

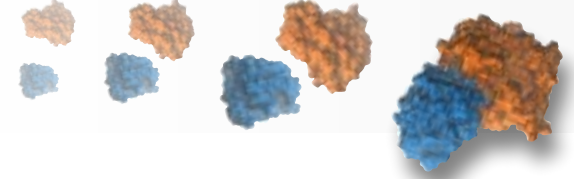
# INTRODUCTION TO FREE-ENERGY CALCULATIONS

Chris Chipot

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Unité Mixte de Recherche n° 7565, Université de Lorraine*

*Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology,  
Department of Physics  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*





## INTRODUCTION

- The race for longer and larger simulations
- What is the best method for a given problem?

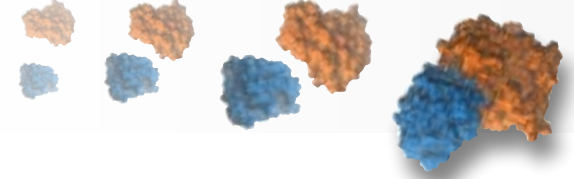
## ALCHEMICAL FREE-ENERGY CALCULATIONS

- A tool to address host-guest chemistry questions
- Good practices, guidelines and recommendations
- The long-standing protein-ligand problem

## GEOMETRICAL FREE-ENERGY CALCULATIONS

- A host of methods to measure free-energy changes
- Potentials of mean force and transport phenomena
- Potentials of mean force and recognition and association phenomena
- What about non-equilibrium work computer experiments?

## CONCLUDING REMARKS AND QUESTIONS



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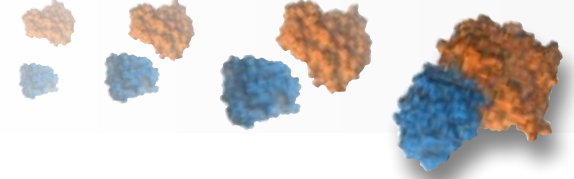
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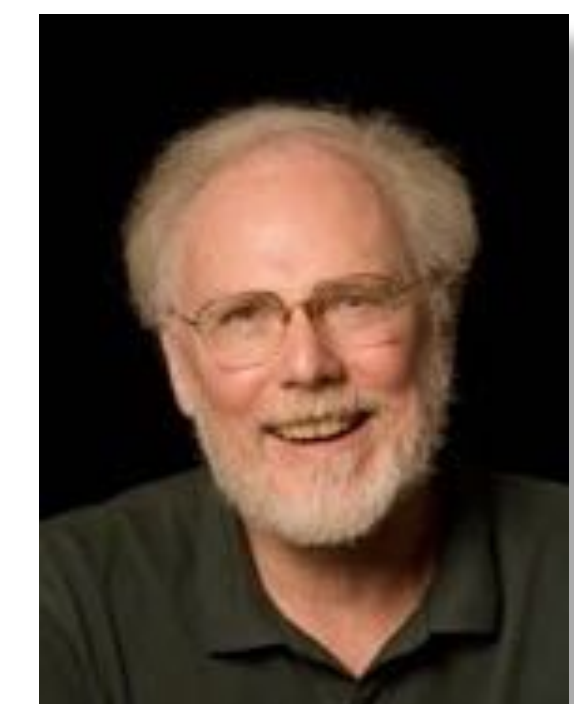


## THE RACE FOR LONGER AND LARGER SIMULATIONS



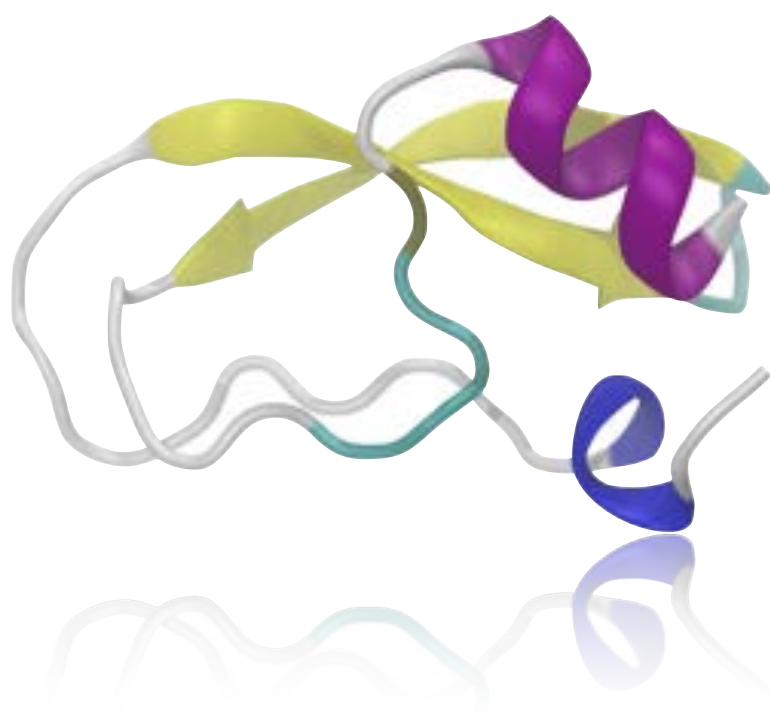
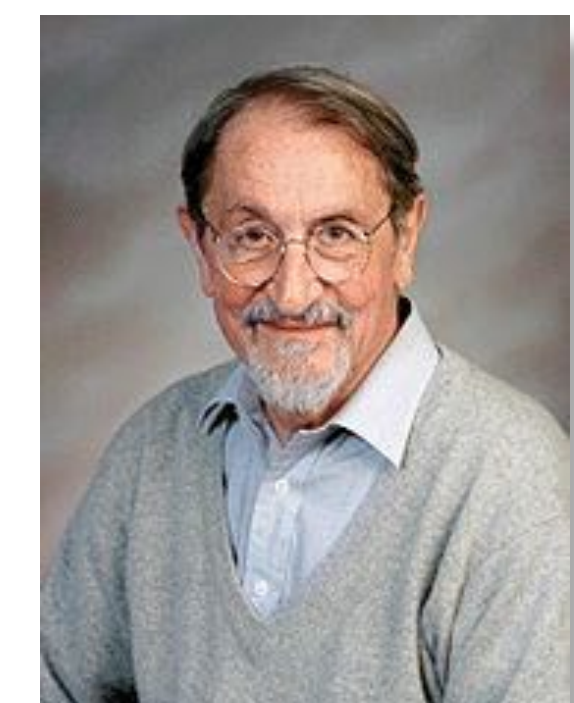
First molecular dynamics simulation. Phase transition in model liquids.

$$\begin{cases} m_i \frac{d^2 x_i}{dt^2} = F_i \\ F_i = -\frac{\partial U(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_i} \end{cases}$$



A TURNING POINT IN COMPUTATIONAL STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

First molecular dynamics simulation applied to a small protein, BPTI, over 8 ps.



Alder, B. J.; Wainwright, T. E. *J. Chem. Phys.*, **1957**, *27*, 1208-1209

McCammon, J. A.; Gelin, B. R.; Karplus, M. *Nature*, **1977**, *267*, 585-590





# THE RACE FOR LONGER AND LARGER SIMULATIONS

Brute-force simulations struggling to bridge the gap between time and size scales

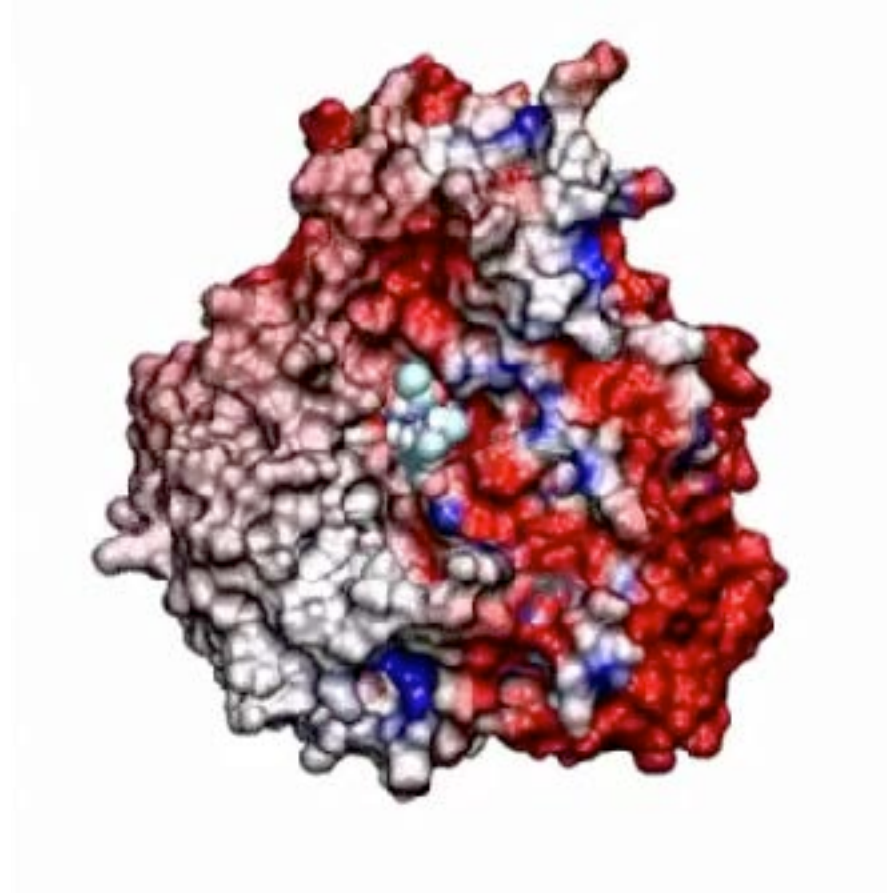
Free-energy calculations are computational tweezers to anatomize and explore relevant degrees of freedom



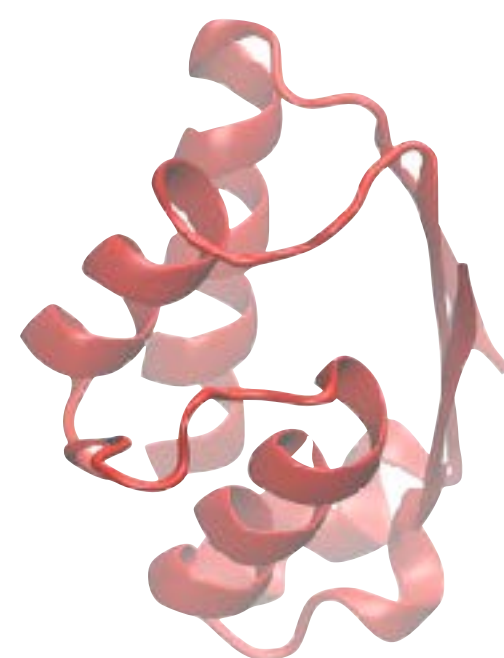
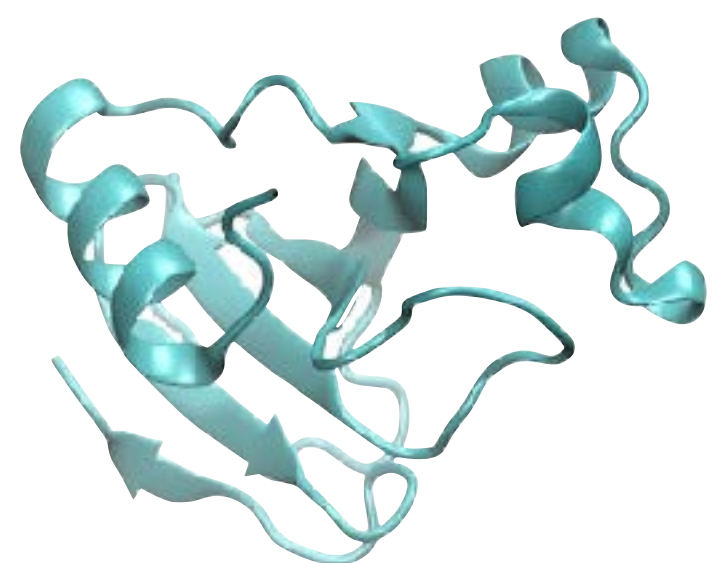




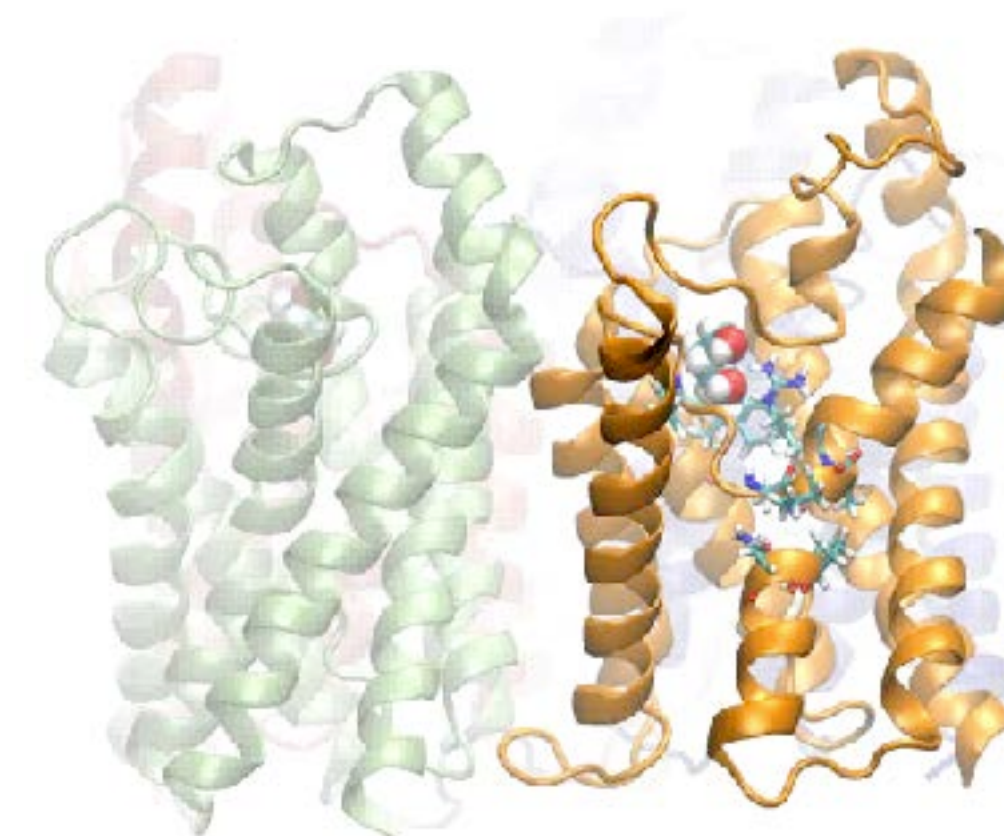
# WHAT ARE FREE-ENERGY CALCULATIONS COMMONLY USED FOR ?



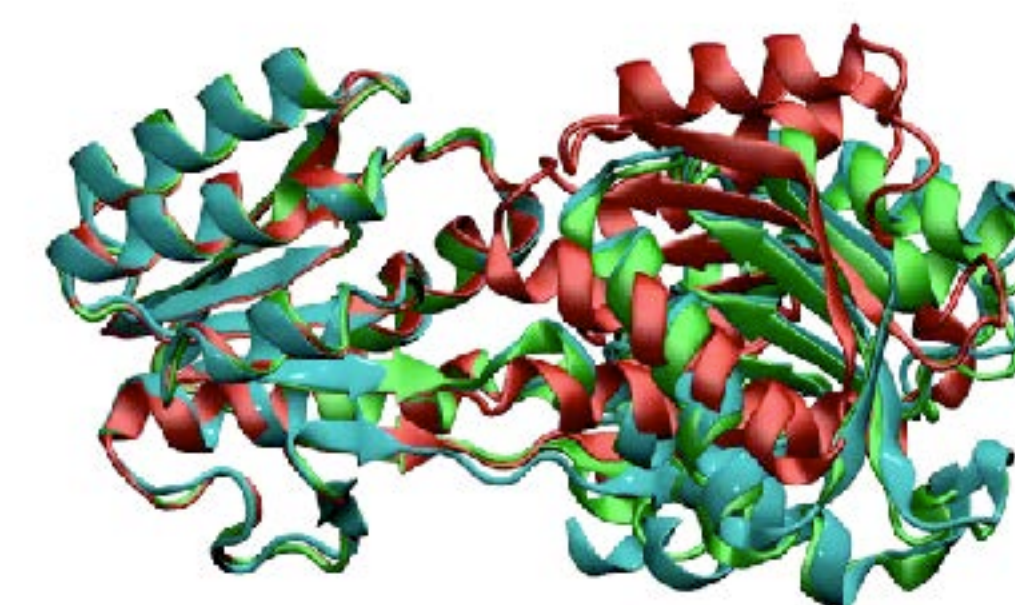
Recognition and association phenomena



- protein-ligand binding
- site-directed mutagenesis
- protein-protein binding
- partition coefficients
- permeabilities
- activation barriers
- structural modifications



Transport phenomena



Conformational transitions

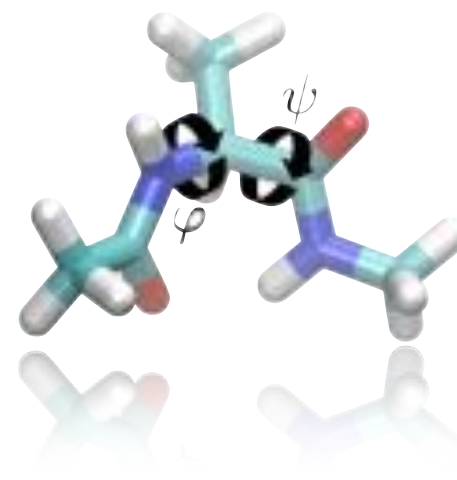




## WHAT IS THE BEST METHOD FOR A GIVEN PROBLEM ?

Free-energy differences can be estimated computationally following four possible routes

(1) Methods based on histograms

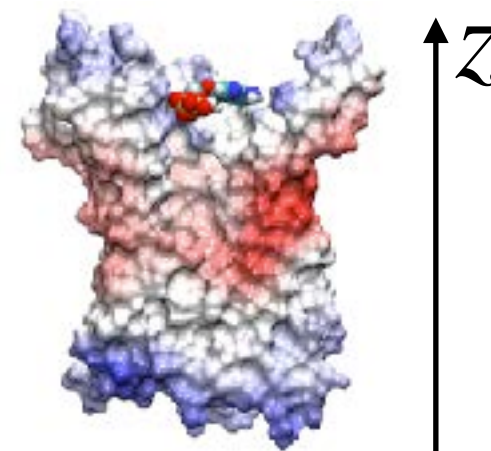


(2) Non-equilibrium work simulations



(3) Perturbation theory

(4) Measuring the derivative and integrating it



$$\Delta A(\xi) = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln P(\xi) + \Delta A_0$$

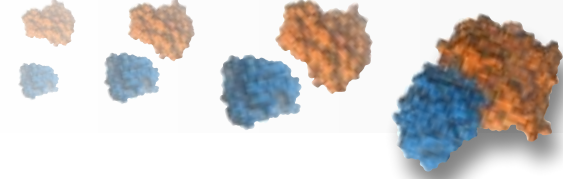
$$\exp(-\beta \Delta A) = \langle \exp(-\beta w) \rangle$$

$$\exp(-\beta \Delta A) = \langle \exp(-\beta \Delta U) \rangle_0$$

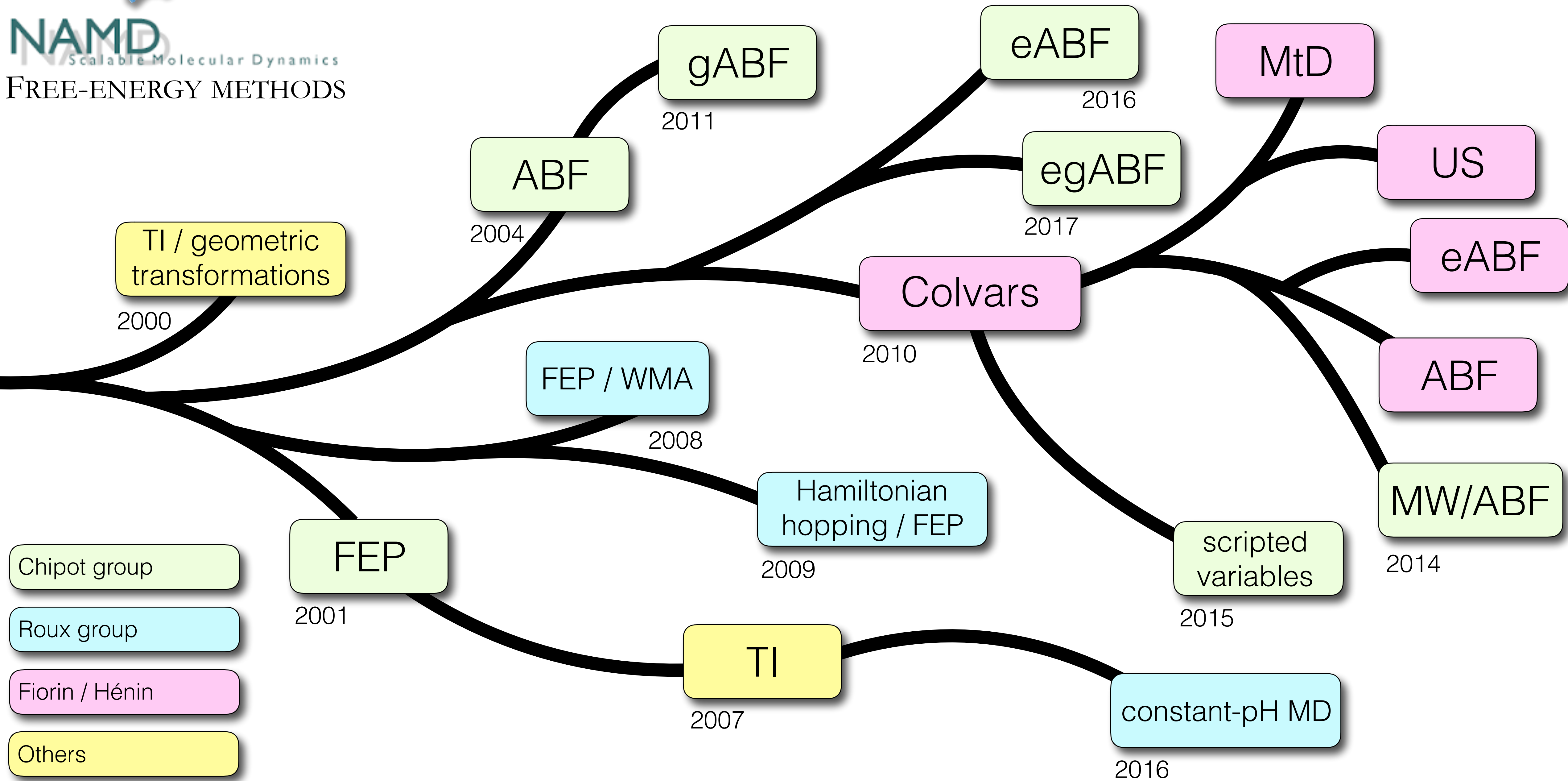
$$\frac{dA(\xi)}{d\xi} = \left\langle \frac{\partial U}{\partial \xi} - \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial \ln |J|}{\partial \xi} \right\rangle_{\xi}$$

Zwanzig, R. W. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1954**, *22*, 1420-1426Pohorille, A.; Jarzynski, C.; Chipot, C. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2010**, *114*, 10235-10253Kirkwood, J. G. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1935**, *3*, 300-313Carter, E. et al. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1989**, *156*, 472-477Torrie, G. M.; Valleau, J. P. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1974**, *28*, 578-581Widom, B. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1963**, *39*, 2808-2812Israelowitz, B.; Gao, M.; Schulten, K. *Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol.* **2001**, *11*, 224-230Jarzynski, C. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1997**, *78*, 2690-2693





