

# Large Scale Relative Ligand-Protein Binding Affinities Using Non-Equilibrium Alchemy

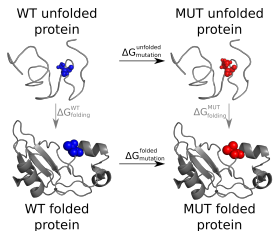
Vytautas Gapsys

Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry

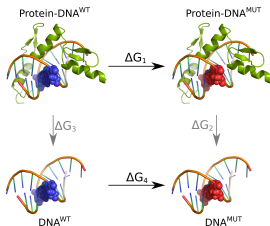
Computational Biomolecular Dynamics Group (Bert de Groot)

Aug 21, 2019

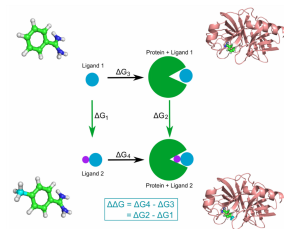
# pmx based alchemy



Amino acid mutations

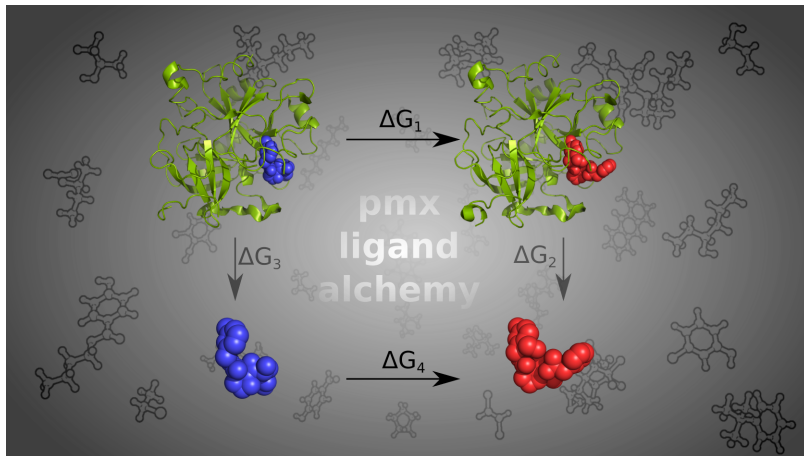


Nucleotide mutations



Ligand modifications

# pmx: Ligands



`atoms_to_morph.py`

Identifies atoms to  
be morphed

`make_hybrid.py`

Builds hybrid  
topology

`build_mst_graph.py`

Suggests ligand  
pairs



Open-Source Cheminformatics  
and Machine Learning

Open source toolkit for cheminformatics

`atoms_to_morph.py`

Identifies atoms to  
be morphed

`make_hybrid.py`

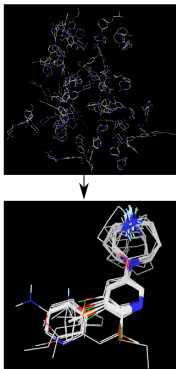
Builds hybrid  
topology

`build_mst_graph.py`

Suggests ligand  
pairs

# Ligands: atom mapping

Tosco, 2013

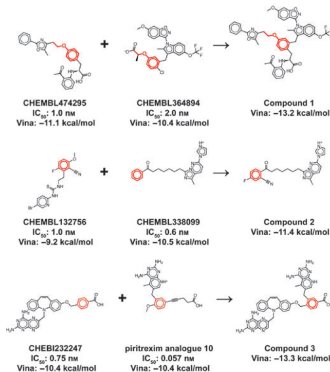


Open3DALIGN

Unsupervised ligand alignment and superposition

Linder et al., 2013

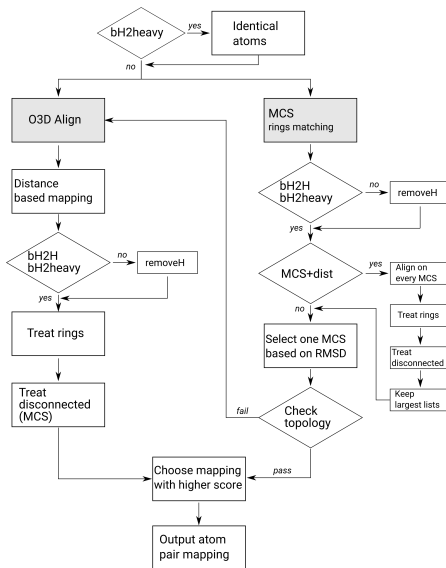
Andrew Dalke Scientific AB, 2012



MCS

Maximum Common Substructure

# Ligands: atom mapping



# Ligands: hybrid structure/topology

`atoms_to_morph.py`

Identifies atoms to  
be morphed

`make_hybrid.py`

Builds hybrid  
topology

`build_mst_graph.py`

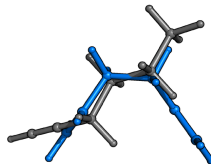
Suggests ligand  
pairs



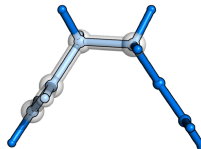
