

# Simulating Biology with ONETEP

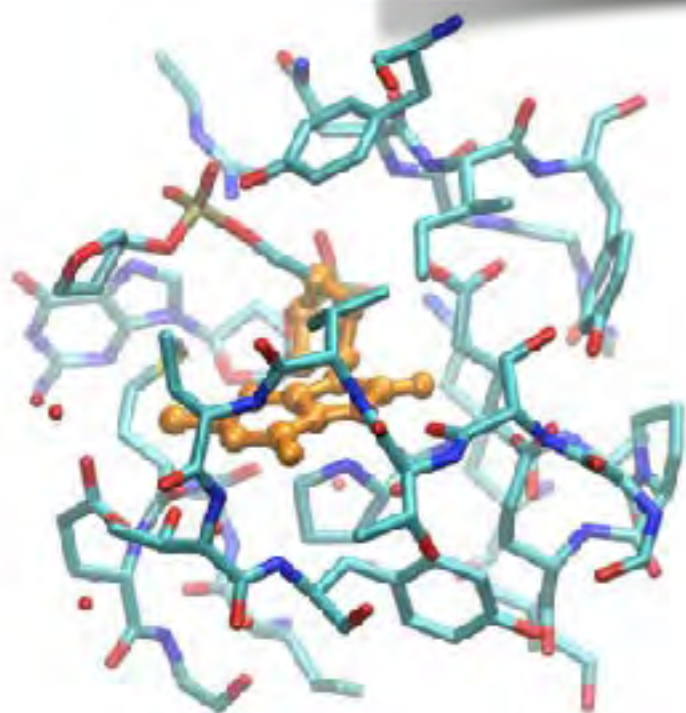
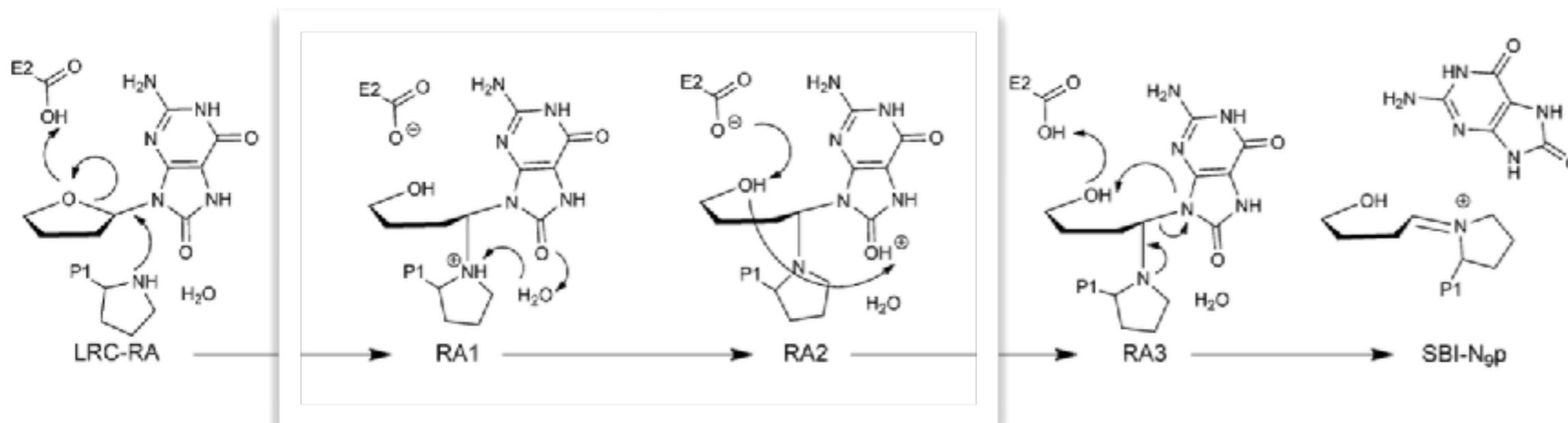
**Daniel Cole**

School of Natural & Environmental Sciences



# The Length Scale Problem

Deprotonation of proline in the second stage of repair of oxidised guanine by the bacterial glycosylase, MutM