# NAMD Scalable Molecular Dynamics FREE-ENERGY METHODS

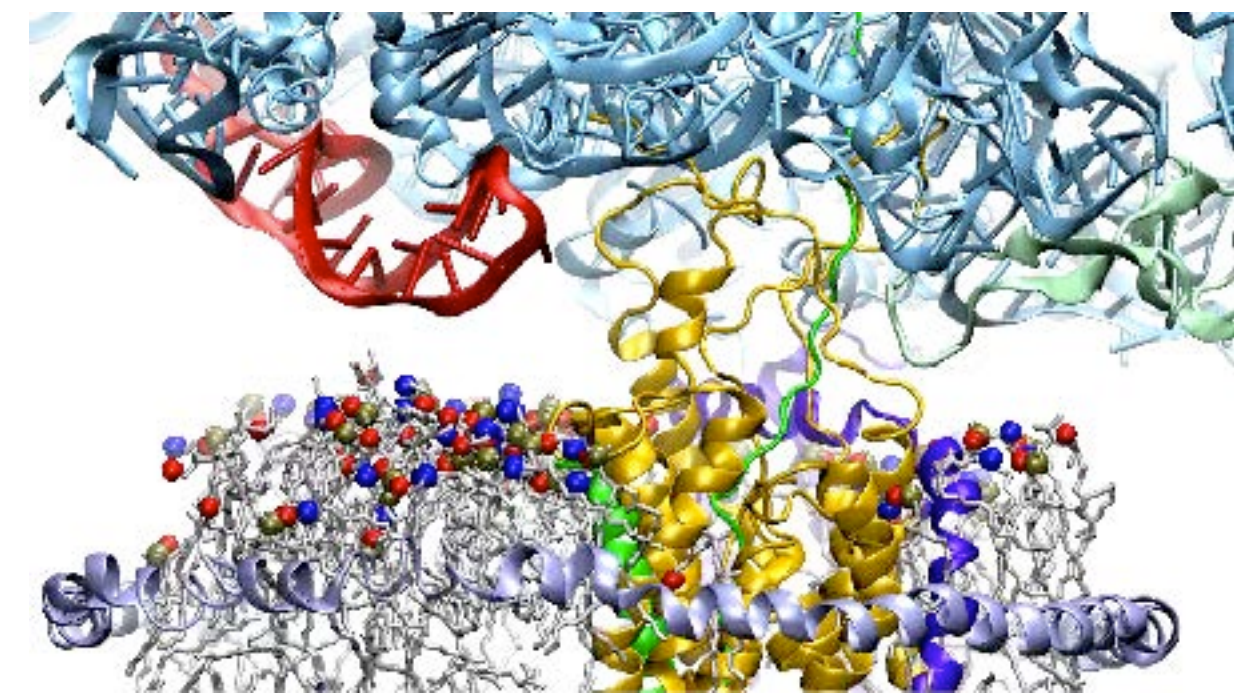


- Chipot group
- Roux group
- Fiorin / Hénin
- Others



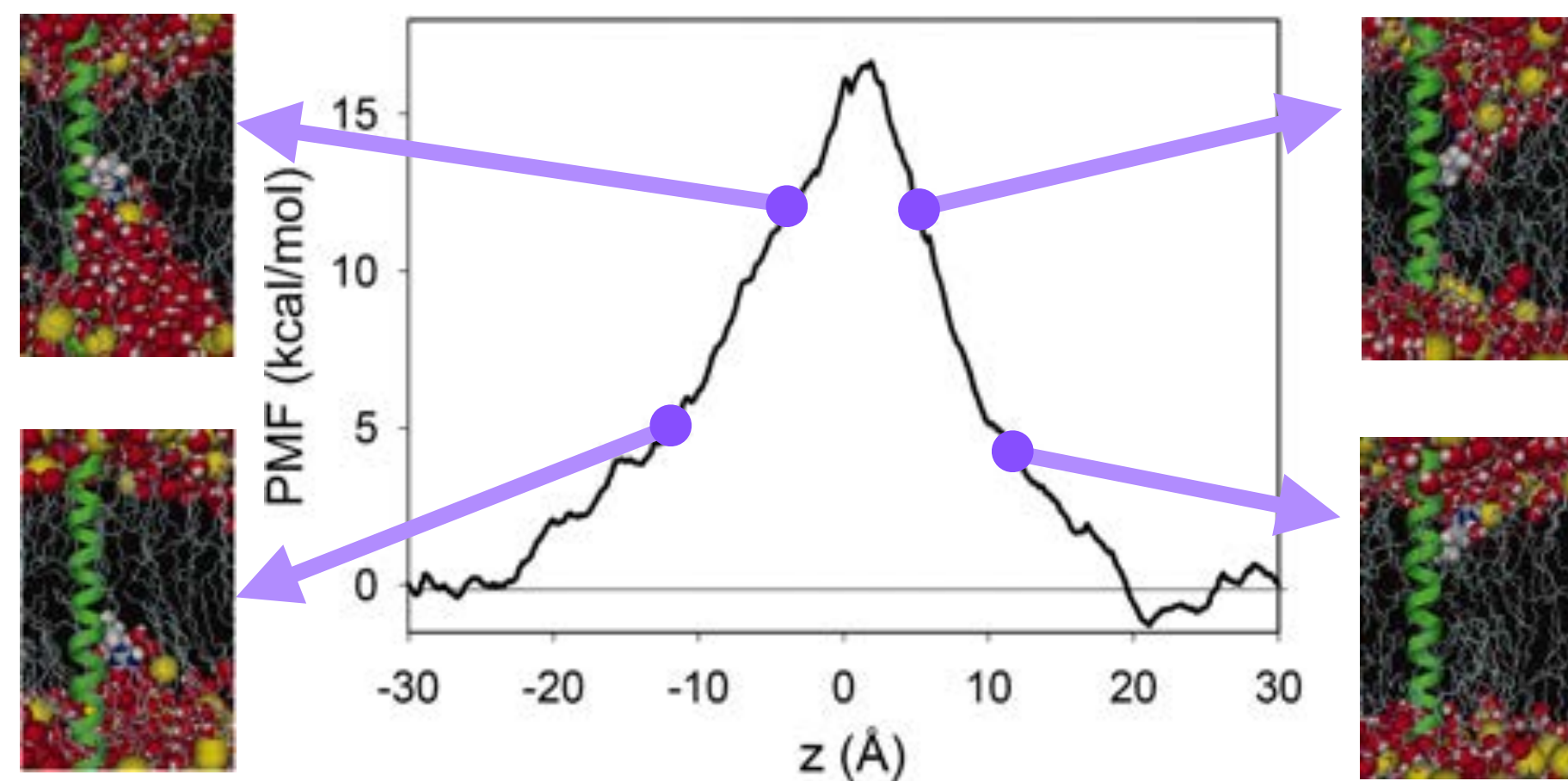


## WHAT IS THE BEST METHOD FOR A GIVEN PROBLEM ?

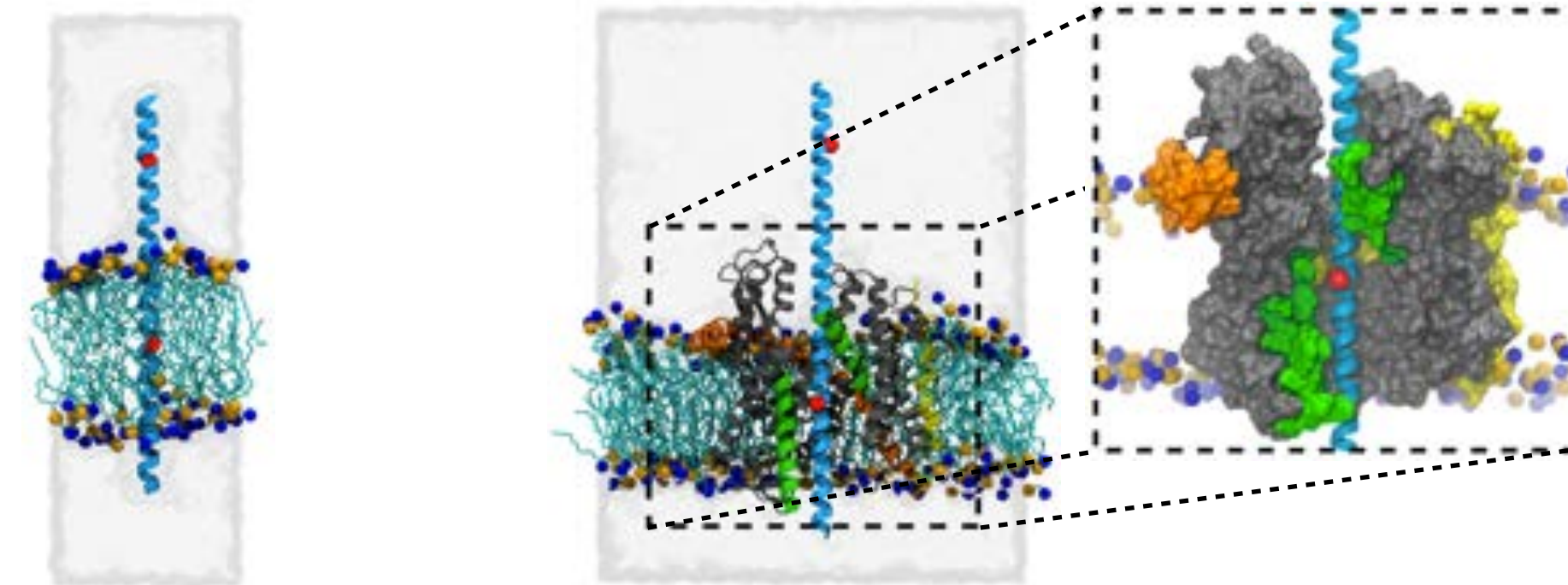


Nascent membrane proteins typically insert into the membrane via the Sec-translocon.

Membrane insertion of arginine, for instance, requires 14–17 kcal/mol according to molecular dynamics simulations, but only 2–3 kcal/mol according to experiment.



How does the translocon reduce the energetic cost and gain that accompanies insertion?



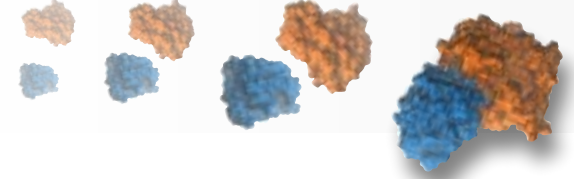
Becker, T. et al. *Science* **2009**, *326*, 1369-1373

Dorairaj, S.; Allen, T. W. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2007**, *104*, 4943-4948

Hessa, T. et al. *Nature* **2007**, *450*, 1026-1030

Gumbart, J. C.; Chipot, C.; Schulten, K. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2011**, *108*, 3596-3601





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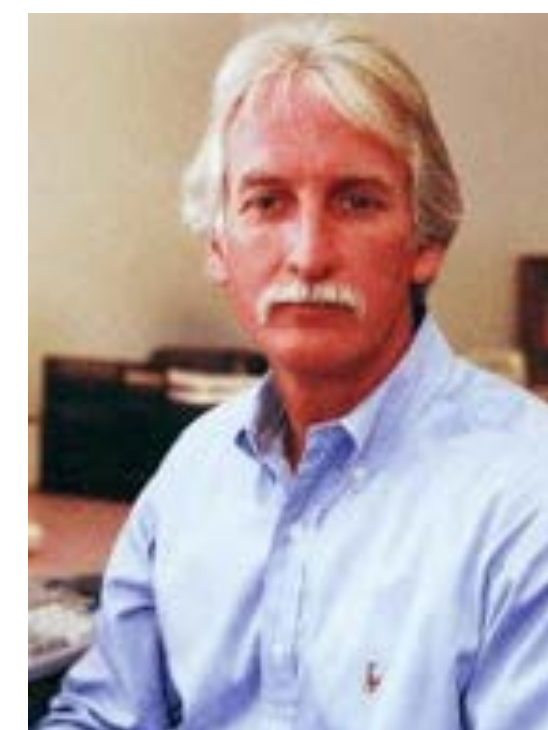
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## CONCLUDING REMARKS AND QUESTIONS





## A TOOL TO ADDRESS HOST-GUEST CHEMISTRY PROBLEMS



Transforming between chemical species, exploiting the malleability of the potential energy function.

First alchemical transformation: Methanol to ethane (6.7 vs. 6.9 kcal/mol in experiment).

**Single-topology paradigm:**

- A common-denominator topology for the end states of the transformation.
- The non-bonded terms are a function of a general-extent parameter,  $\lambda$ .
- Necessity to correct for the change of bond length — if shaken bonds.
- Requires electrostatic decoupling.



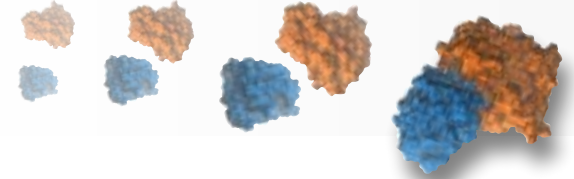
Jorgensen, W. L.; Ravimohan, C. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1985**, *83*, 3050-3054

Postma, J. P. M.; Berendsen, H. J. C.; Haak, J. R. *Faraday Symp. Chem. Soc.* **1982**, *17*, 55-67

Bash, P. A. et al. *Science* **1987**, *236*, 564-568

Bash, P. A. et al. *Science* **1987**, *235*, 574-576





## A TOOL TO ADDRESS HOST-GUEST CHEMISTRY PROBLEMS

**Free energy is a state function.**

The free-energy difference between the end states is independent from the path followed to calculate it.

**Dual-topology paradigm:**

- The end states are defined explicitly.
- An exclusion list prevents them from seeing each other.
- The interaction of the perturbed state with its environment is a function of a general-extent parameter,  $\lambda$ .
- Prone to end-point catastrophes.
- Branching requires particular care.







## A TOOL TO ADDRESS HOST-GUEST CHEMISTRY PROBLEMS



## FREE-ENERGY PERTURBATION

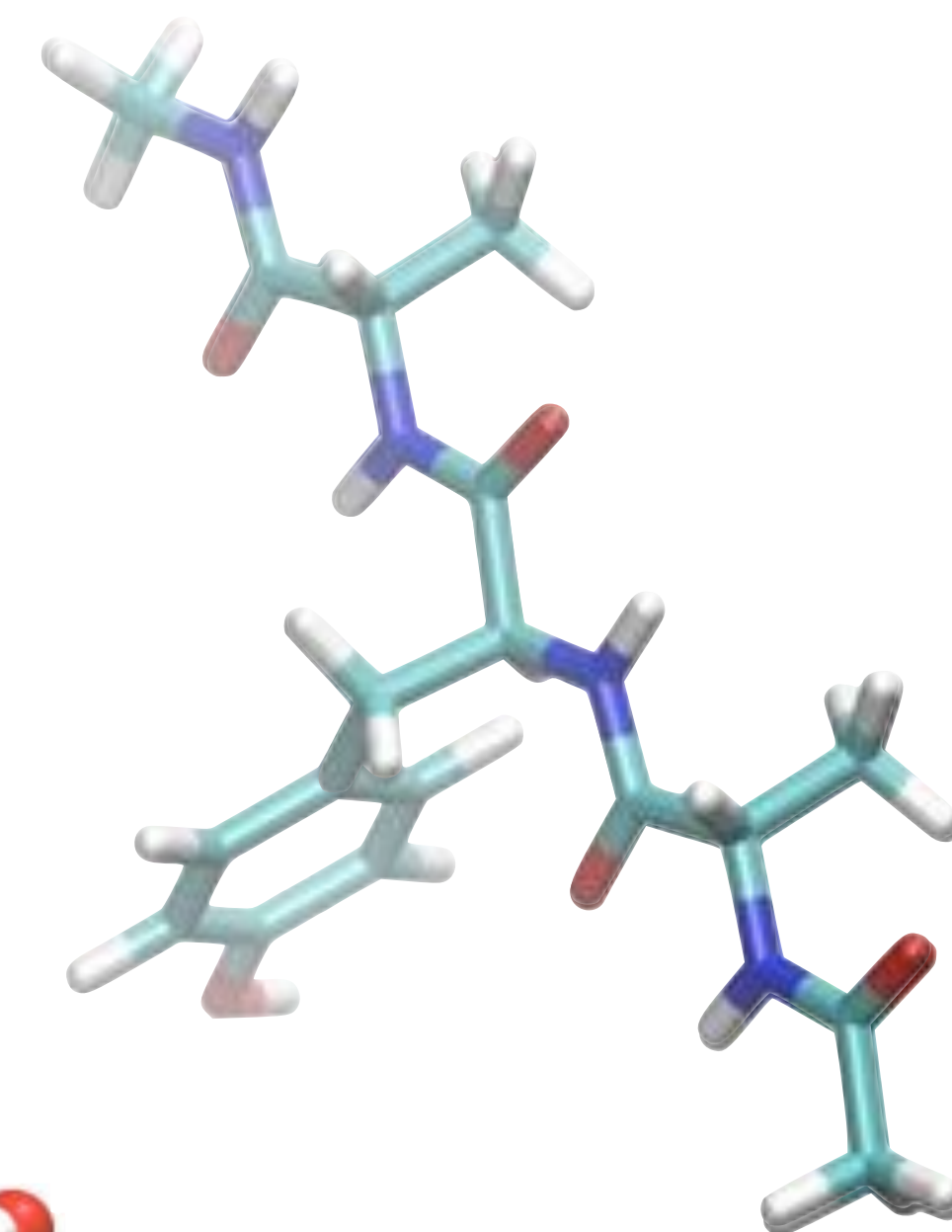
$$\exp(-\beta\Delta A) = \langle \exp(-\beta\Delta U) \rangle_0$$

- Requires the sole knowledge of the reference state.
- Formally exact for any perturbation.
- Importance-sampling method.

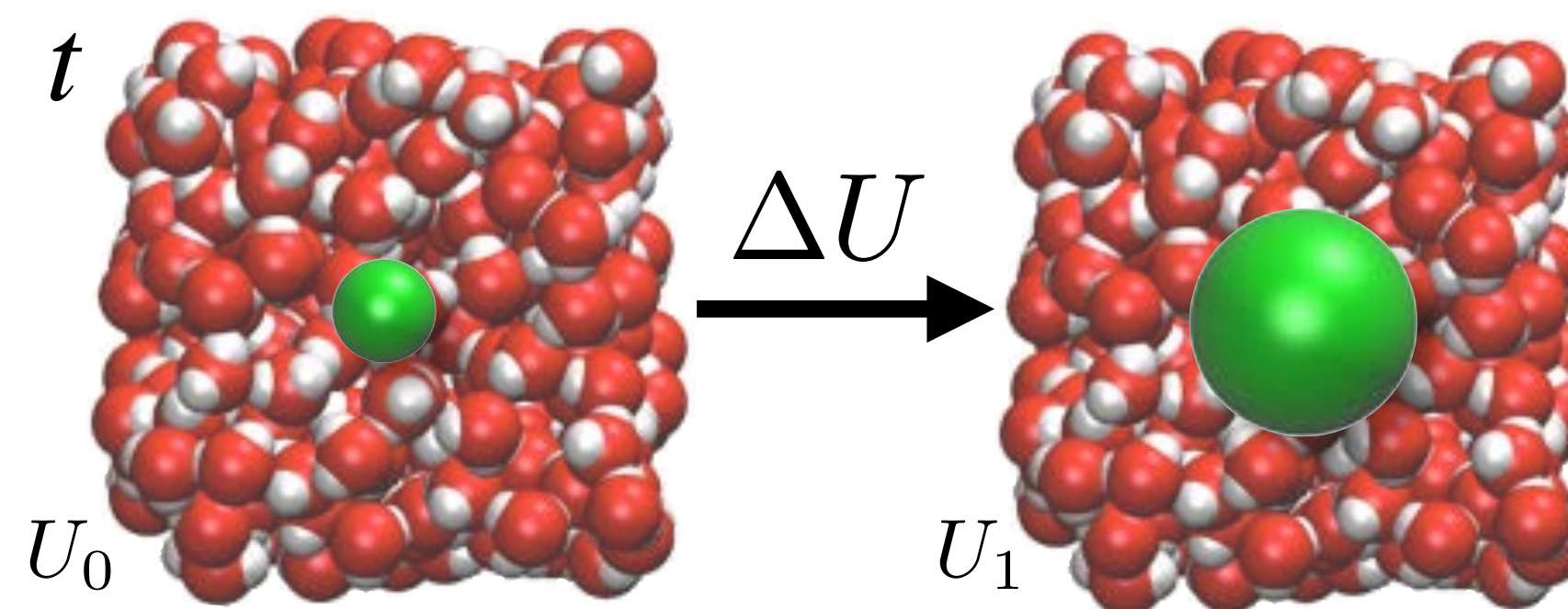


## THERMODYNAMIC INTEGRATION

$$\Delta A = \int d\lambda \left\langle \frac{\partial U}{\partial \lambda} \right\rangle_\lambda$$



$$\Delta U(\lambda) = \lambda U_1 + (1 - \lambda)U_0$$



Landau, L. D. *Statistical physics*, 1938

Zwanzig, R. W. J. *Chem. Phys.* **1954**, 22, 1420-1426

Kirkwood, J. G. J. *Chem. Phys.* **1935**, 3, 300-313





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



## How to deal with large perturbations ?

$$\Delta A = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \int d\Delta U P_0(\Delta U) \exp(-\beta\Delta U)$$

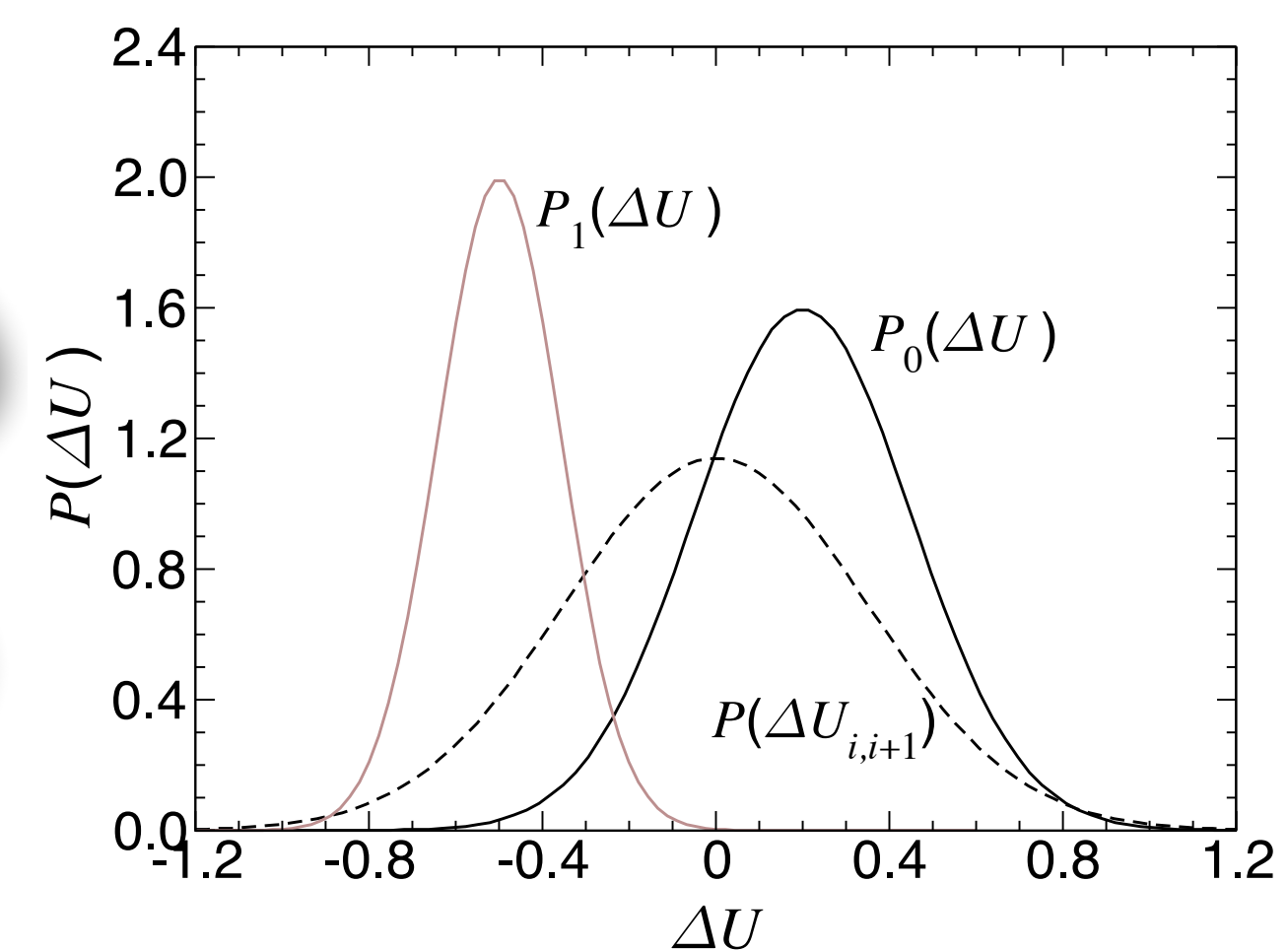
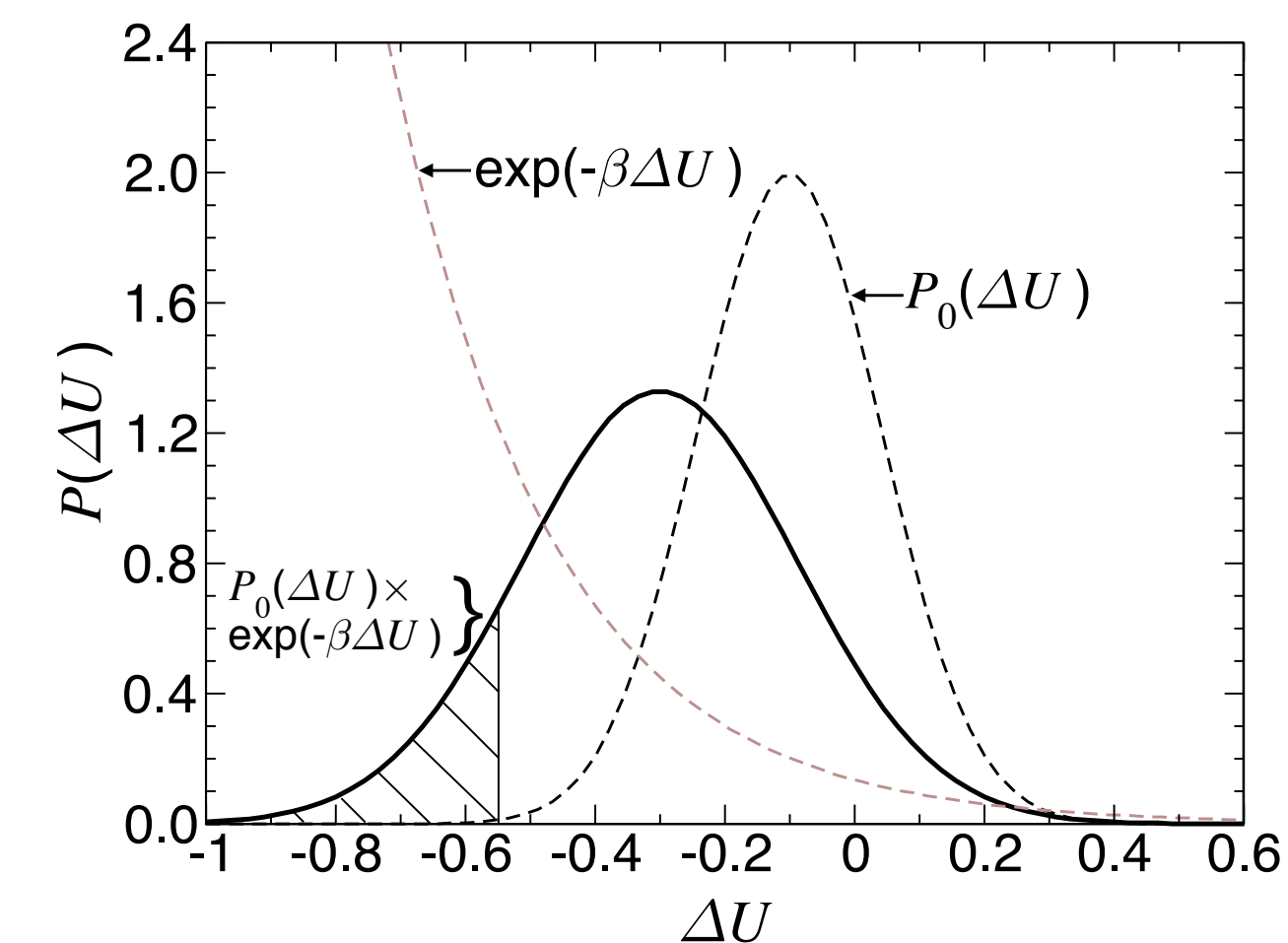
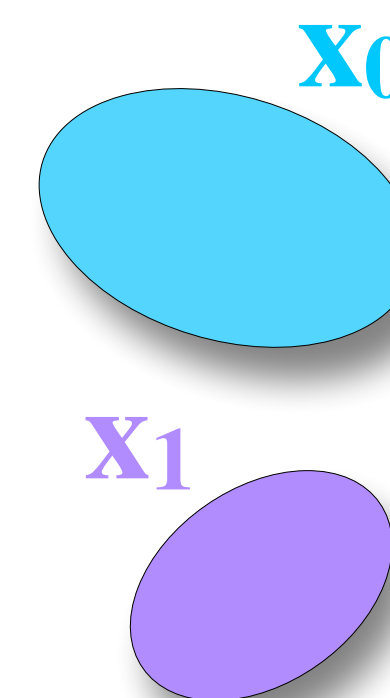
$$P_0(\Delta U) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_0^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{(\Delta U - \langle\Delta U\rangle_0)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}\right]$$

$$\Delta A \leq \langle\Delta U\rangle_0$$

$$\Delta A = \langle\Delta U\rangle_0 - \frac{1}{2}\beta\sigma_0^2$$

## Stratification strategies

$$\Delta A = -\frac{1}{\beta} \sum_i \ln \langle \exp(-\beta\Delta U_{i,i+1}) \rangle_i$$



Valleau, J. P.; Card, D. N. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1972**, *57*, 5457-5462

Chipot, C.; Pohorille, A. *Free energy calculations. Theory and applications in chemistry and biology*, **2007**

Lelièvre, T.; Stoltz, G.; Rousset, M. *Free energy computations: A mathematical perspective*, **2010**





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

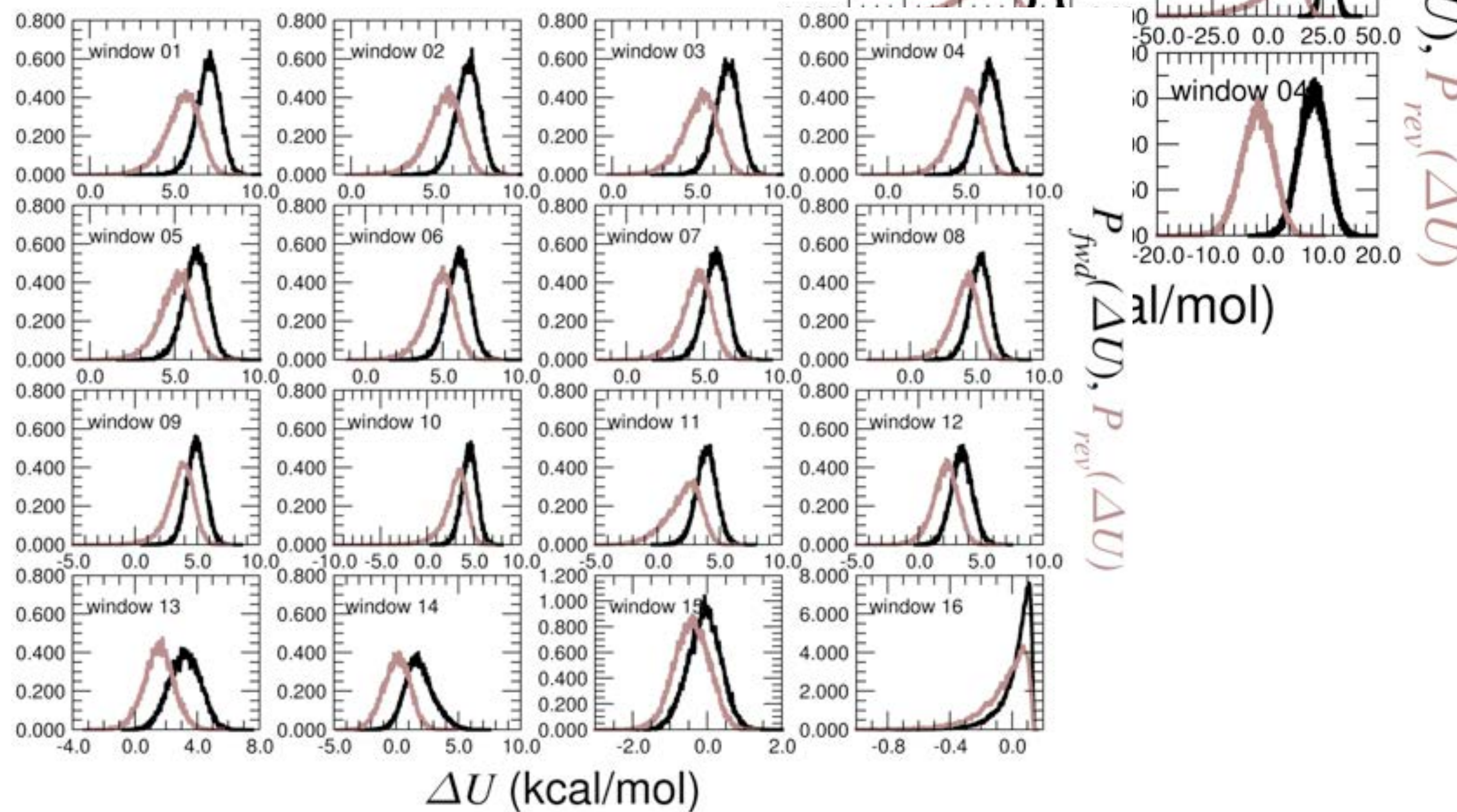
**How many strata should I choose ?**

Stratification will impact the accuracy of the free-energy calculation.