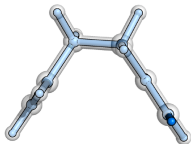
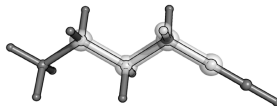
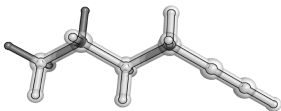
# Ligands: hybrid structures/topologies



MCS (with H2H)  
mol1: 14/16 atoms  
mol2: 14/16 atoms



Alignment (with H2H)  
mol1: 5/16 atoms  
mol2: 5/16 atoms



# Ligands: pairs of ligands to morph

`atoms_to_morph.py`

Identifies atoms to  
be morphed

`make_hybrid.py`

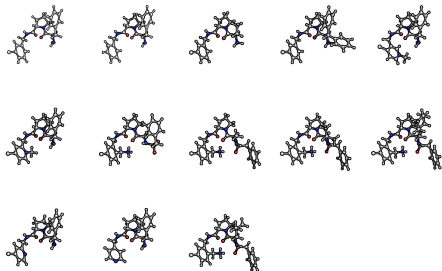
Builds hybrid  
topology

`build_mst_graph.py`

Suggests ligand  
pairs

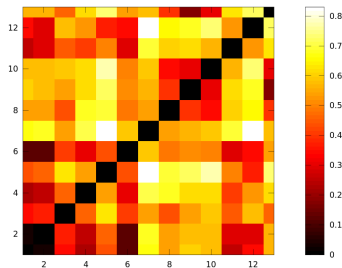
# Ligands: pairs of ligands to morph

Starting with a set of ligand PDBs



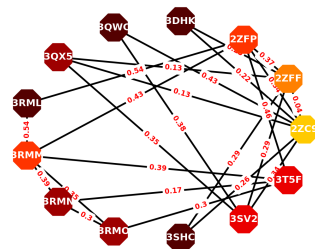
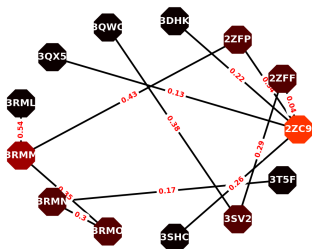
Run pairwise atoms\_to\_morph.py  
and score

$$d = 1 - \frac{n_1 + n_2}{2(N_1 + N_2) - (n_1 + n_2)}$$



Obtain a distance matrix

# Ligands: pairs of ligands to morph



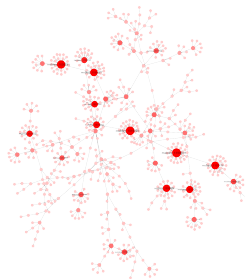
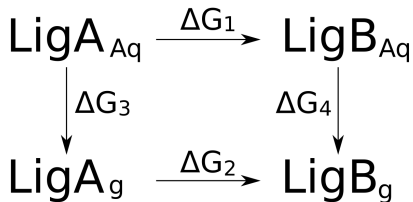
Build a minimum spanning tree (MST)

Build the second MST discarding all edges of the first MST

# Validation: thermodynamic cycle for solvation free energies

Validation:  
Thermodynamic Cycle for Solvation Free Energies

# Validation: solvation free energies



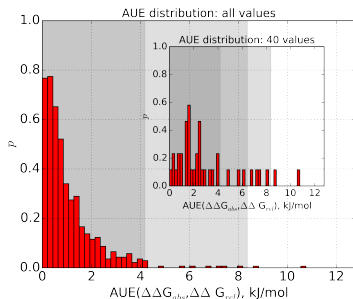
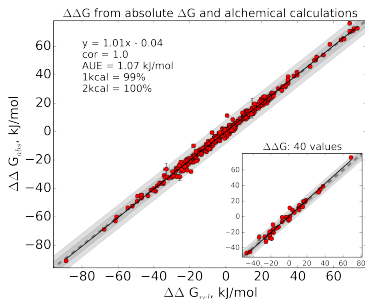
## Full thermodynamic cycle

- $\Delta G_1$  and  $\Delta G_2$  can be calculated using hybrid topology.
- $\Delta G_3$  and  $\Delta G_4$  can be calculated by decoupling ligands from the solvent.