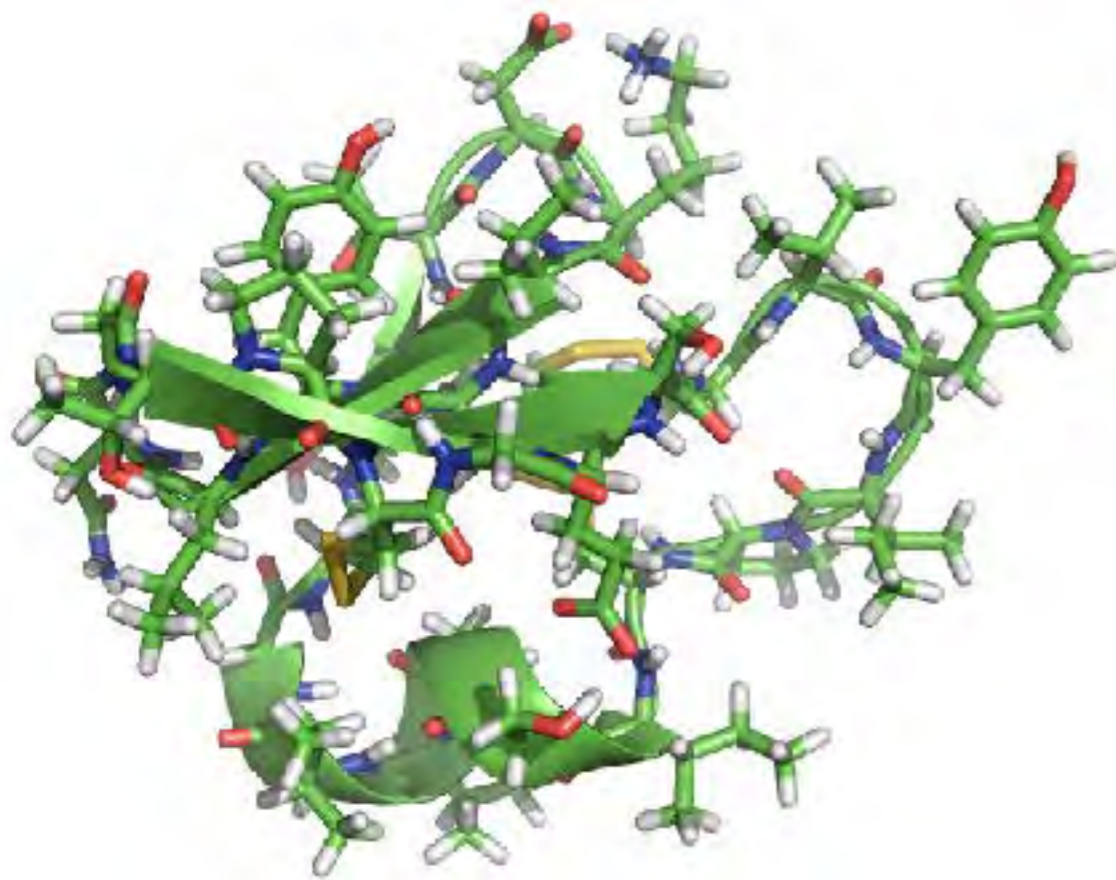


QM atoms	Barrier (kcal/mol)
143	28
278	6
493	14
606	14

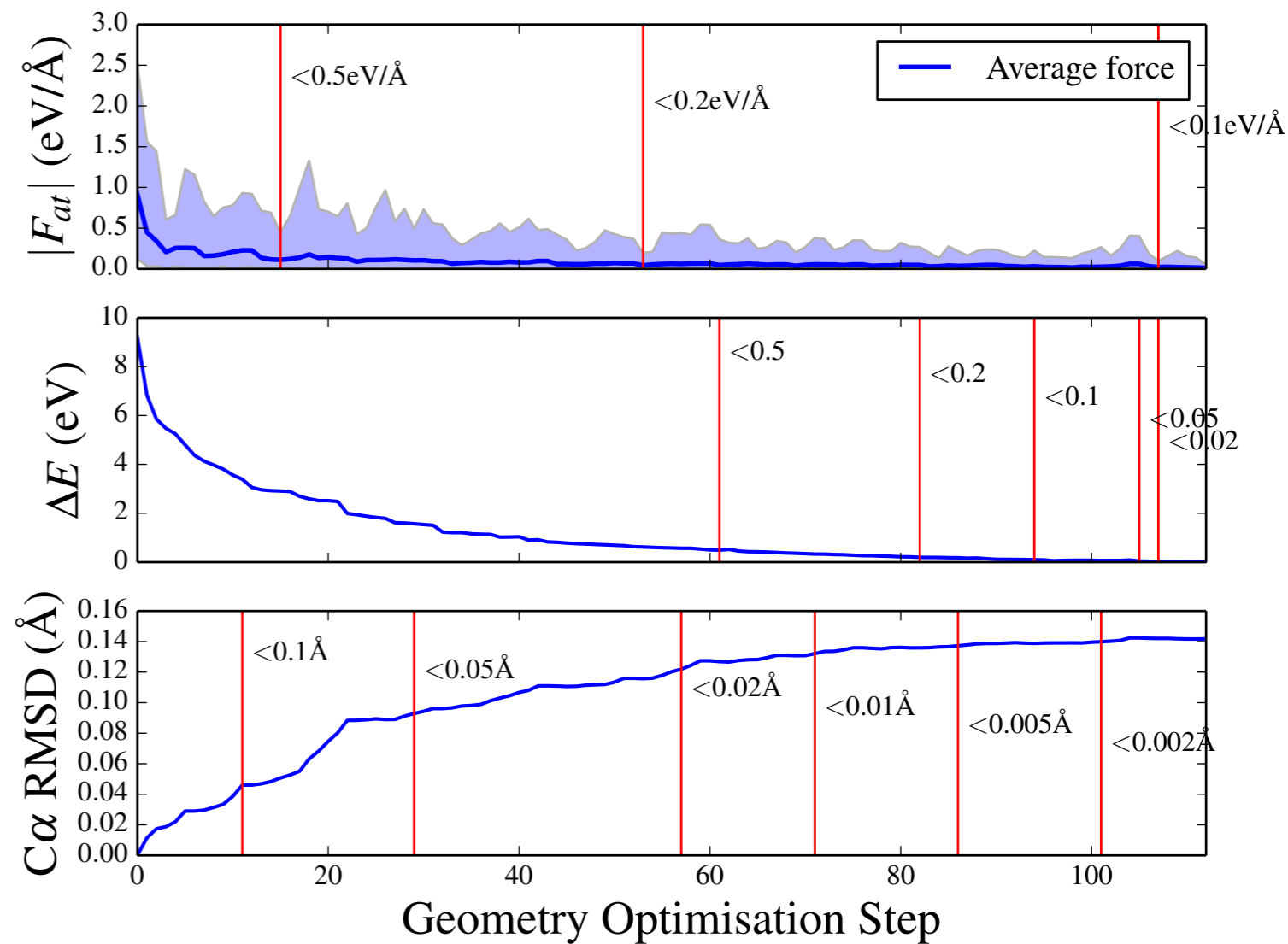
# Protein Structure

Cyclotide kalata B5 (PDB: 2KUX)

Structurally optimised using  
ONETEP (implicit solvent)