In the NAMD lingo:

```
runFEP 0.0 1.0 0.0625 $nSteps
```

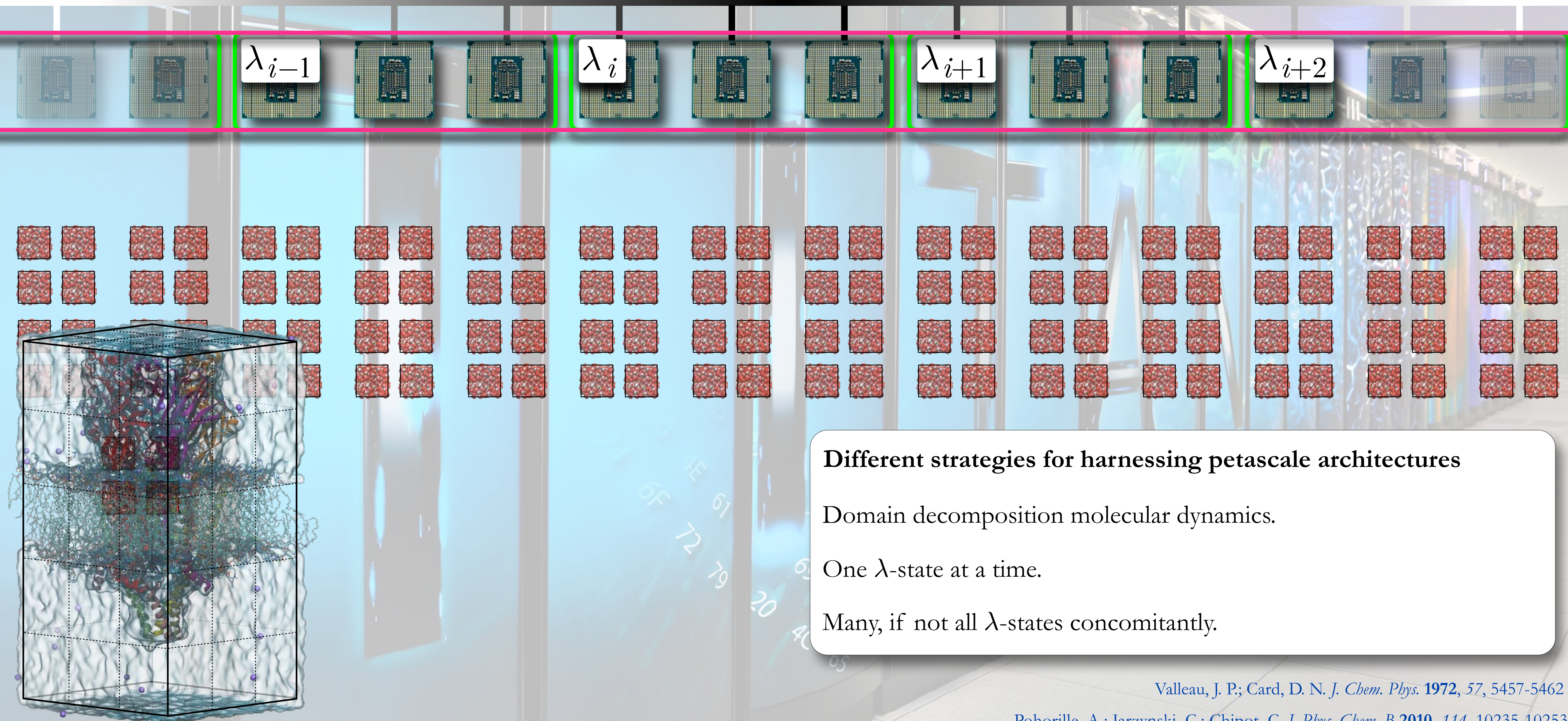


Valleau, J. P.; Card, D. N. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1972**, *57*, 5457-5462

Pohorille, A.; Jarzynski, C.; Chipot, C. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2010**, *114*, 10235-10253



## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



### Different strategies for harnessing petascale architectures

Domain decomposition molecular dynamics.

One  $\lambda$ -state at a time.

Many, if not all  $\lambda$ -states concomitantly.

Valleau, J. P.; Card, D. N. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1972**, *57*, 5457-5462

Pohorille, A.; Jarzynski, C.; Chipot, C. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2010**, *114*, 10235-10253





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Combining forward and backward transformations**

Maximum-likelihood estimator of the free-energy change.

Guarantees the minimum variance.

$$\begin{cases} \exp(\beta \Delta \hat{A}^{\text{BAR}}) = \frac{\langle f[-\beta(\Delta U - c)] \rangle_1}{\langle f[+\beta(\Delta U - c)] \rangle_0} \exp(+\beta c) \\ c = \Delta \hat{A}^{\text{BAR}} + \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \frac{N_1}{N_0} \quad f(x) = 1/[1 + \exp(x)] \end{cases}$$

$$\sigma_{\Delta A}^2 \text{ BAR} = \frac{1}{N_0 \beta^2} \left[ \frac{\langle f^2(x) \rangle_0}{\langle f(x) \rangle_0^2} - 1 \right] + \frac{1}{N_1 \beta^2} \left[ \frac{\langle f^2(-x) \rangle_1}{\langle f(-x) \rangle_1^2} - 1 \right]$$

Bennett, C. H. *J. Comp. Phys.* **1976**, *22*, 245–268.

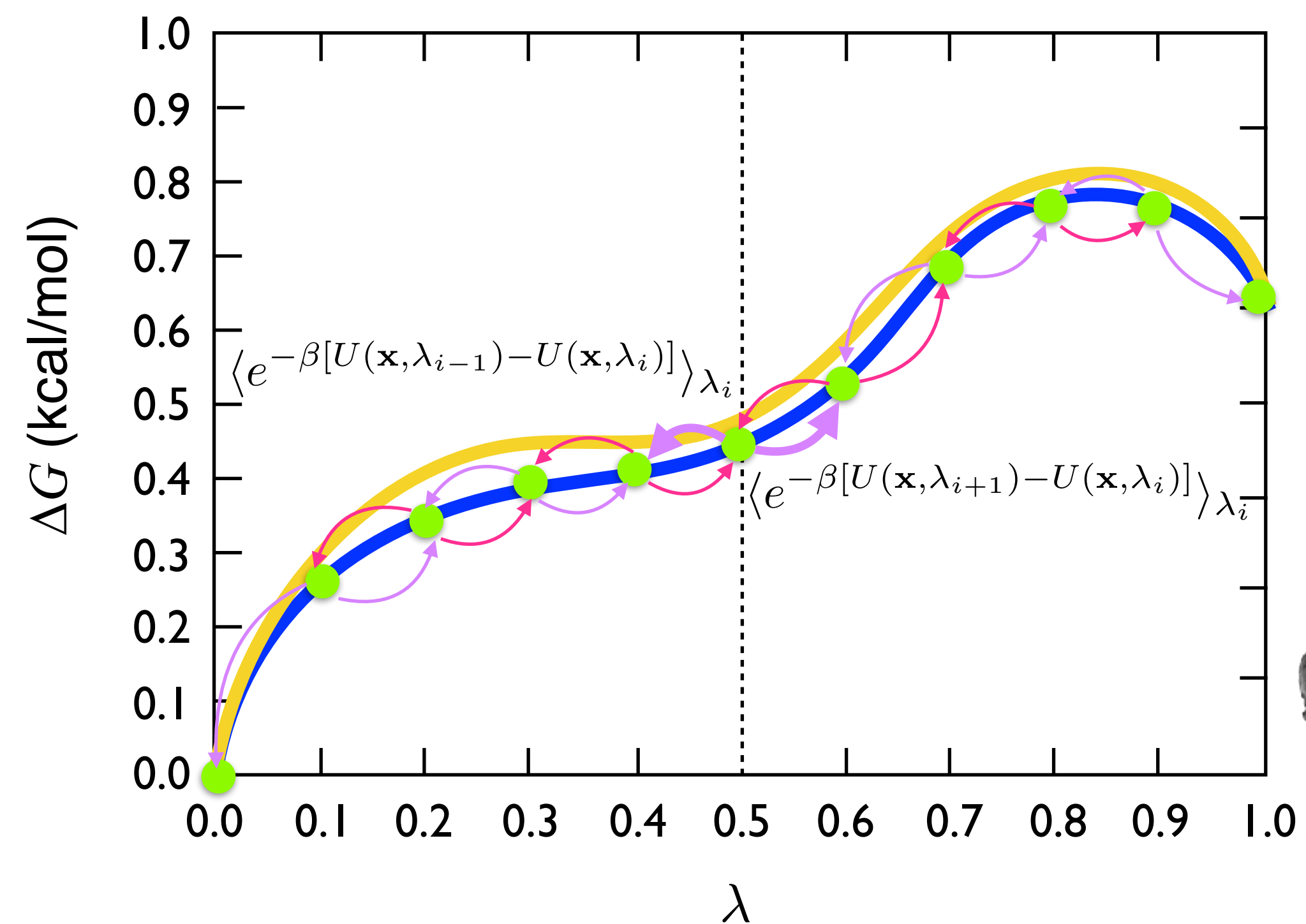
Pohorille, A.; Jarzynski, C.; Chipot, C. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2010**, *114*, 10235-10253

Hahn, A. M.; Then, H. *Phys. Rev. E Stat. Nonlin. Soft Matter Phys.* **2009**, *80*, 031111





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Double-wide sampling**

Ensemble averages carried out with respect to the initial state,  $\lambda_i$ .

More effective than two independent free-energy calculations.

Possible Hamiltonian lag requires proper thermalization at each stratum.

Readily supplies the relevant information for Bennett acceptance ratio analysis.

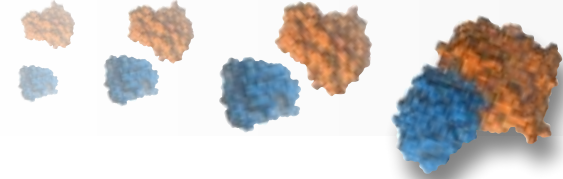
Readily supplies the hysteresis of the transformation.

Jorgensen, W. L.; Ravimohan, C. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1985**, *83*, 3050-3054

Pearlman, D. A.; Kollman, P. A. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1989**, *91*, 7831-7839

Berendsen, H. J. C. in Renugopalakrishnan, V.; et al. Eds. *Proteins, Structure, Dynamics and Design* ESCOM, **1991**, 384-392



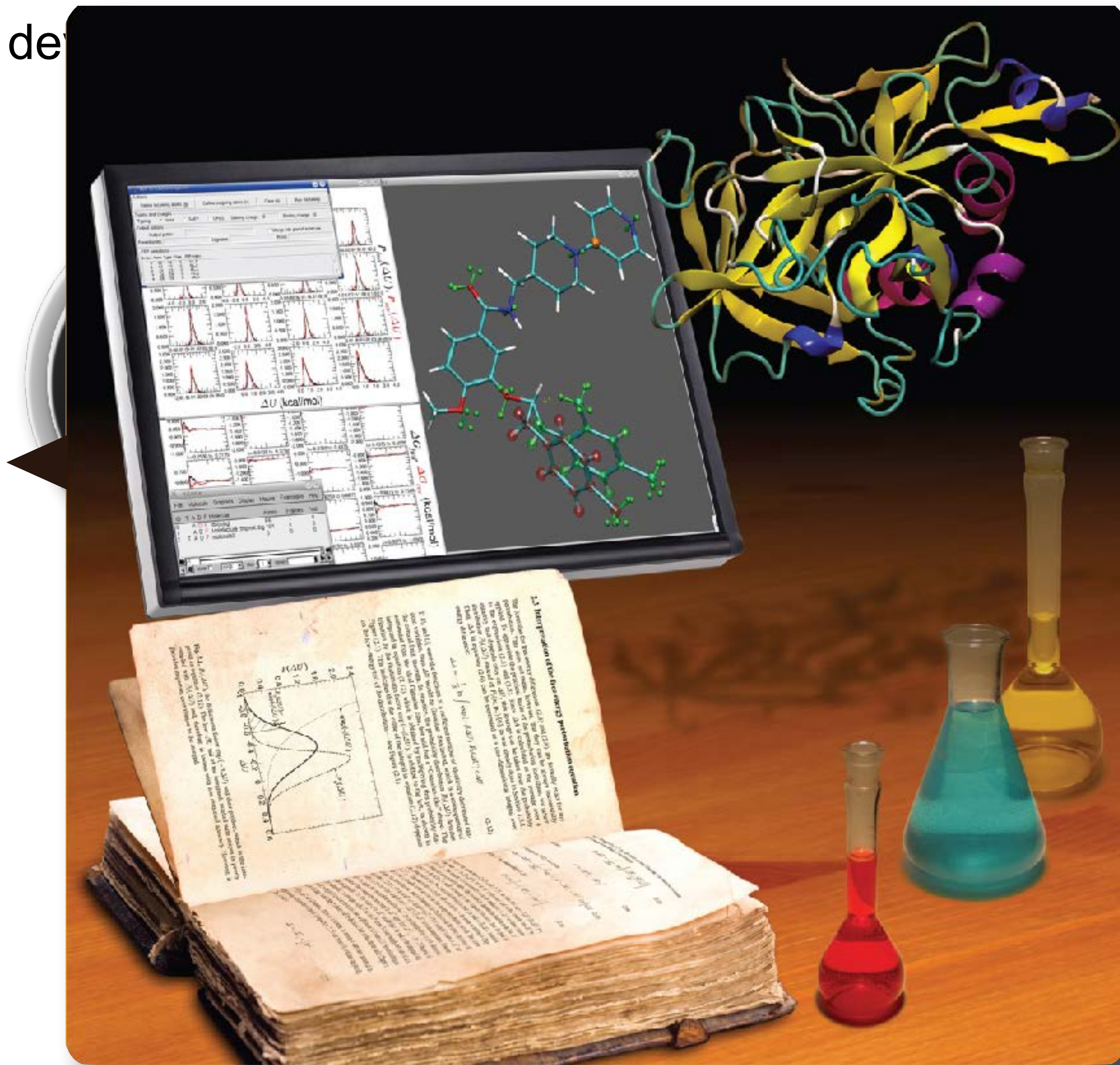


# VMD Plugins

## Advanced Tools de

### Analysis

- APBSRun
- CatDCD
- Contact Map
- GofRGUI
- HeatMapper
- ILSTools
- IRSpecGUI
- MultiSeq
- NAMD Energy
- NAMD Plot
- NetworkView
- NMWiz
- ParseFEP
- PBCTools
- PMEpot
- PropKa GUI
- RamaPlot
- RMSD Tool
- RMSD Trajectory Tool
- RMSD Visualizer Tool
- Salt Bridges
- Sequence Viewer
- Symmetry Tool
- Timeline
- VolMap



### Coration

Shared Views

### Support and Plotting

### I/O Plugins

### ally Hosted Plugins

ins

ential Dynamics

Liu, P.; Dehez, F.; Cai, W.; Chipot, C. *J. Chem. Theor. Comput.* **2012**, *8*, 2606-2616





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**What about end-point catastrophes ?**

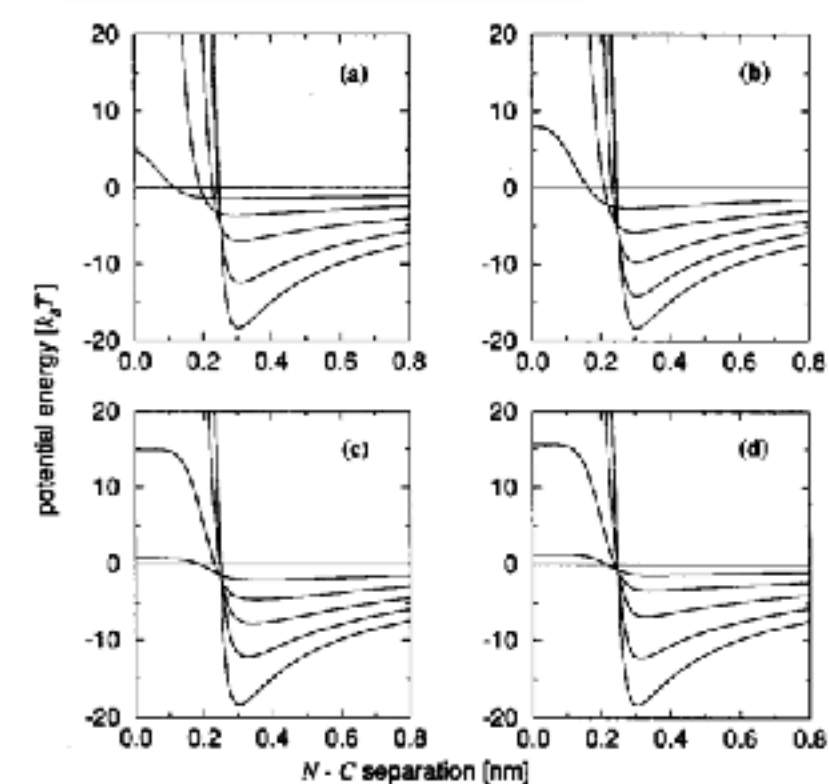
Avoid singularities in the van der Waals potential as particles appear.

$$U^{\text{vdW}}(r_{ij}; \lambda) = 4\epsilon_{ij}(1 - \lambda) \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}^2}{r_{ij}^2 + \alpha\lambda} \right)^6 - \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}^2}{r_{ij}^2 + \alpha\lambda} \right)^3 \right]$$

$$U^{\text{vdW}}(r_{ij}; \lambda) = 4\epsilon_{ij}(1 - \lambda)^n \left\{ \frac{1}{\left[ \alpha\lambda^2 + \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]^2} - \frac{1}{\alpha\lambda^2 + \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^6} \right\}$$

In the NAMD lingo:

`alchVdWShiftCoeff`      `4.0`



Zacharias, M.; Straatsma, T. P.; McCammon, J. A. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1994**, *100*, 9025-9031

Beutler, T. C.; Mark, A. E.; van Schaik, R. C.; Gerber, P. R.; van Gunsteren, W. F. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1994**, *222*, 529-539





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Equilibration simulation

Cartesian coordinates

`.coor`

Velocities

`.vel`

Extended system

`.xsc`

AlchOutFile

`.fepout`

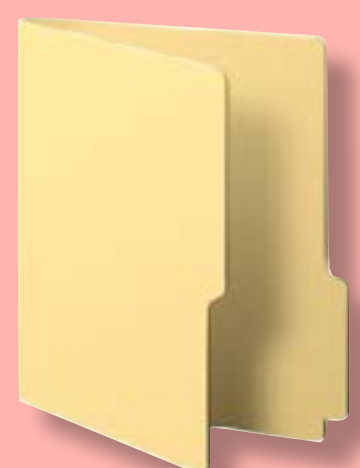
alchFile

`.fep`

Structure

`.psf`

NAMD config

`.namd`

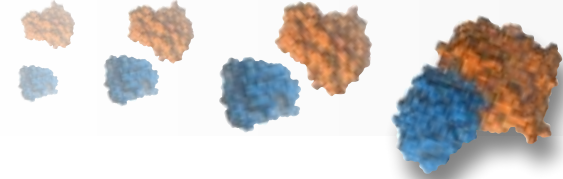
NAMD output

`.log`

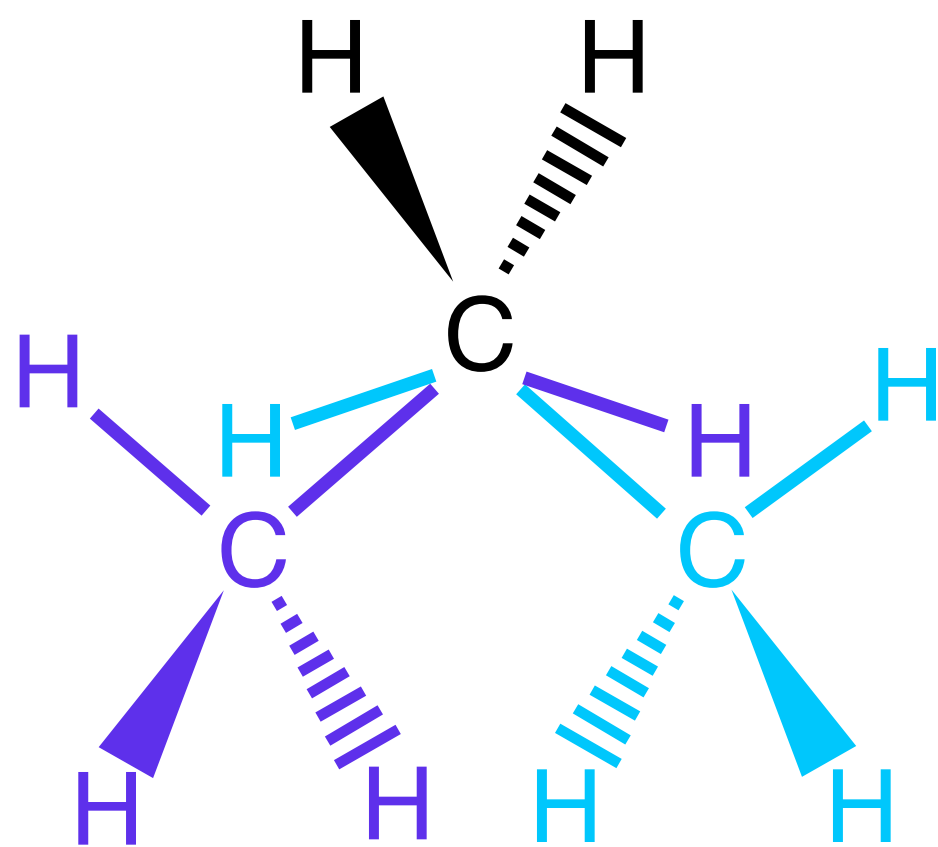
NAMD  
Scalable Molecular Dynamics

Phillips, J. C. et al. *J. Comput. Chem.* **2005**, *26*, 1781-1802Bhandarkar, M. et al. NAMD user's guide, version 2.9, **2012**





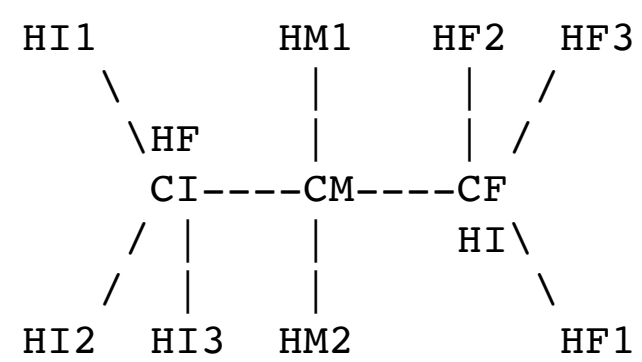
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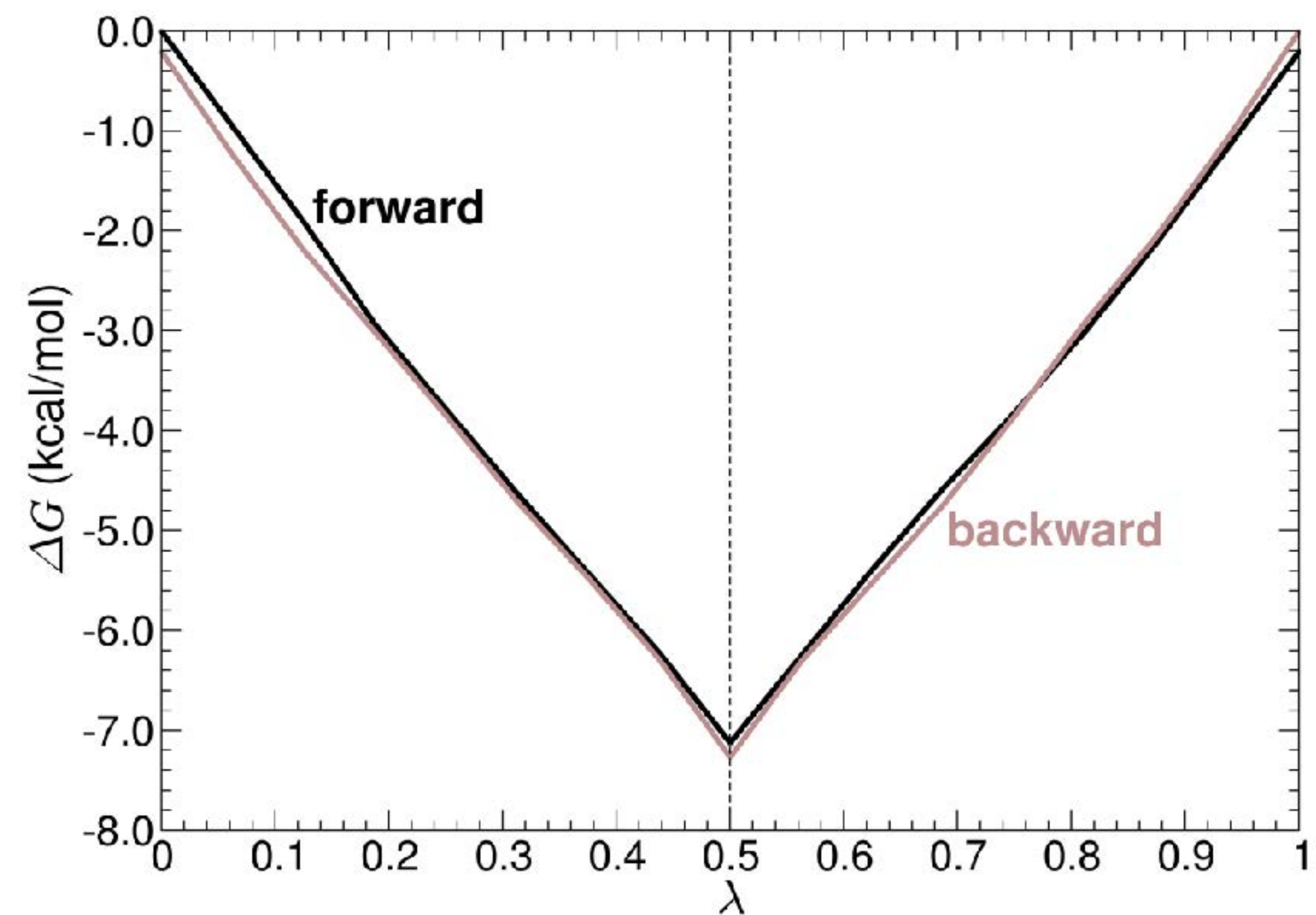
```

RESI ZERO      0.00      ! ethane -> ethane
GROUP          !
ATOM CI      CT3     -0.27      !
ATOM HI1     HA       0.09      !
ATOM HI2     HA       0.09      !
ATOM HI3     HA       0.09      !
GROUP          !
ATOM CM      CT3     -0.27      !
ATOM HM1     HA       0.09      !
ATOM HM2     HA       0.09      !
ATOM HI      HA       0.09      !
ATOM HF      HA       0.09      !
GROUP          !
ATOM CF      CT3     -0.27      !
ATOM HF1     HA       0.09      !
ATOM HF2     HA       0.09      !
ATOM HF3     HA       0.09      !
BOND  CI  HI1      CI  HI2      CI  HI3      ! ethane 1
BOND  CF  HF1     CF  HF2     CF  HF3      ! ethane 2
BOND  CI  CM      CF  CM          ! common
BOND  CM  HM1     CM  HM2          ! common
BOND  CM  HI          ! ethane 1
BOND  CM  HF          ! ethane 2