## Mobley, Guthrie, 2014, JCAMD

- FreeSolv database
- >600 neutral ligand structures and topologies
- Experimental solvation free energies

# Validation: solvation free energies



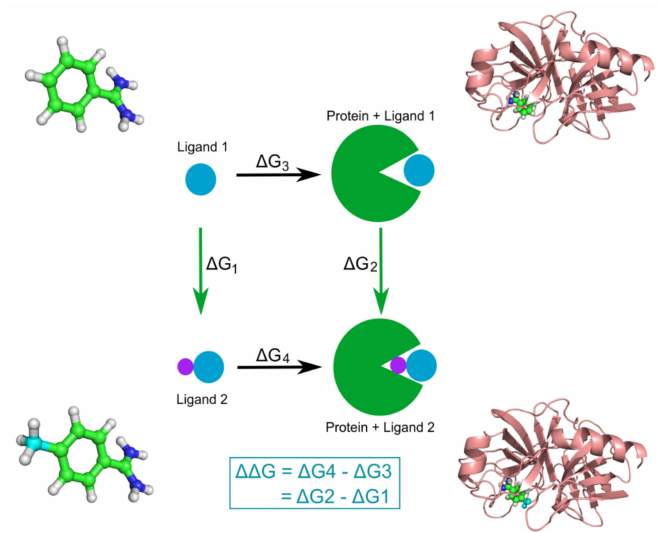
Only  $\sim 1\%$  of the cases have an AUE larger than 1 kcal/mol.

Application:  
482 ligand modifications in protein-ligand binding

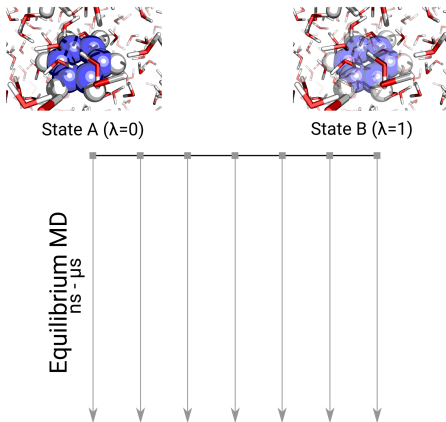
*Gapsys, Perez-Benito, Aldeghi, Seeliger,  
van Vlijmen, Tresadern, de Groot,  
submitted*



# Methods (briefly): thermodynamic cycle

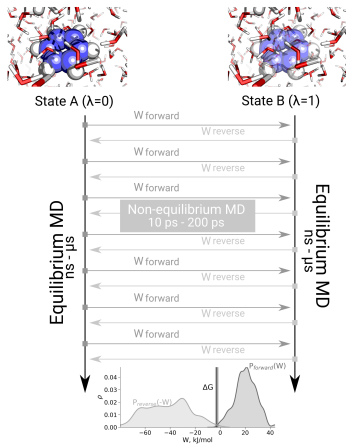


# Methods (briefly): FEP protocol



Free energy perturbation (FEP)

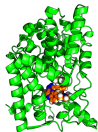
# Methods (briefly): non-eq TI protocol



Crooks Fluctuation Theorem:

$$\frac{P_f(W)}{P_r(-W)} = e^{\beta(W - \Delta G)}$$

# Protein-Ligand complexes



PDE2: 21 ligand  
34 perturbations



Galectin: 8 ligands  
8 perturbations



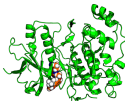
cMet: 12 ligands  
25 perturbations



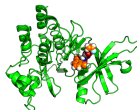
BACE: 80 ligands  
144 perturbations  
(divided in 3 sets)