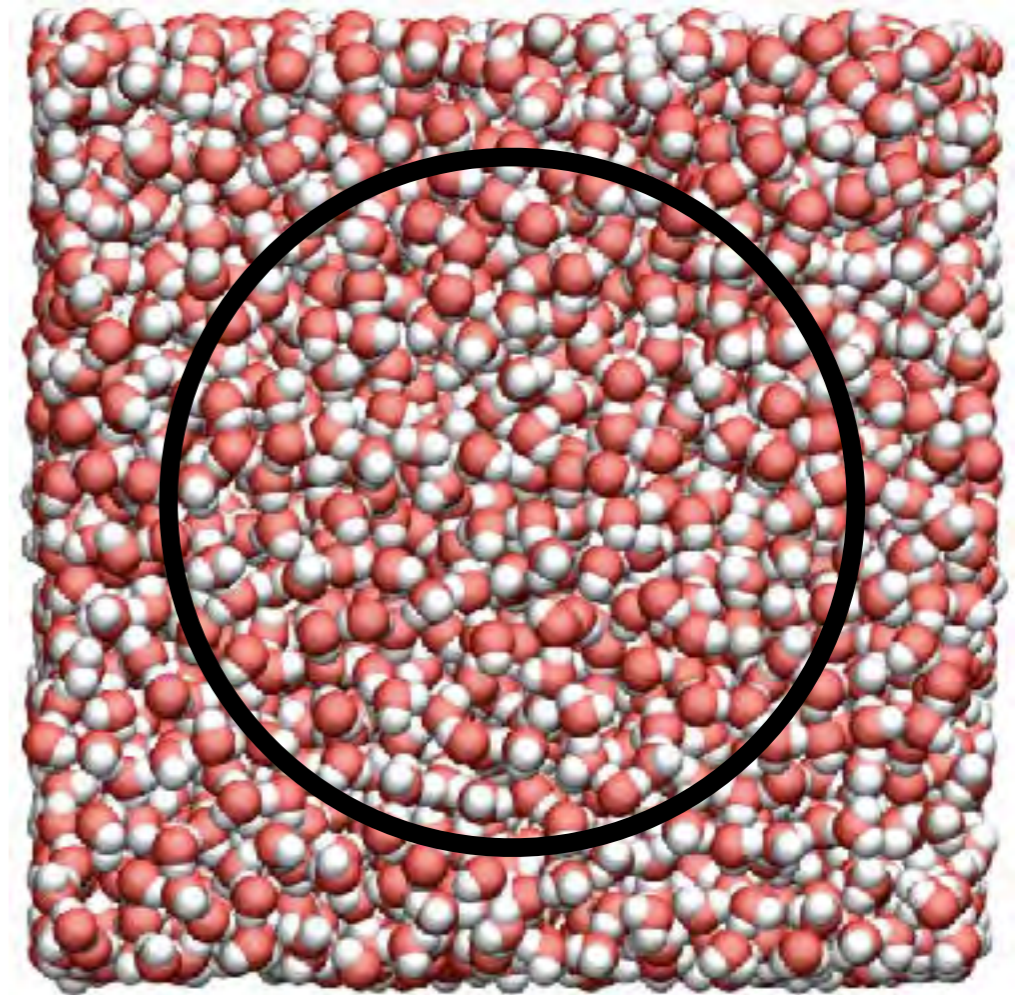
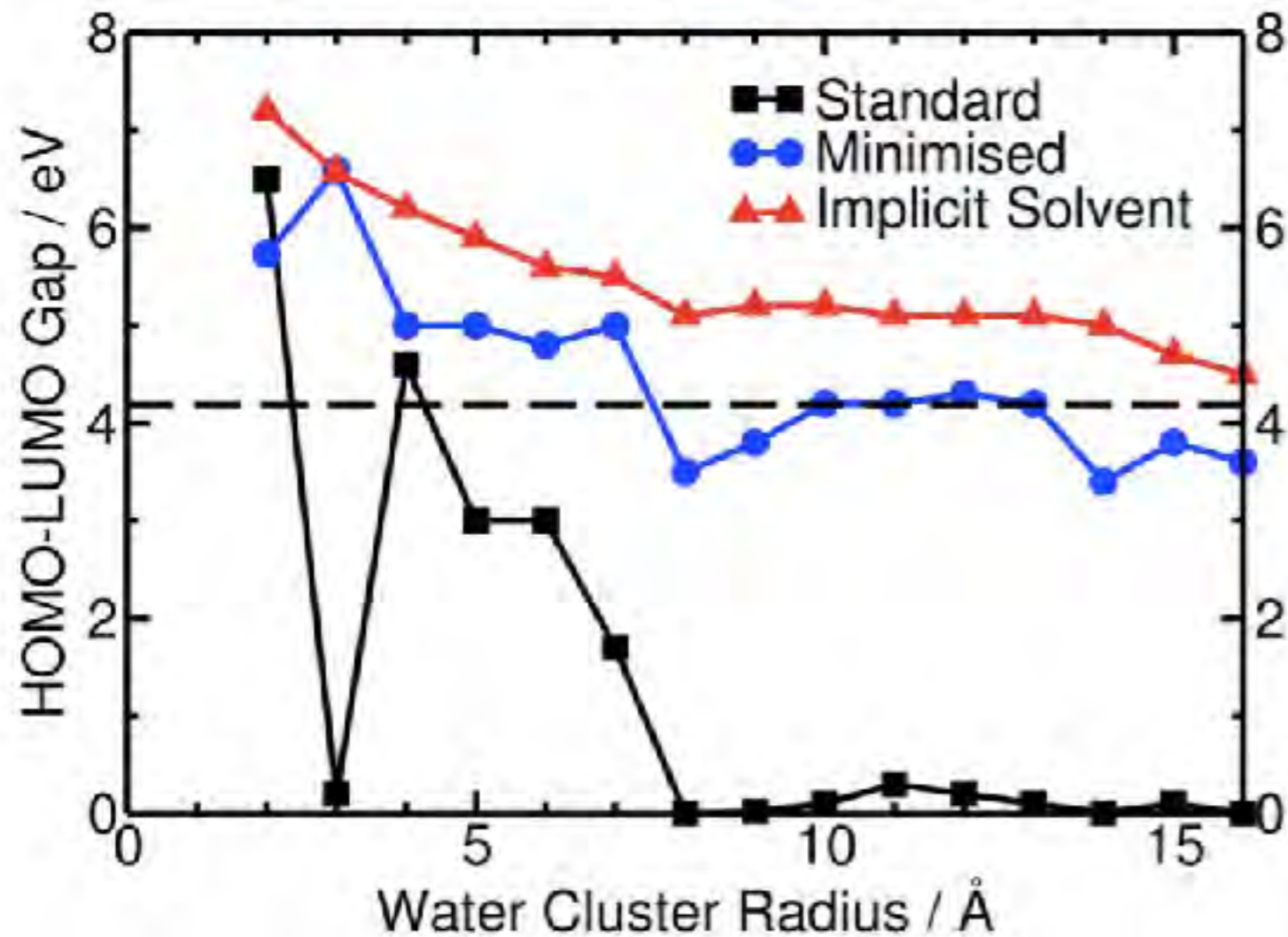


