ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - 2 \left(\frac{R_{\min,ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]$$

Short range

From MacKerell

CHARMM Potential Function

$$U(\vec{R}) = \underbrace{\sum_{bonds} k_i^{bond} (r_i - r_0)^2}_{U_{bond}} + \underbrace{\sum_{angles} k_i^{angle} (\theta_i - \theta_0)^2}_{U_{angle}} + \underbrace{\sum_{dihedrals} k_i^{dih} [1 + \cos(n_i \phi_i + \delta_i)]}_{U_{dihedral}} + \underbrace{\sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} 4\epsilon_{ij} \left[\left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]}_{U_{nonbond}} + \underbrace{\sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{q_i q_j}{\epsilon r_{ij}}}_{\text{Topology PSF file}}$$

The diagram illustrates the components of the CHARMM potential function. The potential energy $U(\vec{R})$ is the sum of four terms:

- PDB file** provides the **geometry** (bonds and angles).
- Topology** (from **PSF file**) provides the **dihedrals**.
- parameters** (from **Parameter file**) provide the **nonbonded parameters** (ϵ_{ij} , σ_{ij} , r_0 , n_i , ϕ_i , δ_i).

Blue arrows point from the PDB and PSF files to their respective terms. Red arrows point from the Parameter file to the nonbonded parameters in the fourth term.

File Format/Structure

- The structure of a pdb file
- The structure of a psf file
- The topology file
- The parameter file
- Connection to potential energy terms

Structure of a PDB file

>>> It is an ascii, fixed-format file <<<

“No connectivity information”

VMD Atom Selection Commands

index	resname	chain	resid	x	y	z	segname
ATOM	name			-4.073	-7.587	-2.708	1.00
ATOM	22 N	ALA B	3	-3.813	-6.675	-3.125	0.00
	23 HN						BH
							BH

(name CA CB) and (resid 1 to 4) and (segname BH)

protein and resname LYS ARG GLU ASP

water and within 5 of (protein and resid 62 and name CA)

water and within 3 of (protein and name O and z < 10)

Checking file structures

- PDB file
- Topology file
- PSF file
- Parameter file

Parameter Optimization Strategies

Check if it has been parameterized by somebody else

Literature

Google

Minimal optimization

By analogy (i.e. direct transfer of known parameters)

Quick, starting point - dihedrals??

Maximal optimization

Time-consuming

Requires appropriate experimental and target data

Choice based on goal of the calculations

Minimal

database screening

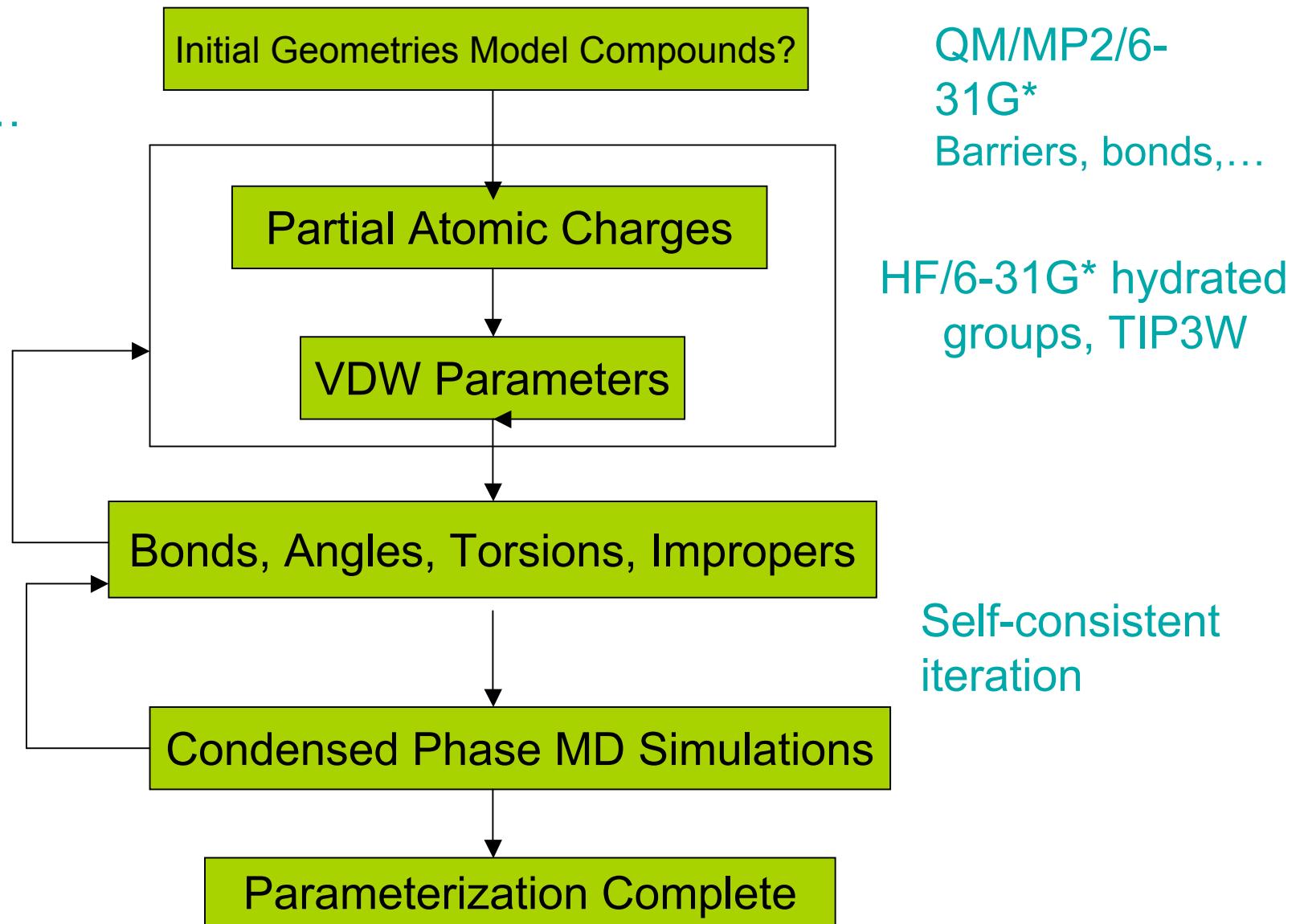
NMR/X-ray structure determination

Maximal

free energy calculations, mechanistic studies,
subtle environmental effects

Roadmap Charmm27 Optimization*

Exp. Data
IR,X-ray,...
Stat.Var.



Getting Started

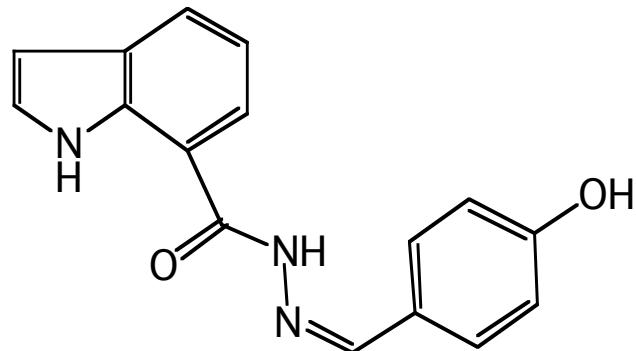
- Identify previously parameterized compounds
- Access topology information – assign atom types, connectivity, and charges – **annotate changes**

CHARMM topology (parameter files)

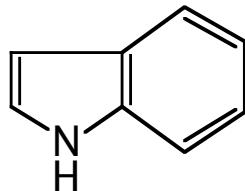
top_all22_model.inp (par_all22_prot.inp)
top_all22_prot.inp (par_all22_prot.inp)
top_all22_sugar.inp (par_all22_sugar.inp)
top_all27_lipid.rtf (par_all27_lipid.prm)
top_all27_na.rtf (par_all27_na.prm)
top_all27_na_lipid.rtf (par_all27_na_lipid.prm)
top_all27_prot_lipid.rtf (par_all27_prot_lipid.prm)
top_all27_prot_na.rtf (par_all27_prot_na.prm)
troph19.inp (param19.inp)

NA and lipid force fields have new LJ parameters for the alkanes, representing increased optimization of the protein alkane parameters. Tests have shown that these are compatible (e.g. in protein-nucleic acid simulations). For new systems it is suggested that the new LJ parameters be used. Note that only the LJ parameters were changed; the internal parameters are identical.

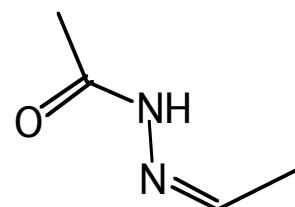
Break Desired Compound into 3 Smaller Ones



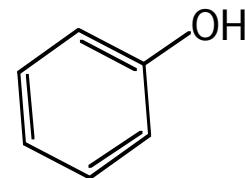
A



B



C



When creating a covalent link between model compounds move the charge on the deleted H into the carbon to maintain integer charge
(i.e. methyl ($q_C=-0.27$, $q_H=0.09$) to methylene ($q_C=-0.18$, $q_H=0.09$))

From top_all22_model.inp

```
RESI PHEN      0.00 ! phenol, adm jr.  
GROUP  
ATOM CG  CA   -0.115 !  
ATOM HG  HP    0.115 !          HD1  HE1  
GROUP  
ATOM CD1 CA   -0.115 !          |    |  
ATOM HD1 HP   0.115 !          CD1--CE1  
GROUP  
ATOM CD2 CA   -0.115 !          //    \\  
ATOM HD2 HP   0.115 !          HG--CG    CZ--OH  
GROUP  
ATOM CE1 CA   -0.115 !          \    /    \  
ATOM HE1 HP   0.115 !          CD2==CE2    HH  
GROUP  
ATOM CE2 CA   -0.115 !          |    |  
ATOM HE2 HP   0.115 !          HD2  HE2  
GROUP  
ATOM CZ  CA   0.110  
ATOM OH  OH1  -0.540  
ATOM HH  H    0.430  
BOND CD2 CG  CE1 CD1 CZ  CE2 CG  HG  CD1  HD1  
BOND CD2 HD2 CE1 HE1 CE2 HE2 CZ  OH  OH  HH  
DOUBLE CD1 CG  CE2 CD2  CZ  CE1
```

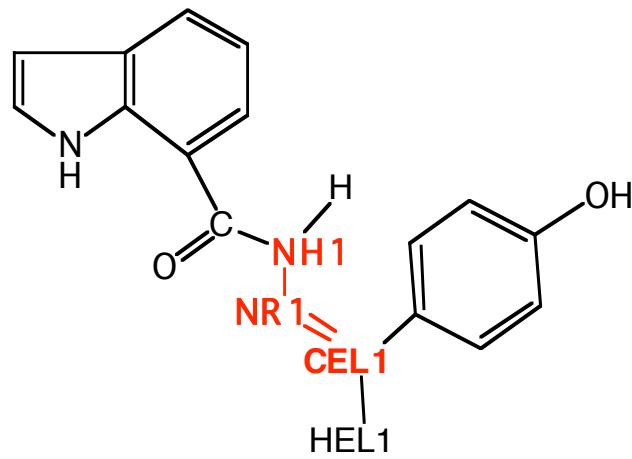
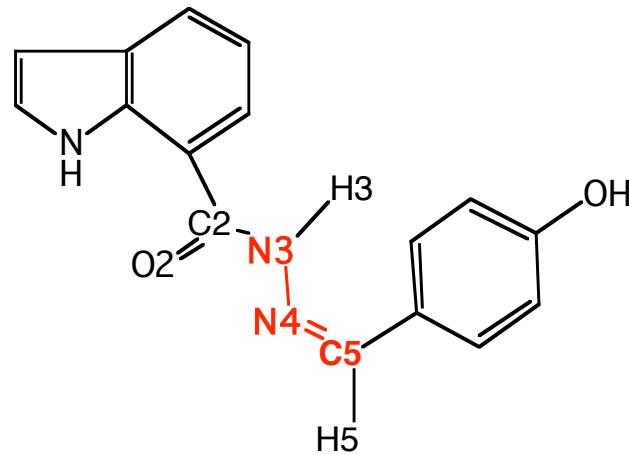
Top_all22_model.inp contains all protein model compounds. Lipid, nucleic acid and carbohydrate model compounds are in the full topology files.