■ 11 systems

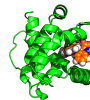
■ 482 mutations



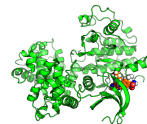
JNK1: 21 ligands  
31 perturbations



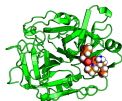
TYK2: 16 ligands  
24 perturbations



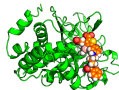
MCL1: 42 ligands  
71 perturbations



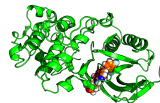
CDK2: 16 ligands  
25 perturbations



Thrombin: 11 ligands  
16 perturbations



PTP1b: 23 ligands  
49 perturbations

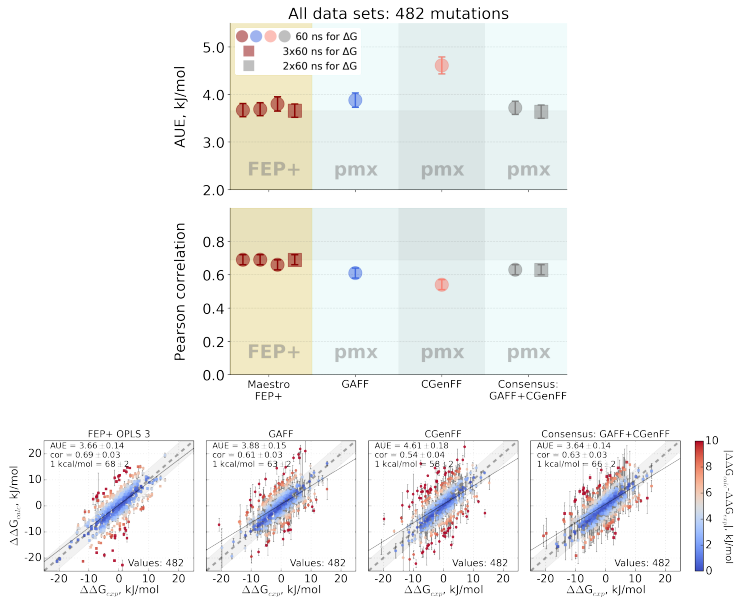


P38: 34 ligands  
56 perturbations

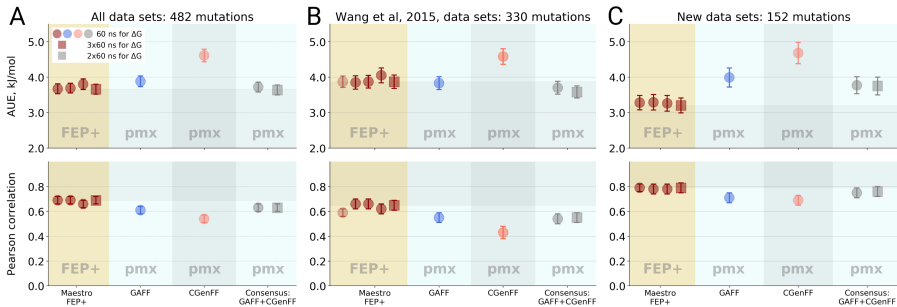
# Overall results

Overall results

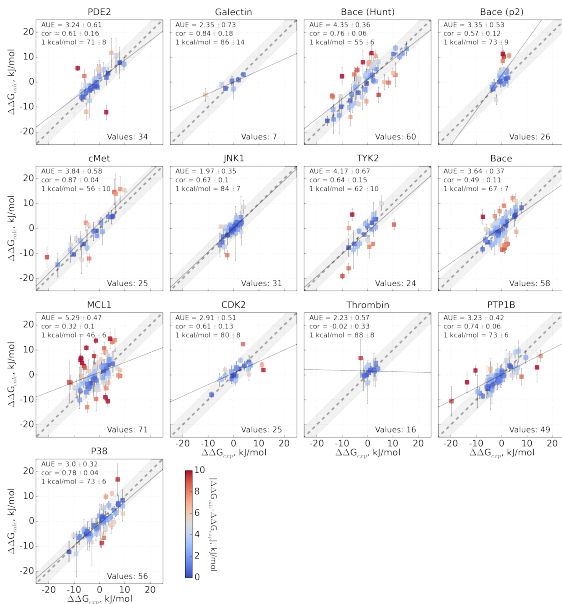