```



## Zero free-energy change transformation

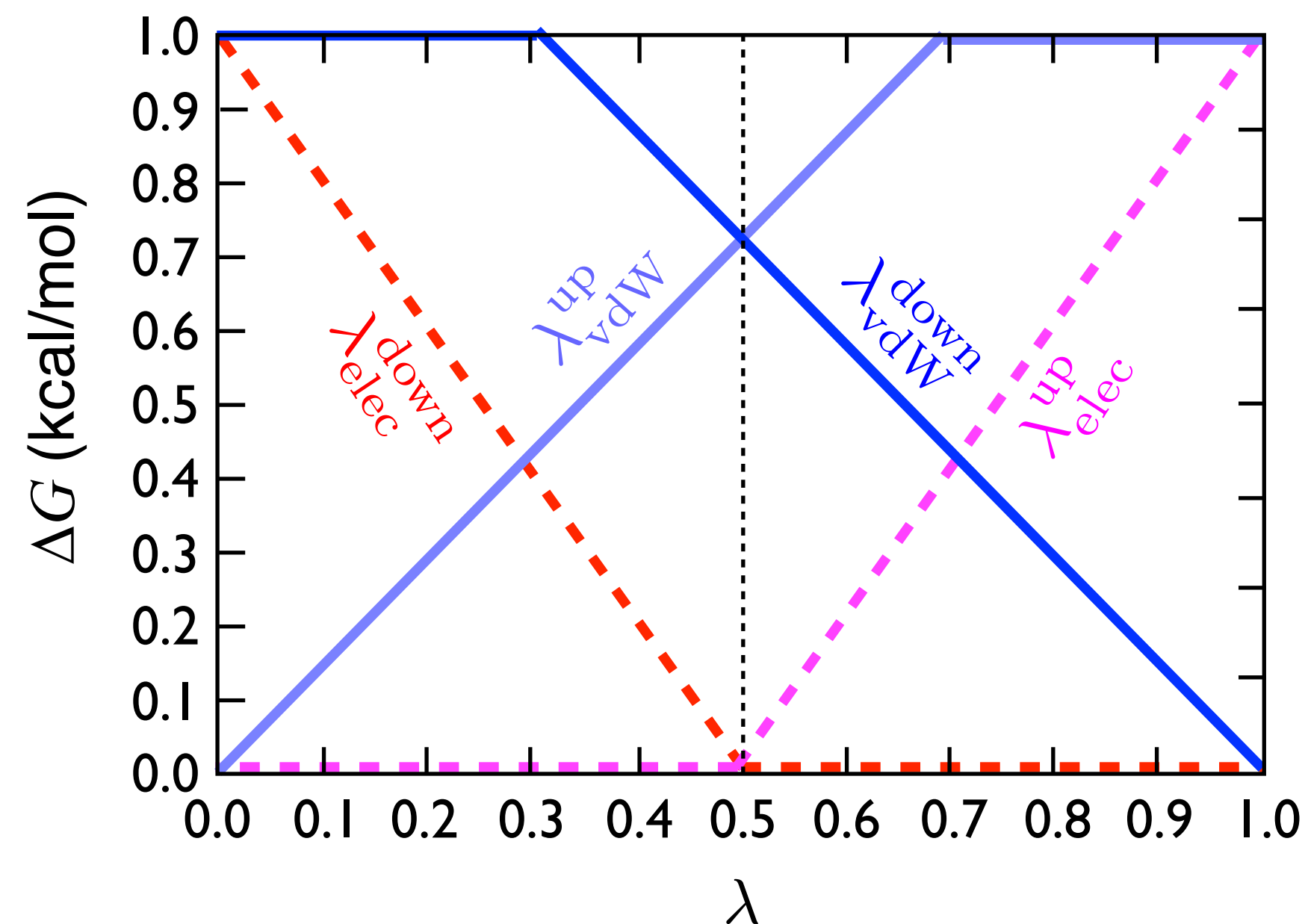


Pearlman, D. A.; Kollman, P. A. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1991**, *94*, 4532-4545





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Scheduling the electrostatic decoupling:

Outgoing particles

	beginning	end
electrostatics	0	$1 - \lambda_{elec}^{start}$
van der Waals	$1 - \lambda_{vdW}^{end}$	1

Decoupling in the NAMD lingo:

```
alchVdwLambdaEnd      0.7
alchElecLambdaStart   0.5
```

Incoming particles

	beginning	end
electrostatics	$\lambda_{elec}^{start}$	1
van der Waals	0	$\lambda_{vdW}^{end}$



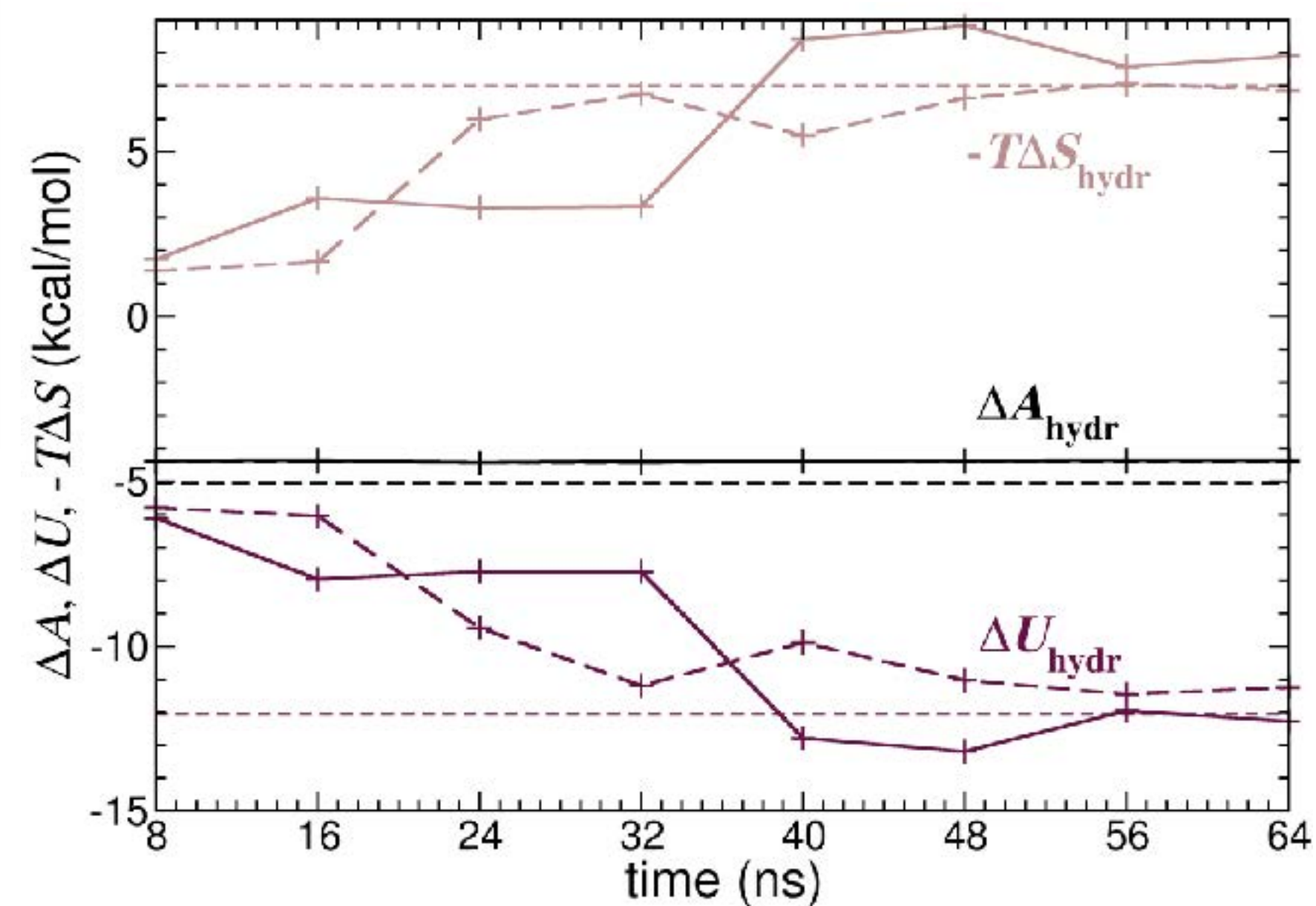


## HOW ABOUT THE ENTROPY ?



Appreciably more challenging to estimate on account of averages over  $U_0$  and  $U_1$ .

$$\Delta S = \frac{1}{T} \left( \frac{\langle U_1 \exp(-\beta \Delta U) \rangle_0}{\langle \exp(-\beta \Delta U) \rangle_0} - \langle U_0 \rangle_0 \right) + k_B \ln \langle \exp(-\beta \Delta U) \rangle_0$$



Alternate route:

$$\Delta S = - \left( \frac{\partial \Delta A}{\partial T} \right)_{N,V}$$

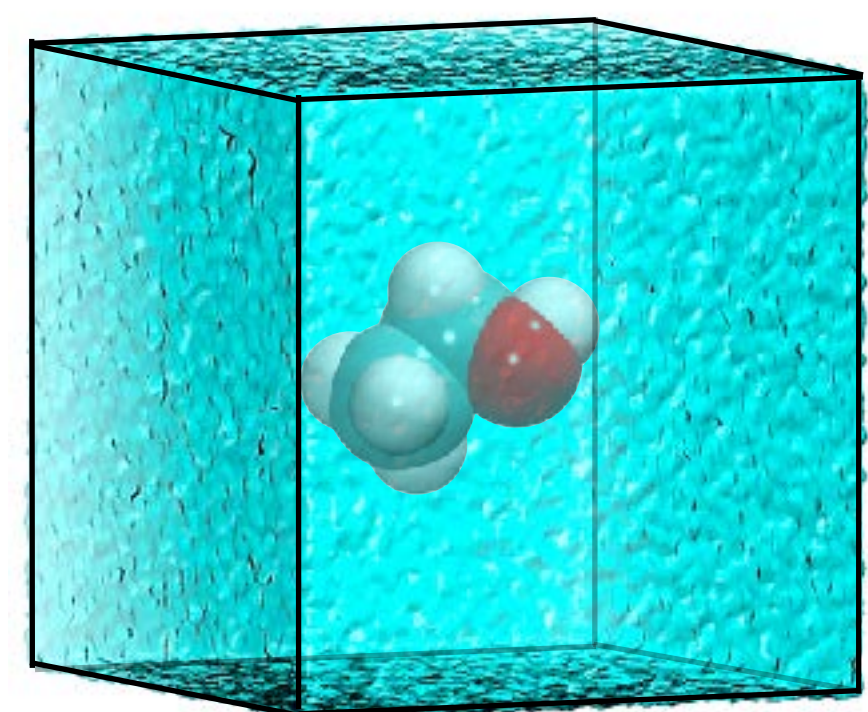
Wan, S.; Stote, R. H.; Karplus, M. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2004**, *121*, 9539–9548

Kubo, M. M.; Gallicchio, E.; Levy, R. M. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **1997**, *101*, 10527–10534

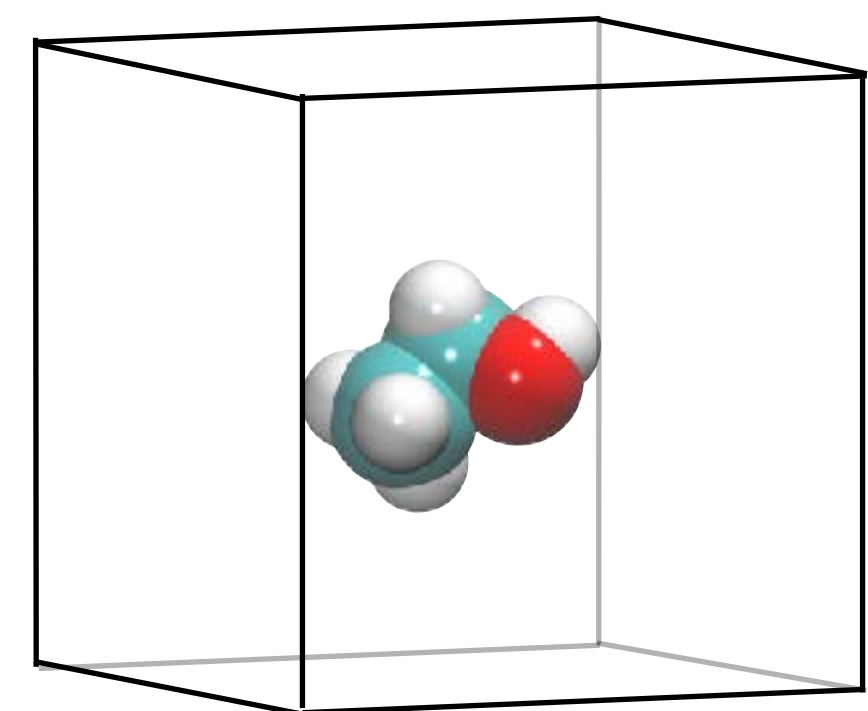




## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

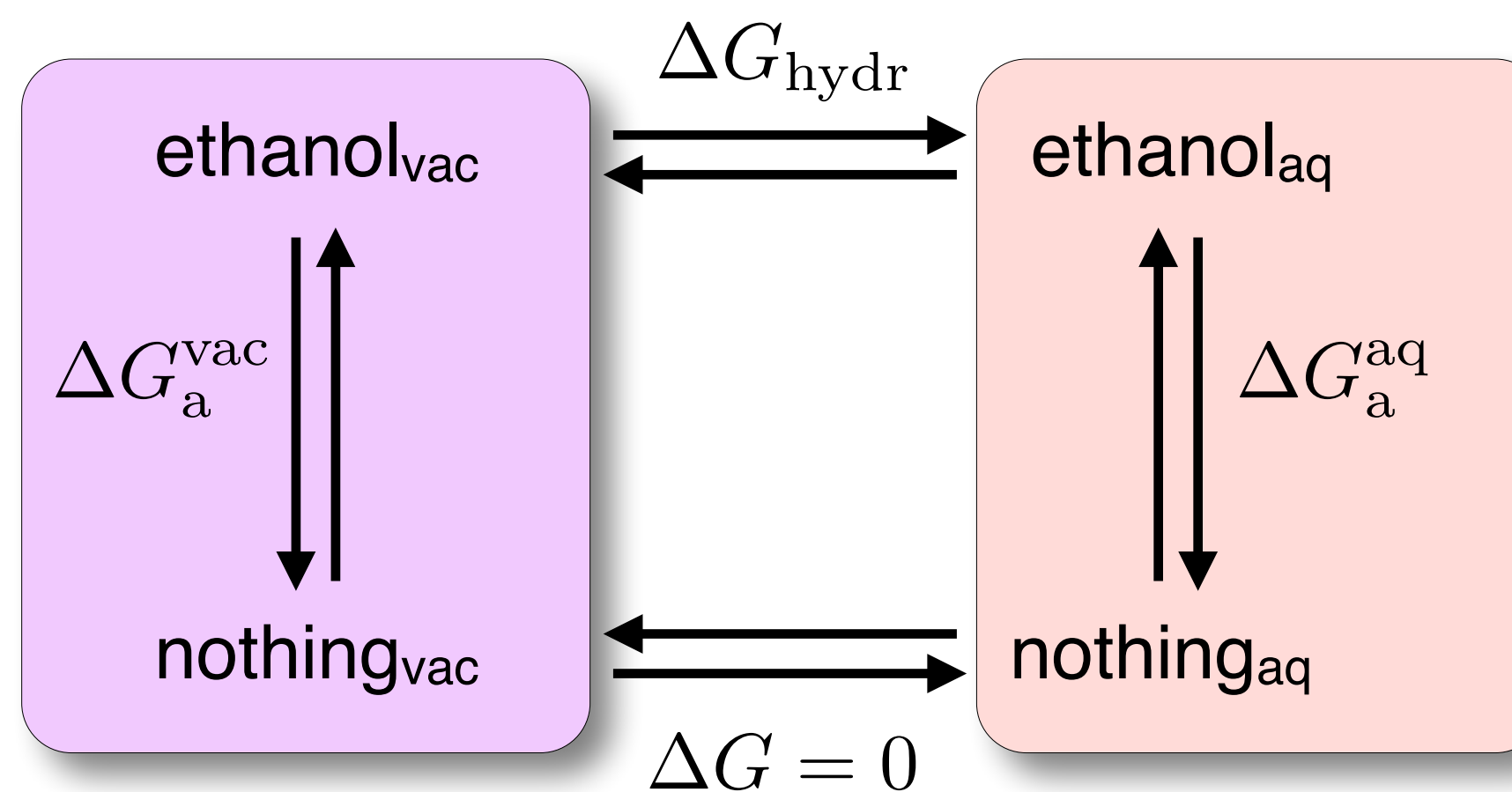


bulk



vacuum

## Ethanol hydration



Why do I need to complete the full thermodynamic cycle ?

In different dielectric environments, molecules may adopt very different conformations, corresponding to distinct intramolecular interactions.

In NAMD lingo: `AlchDecouple off`

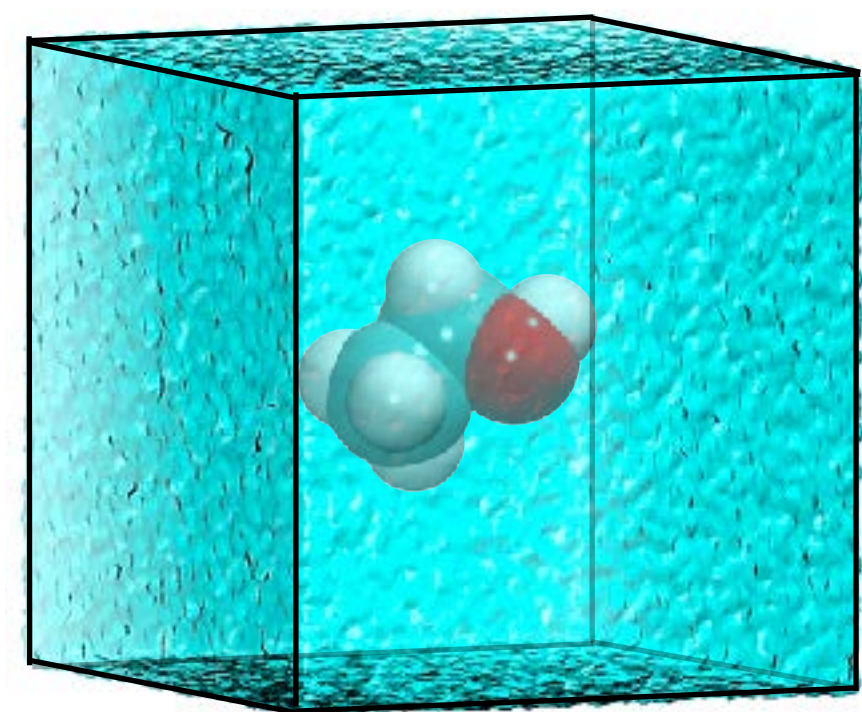


Not a free-energy calculation in vacuum per se, but in a periodic cell bereft of solvent.

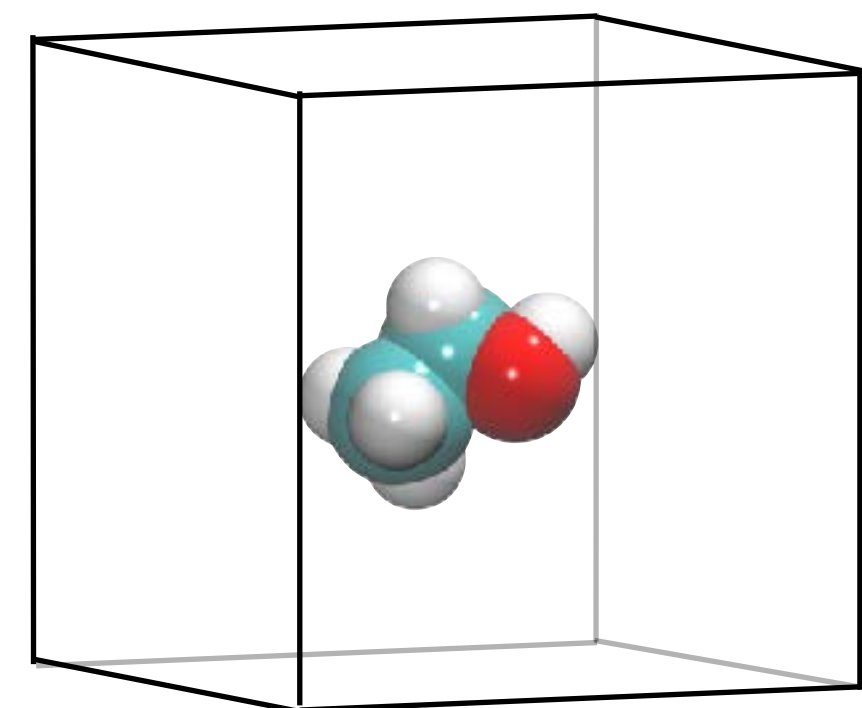




## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

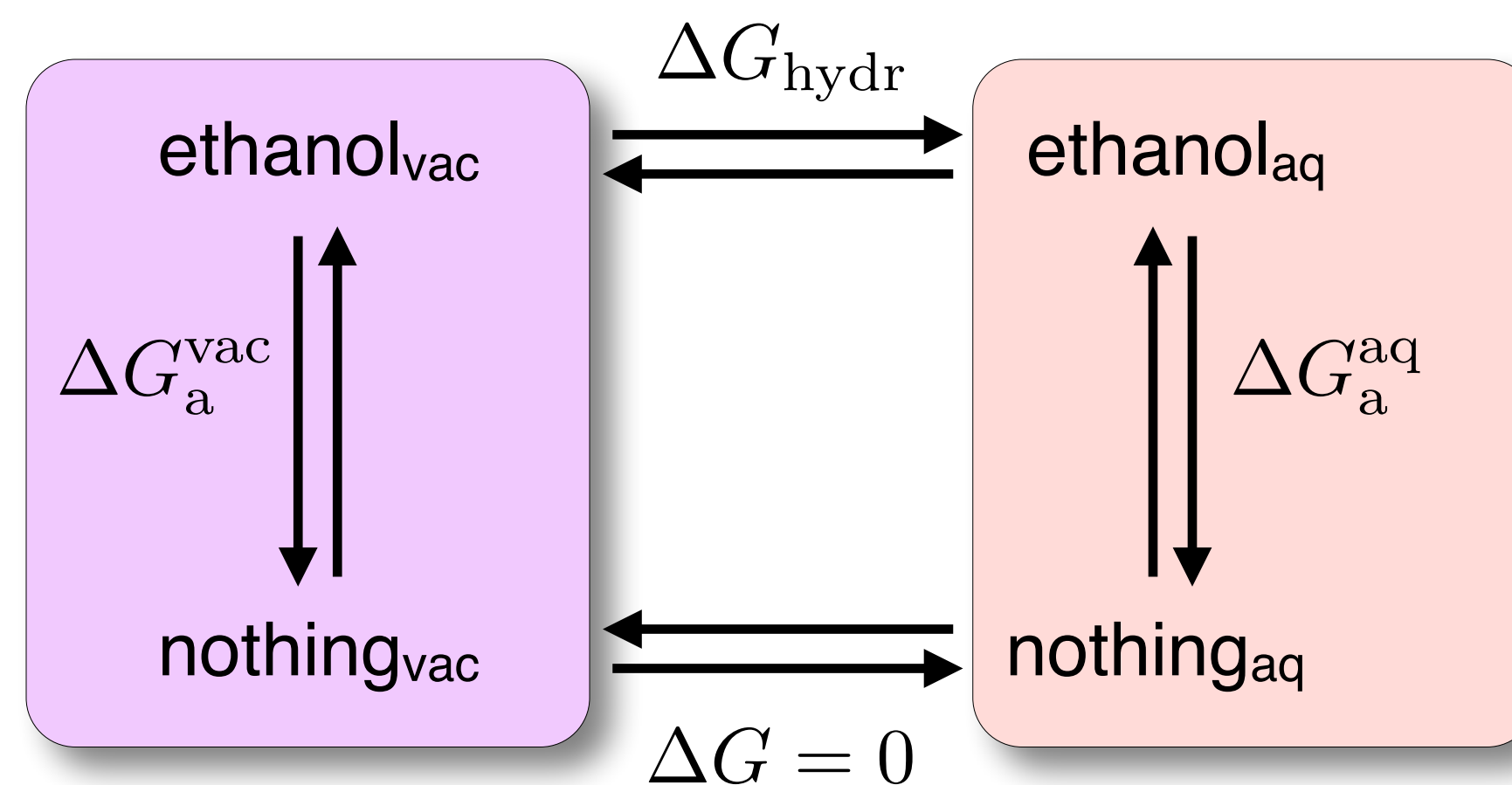


bulk



vacuum

## Exercise 2. Ethanol hydration



	$\Delta G$ (kcal/mol)		
	annihilation	creation	BAR
vacuum	+5.1	-5.3	-5.2
water	+9.5	-9.6	-9.6
hydration	+4.4	-4.3	-4.4

experiment: -5.1 kcal/mol





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



All free-energy calculations should be accompanied by an error estimate. A distinction between statistical and systematic error ought to be made.



Since the reliability of free-energy estimates depends on the overlap between  $P_0(\Delta U)$  and  $P_1(\Delta U)$ , these distributions should be monitored to assess the degree of overlap.