HG will ultimately be deleted. Therefore, move HG (hydrogen) charge into CG, such that the CG charge becomes 0.00 in the final compound.

Use remaining charges/atom types without any changes.

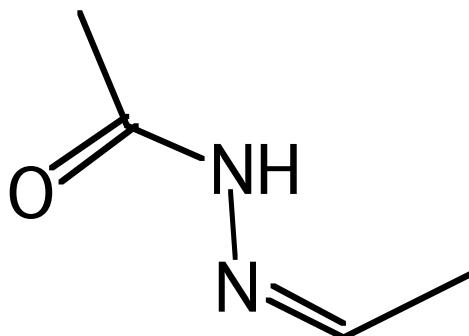
Do the same with indole

Comparison of atom names (upper) and atom types (lower)



Creation of topology for central model compound

```
RESI Mod1 ! Model compound 1
Group
ATOM C1  CT3  -0.27
ATOM H11  HA3   0.09
ATOM H12  HA3   0.09
ATOM H13  HA3   0.09
GROUP
ATOM C2  C    0.51
ATOM O2  O   -0.51
GROUP
ATOM N3  NH1  -0.47
ATOM H3  H    0.31
ATOM N4  NR1  0.16  !new atom
ATOM C5  CEL1 -0.15
ATOM H51  HEL1  0.15
ATOM C6  CT3  -0.27
ATOM H61  HA   0.09
ATOM H62  HA   0.09
ATOM H63  HA   0.09
BOND C1 H11 C1 H12 C1 H13 C1 C2 C2 O2 C2 N3 N3
H3
BOND N3 N4 C5 H51 C5 C6 C6 H61 C6 H62 C6 H63
DOUBLE N4 C5 (DOUBLE only required for MMFF)
```



Start with alanine dipeptide.
Note use of new aliphatic LJ parameters and, importantly, atom types.

NR1 from histidine unprotonated ring nitrogen.
Charge (very bad) initially set to yield unit charge for the group.

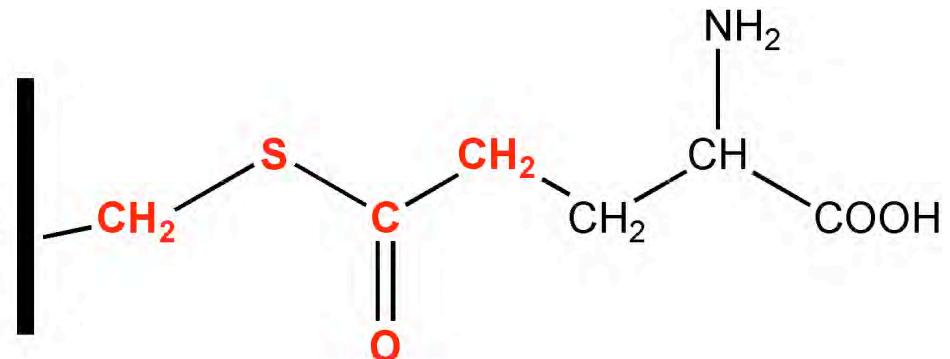
Note use of large group to allow flexibility in charge optimization.

```

RESI CYG 0.00
GROUP
ATOM N NH1 -0.47 !
ATOM HN H 0.31 !
ATOM CA CT1 0.07 !
ATOM HA HB 0.09 !
GROUP
ATOM CB CT2 -0.11 !
ATOM HB1 HA 0.09 !
ATOM HB2 HA 0.09 !
ATOM SG S -0.07 !
!ATOM HG1 HS 0.16 !
GROUP
ATOM CDG CC 0.55 !
ATOM OE1 O -0.55 !
GROUP
ATOM CGG CT2 -0.18 !
ATOM HG1G HA 0.09 !
ATOM HG2G HA 0.09 !
GROUP
ATOM CBG CT2 -0.18 !
ATOM HB1G HA 0.09 !
ATOM HB2G HA 0.09 !
GROUP
ATOM CG CD 0.75 !
ATOM O1G OB -0.55
ATOM O2G OH1 -0.61
ATOM HO2G H 0.44
ATOM CAG CT1 -0.12
ATOM HAG HB 0.09
ATOM NG NH3 -0.62
ATOM HN1G HC 0.31
ATOM HN2G HC 0.31
GROUP
ATOM C C 0.51
ATOM O O -0.51

```

Protein-backbone



HG1 deleted from CYS and the charge was moved to SG ($-0.23 + 0.16 = 0.07$) so that the SG charge becomes 0.07 in final compound and the group remains neutral

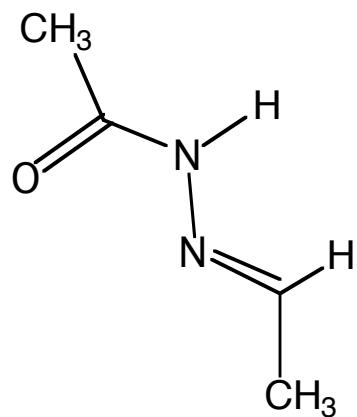
Changes annotated!

Partial Atomic Charge Determination

Method Dependent Choices

1. RESP: HF/6-31G overestimates dipole moments (AMBER)
2. Interaction based optimization (CHARMM)

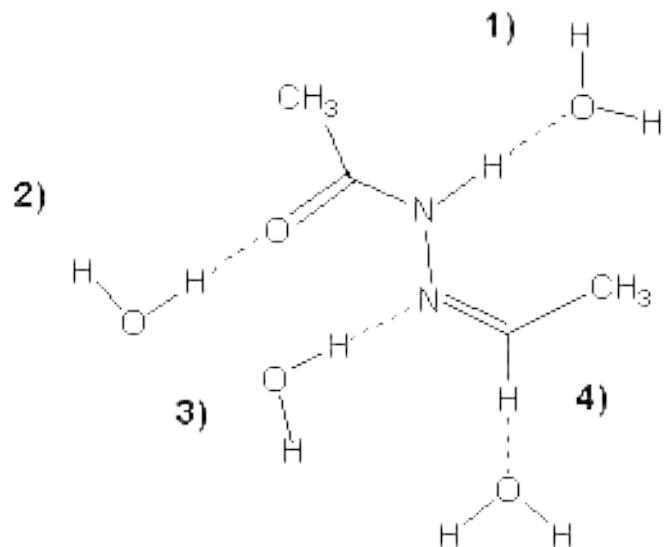
For a particular force field do NOT change the QM level of theory. This is necessary to maintain consistency with the remainder of the force field.



Starting charges??
Mulliken population analysis
Analogy comparison

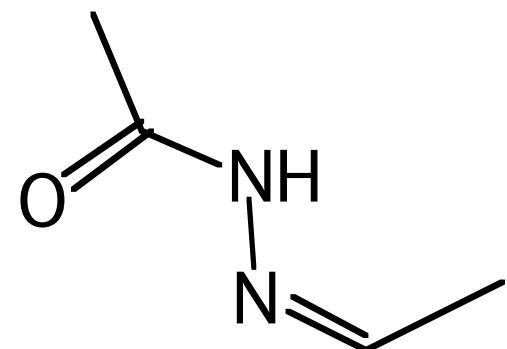
peptide bond
methyl
imidazole (N-N=C)?

Final charges (methyl, vary q_C to maintain integer charge, $q_H = 0.09$)
interactions with water (HF/6-31G*, monohydrates!)

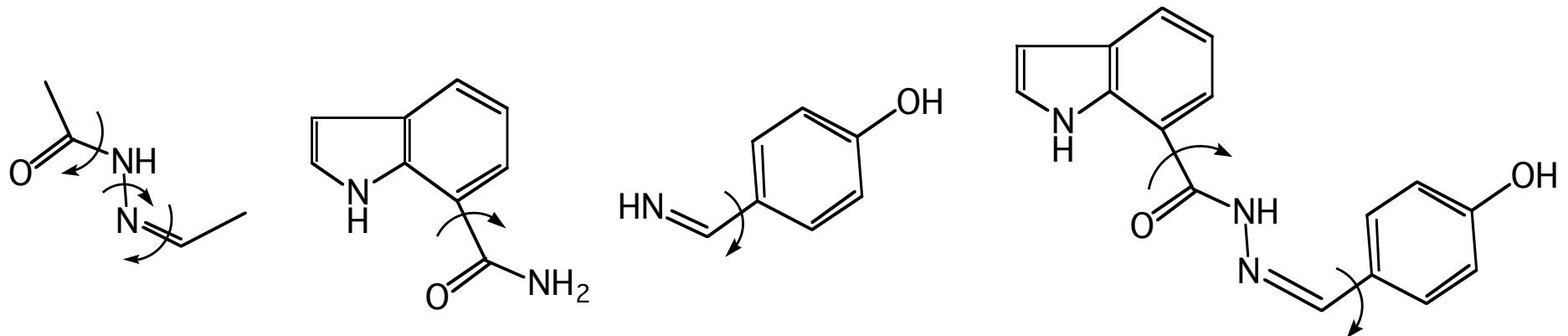
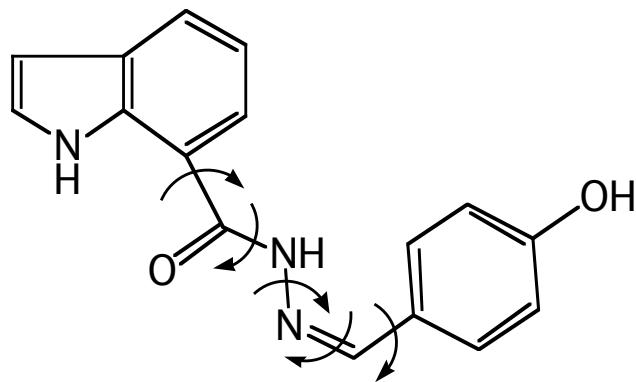


Comparison of analogy and optimized charges

Name	Type	Analogy	Optimized
C1	CT3	-0.27	-0.27
H11	HA3	0.09	0.09
H12	HA3	0.09	0.09
H13	HA3	0.09	0.09
C2	C	0.51	0.58
O2	O	-0.51	-0.50
N3	NH1	-0.47	-0.32
H3	H	0.31	0.33
N4	NR1	0.16	-0.31
C5	CEL1	-0.15	-0.25
H51	HEL1	0.15	0.29
C6	CT3	-0.27	-0.09
H61	HA	0.09	0.09
H62	HA	0.09	0.09
H63	HA	0.09	0.09

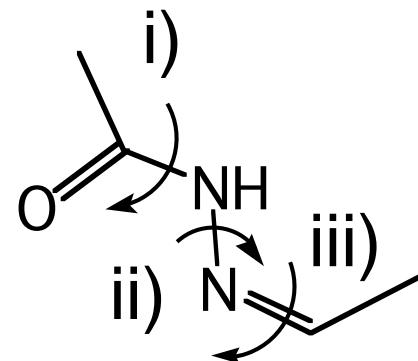


Dihedral optimization based on QM potential energy surfaces (HF/6-31G* or MP2/6-31G*).