# Overall results



# Results: subsets

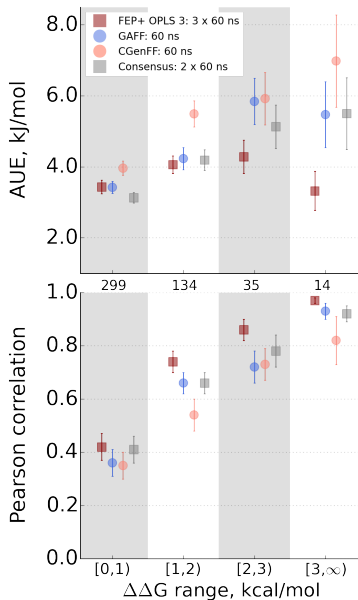


# Results: by case





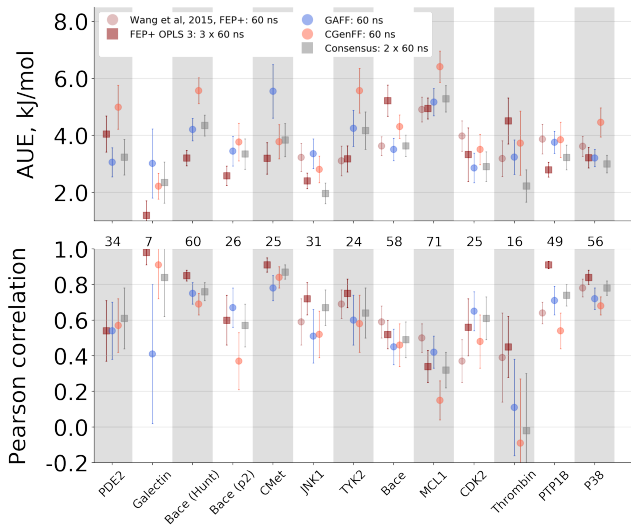
# Results: by $\Delta\Delta G$ range



FEP+ performs better in predicting large  $\Delta\Delta G$  changes:

- FEP vs non-eq TI
- enhanced sampling (REST)

# Results: by case

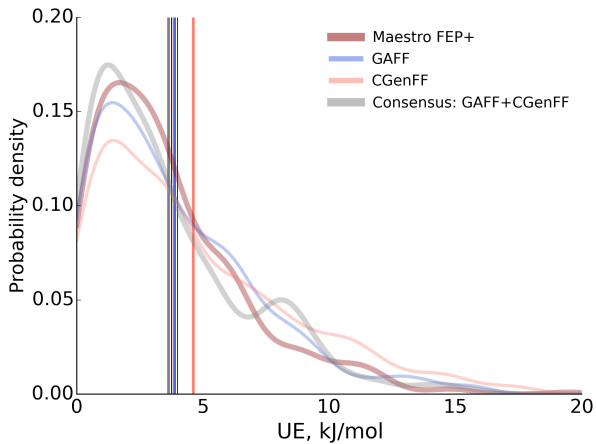




# Accuracy and precision

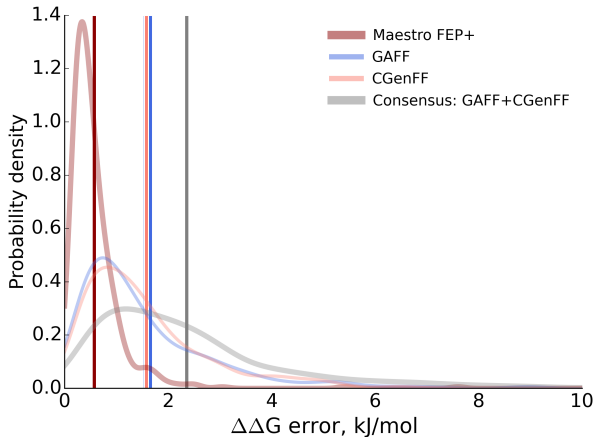
Accuracy and precision

# Accuracy



Different approaches reach comparable accuracies.

# Precision

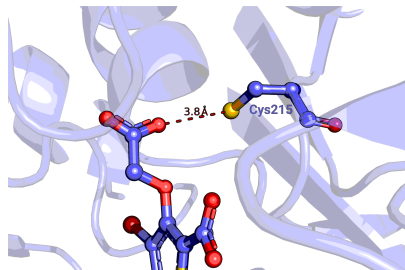
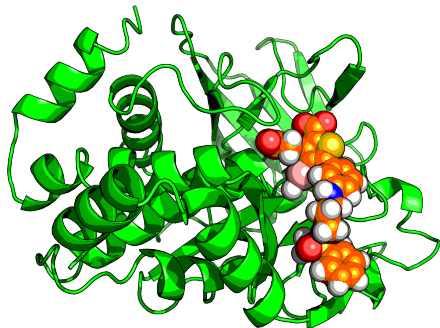


FEP+ has higher precision.