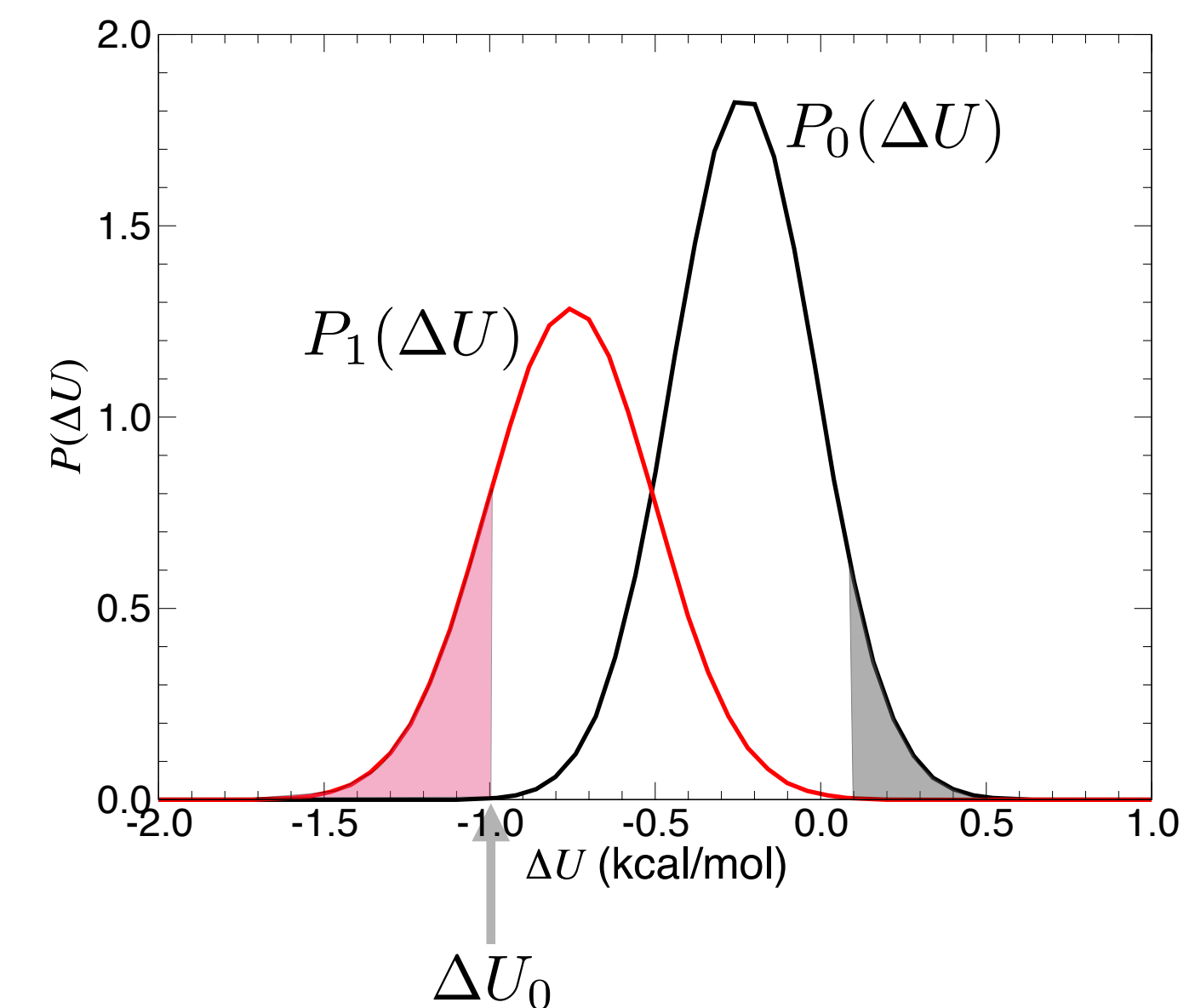
$$\frac{\delta \epsilon_{\Delta A}}{\exp(-\beta \Delta A)} = - \int_{-\infty}^{\Delta U_0} d\Delta U P_1(\Delta U)$$



Stratification provides an effective, general method for reducing the variance and improving overlap at each stage.



Combining forward and backward simulations using, for instance, the BAR estimator is strongly recommended.

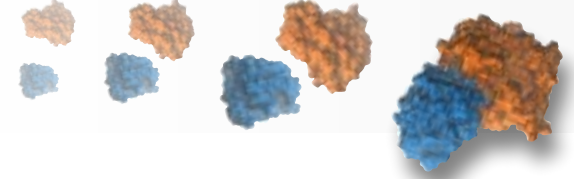


Kofke, D.; Cummings, P. *Fluid Phase Equil.* **1998**, *150*, 41-49

Chipot, C.; Pohorille, A. *Free energy calculations. Theory and applications in chemistry and biology*, **2007**

Pohorille, A.; Jarzynski, C.; Chipot, C. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2010**, *114*, 10235-10253





## INTRODUCTION

- The race for longer and larger simulations
- What is the best method for a given problem?

## ALCHEMICAL FREE-ENERGY CALCULATIONS

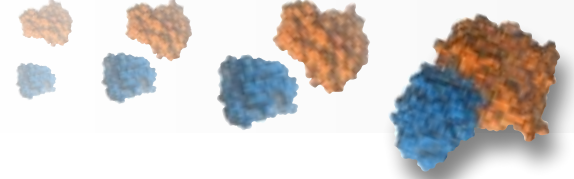
- A tool to address host-guest chemistry questions
- Good practices, guidelines and recommendations
- The long-standing protein-ligand problem

## GEOMETRICAL FREE-ENERGY CALCULATIONS

- A host of methods to measure free-energy changes
- Potentials of mean force and transport phenomena
- Potentials of mean force and recognition and association phenomena
- What about non-equilibrium work computer experiments?

## CONCLUDING REMARKS AND QUESTIONS





## A HOST OF METHODS TO MEASURE FREE-ENERGY CHANGES

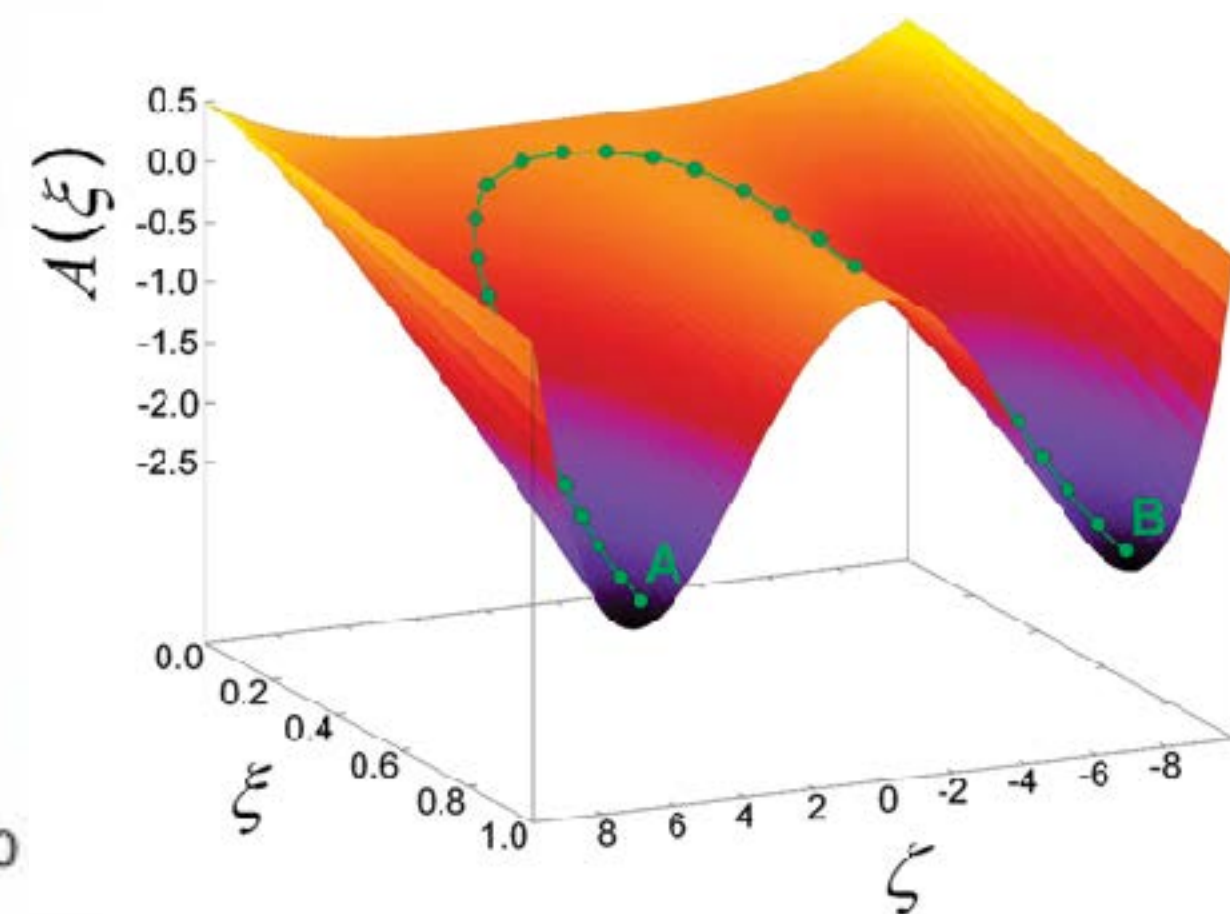
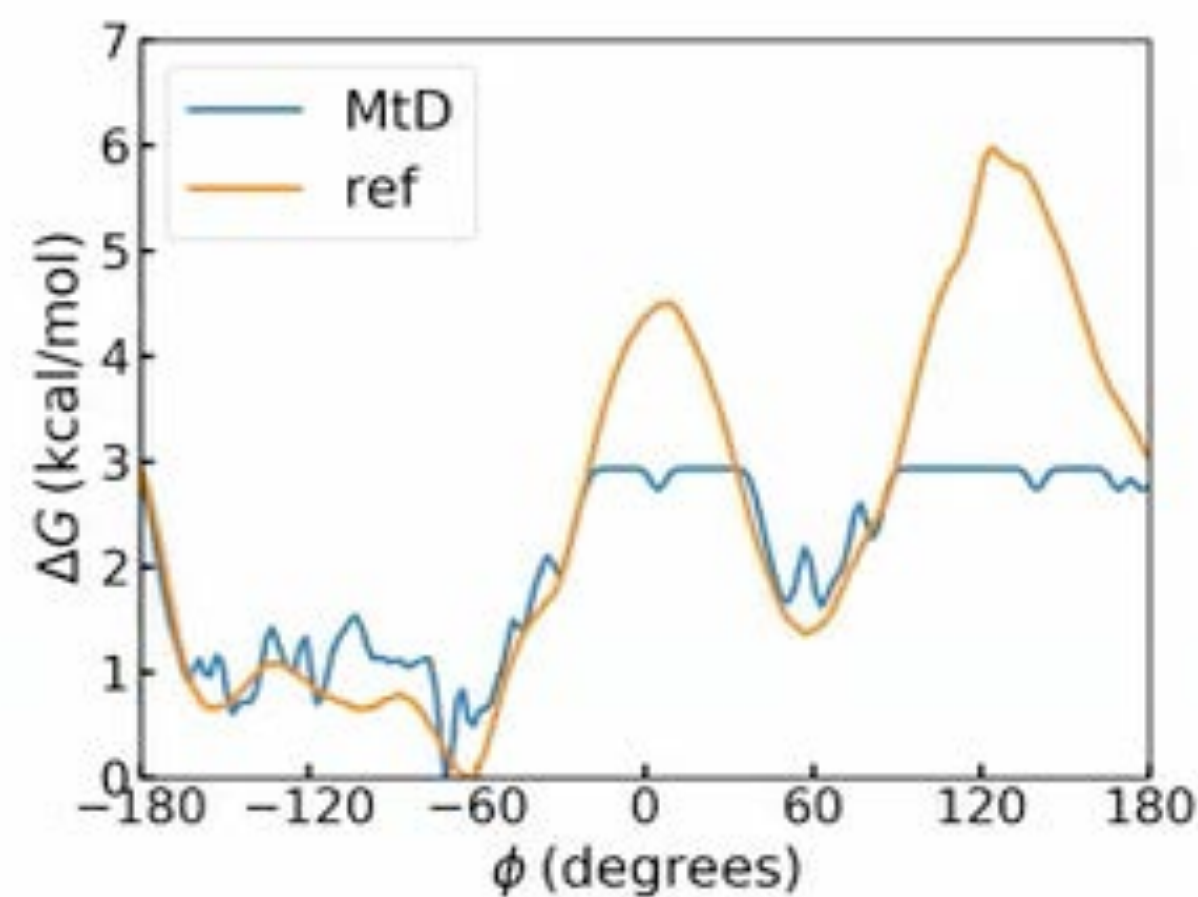


- Conformational flooding. **538 citations**

- Local elevation. **414 citations**

- Metadynamics. **3,184 citations**

MtD: 0.5ns



Prone to marked fluctuations when slow orthogonal degrees of freedom are coupled to the transition coordinate.

Grubmüller, H. *Phys. Rev. E* **1995**, *52*, 2893-2906

Huber, T. et al. *J. Comput. Aided Mol. Des.* **1994**, *8*, 695-708

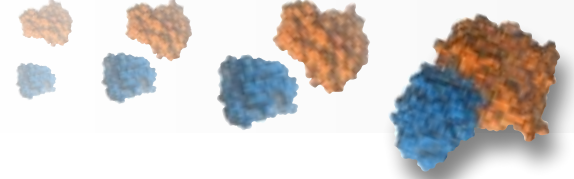
Laio, A.; Parrinello, M. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2002**, *99*, 12562-12565

$$\mathbf{F}_k := -\frac{\partial U(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_k} - \frac{\partial U_{\text{bias}}(\xi)}{\partial \xi} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \xi$$

$$U_{\text{bias}}(\xi) \sim \tau \sum_i \omega K(\xi - \xi_i)$$

$$U_{\text{bias}}(\xi) \sim \tau \sum_i \omega \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\xi - \xi_i}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right]$$





## A HOST OF METHODS TO MEASURE FREE-ENERGY CHANGES



- Conformational flooding.
- Local elevation.
- Metadynamics.



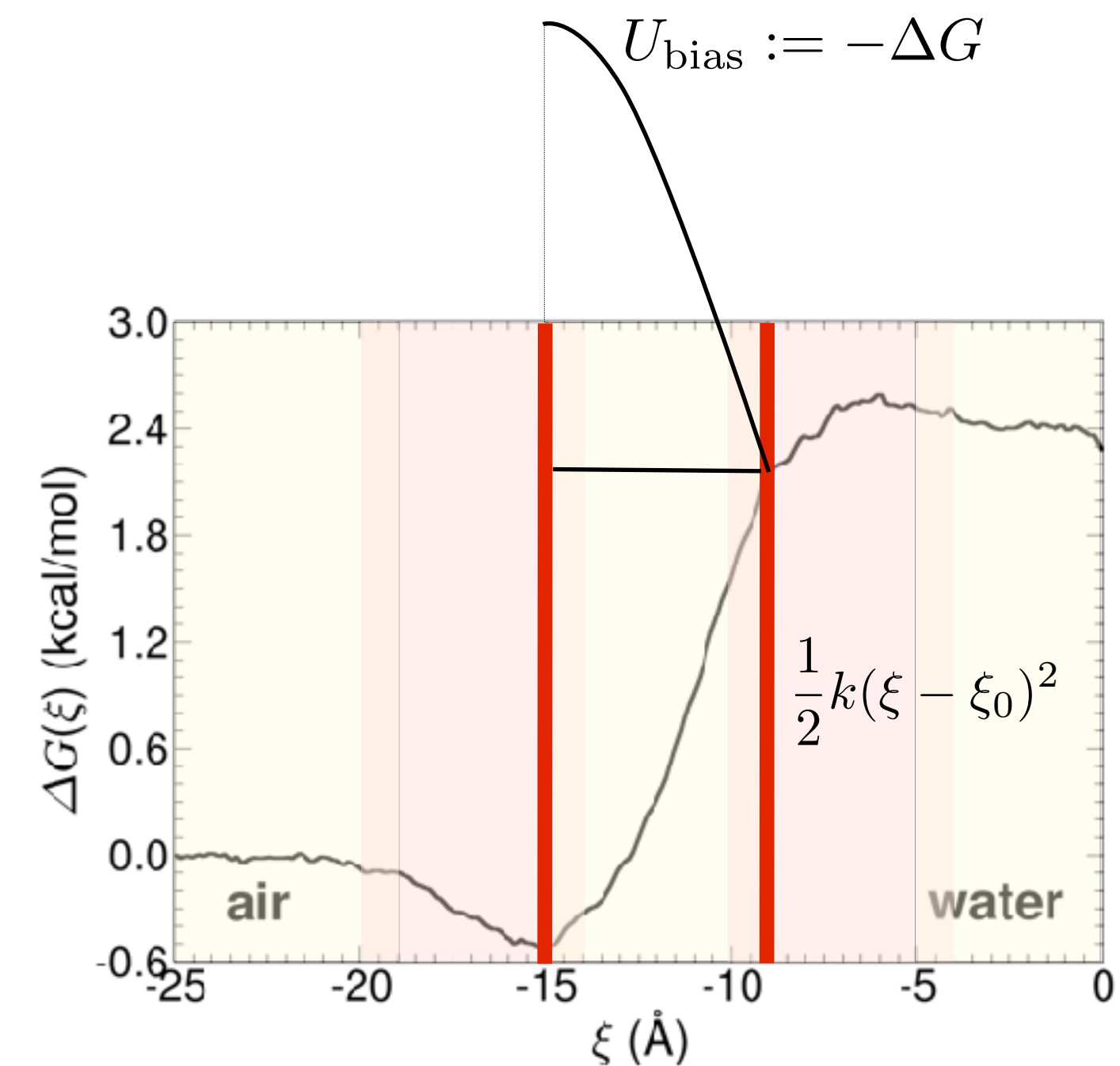
- Umbrella sampling.
- Staging.

$$\Delta G(\xi) = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln P(\xi) - U_{\text{bias}} + \Delta G_0$$



Weighted histogram analysis method:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} P_{\lambda}(\xi) = \frac{\sum_j N_j(\xi) \exp\left(-\beta \sum_i \lambda_i U_{\text{bias},i}\right)}{\sum_k n_k \exp\left(\Delta A_k - \beta \sum_i \lambda_i U_{\text{bias},i}\right)} \\ \exp(-\Delta A_i) = \sum_{U_{\text{bias}}} P_{\lambda}(\xi) \end{array} \right.$$



Grubmüller, H. *Phys. Rev. E* **1995**, *52*, 2893-2906

Huber, T. et al. *J. Comput. Aided Mol. Des.* **1994**, *8*, 695-708

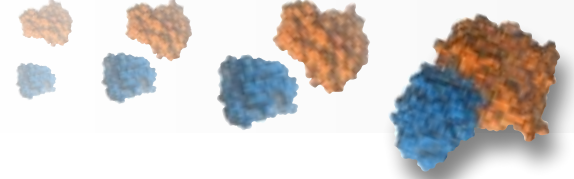
Laio, A.; Parrinello, M. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **2002**, *99*, 12562-12565

Torrie, G. M.; Valleau, J. P. *J. Comput. Phys.* **1977**, *23*, 187-199

Valleau, J. P.; Card, D. N. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1972**, *57*, 5457-5462

Ferrenberg, A. M.; Swendsen, R. H. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1989**, *63*, 1195-1198





## A HOST OF METHODS TO MEASURE FREE-ENERGY CHANGES



- Conformational flooding.
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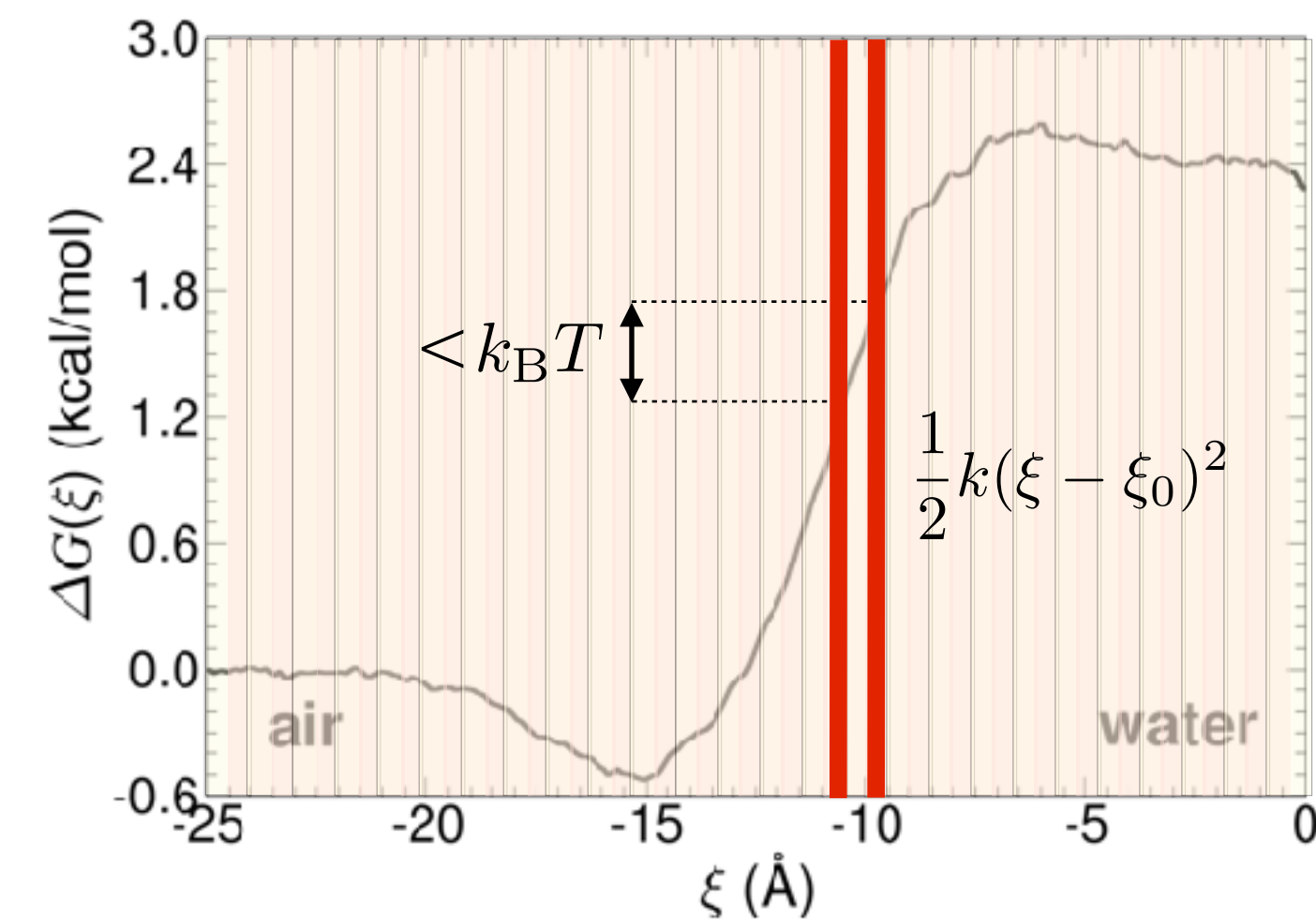
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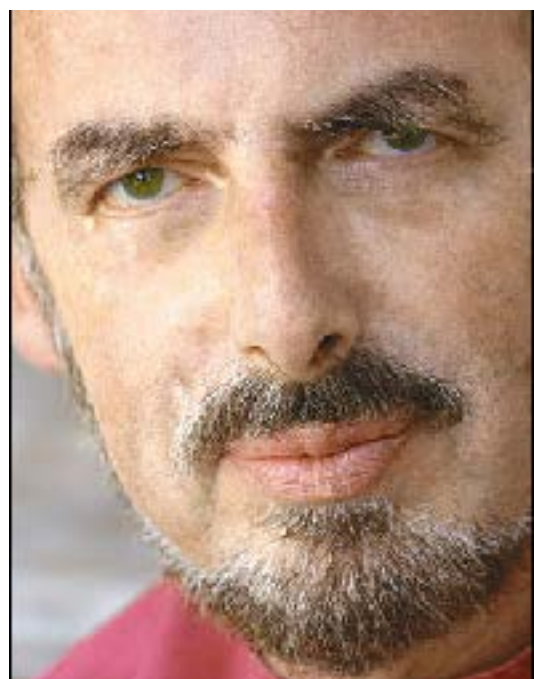
Torrie, G. M.; Valleau, J. P. *J. Comput. Phys.* **1977**, *23*, 187-199

Valleau, J. P.; Card, D. N. *J. Chem. Phys.* **1972**, *57*, 5457-5462

Ferrenberg, A. M.; Swendsen, R. H. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1989**, *63*, 1195-1198



## A HOST OF METHODS TO MEASURE FREE-ENERGY CHANGES



The derivative of the free energy with respect to the order parameter may be expressed as a sum of configurational averages at constant  $\xi$  :

$$\begin{cases} \nabla A(z) := \mathbb{E}\{F(\mathbf{x})|\xi(\mathbf{x}) = z\} \\ F(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\nabla U(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \nabla \xi}{|\nabla \xi|^2} - \frac{1}{\beta} \cdot \nabla \left( \frac{\nabla \xi}{|\nabla \xi|^2} \right) \end{cases}$$

$\mathbf{v}_{i, i \in [1, \dots, n]}$  are arbitrarily chosen vector fields of  $\mathbb{R}^{3N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3N}$ , which verify  $\mathbf{v}_i \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \xi_j = \delta_{ij}, \forall i, j$ .