From MacKerell

Potential energy surfaces on compounds with multiple rotatable bonds

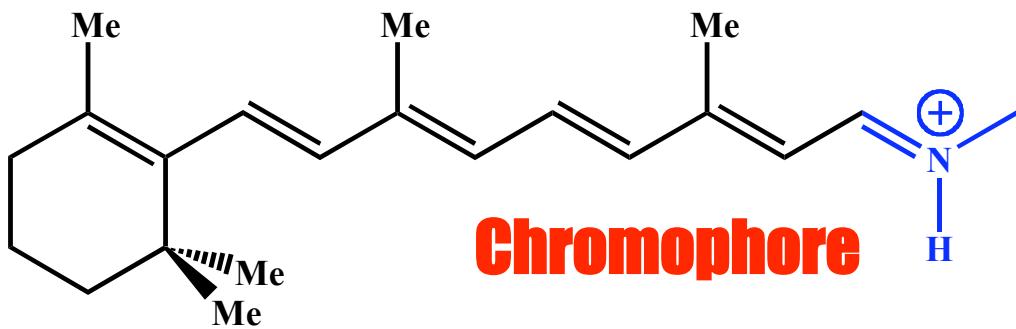
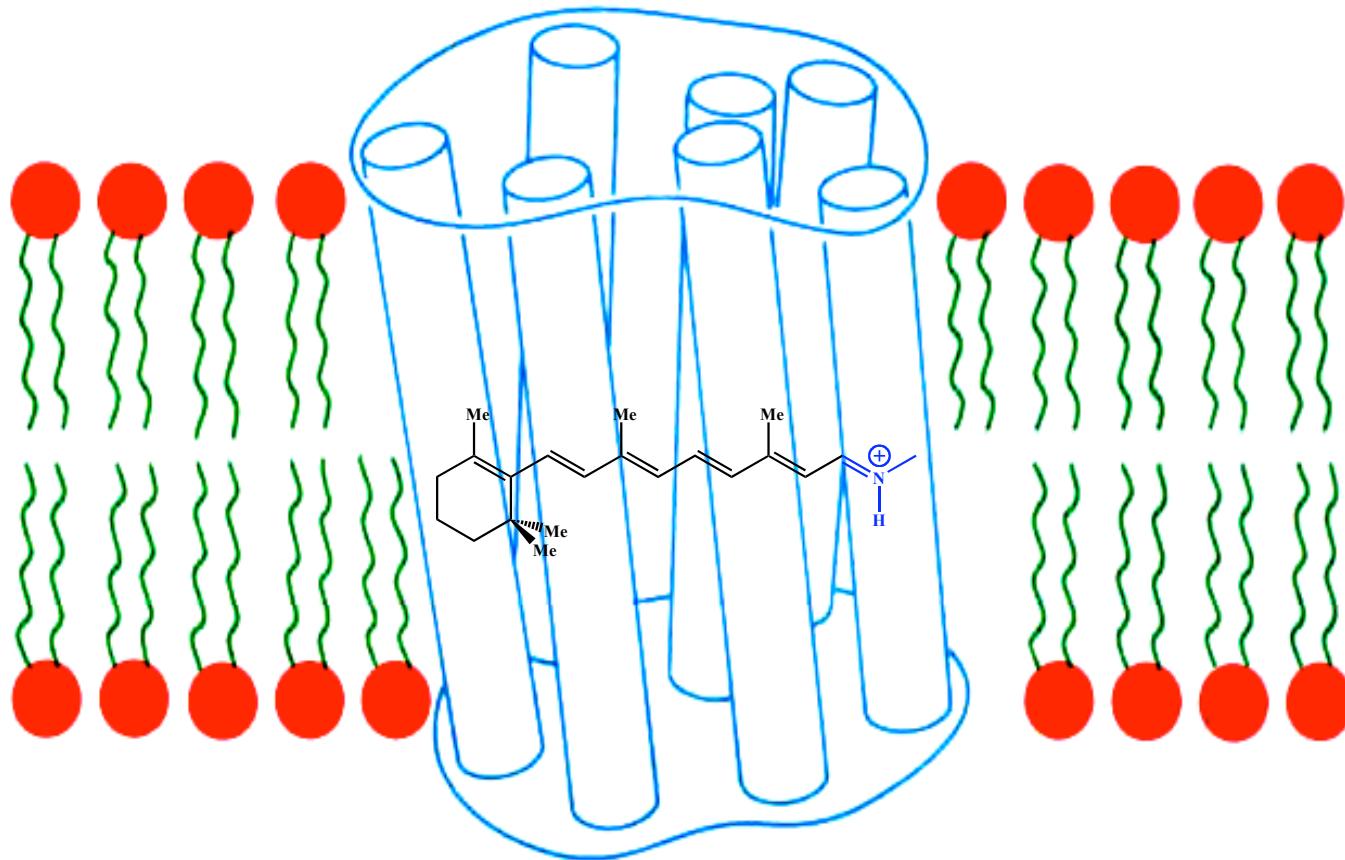


- 1) Full geometry optimization
- 2) Constrain n-1 dihedrals to minimum energy values or trans conformation
- 3) Sample selected dihedral surface
- 4) Repeat for all rotatable bonds dihedrals
- 5) Repeat 2-5 using alternate minima if deemed appropriate

QM development of force field parameters for retinal

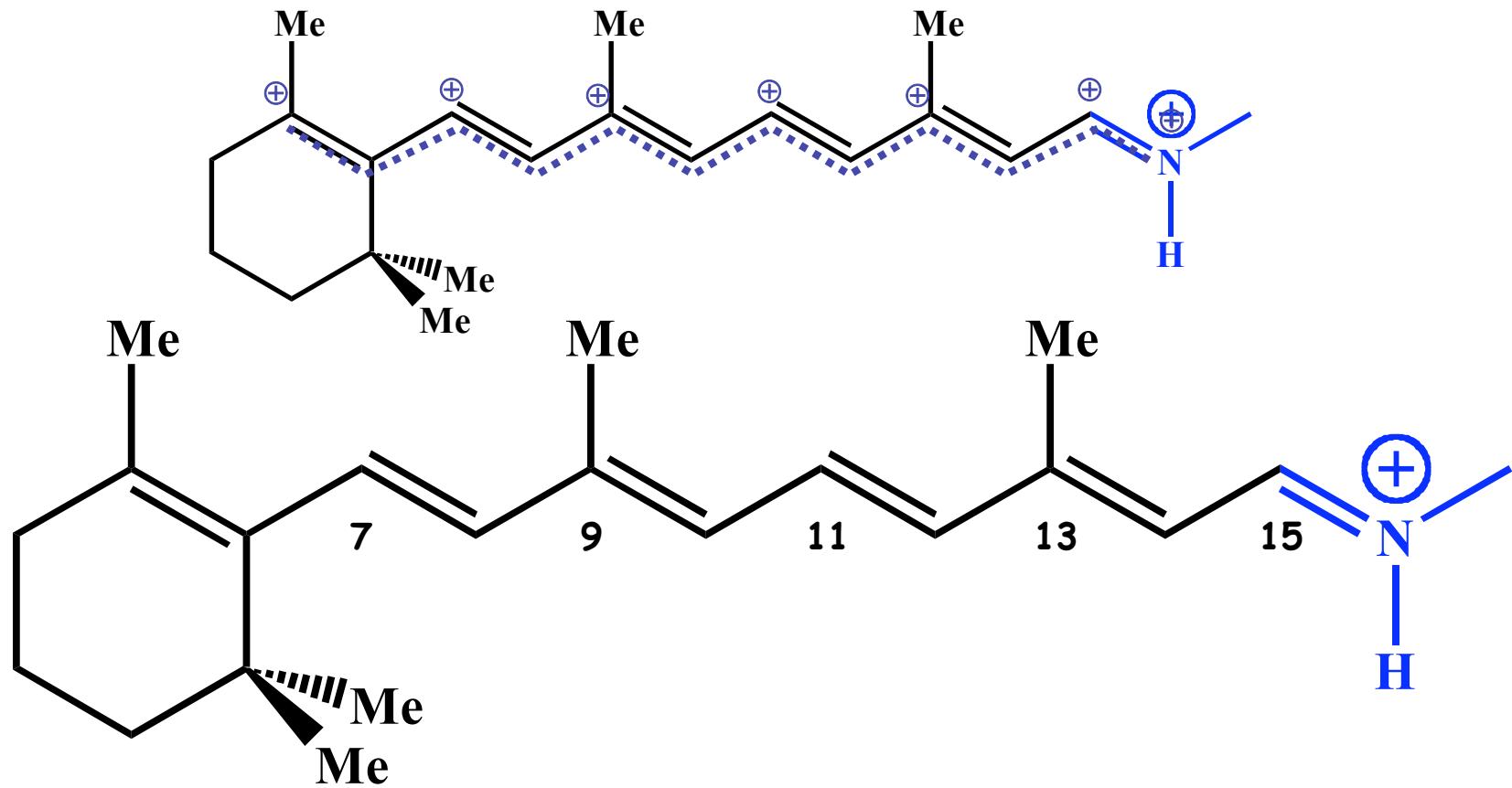
Used for rhodopsin and
bacteriorhodopsin simulations

Retinal Proteins -- Rhodopsins

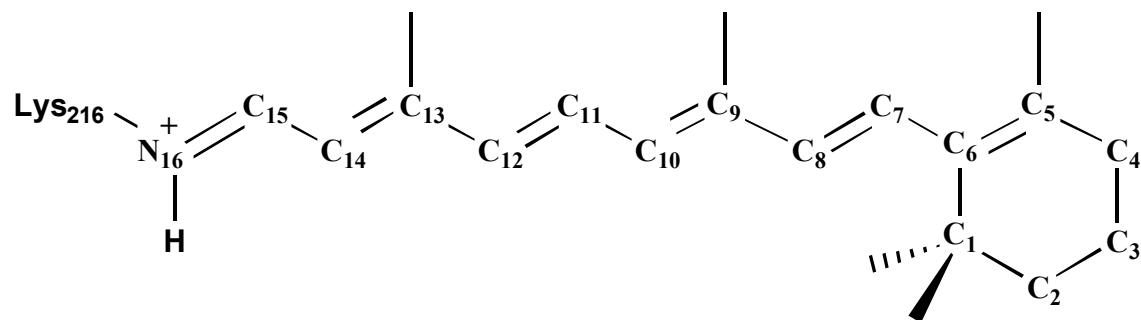


- Covalently linked to a lysine
- Usually protonated *Schiff base*
- *all-trans* and *11-cis* isomers

Unconventional chemistry



Isomerization Barriers in retinal



DFT/6-31G**

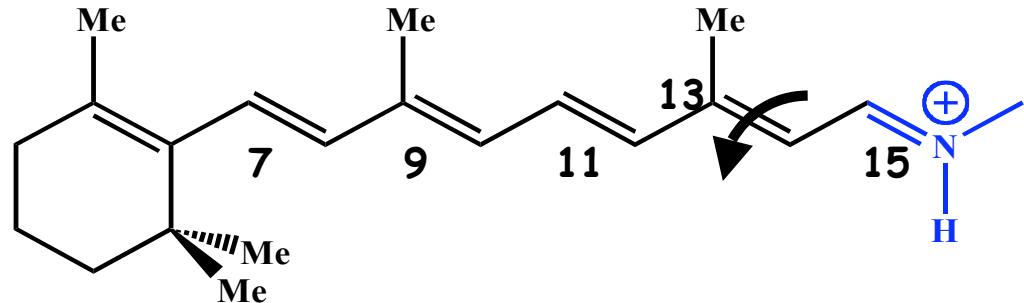
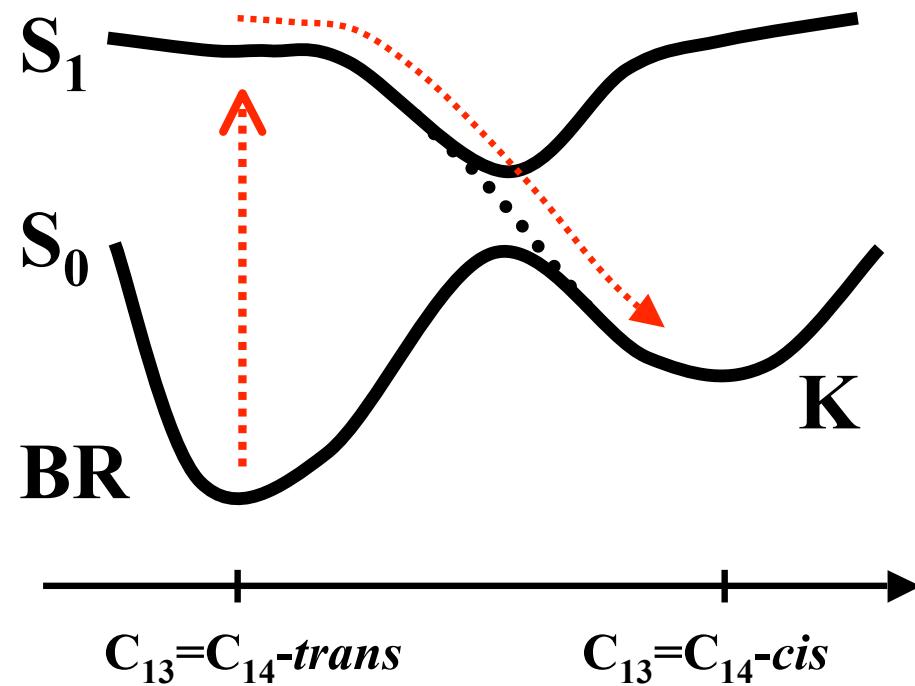
TABLE 2 The parameter set B used for the torsional potentials of the main polyene chain of the retinal Schiff base