# Determinants of prediction accuracy

Determinants of prediction accuracy

# Case: ptp1b

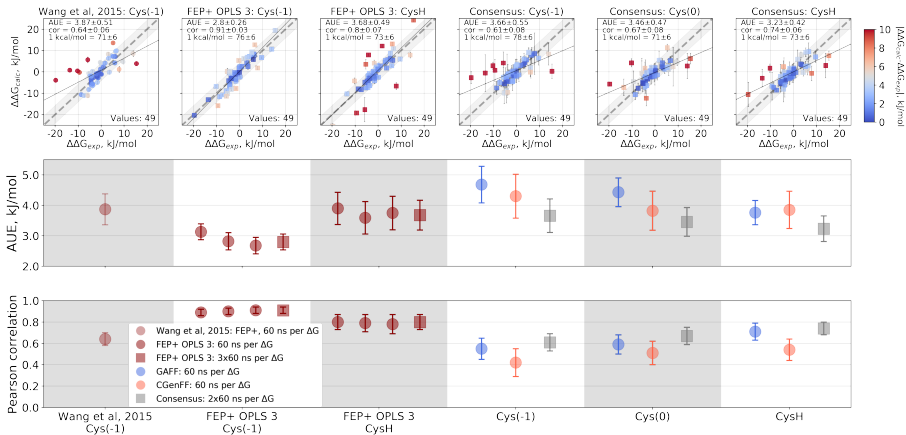


ptp1b

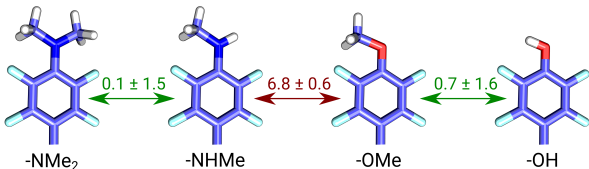
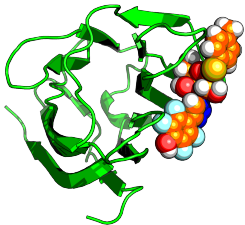
Cys215 in apo state has pKa of 5.4.  
pKa in holo state is unknown.



# Case: ptp1b



# Case: galectin

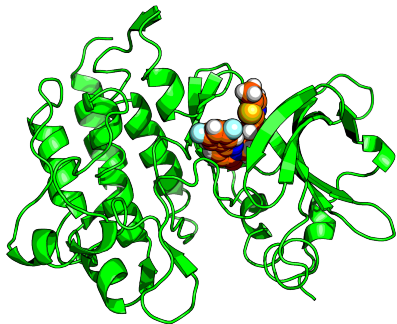


Galectin: UE from experiment, kJ/mol

$\Delta\Delta G$  estimates are accurate for changes within chemical groups.

Inter-chemical group  $\Delta\Delta G$  values are less accurate.

## Case: cMet

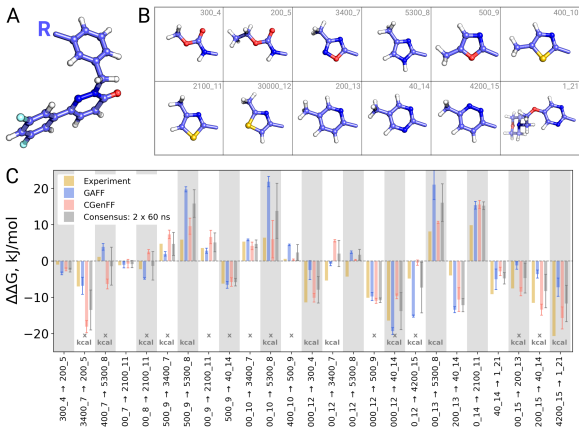


### cMet

For cMet, in 56% of  $\Delta\Delta G$  cases GAFF and CGenFF pointed in the opposite directions from experiment.

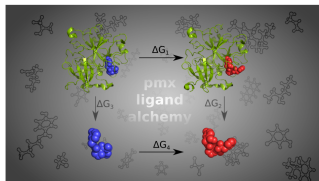
A good candidate to look for trends in force field performance.

# Case: cMet



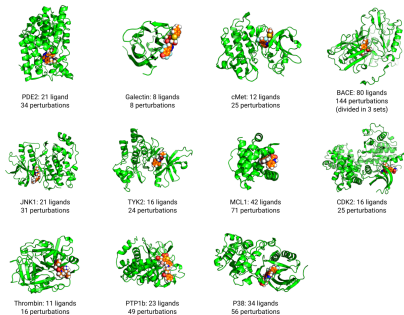
For example, GAFF overestimates binding affinity of the ligands 4200\_15 and 400\_10 in comparison to CGenFF and experiment.