The  $i$ -th partial derivative of the free energy surface is calculated as the ensemble average of the thermodynamic force:

$$\nabla A(z) = \left\langle \mathbf{v}_i \cdot \nabla U(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{\beta} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}_i \right\rangle$$

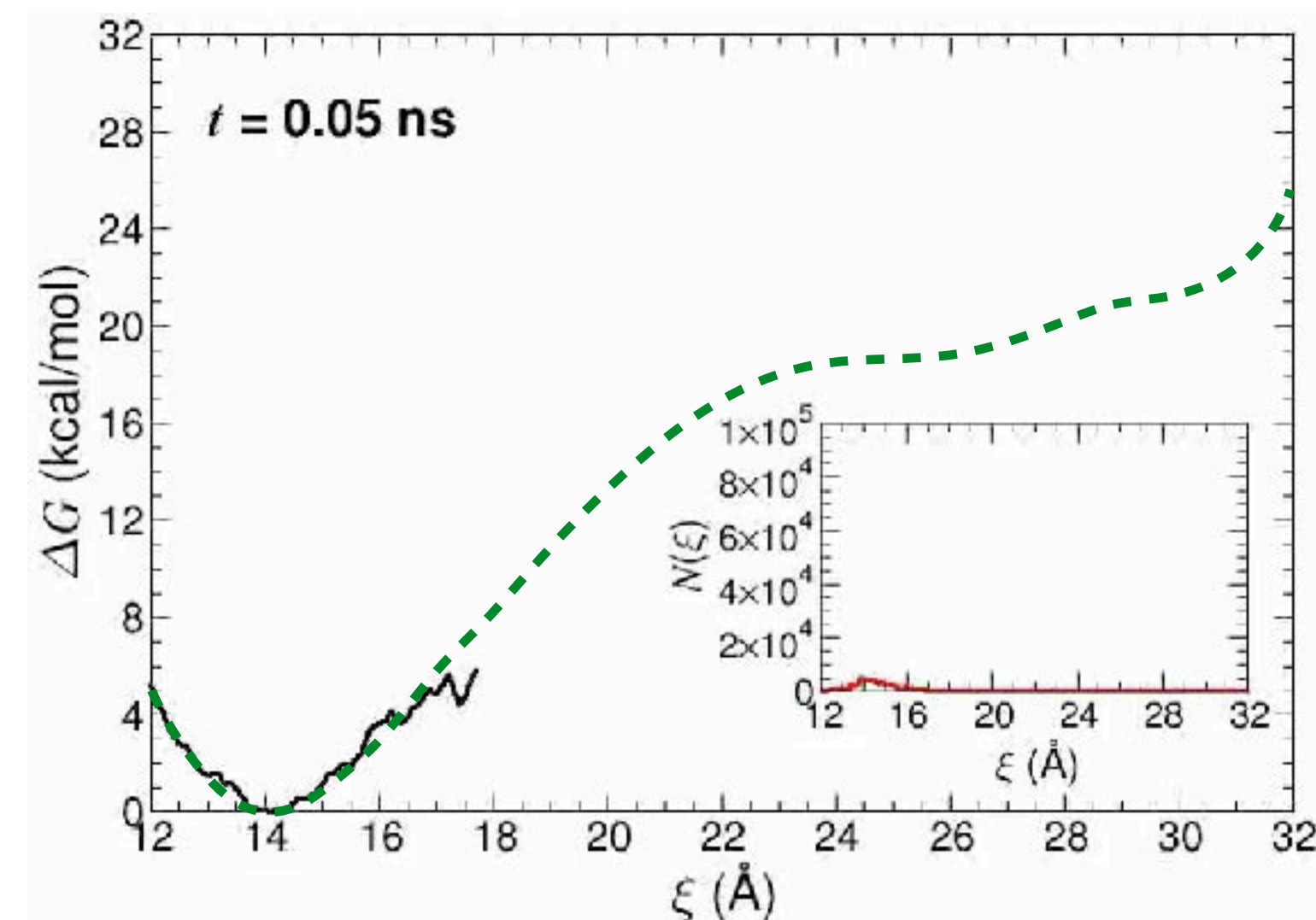
Carter, E. et al. *Chem. Phys. Lett.* **1989**, *156*, 472-477

Darve, E.; Pohorille, A. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2001**, *115*, 9169-9183

Hénin, J.; Chipot, C. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2004**, *121*, 2904-2914

Den Otter, W. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2000**, *112*, 7283-7292

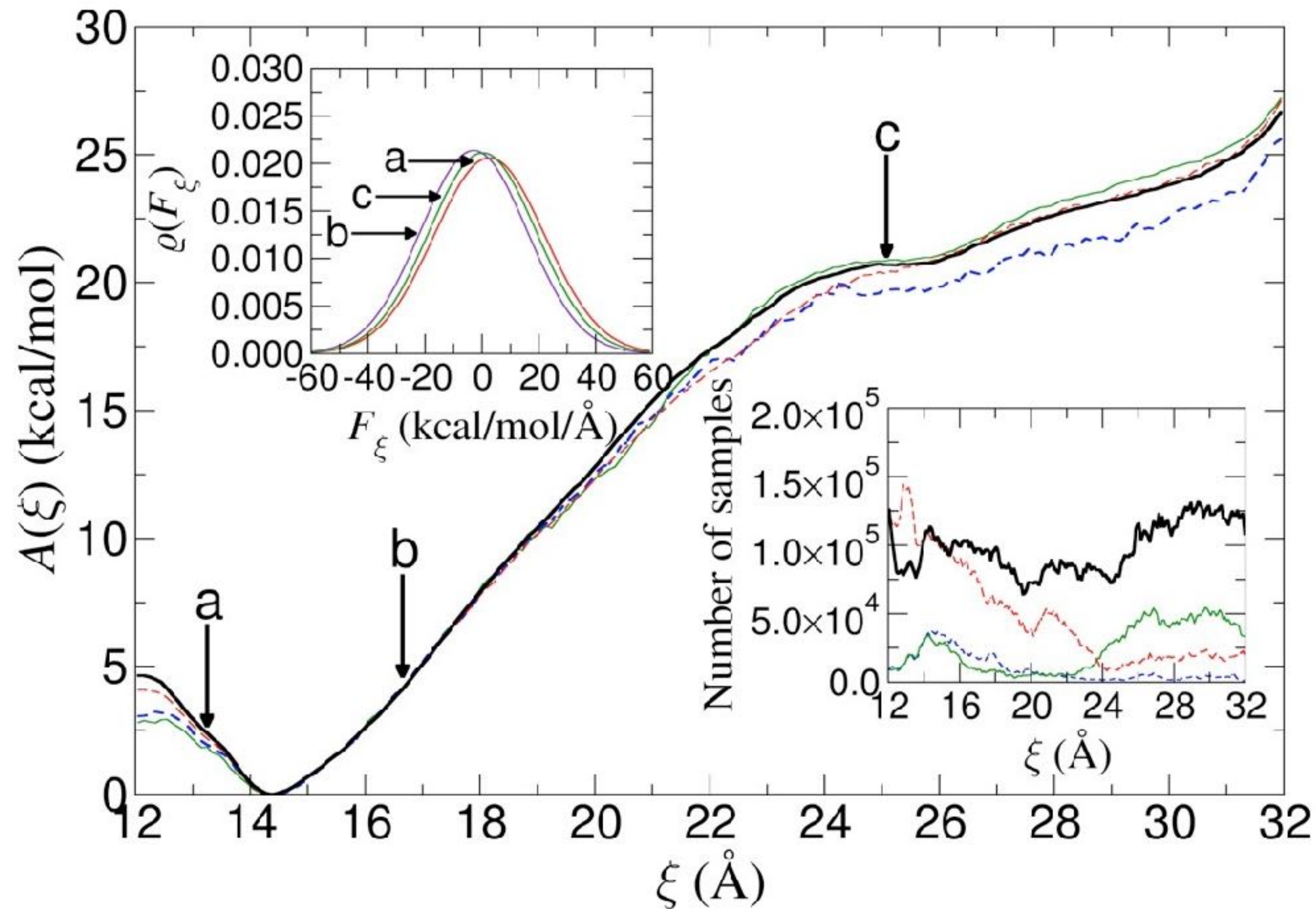
Comer, J.; Gumbart, J. C.; Hénin, J.; Lelièvre, T.; Pohorille, A.; Chipot, C. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2015**, *119*, 1129-1151







## Reversible unfolding of decaalanine



```
colvar {
  name EndToEndDistance

  width 0.2

  lowerboundary 12.0
  upperboundary 32.0

  lowerwallconstant 100.0
  upperwallconstant 100.0

  outputSystemForce yes
  outputAppliedForce yes

  distance {
    group1 {
      atomnumbers { 10 }
    }
    group2 {
      atomnumbers { 92 }
    }
  }
}
```

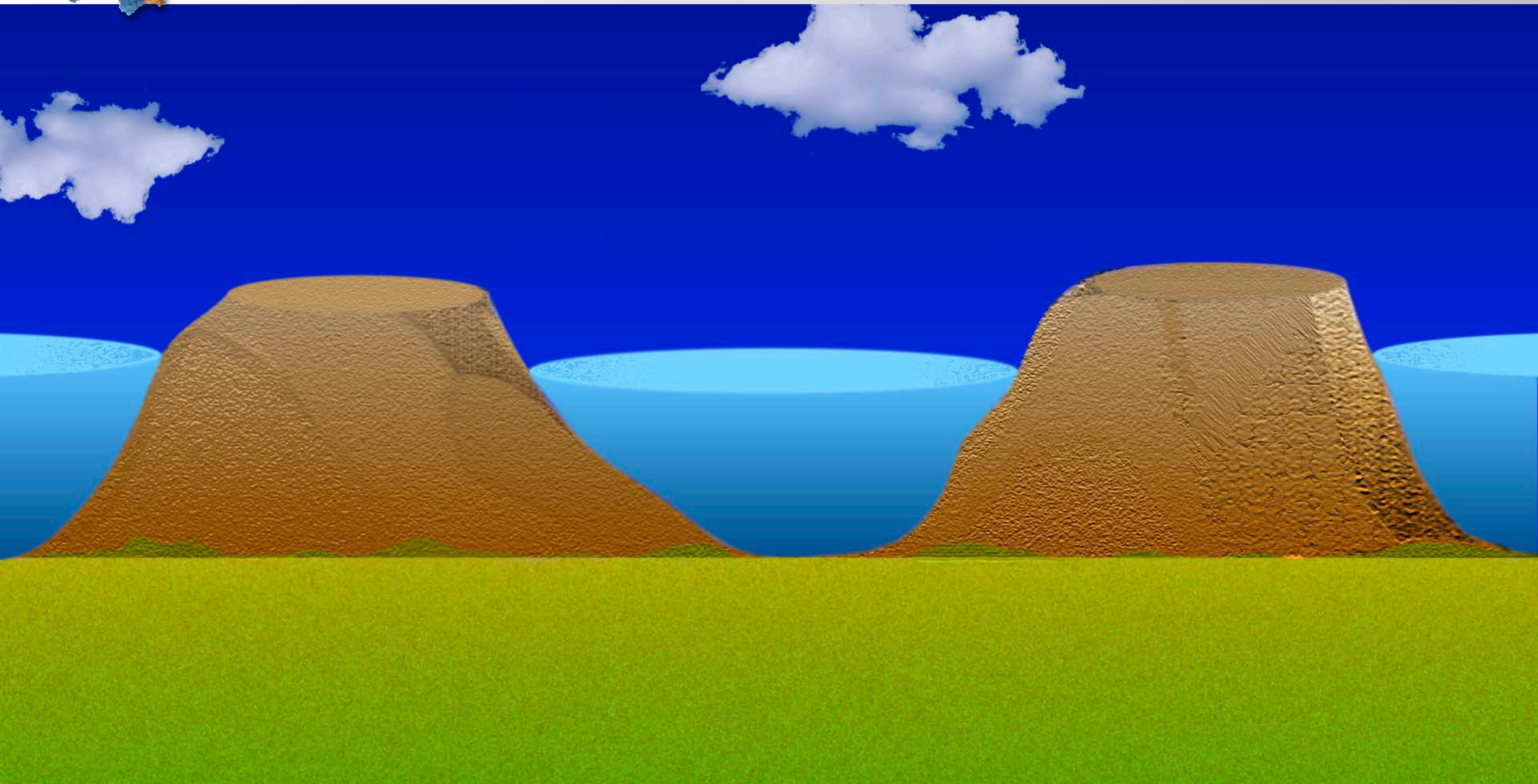
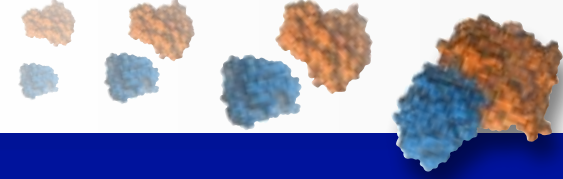


Avoid possible contamination by shaken/rattled degrees of freedom.

Park, S.; Khalili-Araghi, F.; Tajkhorshid, E.; Schulten, K. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2003**, *119*, 3559-3566

Hénin, J.; Chipot, C. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2004**, *121*, 2904-2914









# GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Equilibration simulation

Coordinates



.coor

Velocities



.vel

Simulation cell



.xsc

Colvars



.state  
.traj

ABF



.grad .count  
.pmf

Colvars



.in

Structure



.psf

NAMD config



.namd



NAMD output



.log

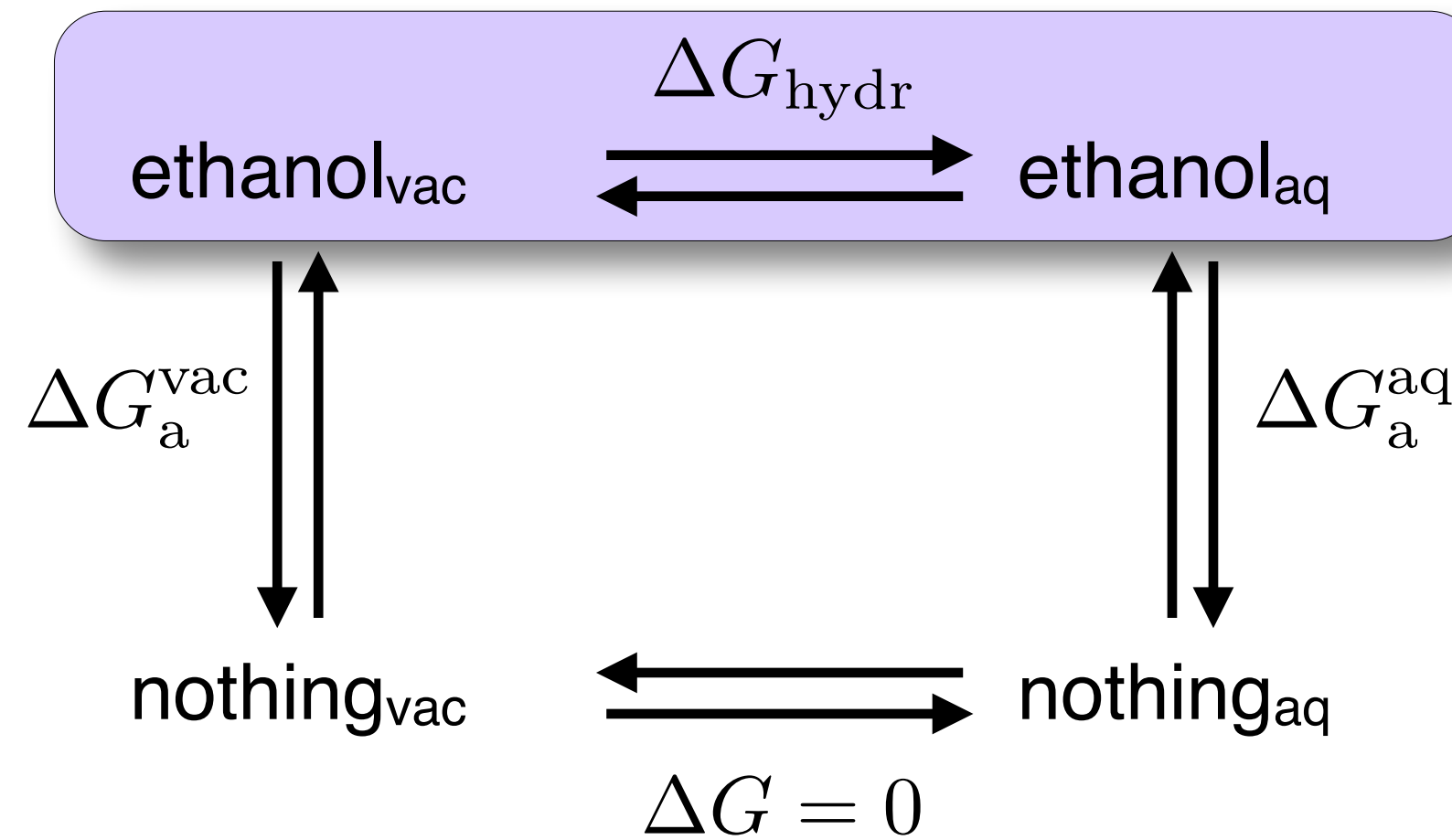
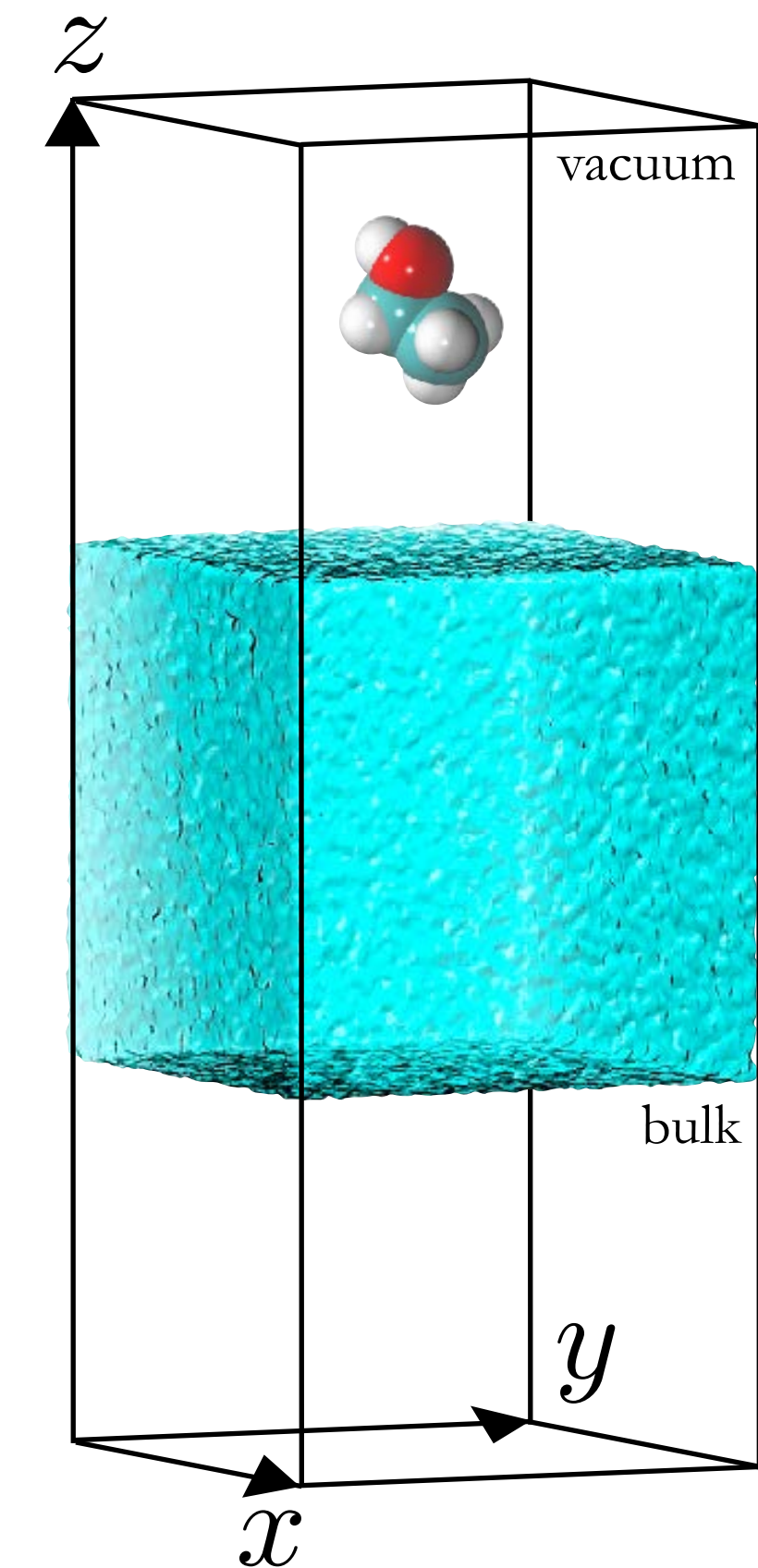
Phillips, J. C. et al. *J. Comput. Chem.* **2005**, *26*, 1781-1802

Bhandarkar, M. et al. NAMD user's guide, version 2.9, **2012**



## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Back to exercise 2. Ethanol hydration



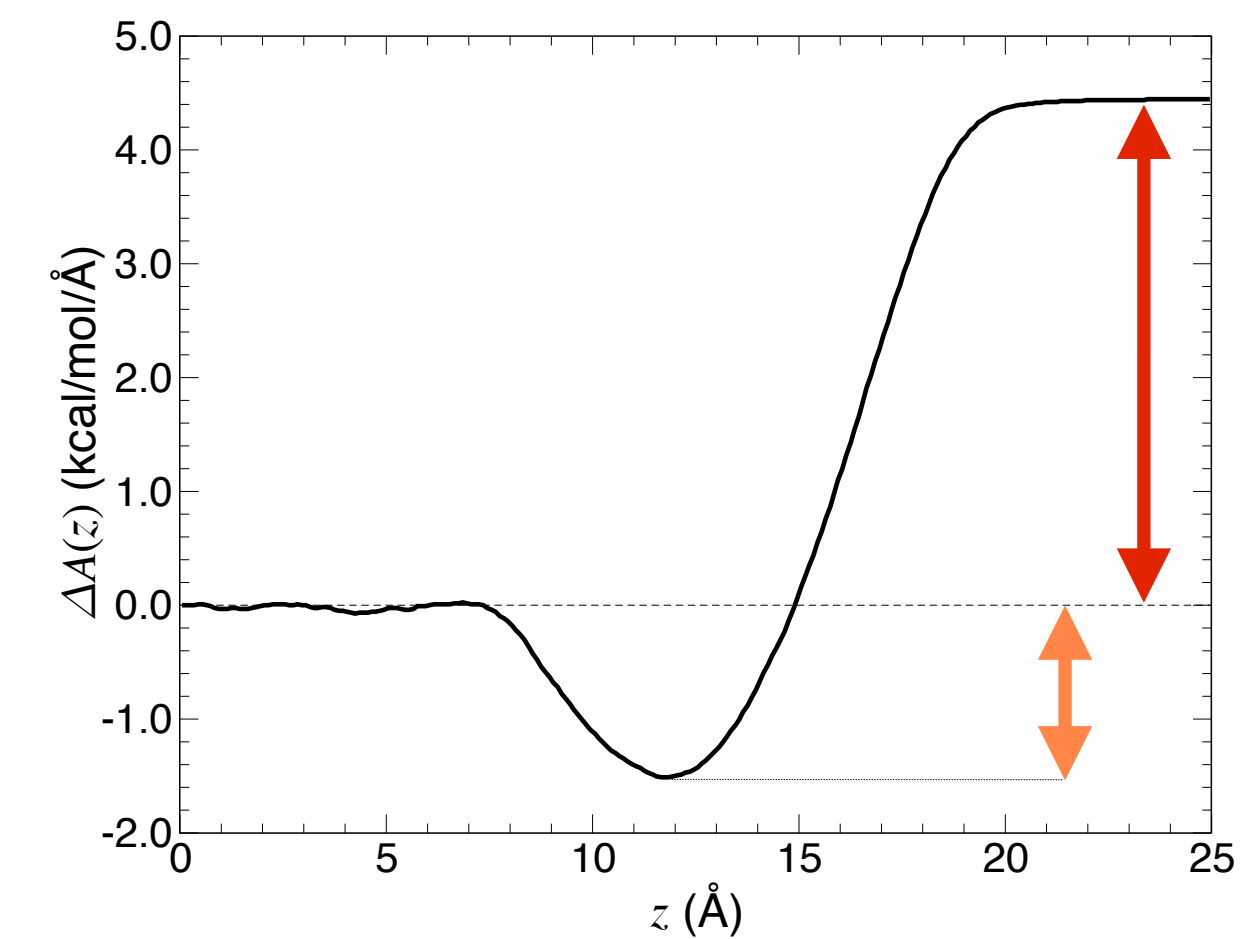
💡 Access to both **hydration** and **adsorption** (experiment: +2.5 kcal/mol) free energies.

💡 Decomposition of  $\nabla_z A$  and projection onto  $z$  yields free-energy contributions.

```
colvar {
  name ProjectionZ
  width 0.1
  lowerboundary 0.0
  upperboundary 5.0
  lowerwallconstant 100.0
  upperwallconstant 100.0

  distanceZ {
    ref {
      atomsFile reference.pdb
      atomsCol B
    }
    main {
      atomnumbers { 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 }
    }
  }
}

abf {
  colvars ProjectionZ
  fullSamples 1000
}
```



Chipot, C.; Pohorille, A. Free energy calculations. Theory and applications in chemistry and biology, 2007

Wilson, M. A.; Pohorille, A. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **1997**, *101*, 3130-3135



## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



$\xi$  ought to be completely decoupled from degrees of freedom to which holonomic constraints are applied.



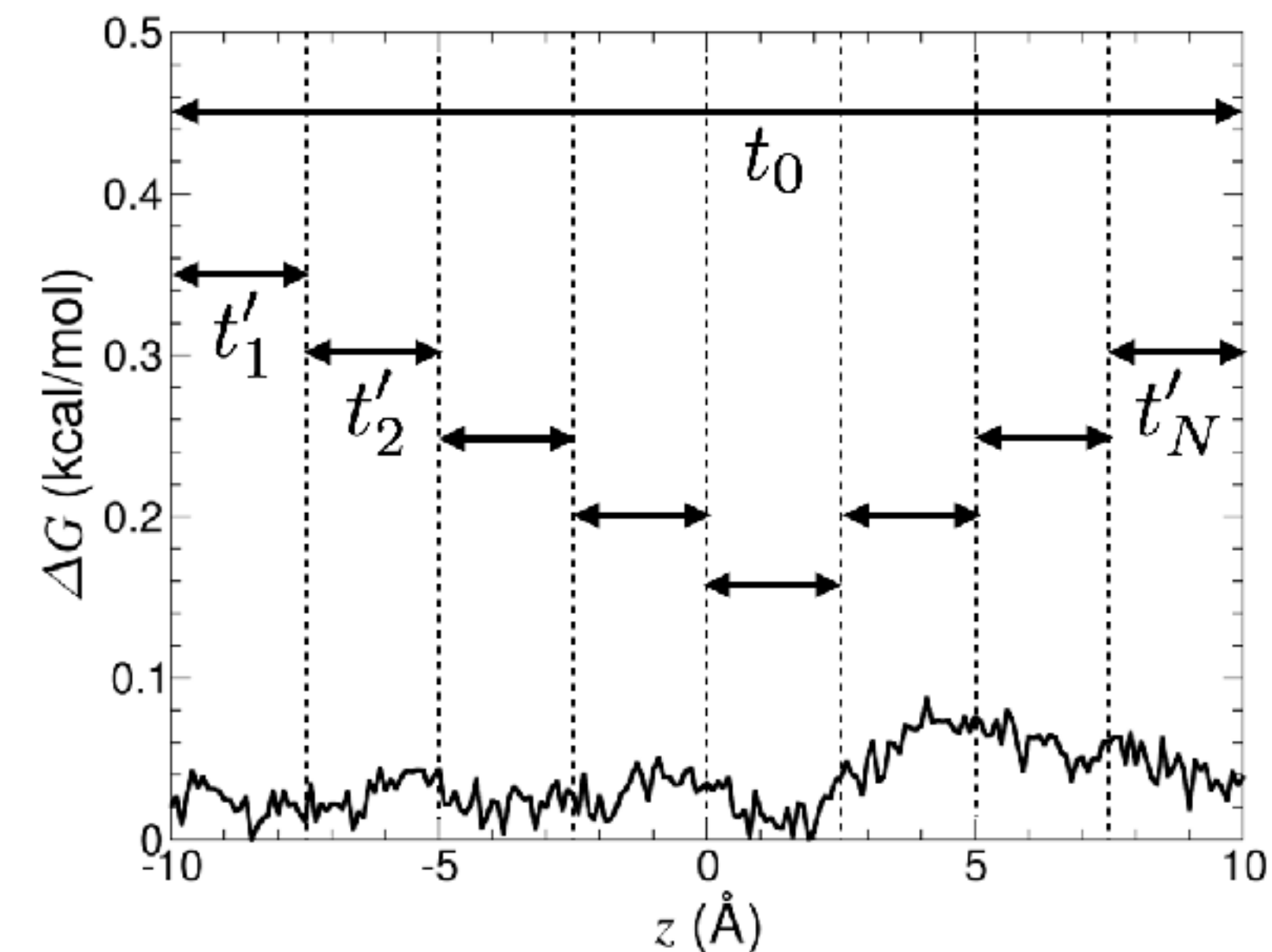
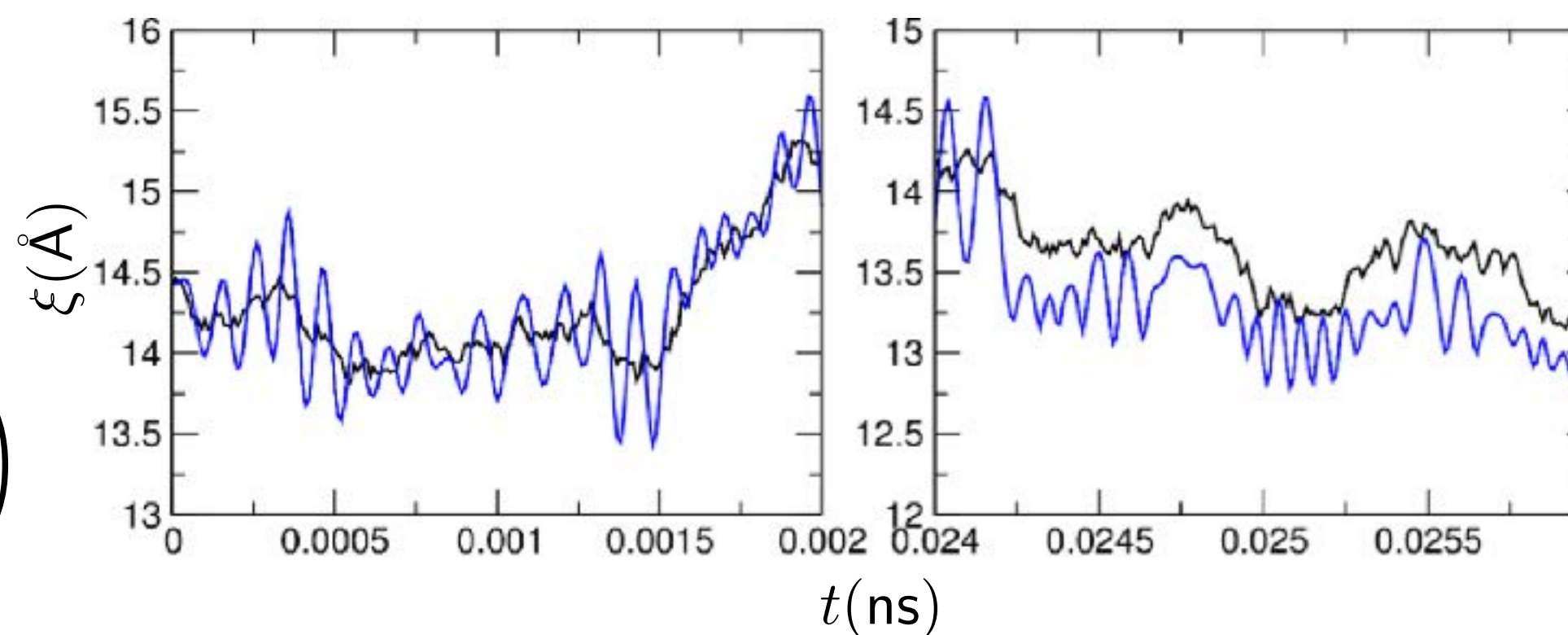
As a matter of principle,  $\xi$  ought to be stratified:  $t_0 > \sum_i t'_i$



Turn to the extended-Lagrangian formulation of ABF in the event geometrical restraints are coupled to  $\xi$ .