ϕ_i	k_i (kcal/mol)*	n_i	δ_i (deg)
C ₅ =C ₆ -C ₇ =C ₈	11.24	2.0	180.00
C ₆ -C ₇ =C ₈ -C ₉	39.98	2.0	180.00
C ₇ =C ₈ -C ₉ =C ₁₀	17.03	2.0	180.00
C ₈ -C ₉ =C ₁₀ -C ₁₁	37.28	2.0	180.00
C ₉ =C ₁₀ -C ₁₁ =C ₁₂	22.50	2.0	180.00
C ₁₀ -C ₁₁ =C ₁₂ -C ₁₃	35.08	2.0	180.00
C ₁₁ =C ₁₂ -C ₁₃ =C ₁₄	28.30	2.0	180.00
C ₁₂ -C ₁₃ =C ₁₄ -C ₁₅	29.46	2.0	180.00
C ₁₃ =C ₁₄ -C ₁₅ =N ₁₆	30.43	2.0	180.00
C ₁₄ -C ₁₅ =N ₁₆ -C _s	28.76	2.0	180.00

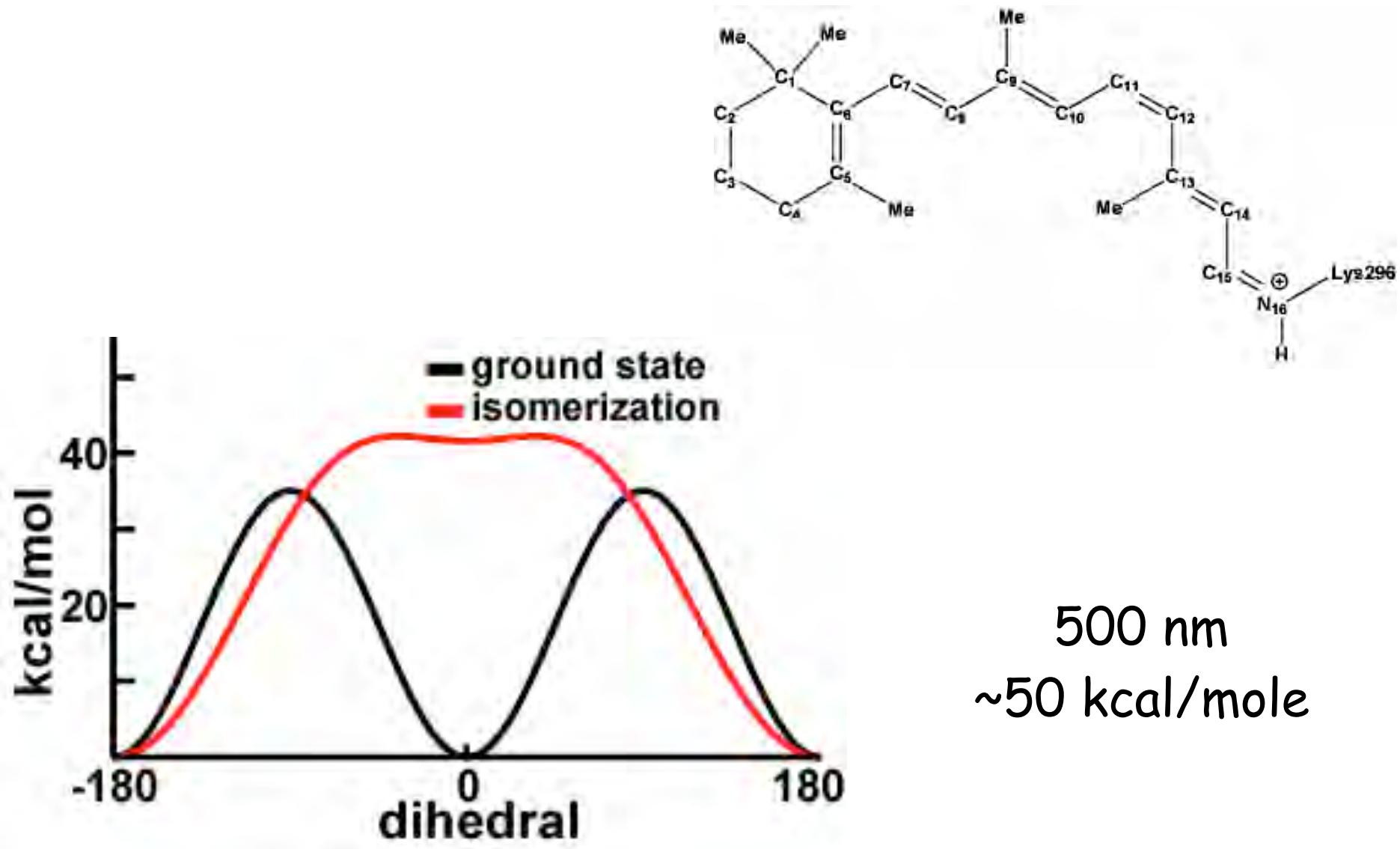
Tajkhorshid et al., 1999.

$$*E_i^{\text{dihedral}} = (1/2)k_i[1 + \cos(n_i\varphi_i - \delta_i)].$$

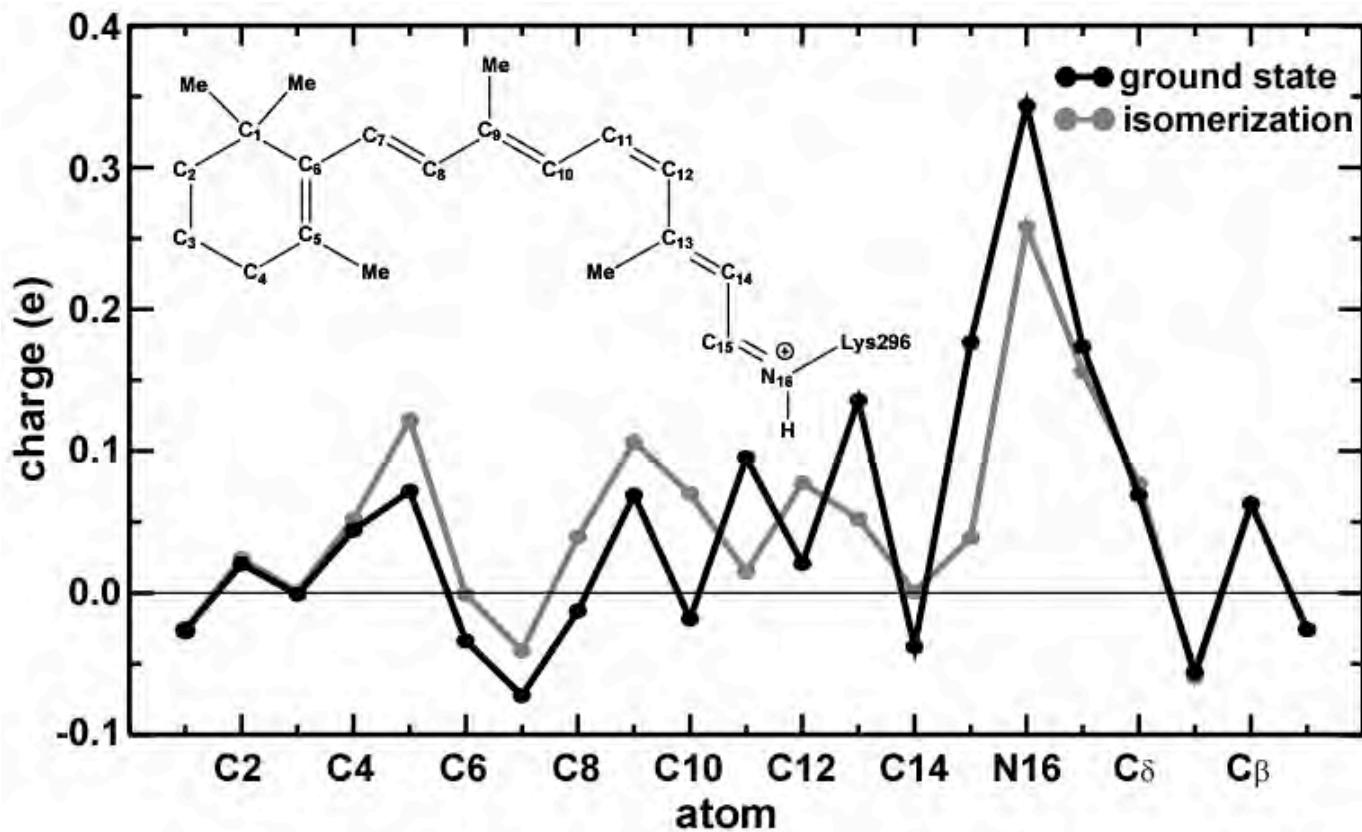
Coupling of electronic excitation and conformational change in bR



Inducing isomerization

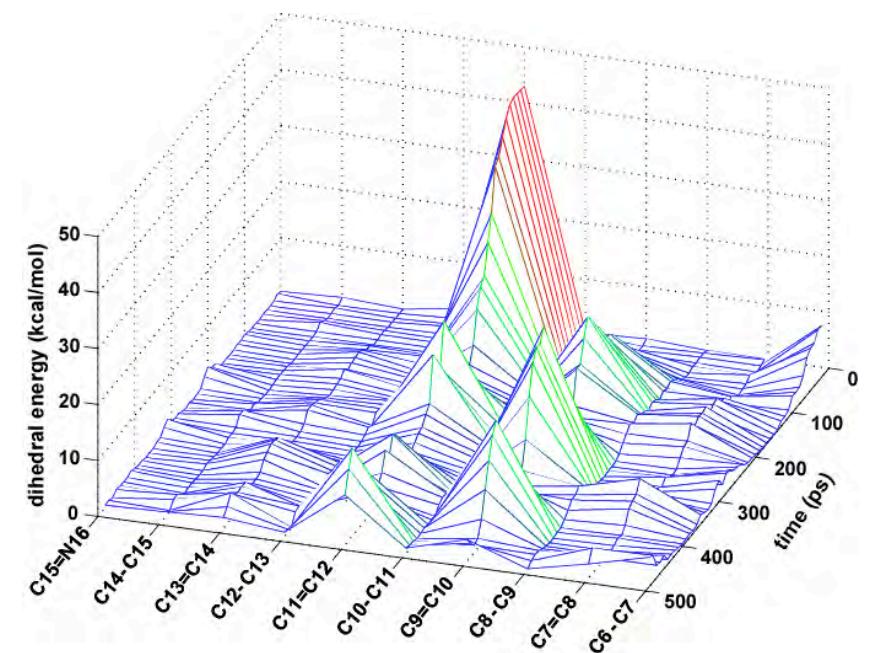
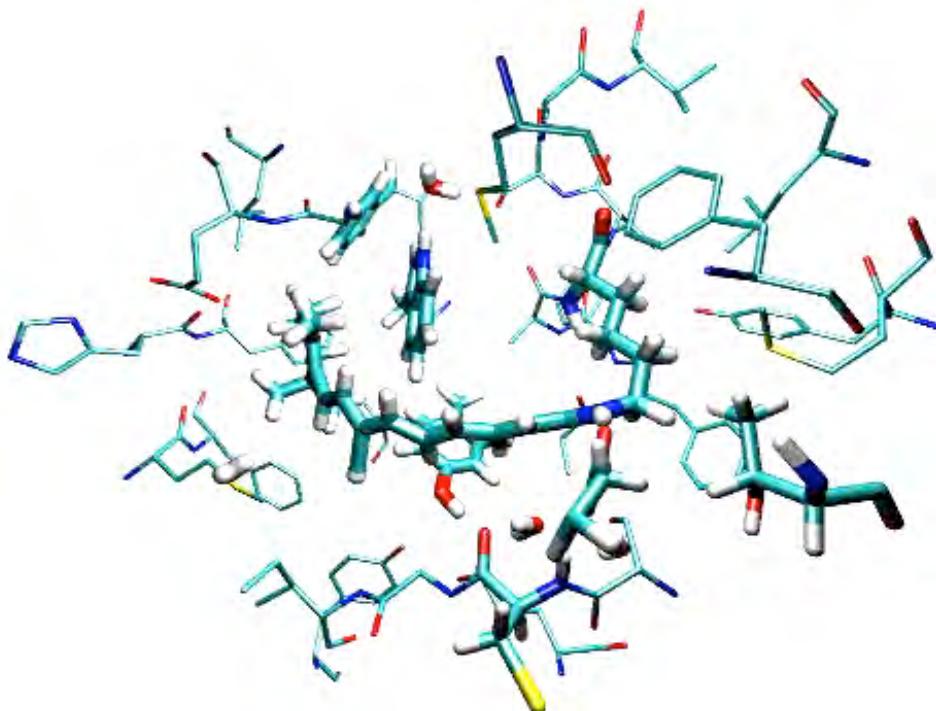