**RMSD = 0.14 Å**



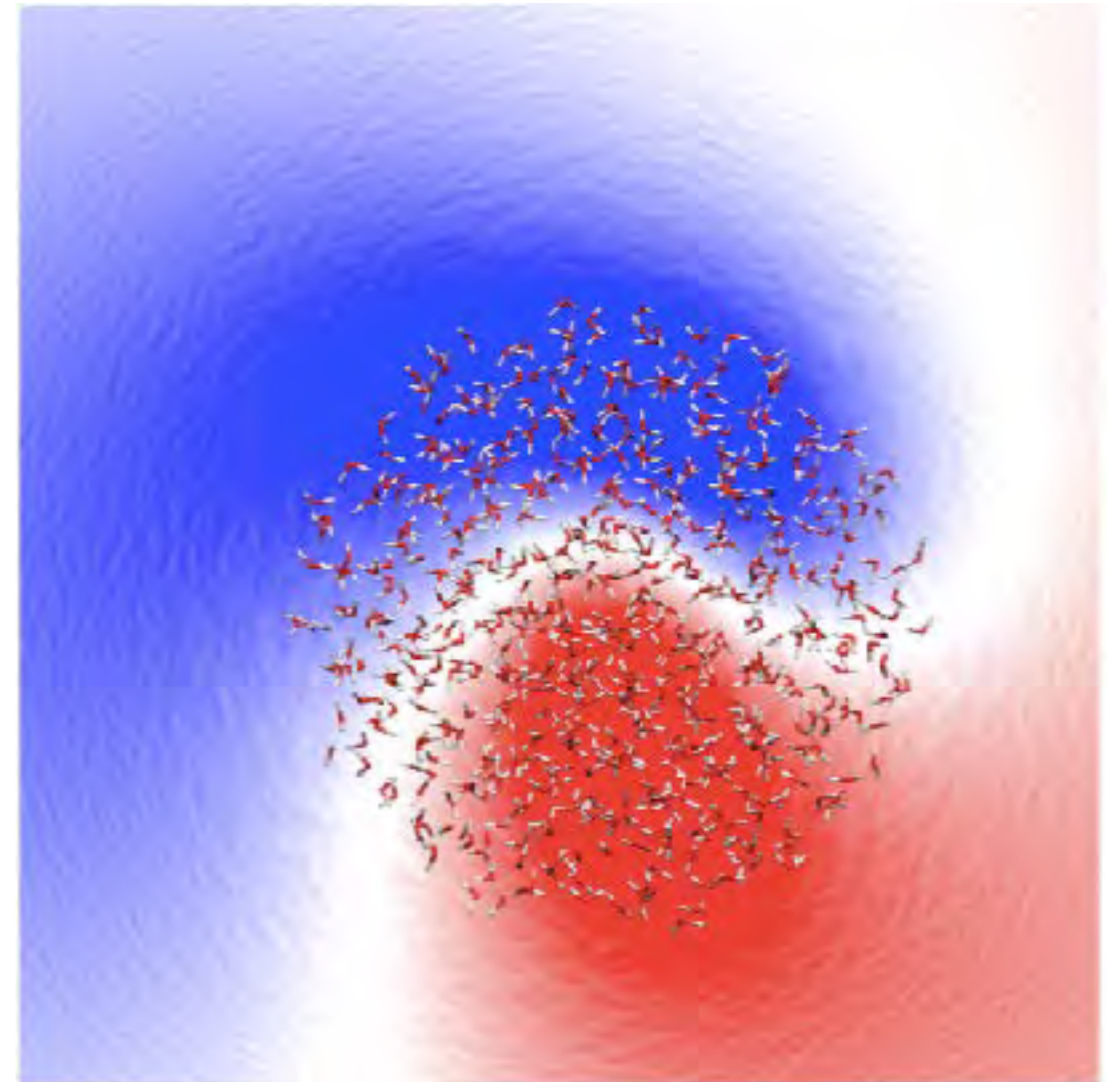