ExtendedLagrangian on

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\nabla U(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \nabla \xi}{|\nabla \xi|^2} - \frac{1}{\beta} \cdot \nabla \left( \frac{\nabla \xi}{|\nabla \xi|^2} \right)$$



Chipot, C.; Pohorille, A. Free energy calculations. Theory and applications in chemistry and biology, 2007

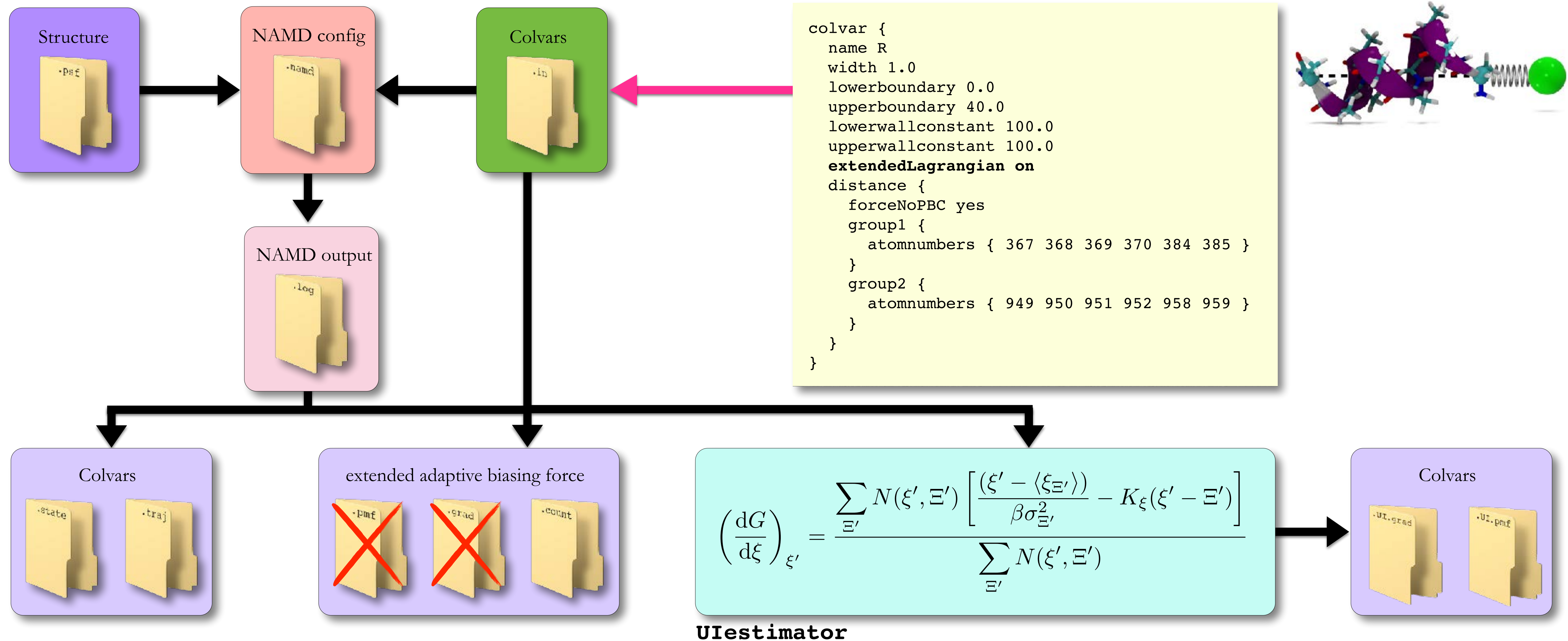
Lelièvre, T.; Stoltz, G.; Rousset, M. Free energy computations: A mathematical perspective, 2010

Comer, J.; Gumbart, J. C.; Hémin, J.; Lelièvre, T.; Pohorille, A.; Chipot, C. *J. Phys. Chem.* 2014





## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Zheng, L.; Yang, W. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **2012**, *8*, 810-823.

Zheng, L.; Chen, M.; Yang, W. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **2008**, *105*, 20227-20232.

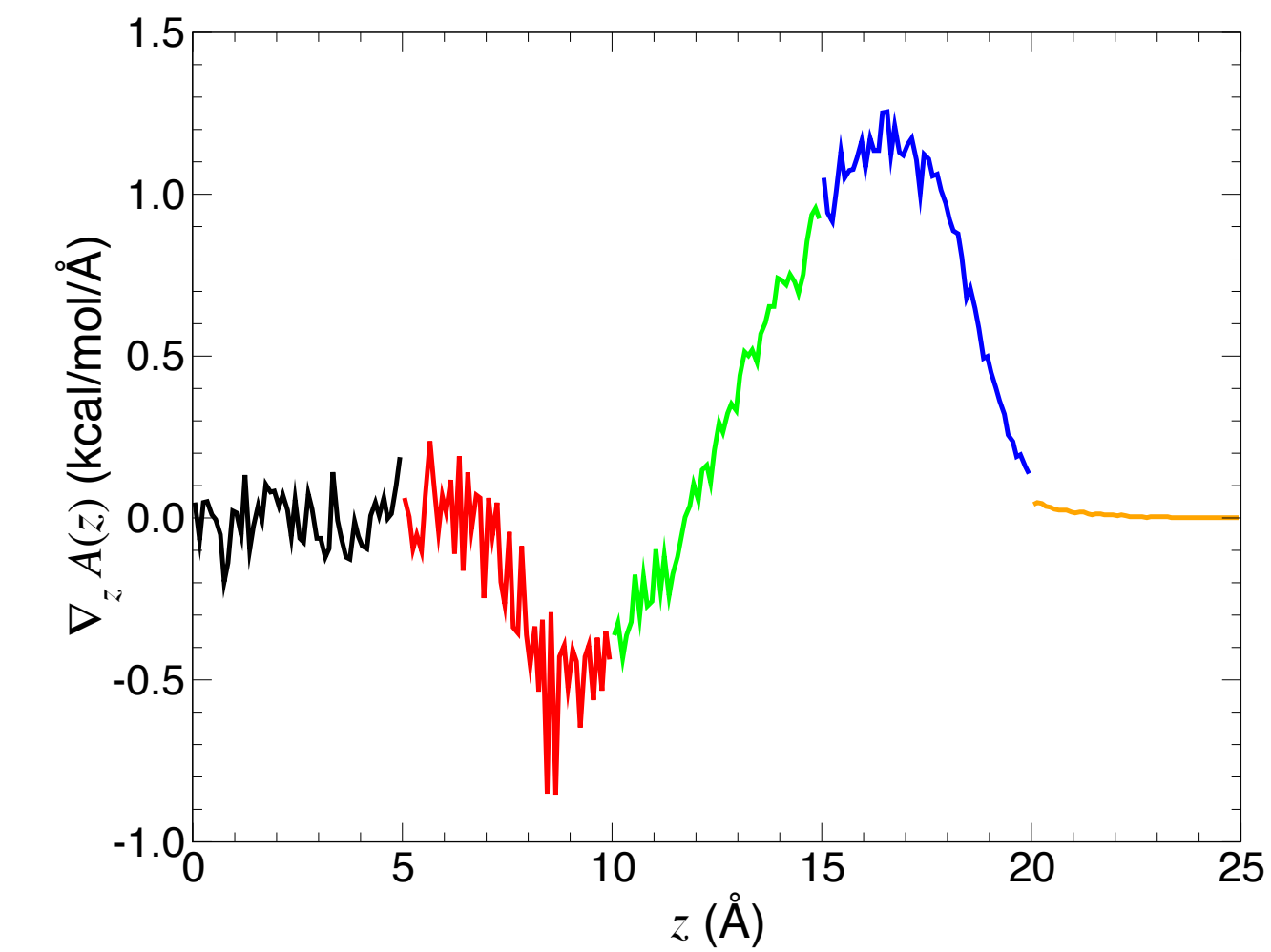
Fu, H.; Shao, X.; Chipot, C.; Cai, W. *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* **2016**, *12*, 3506-3513.

Lesage, A.; Lelièvre, T.; Stoltz, G.; Hémin, J. *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2017**, *121*, 3676-3685.

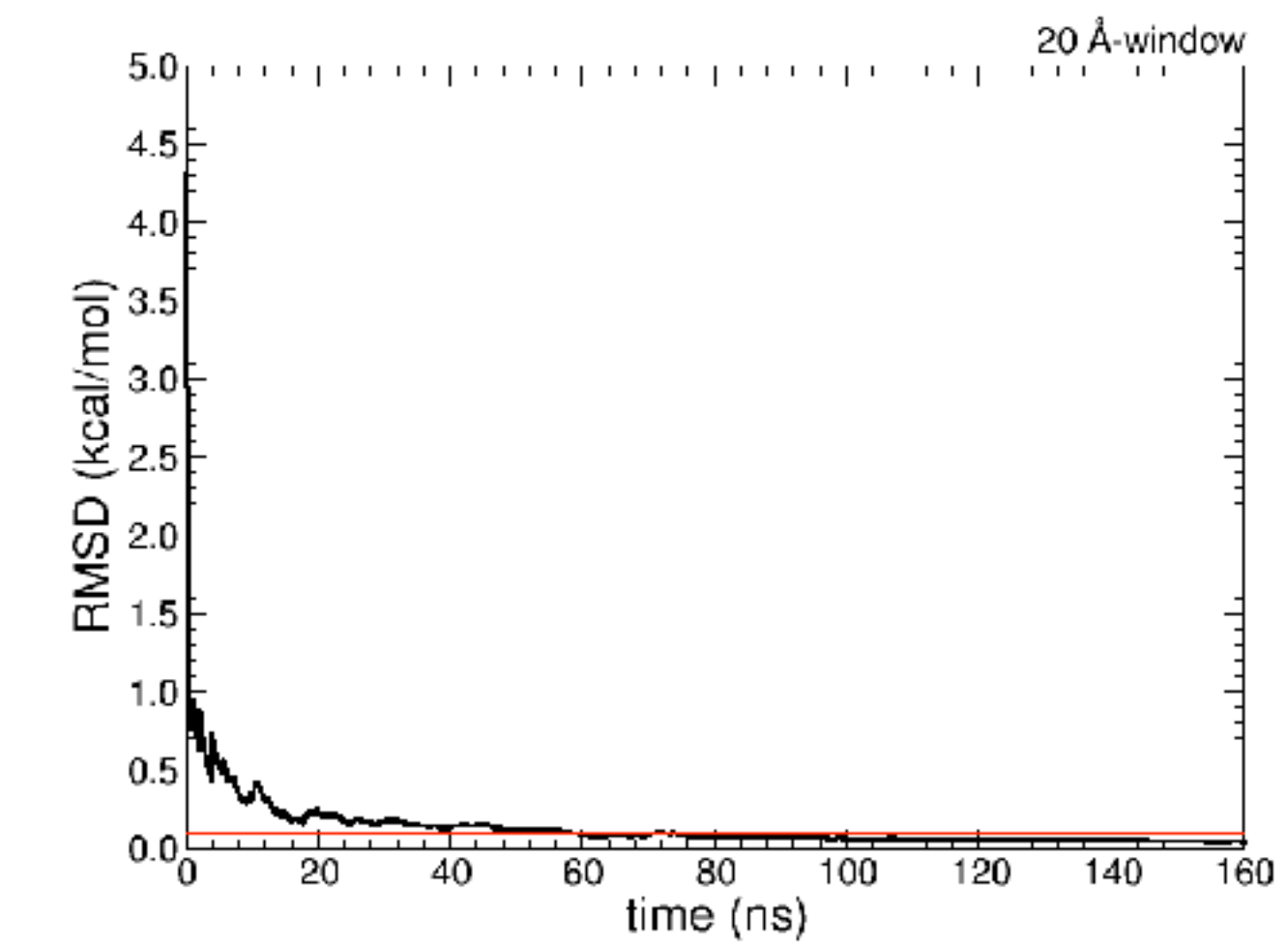


## GOOD PRACTICES, GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In stratified ABF calculations, continuity of the average force ought to be verified.



Free-energy profiles ought to be provided with error bars,  $\sigma_{\Delta A} \simeq \frac{\sigma}{N^{1/2}} (1 + 2\kappa)^{1/2}$



Assess convergence, for instance, by breaking down the free-energy calculations in multiple sub-runs and compute a root mean-square deviation with respect to the last one.

Chipot, C.; Pohorille, A. *Free energy calculations. Theory and applications in chemistry and biology*, 2007

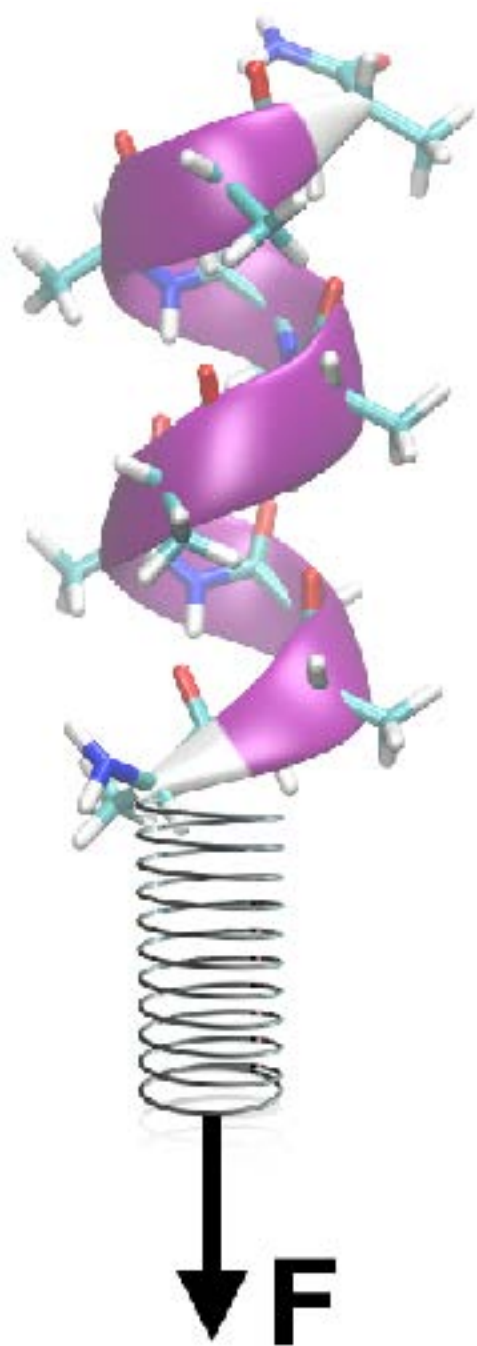
Lelièvre, T.; Stoltz, G.; Rousset, M. *Free energy computations: A mathematical perspective*, 2010

Comer, J.; Gumbart, J. C.; Hémin, J.; Lelièvre, T.; Pohorille, A.; Chipot, C. *J. Phys. Chem.* 2014





## WHAT ABOUT NON-EQUILIBRIUM WORK COMPUTER EXPERIMENTS ?



$$\exp(-\beta\Delta A) = \langle \exp(-\beta w) \rangle$$



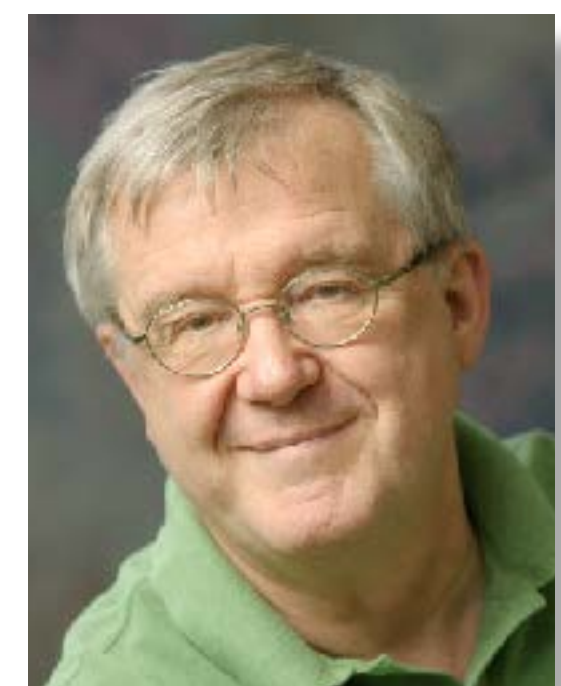
Pulling simulations are usually carried out at a velocity about  $10^3$  greater than that of experiment.



$$\frac{P_0(+w)}{P_1(-w)} = \exp[+\beta(w - \Delta A)]$$



Akin to BAR, combine the forward and backward transformations to reduce the variance.



Though cumulant expansions help, the non-equilibrium work route to free-energy differences requires near-equilibrium conditions to converge.

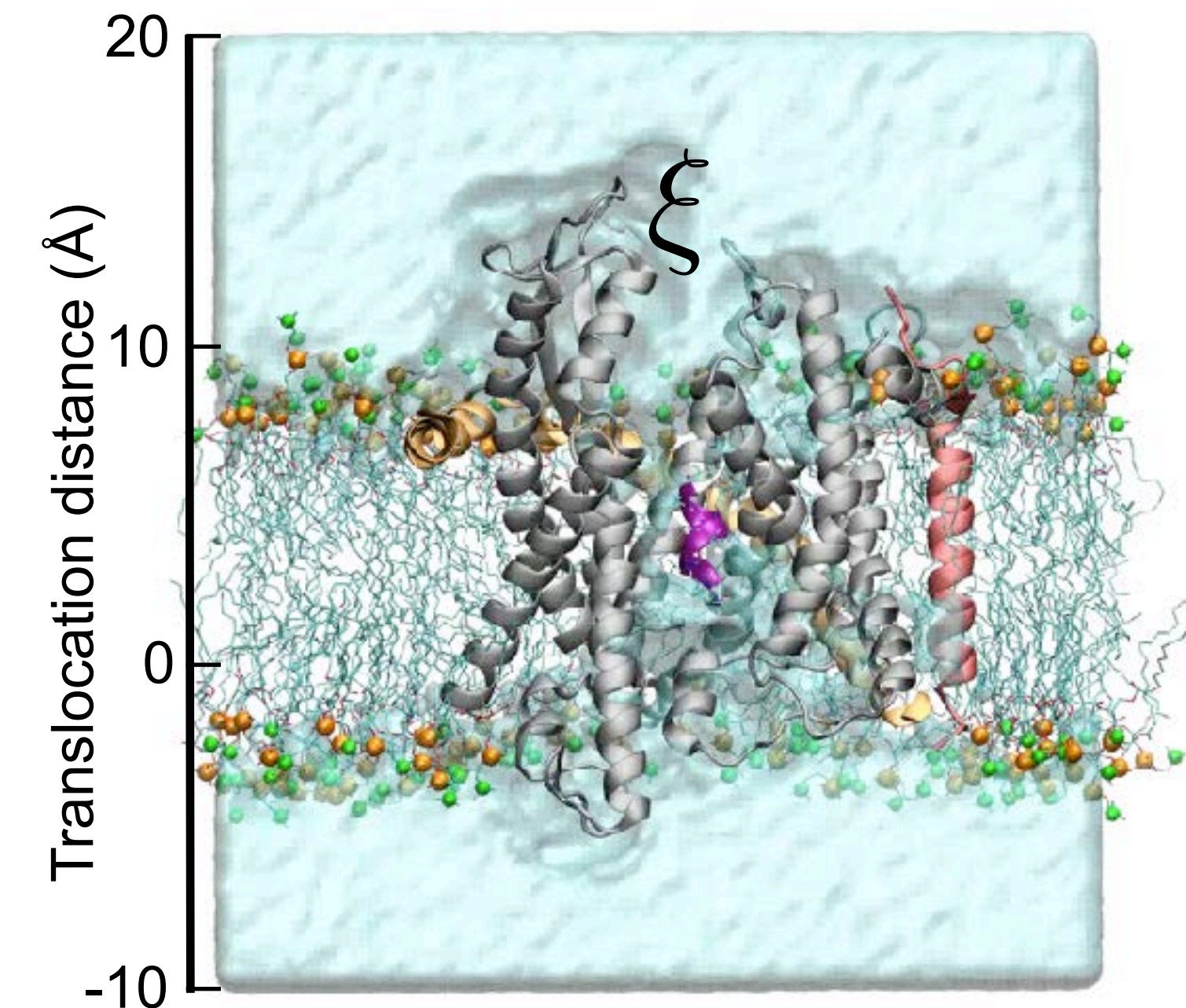
In general, there is no fundamental reason to resort to non-equilibrium work experiments if the free-energy change can be estimated at equilibrium.

Jarzynski, C. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1997**, 78, 2690-2693

Crooks, G. J. *Stat. Phys.* **1998**, 90, 1481-1487

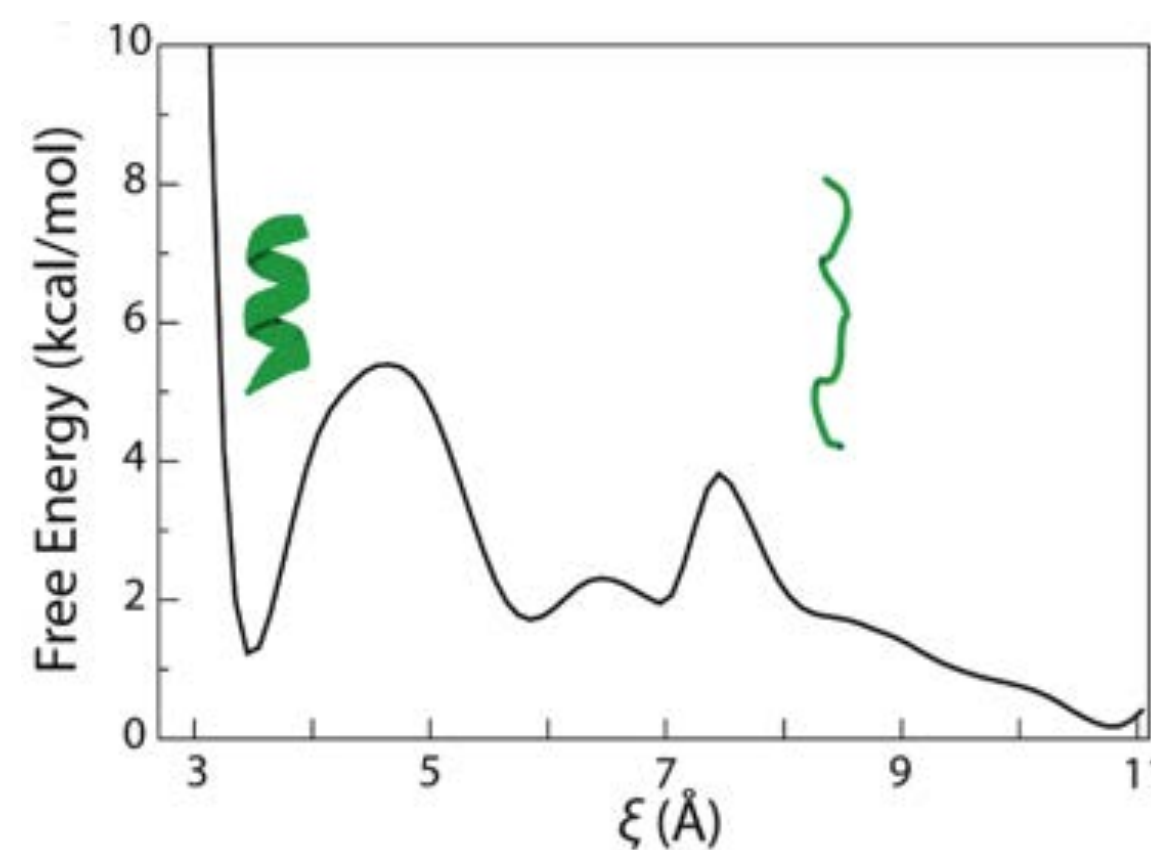
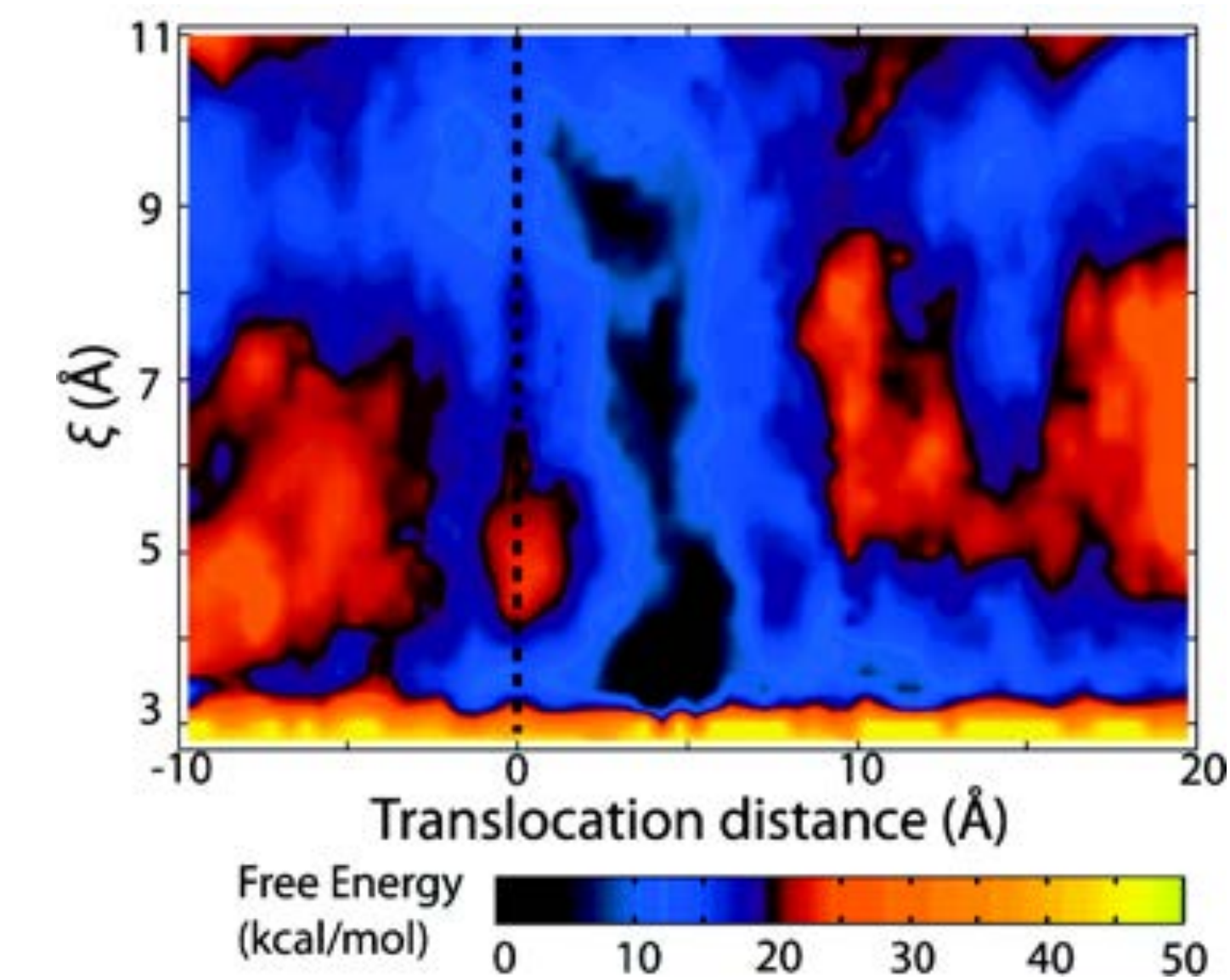
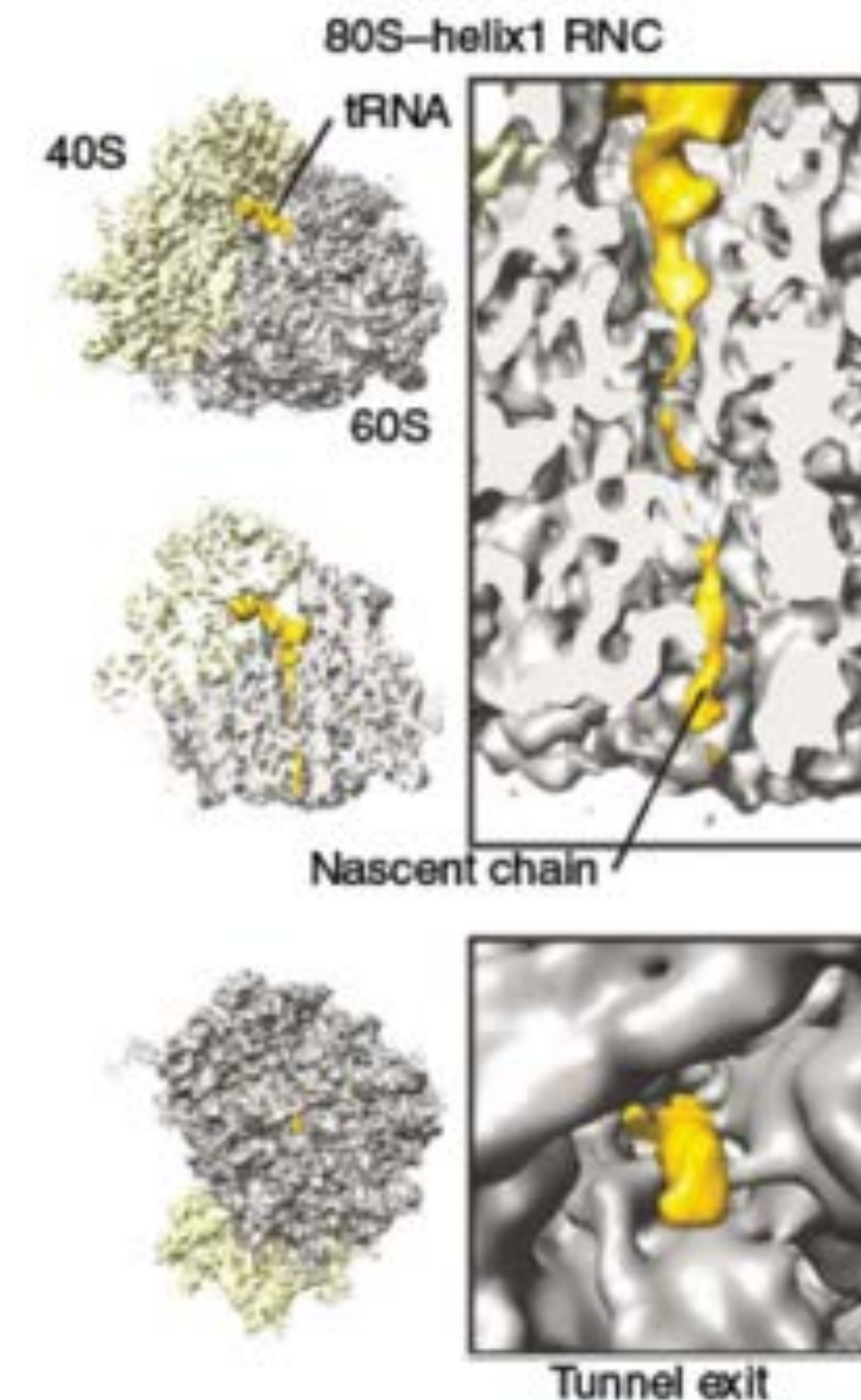
Park, S.; Khalili-Araghi, F.; Tajkhorshid, E.; Schulten, K. *J. Chem. Phys.* **2003**, 119, 3559-3566