Retinal Charge Distribution



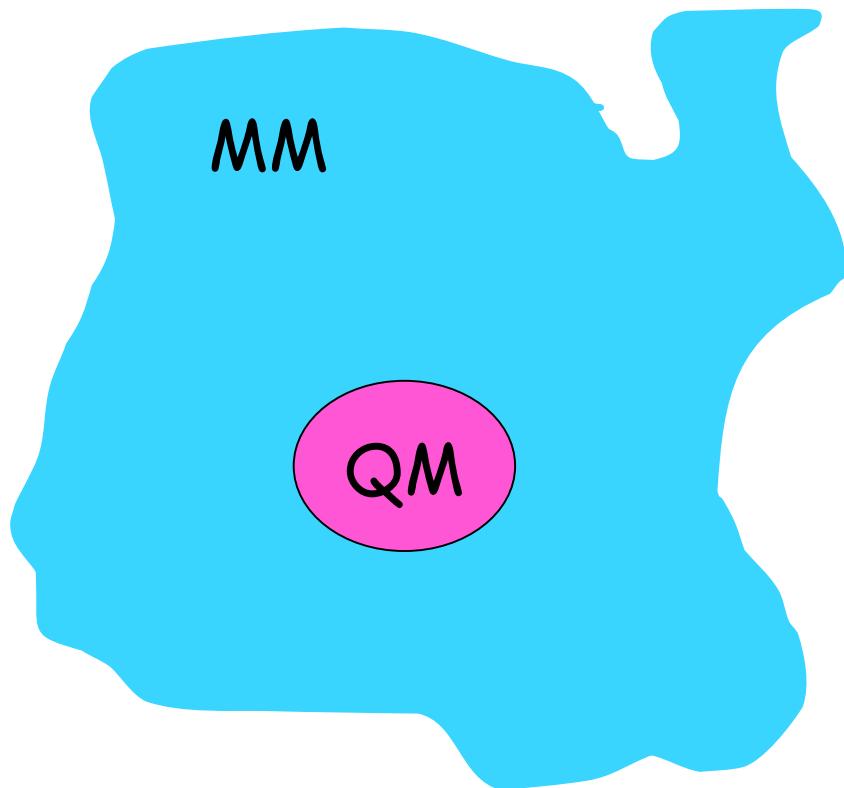
QM/MM derived partial atomic charges

Classical Retinal Isomerization in Rhodopsin



Twist Propagation

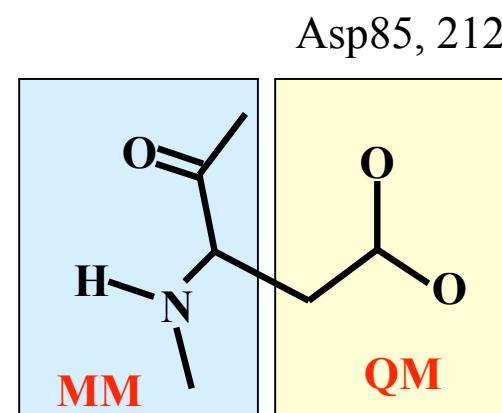
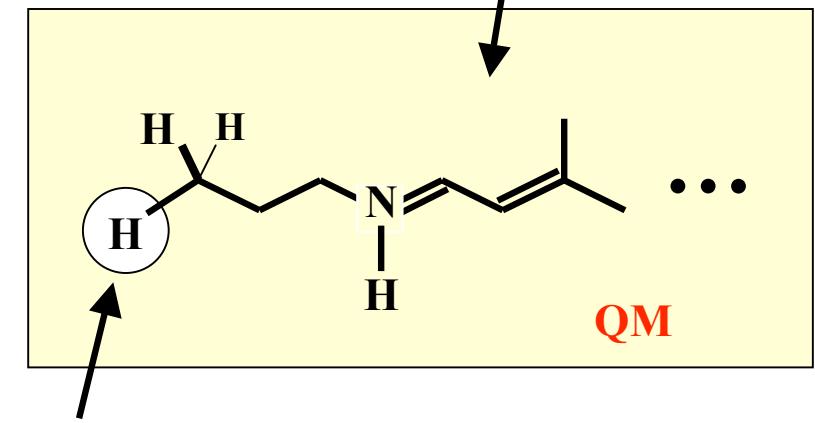
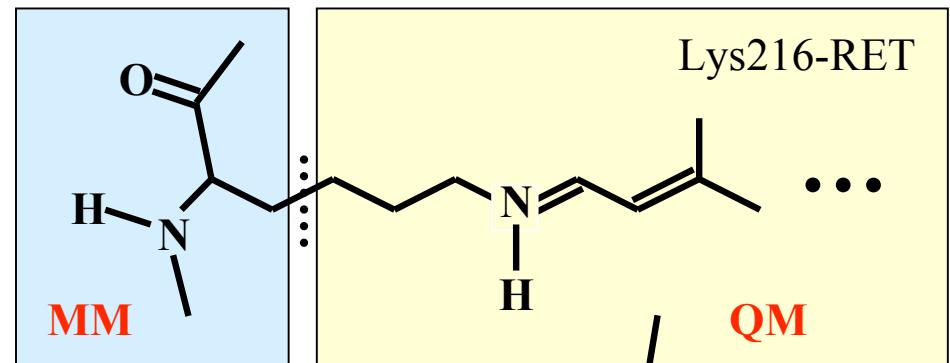
QM/MM calculations



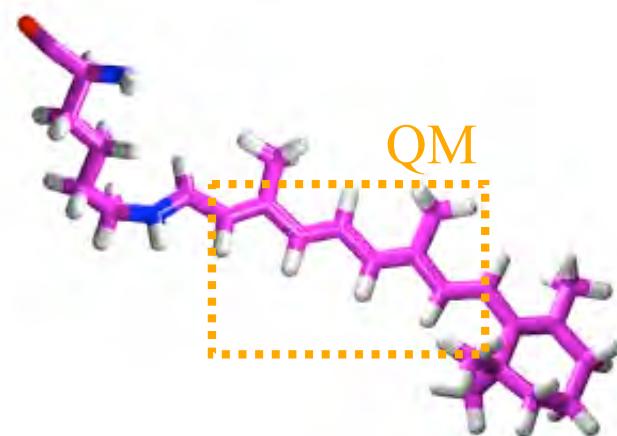
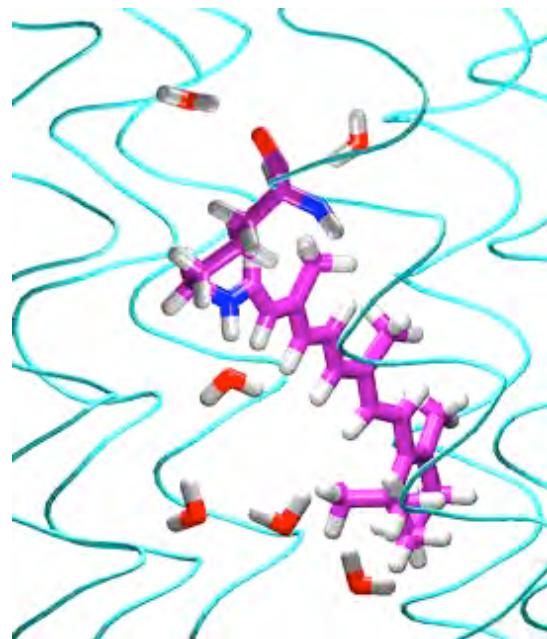
$$\hat{H} = \sum_i \frac{1}{2} p_i^2 + \sum_i \sum_A \frac{Z_A}{r_{iA}} + \sum_{i>j} \frac{1}{r_{ij}} + \sum_{A>B} \frac{Z_A Z_B}{r_{AB}}$$

$$+ \sum_i \sum_p \frac{q_p}{r_{ip}} + \sum_A \sum_p \frac{Z_A q_p}{r_{Ap}}$$

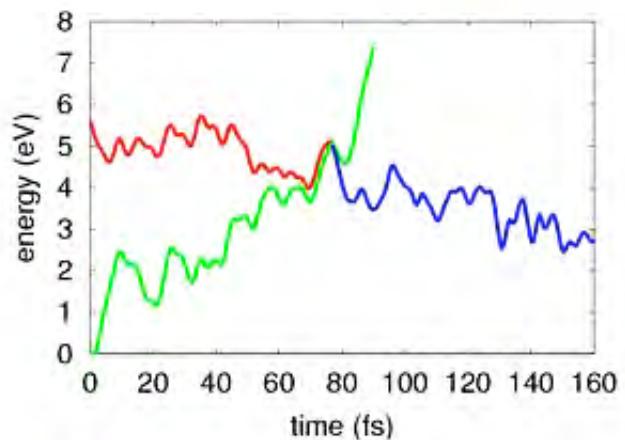
$$+ V_{QM-MM}^{MM} + V_{MM}^{MM}$$



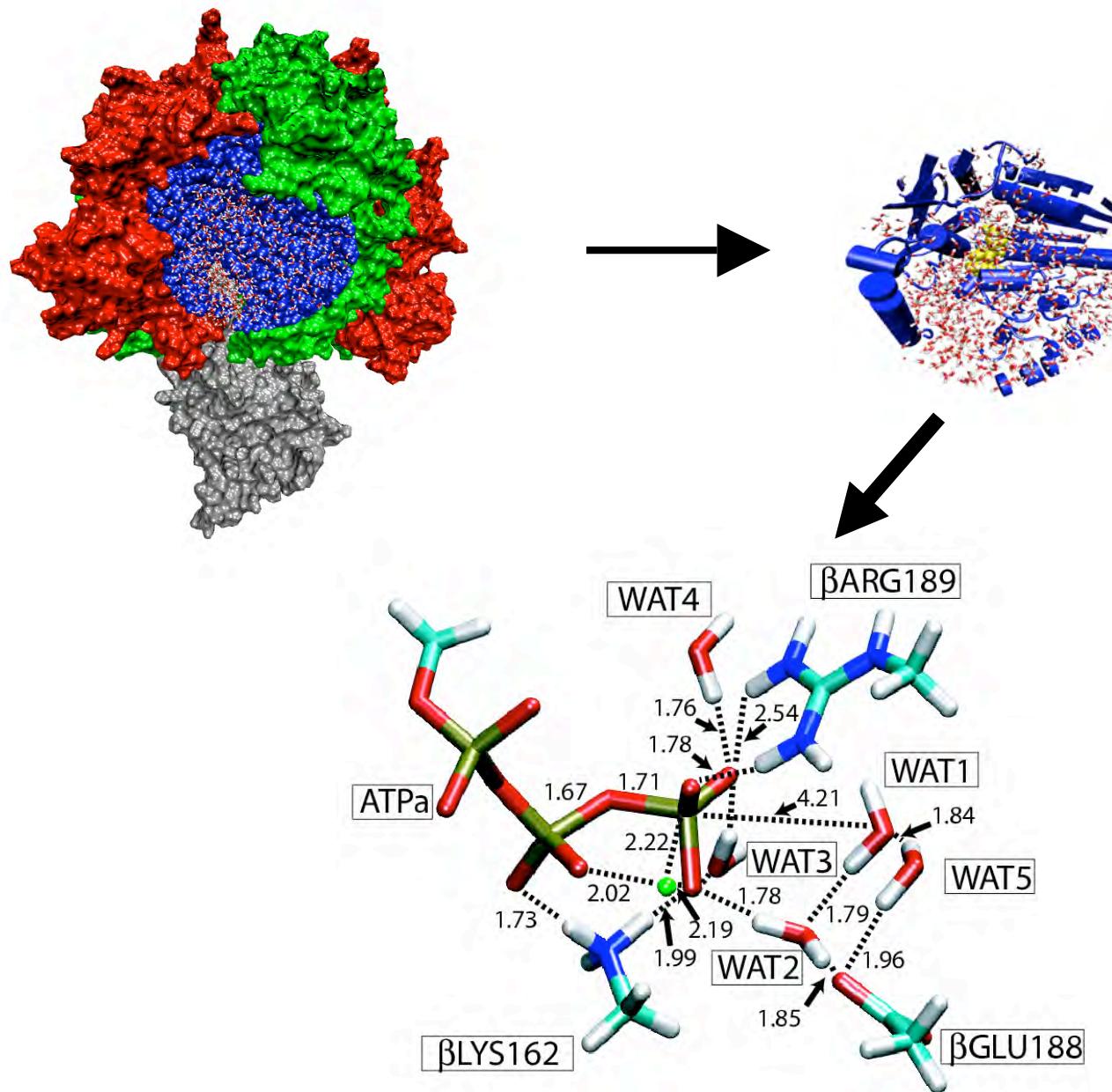
Ab Initio QM/MM Excited State MD Simulation