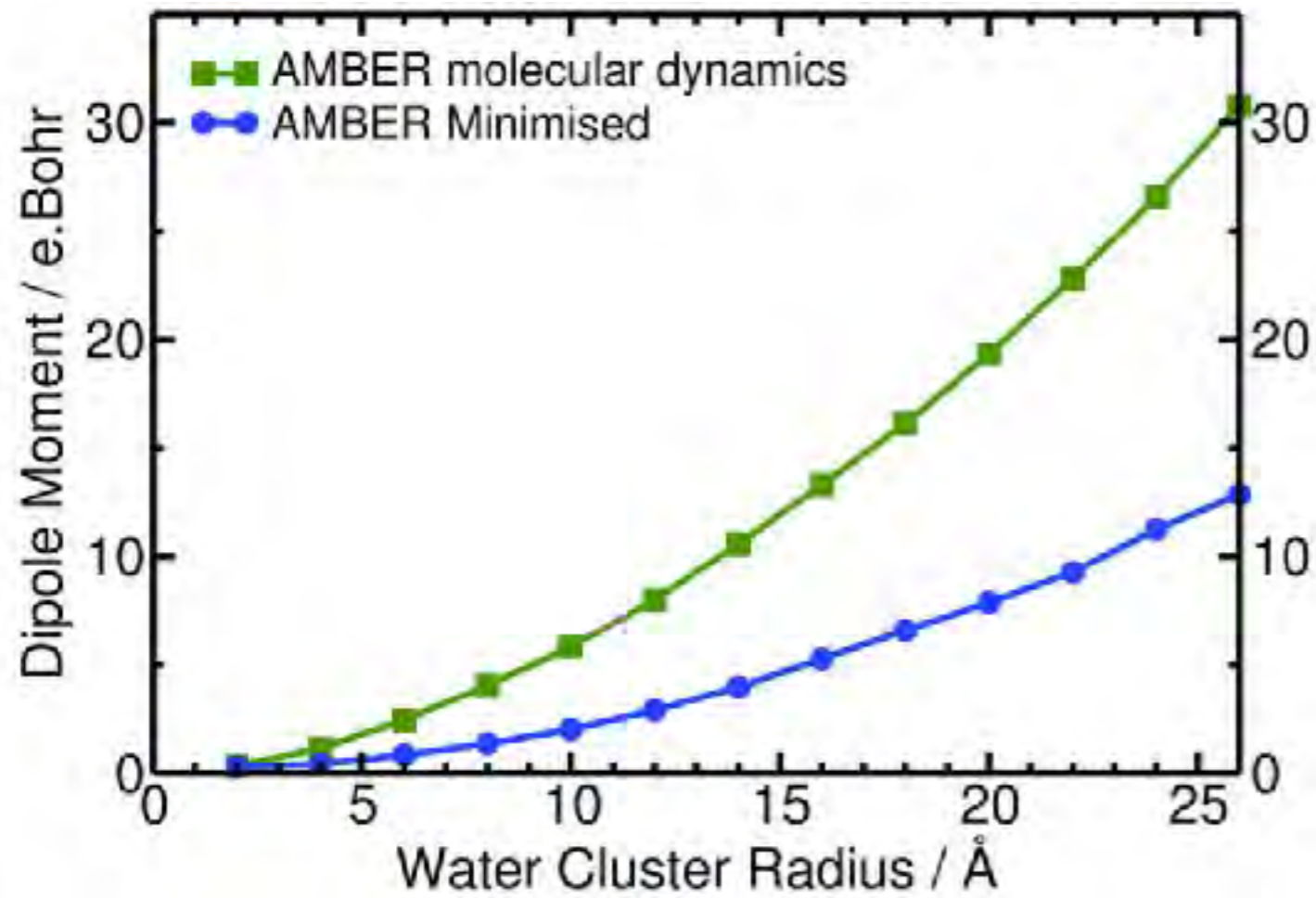