# Summary



pmx on github: <https://github.com/deGrootLab/pmx>

pmx webserver: <http://pmx.mpibpc.mpg.de>



Further topics (if time permits):

- *Absolute free energies*
- *Equilibrium FEP vs Non-Equilibrium TI*

pmx and free energies

Dr. Servaas Michielssens

Dr. Daniel Seeliger

Dr. Matteo Aldeghi

Dr. Yuriy Khalak

Professor Dr. Bert de Groot

Small molecule study

Dr. Laura Benitez

Dr. Gary Tresadern

Professor Dr. Herman van Vlijmen



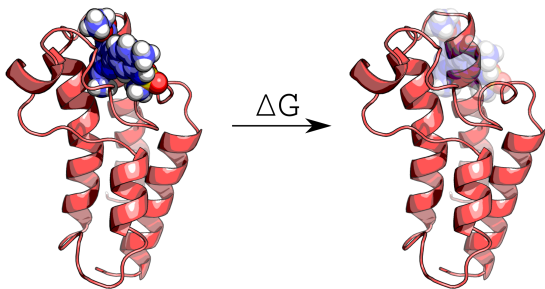
MAX-PLANCK-GESellschaft



# Absolute $\Delta G$

Absolute  $\Delta G$  calculation

# Absolute $\Delta G$

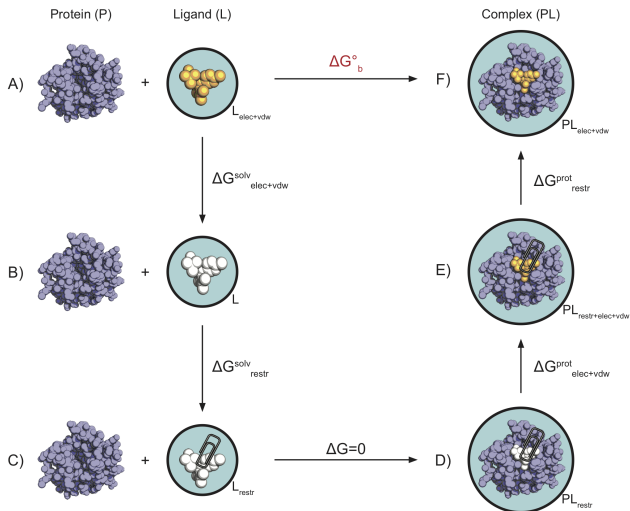


## Decoupling whole ligand

- Requires restraints
- Large perturbation
- Convergence is slow

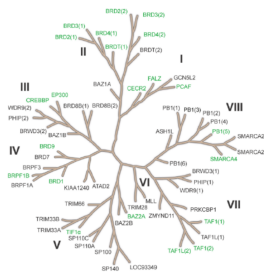
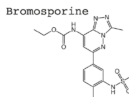
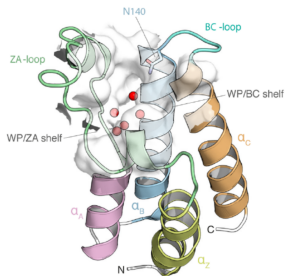


# Absolute $\Delta G$



Reproduced from Aldeghi *et al.*, Chem. Sci., 2016, 7, 207-218. © The Royal Society of Chemistry

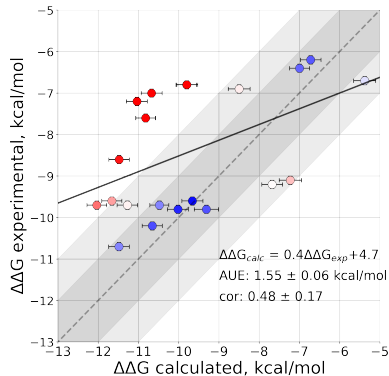
# Absolute $\Delta G$ : bromodomains



Aldeghi et al, JACS, 2017

- Bromosporine binding to the bromodomain proteins
- 22 different bromodomains

# Absolute $\Delta G$ : bromodomains

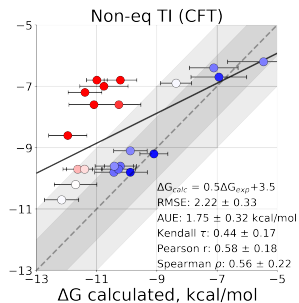
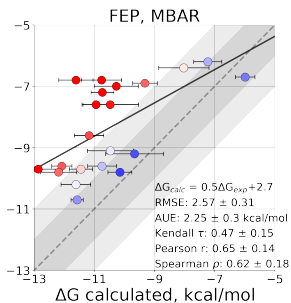
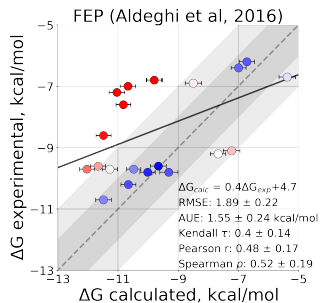


- Accuracy lower in comparison to the  $\Delta\Delta G$  calculations
- More than 600 ns for a single  $\Delta G$  value required for convergence