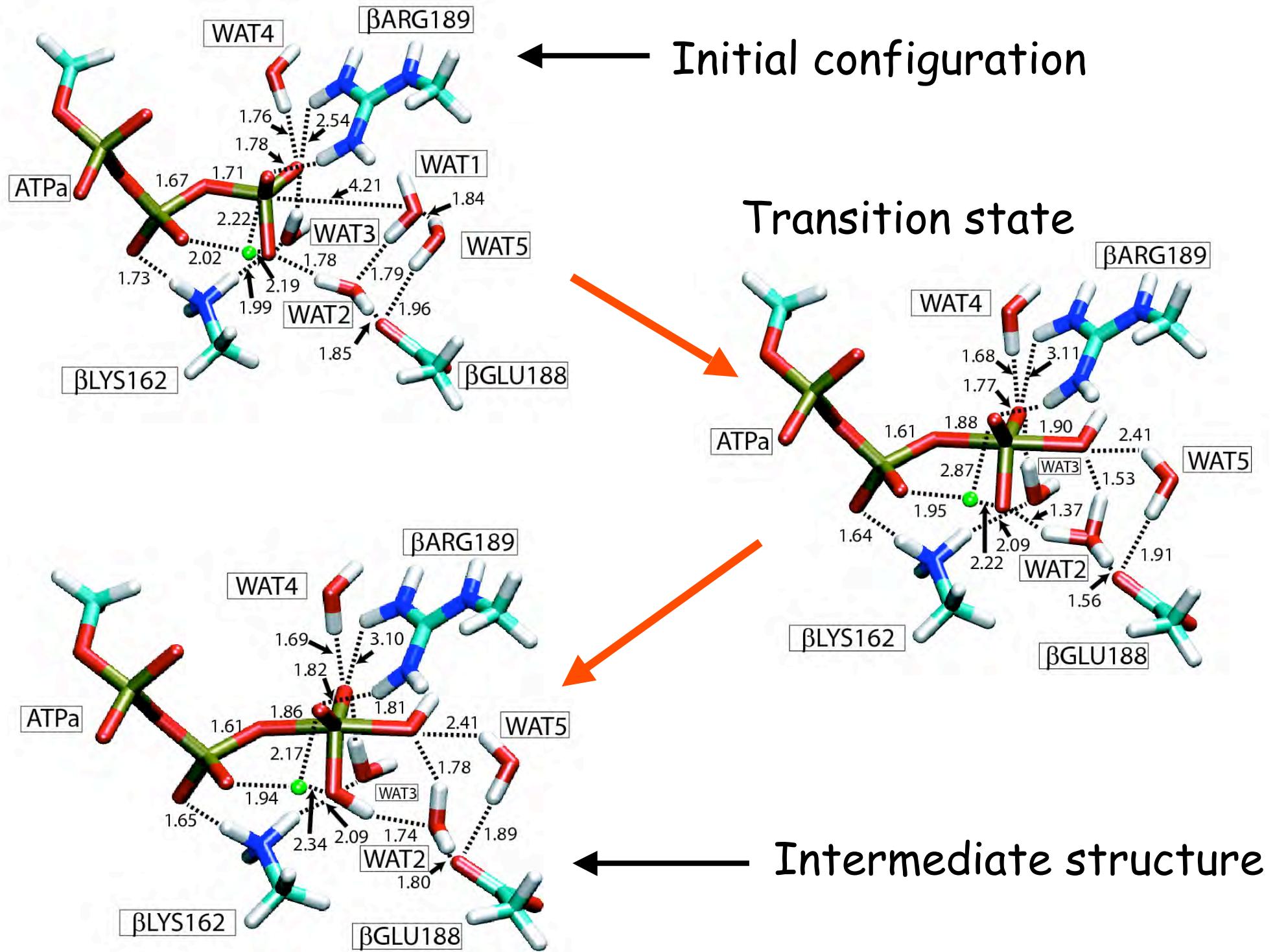


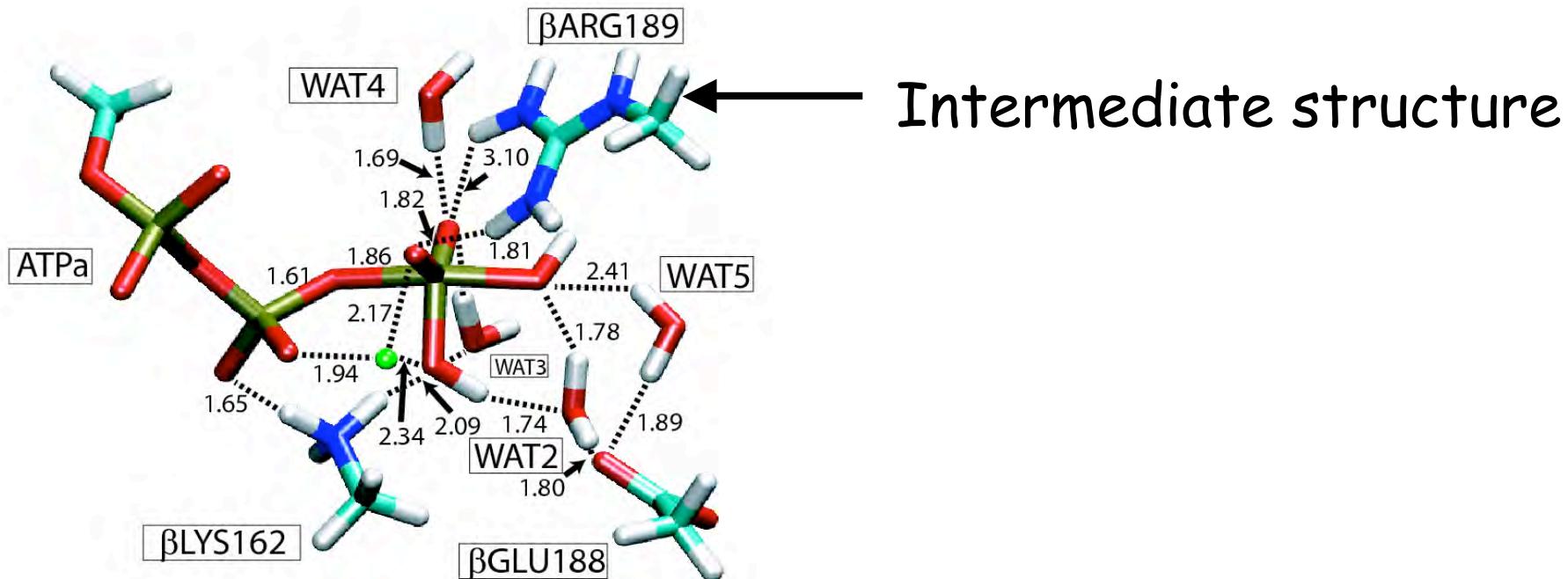
Quantum mechanical (QM)
treatment of the chromophore,
and force field (MM) treatment
of the embedding protein