Two-dimensional reaction coordinate: Translation in SecY plus the concerted folding of the peptide chain ( $\xi$ ).

Translocation of proteins supposes partial opening of SecY.



Control simulation:  
Folding in bulk water.

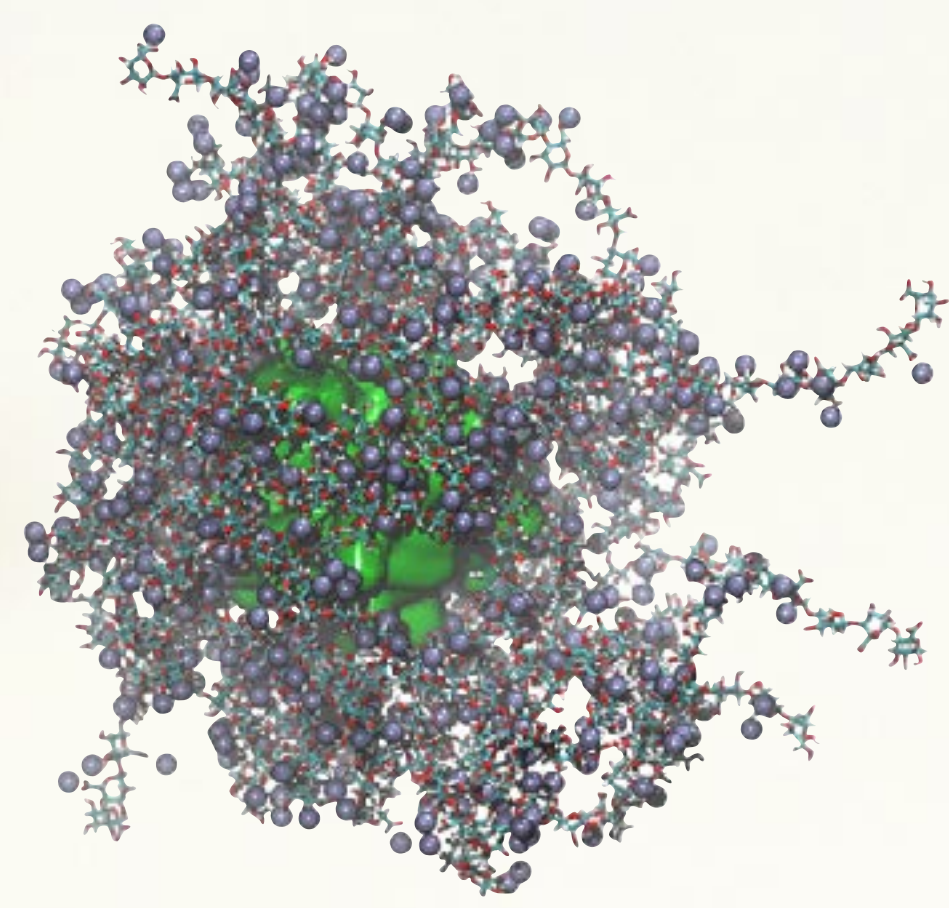
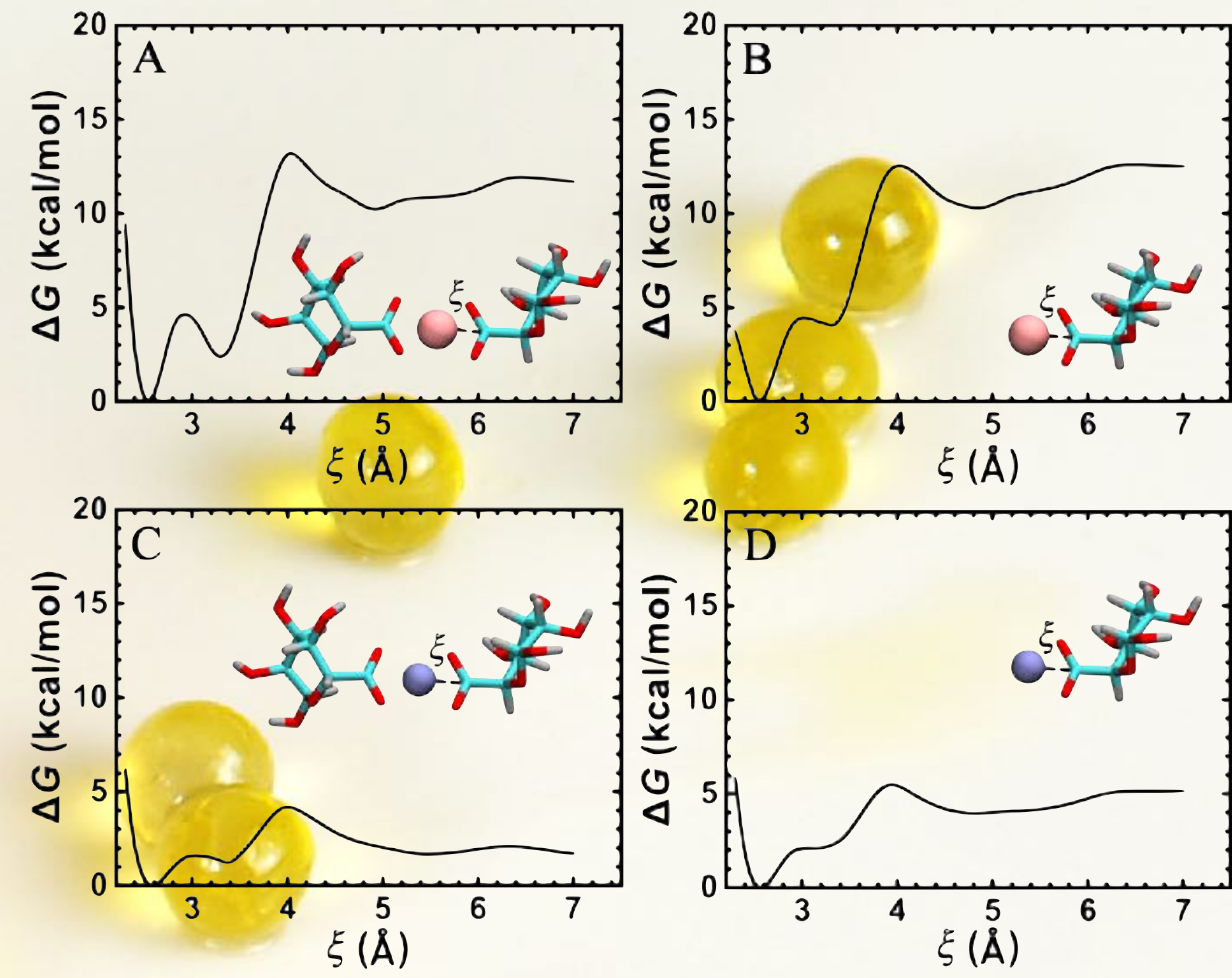
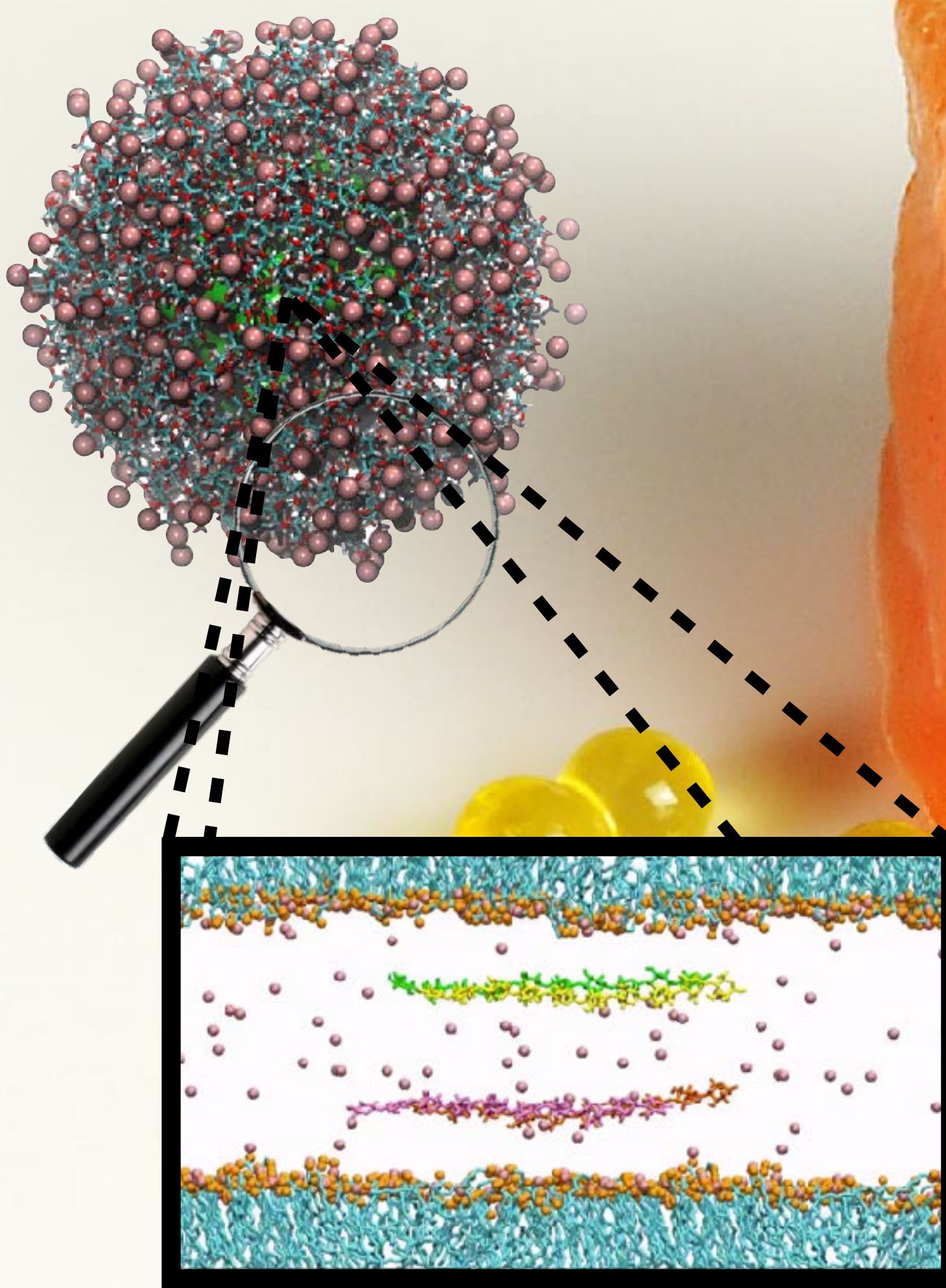
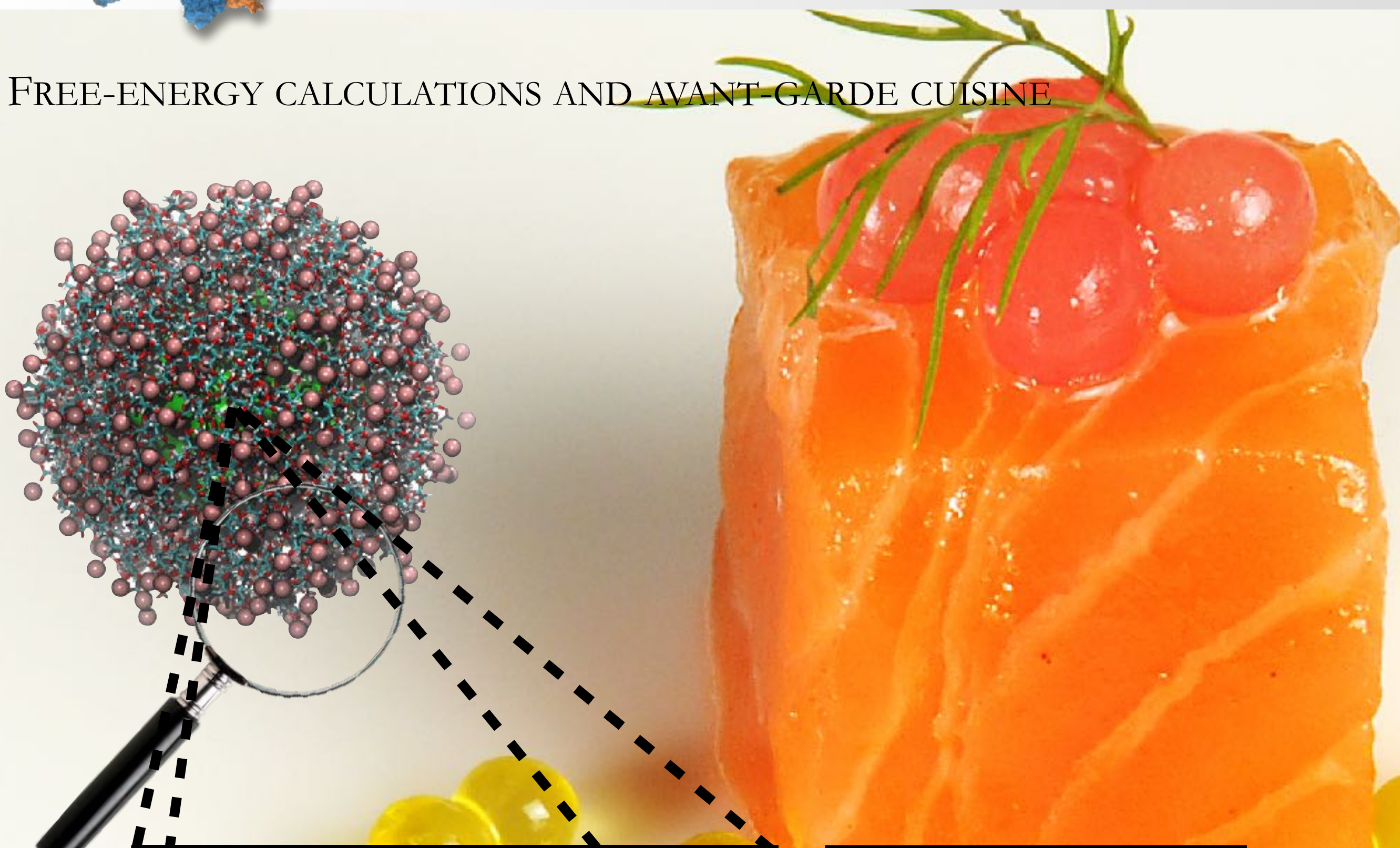
Mingarro, I.; Nilsson, I.; Whitley, P.; von Heijne, G. *BMC Cell Biol.* **2000**, *1*, 3

Lu, J.; Deutsch, C. *Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.* **2005**, *12*, 1123-1129

Gumbart, J. C.; Chipot, C.; Schulten, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 7602-7607

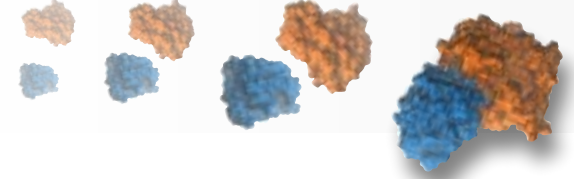


FREE-ENERGY CALCULATIONS AND AVANT-GARDE CUISINE



Fu, H.; Liu, Y.; Adrià, F.; Shao, X.; Cai, W.; Chipot, C. J. *Phys. Chem. B* **2014**, *118*, 11747-11756  
 Halford, B. *CE&N* **2014**, *92*, 35-36





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geometric free-energy calculations

introduction to the adaptive biasing force algorithm

introductory tutorial

alchemical free-energy calculations

introduction to free-energy perturbation calculations

introductory tutorial

standard binding free energies

geometric free-energy calculations  
alchemical free-energy calculations

advanced tutorial

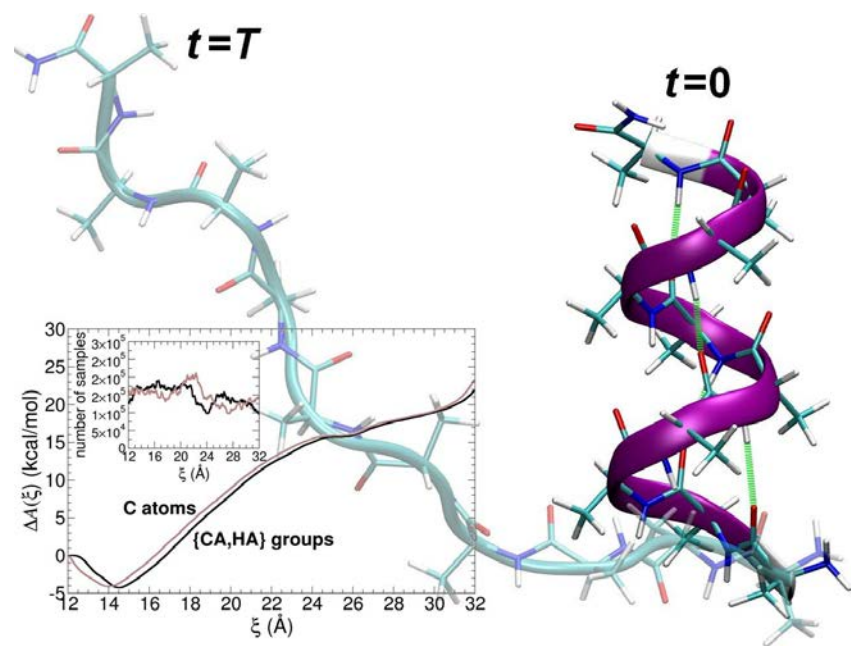
path sampling

string method with swarm of trajectories, free-energy calculations along a path-collective variable

advanced tutorial

Université de Lorraine  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique  
Laboratoire International Associé CNRS-University of Illinois  
  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique  
Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique  
  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology  
Theoretical and Computational Biophysics Group

**Free energy calculations along a reaction coordinate:  
A tutorial for adaptive biasing force simulations**



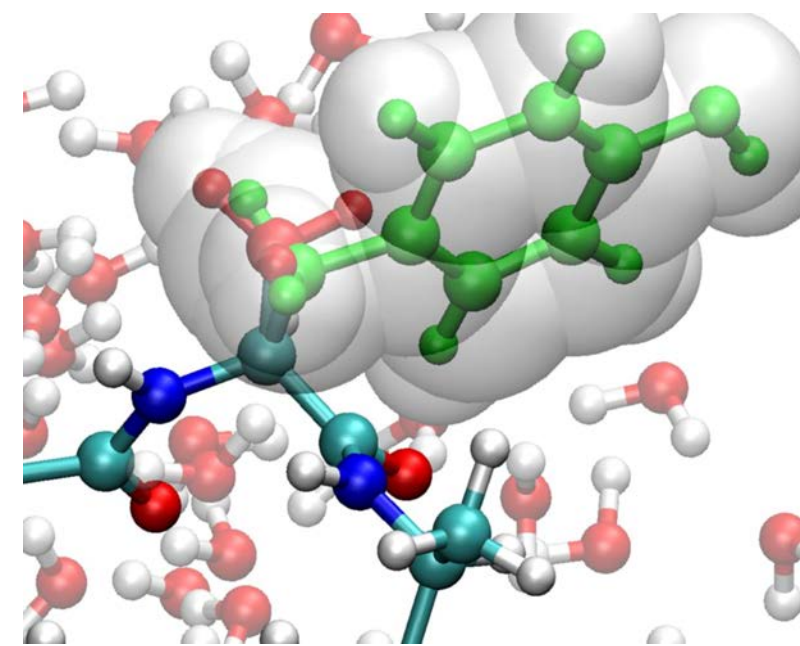
Jérôme Héning  
James Gumbart  
Christophe Chipot  
November 3, 2014

Current editor: Lela Vuković (Lvukov1@ks.uiuc.edu)

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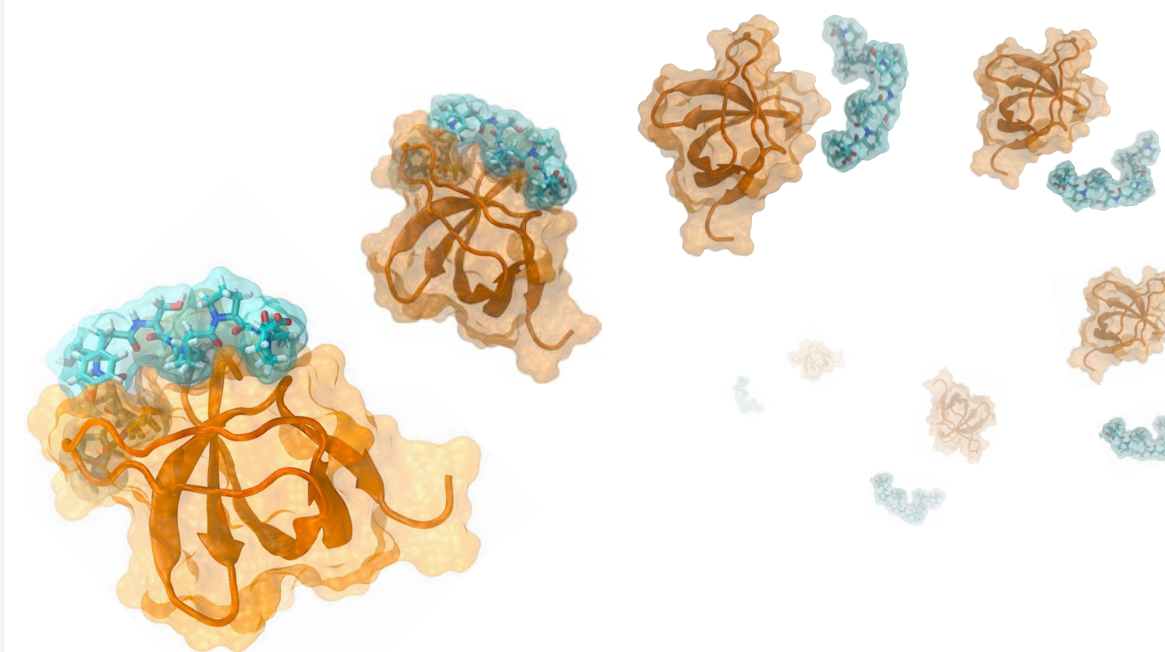
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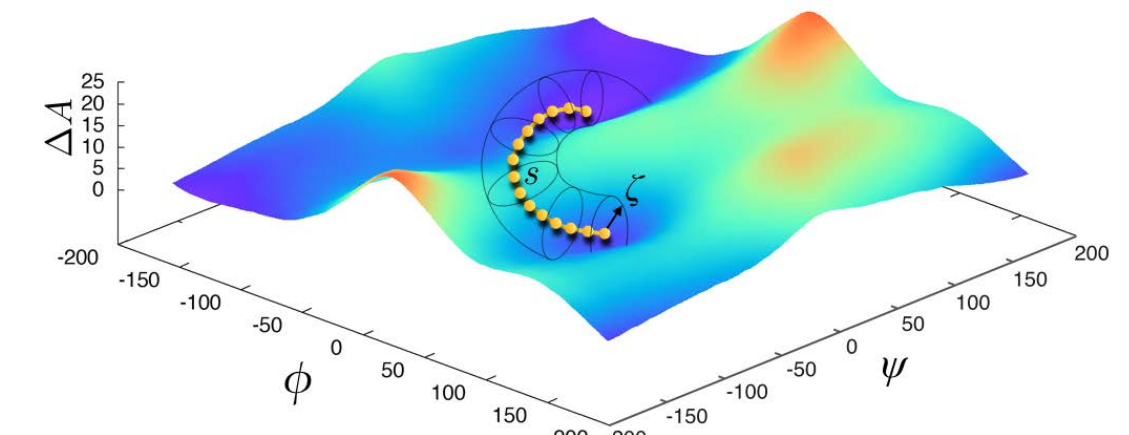


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**String method with swarms of trajectories:  
A tutorial for free-energy calculations along a  
minimum-action path**



Mikolaj Fajer  
Jérôme Héning  
Benoît Roux  
Christophe Chipot

August 19, 2015

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