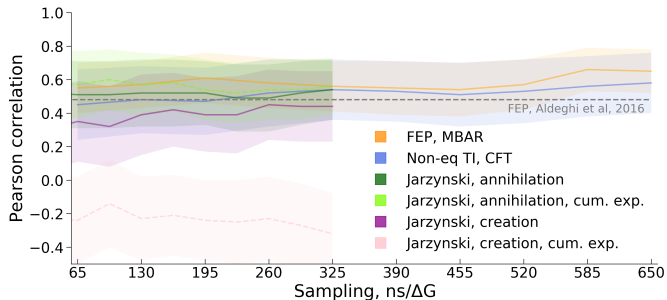
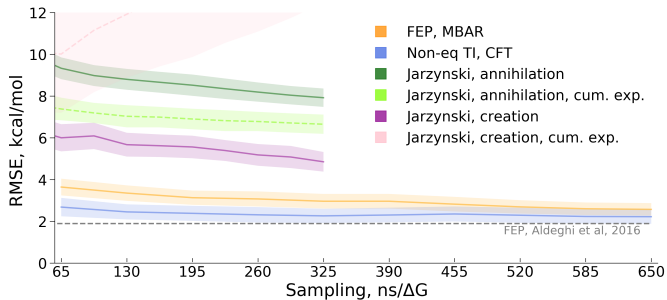
Aldeghi et al, JACS, 2017

Equilibrium free energy calculation

# Absolute $\Delta G$ : Non-Equilibrium TI



# Absolute $\Delta G$ : Convergence



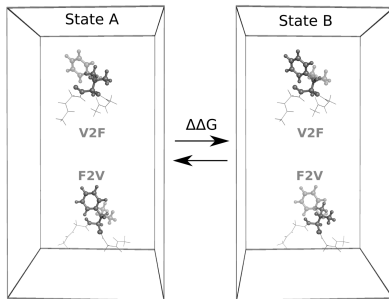
# FEP vs Non-Eq TI

FEP vs Non-Eq TI

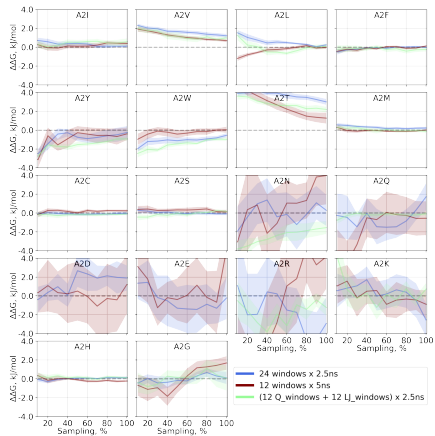
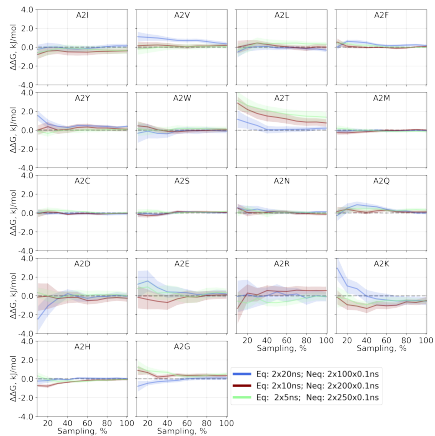
# Comparison Strategy

## Requirement

- Large number of realistic perturbations
- Equivalent conditions and sampling time
- Known target value



# Amino Acids

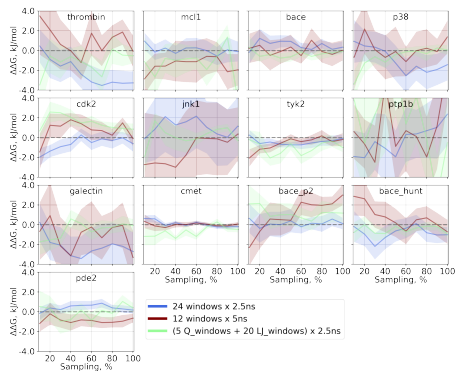
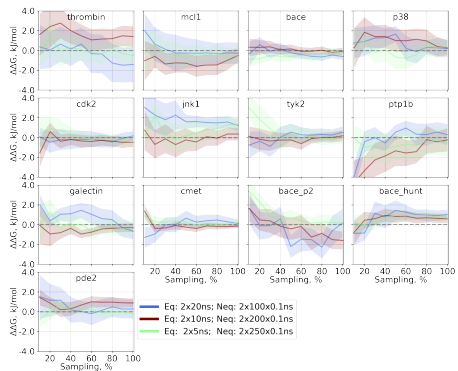


Non-equilibrium TI

Equilibrium FEP



# Ligands



Non-equilibrium TI

Equilibrium FEP