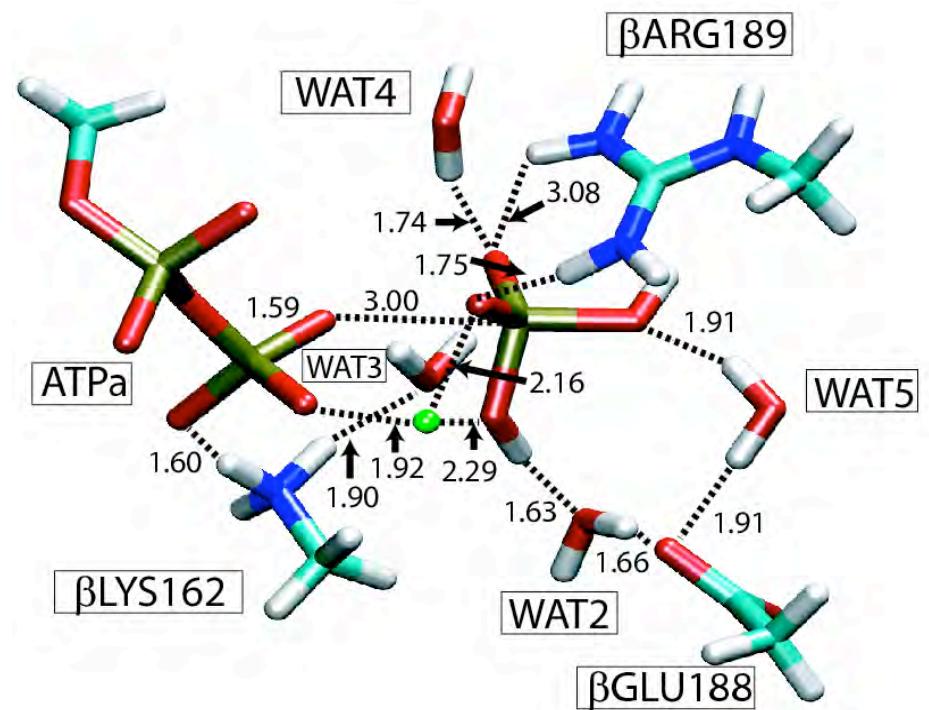
QM/MM calculation of ATP hydrolysis



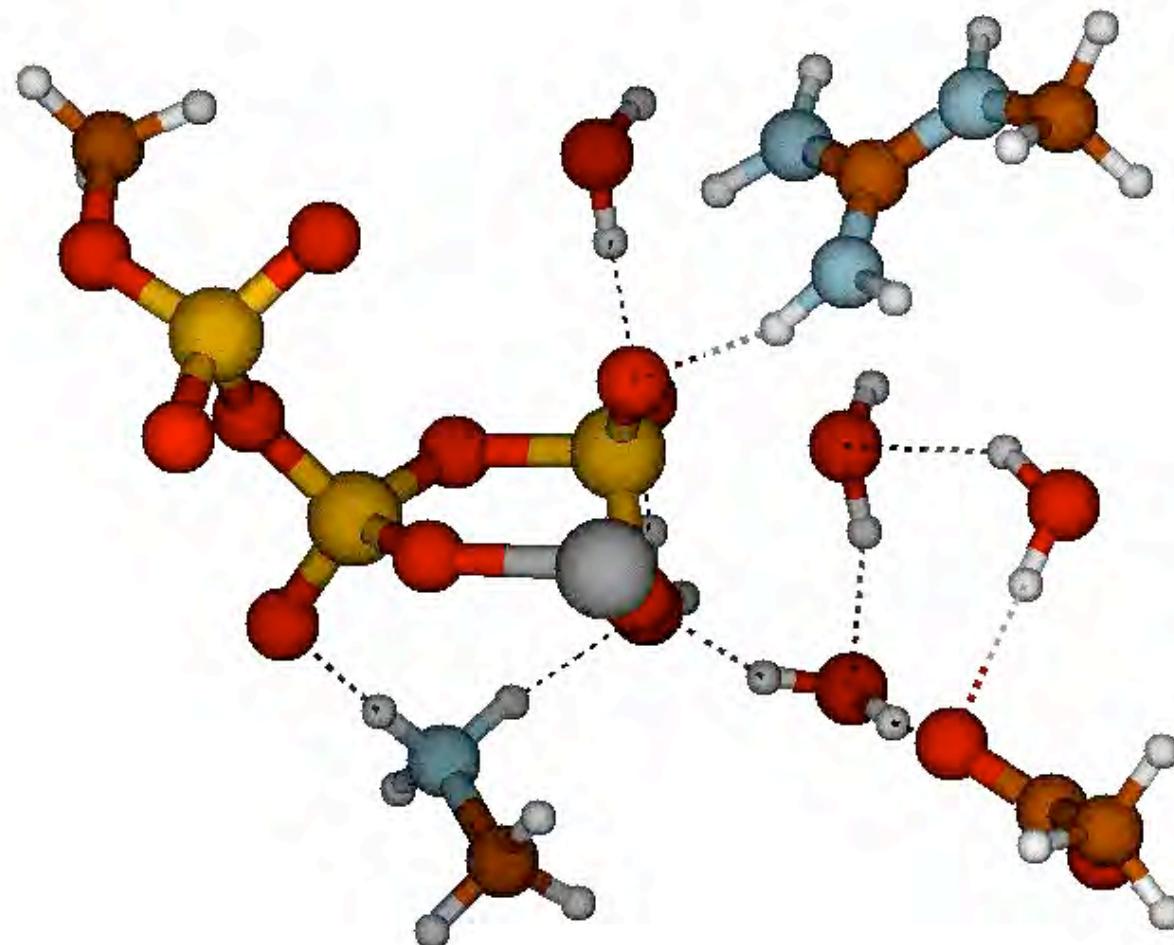




Product →



ATP hydrolysis in β_{TP}



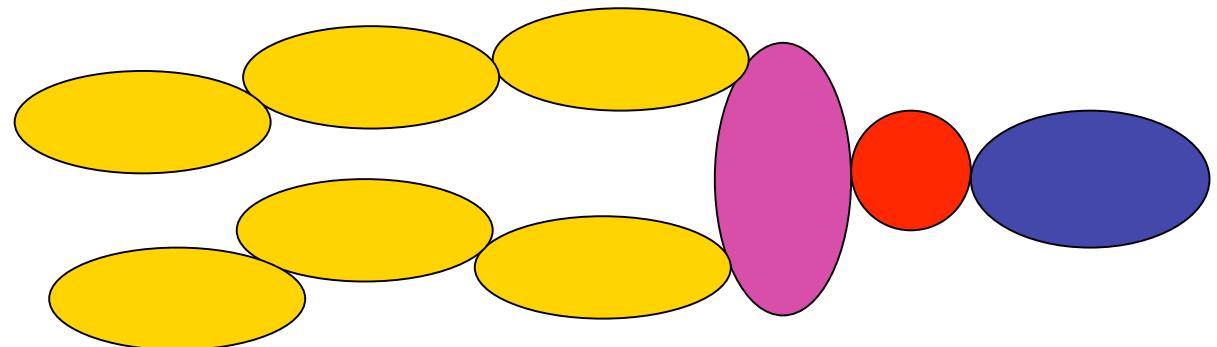
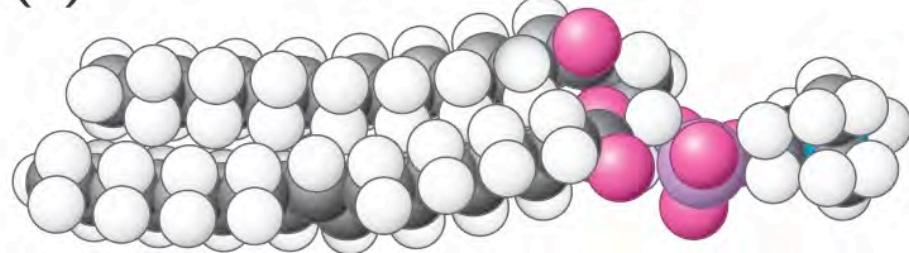
Coarse grain modeling of lipids

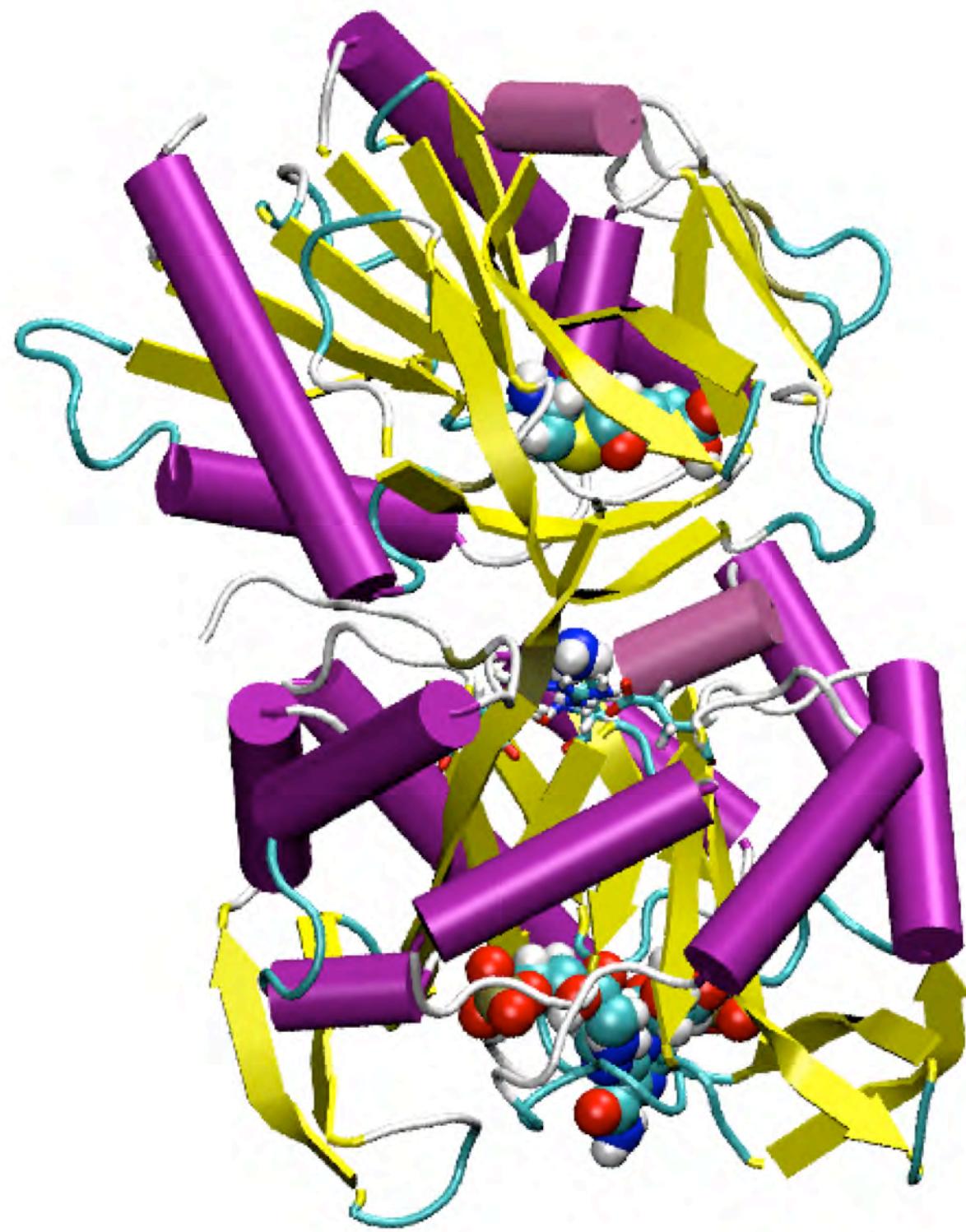
150 particles



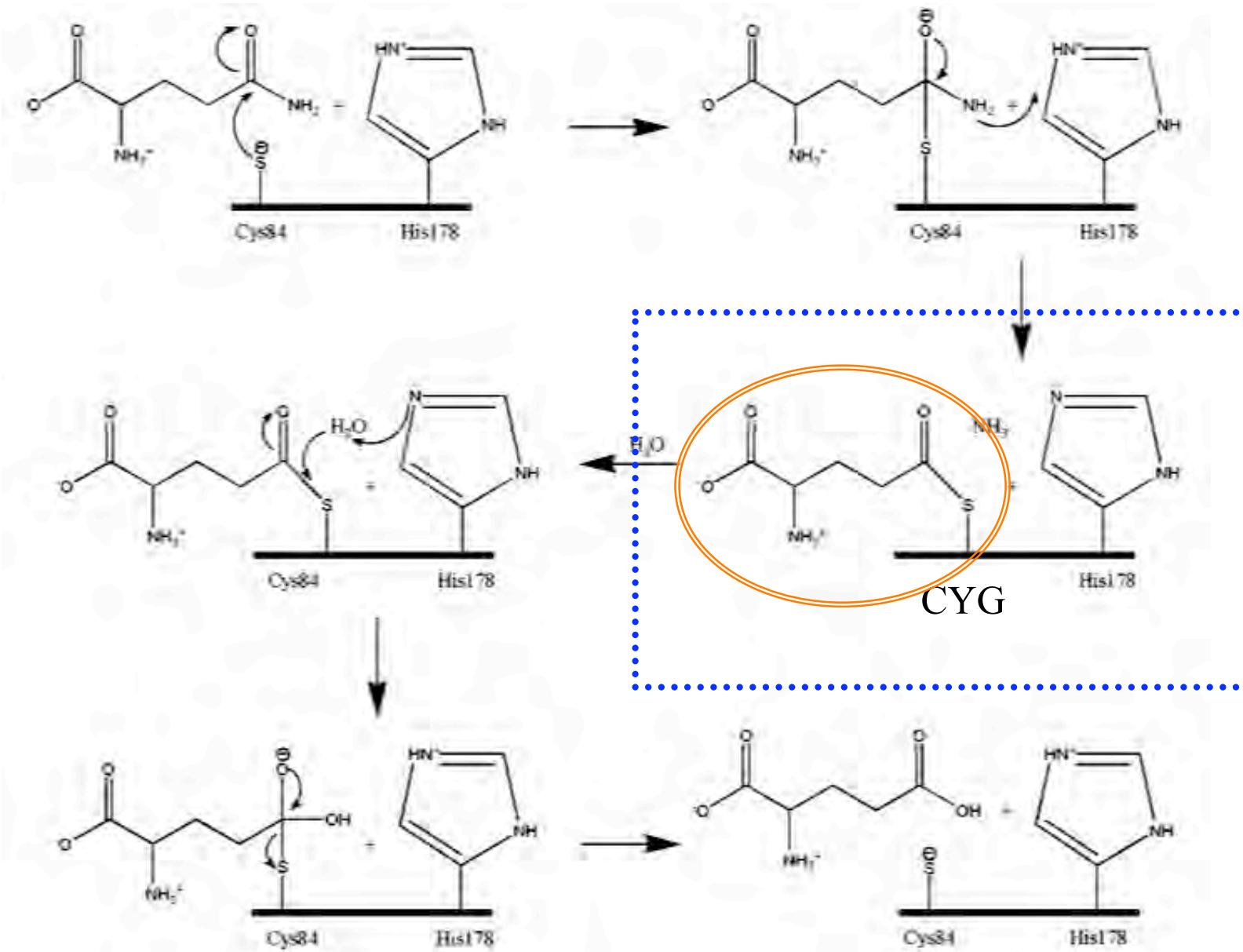
9 particles!

(A)

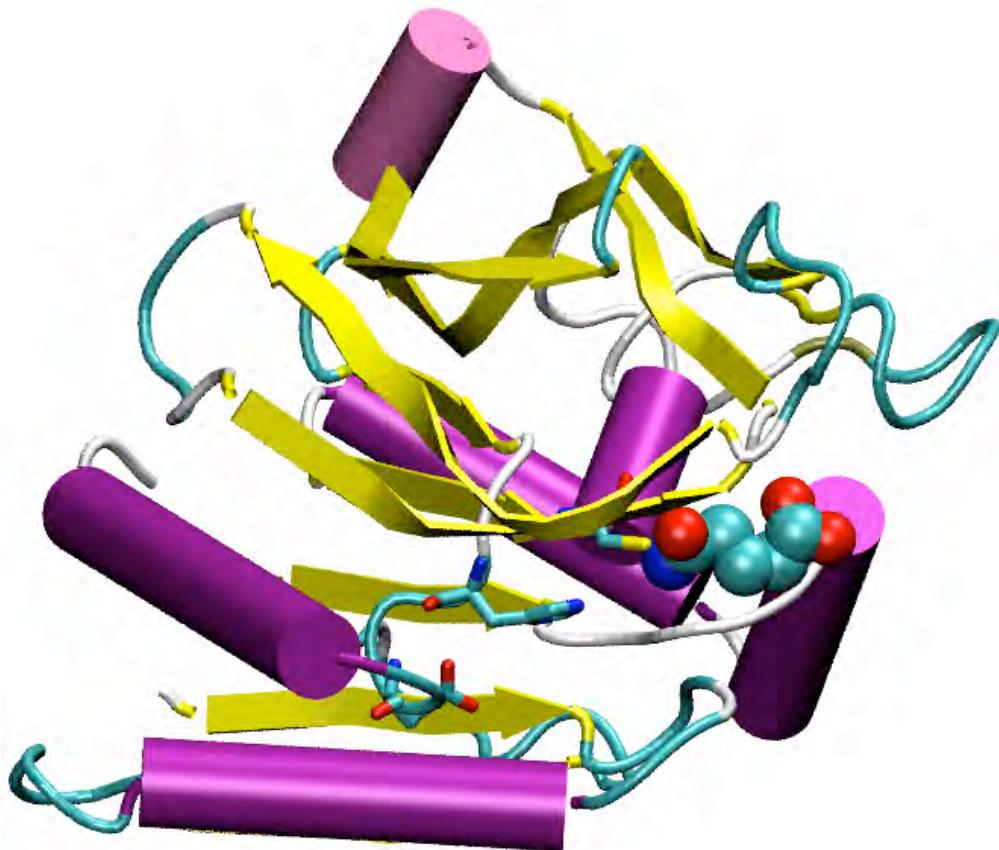




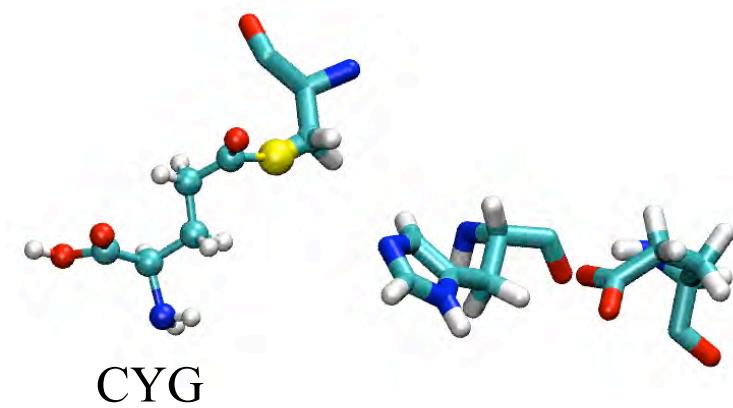
Modeling the *active-complex*: today's tutorial



VMD to Attach the substrate GLN to the active site of hisH



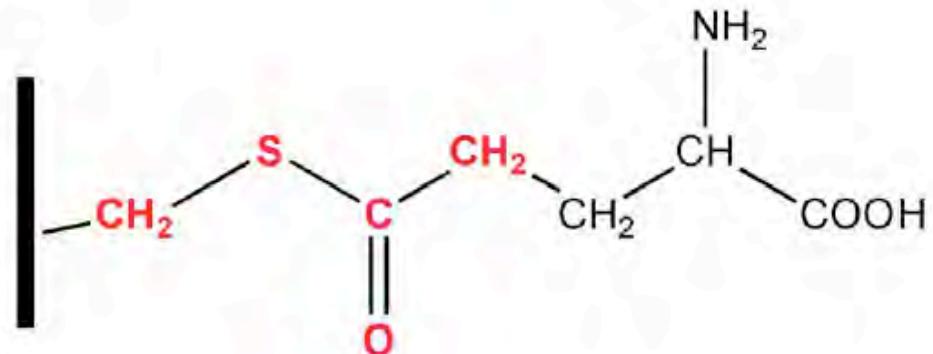
CYS & GLN



Creating a new topology file entry

```
RESI CYG 0.00
GROUP
ATOM N NH1 -0.47 !
ATOM HN H 0.31 !
ATOM CA CT1 0.07 !
ATOM HA HB 0.09 !
GROUP
ATOM CB CT2 -0.11 !
ATOM HB1 HA 0.09 !
ATOM HB2 HA 0.09 !
ATOM SG S -0.07 !
!ATOM HG1 HS 0.16 !
GROUP
ATOM CDG CC 0.55 !
ATOM OE1 O -0.55 !
GROUP
ATOM CGG CT2 -0.18 !
ATOM HG1G HA 0.09 !
ATOM HG2G HA 0.09 !
GROUP
ATOM CBG CT2 -0.18 !
ATOM HB1G HA 0.09 !
ATOM HB2G HA 0.09 !
GROUP
ATOM CG CD 0.75 !
ATOM O1G OB -0.55
ATOM O2G OH1 -0.61
ATOM HO2G H 0.44
ATOM CAG CT1 -0.12
ATOM HAG HB 0.09
ATOM NG NH3 -0.62
ATOM HN1G HC 0.31
ATOM HN2G HC 0.31
GROUP
ATOM C C 0.51
ATOM O O -0.51
```

Protein-backbone



HG1 deleted from CYS and the charge was moved to SG ($-0.23 + 0.16 = 0.07$) so that the SG charge becomes 0.07 in final compound and the group remains neutral

Changes annotated!

Creating new parameters

```
BOUNDS
!
!V(bond) = Kb(b - b0)**2
!
!Kb: kcal/mole/A**2
!b0: Å
!
!atom type Kb      b0
! Modified for CYC residue after 6-31G* geometry optimization
S   CC   240.000    1.7814 ! ALLOW ALI SUL ION

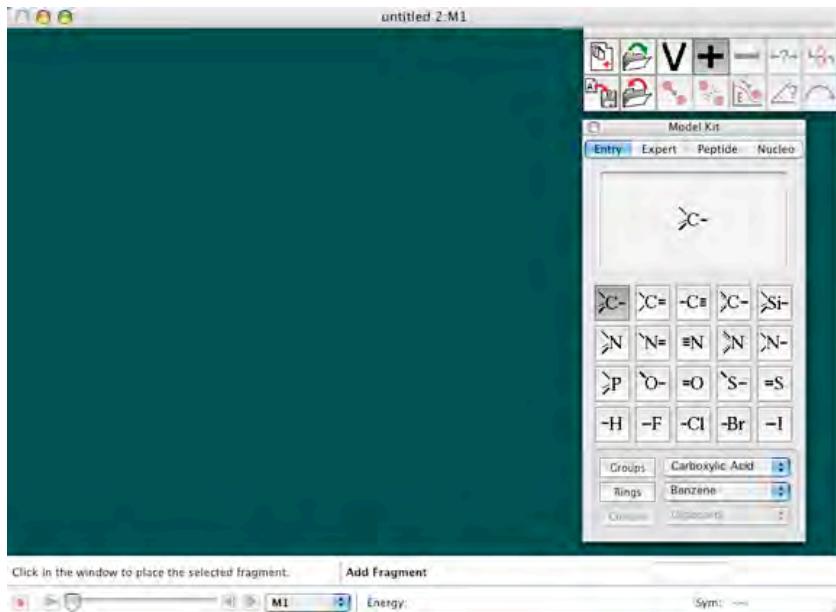
ANGLES
!
!V(angle) = Ktheta(Theta - Theta0)**2
!
!V(Urey-Bradley) = Kub(S - S0)**2
!
!Ktheta: kcal/mole/rad**2
!Theta0: degrees
!Kub: kcal/mole/A**2 (Urey-Bradley)
!S0: Å
!
!atom types   Ktheta   Theta0   Kub   S0
!
! Modified for CYC residue after 6-31G* geometry optimization
CT2 S   CC   34.000    100.2000 ! ALLOW ALI SUL ION

CT2 CC   S   50.000    114.5000 ! ALLOW ALI SUL ION

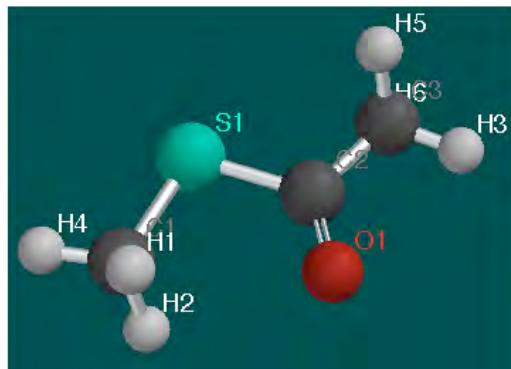
O   C1   S   75.000    122.2000 ! ALLOW ALI SUL ION
```

```
DIHEDRALS
!
!V(dihedral) = Kchi(1 + cos(n(chi) - delta))
!
!Kchi: kcal/mole
!n: multiplicity
!delta: degrees
!
!atom types           Kchi   n   delta
CC   S   CT2   CT1   0.2400   1   180.00
CC   S   CT2   CT1   0.3700   3   0.00
HA   CT2   S   CC   0.2800   3   0.00
CT2   S   CC   CT2   2.05    2   180.00
CT2   S   CC   O   2.05    2   180.00
```

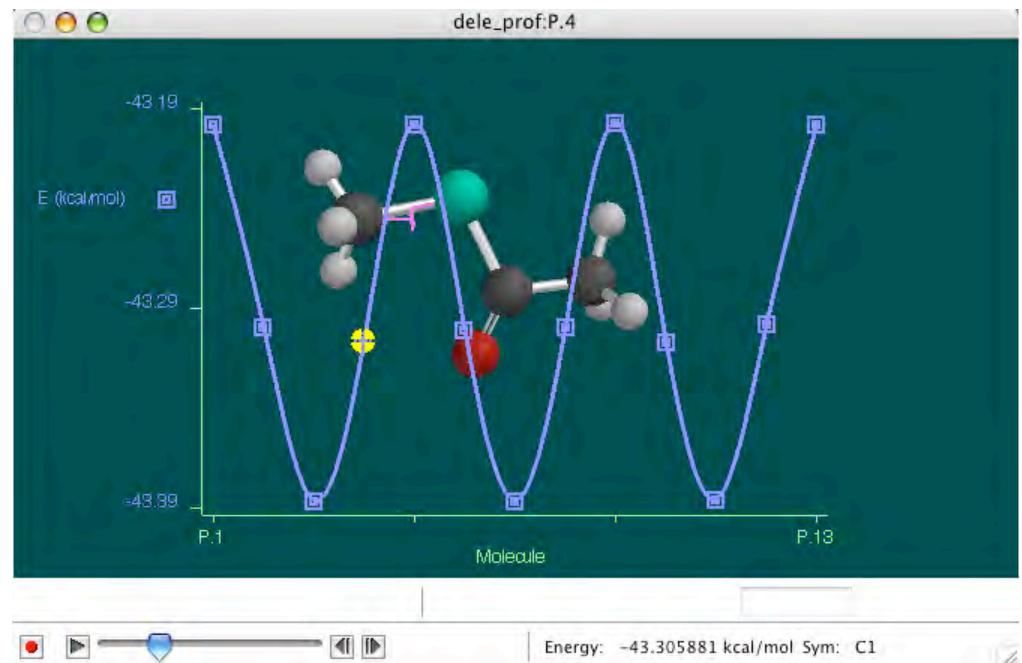
Semi-empirical Parameter Estimation Using SPARTAN



Main Spartan Window



You build a part of CYG



Be careful with the dihedral drive section!