# HOMO-LUMO Gap



We know that DFT under-estimates band gap, but no reason why the effect should be worse for large systems?

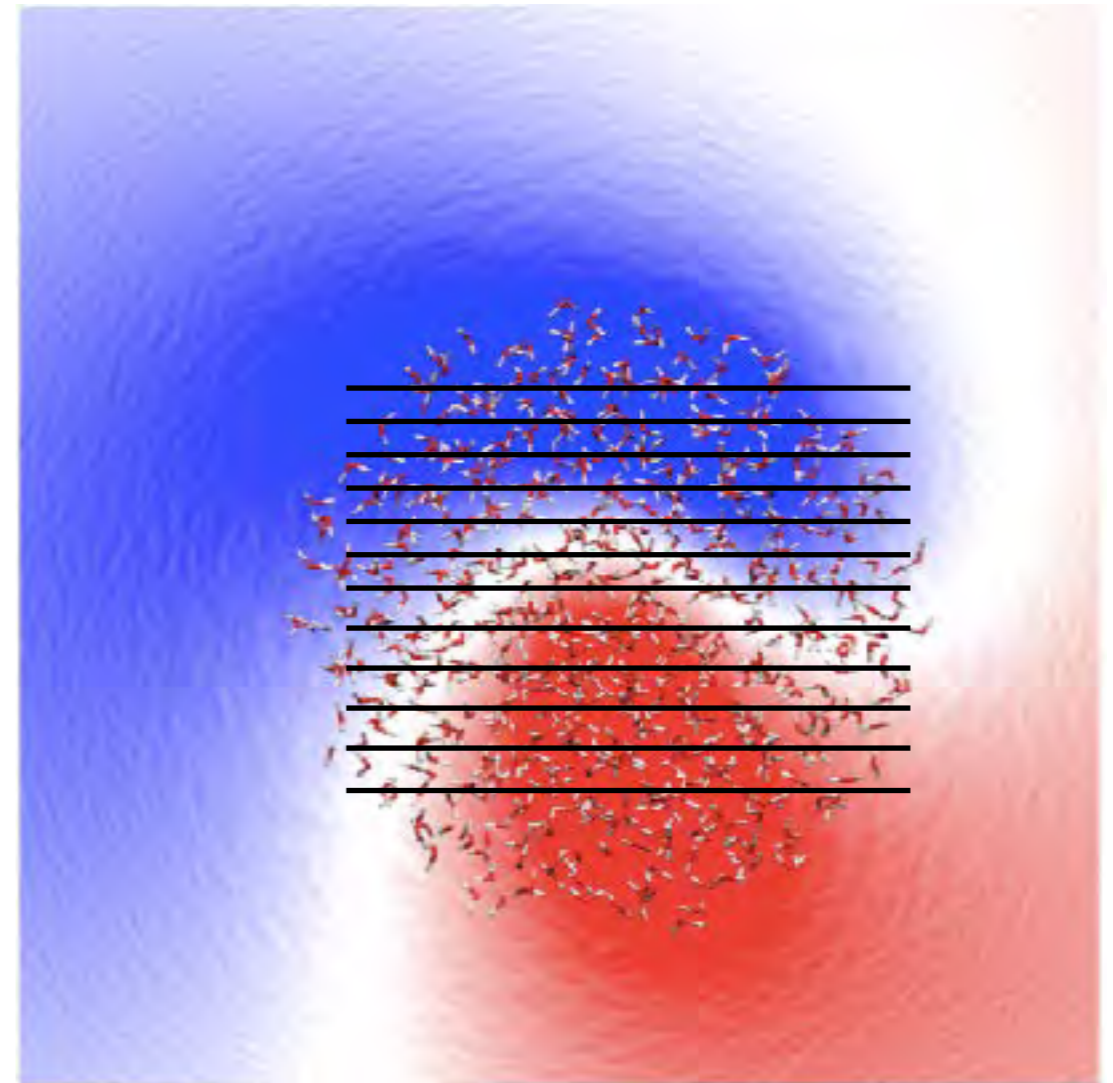
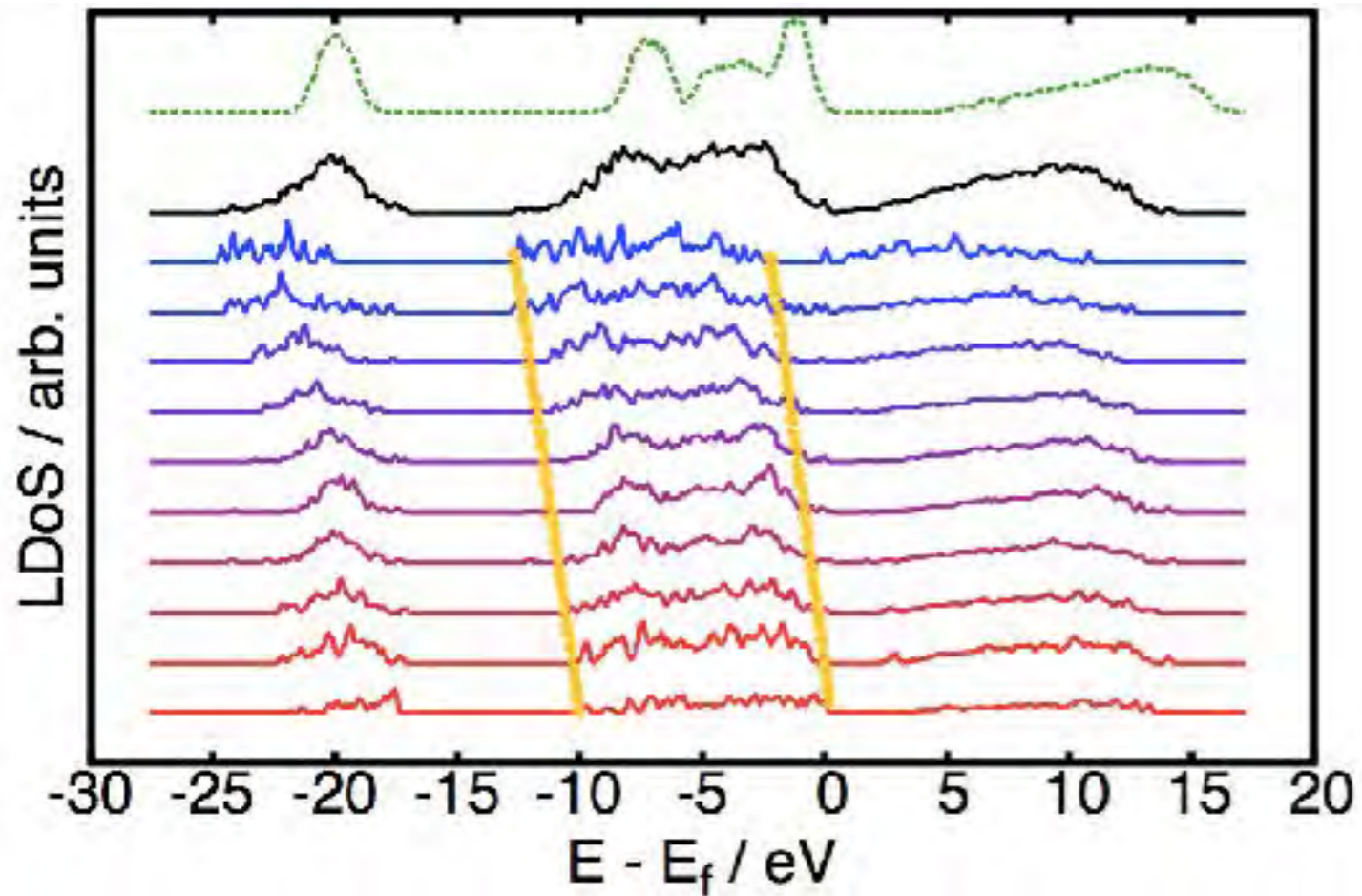
# Dipole moment





# HOMO-LUMO Gap

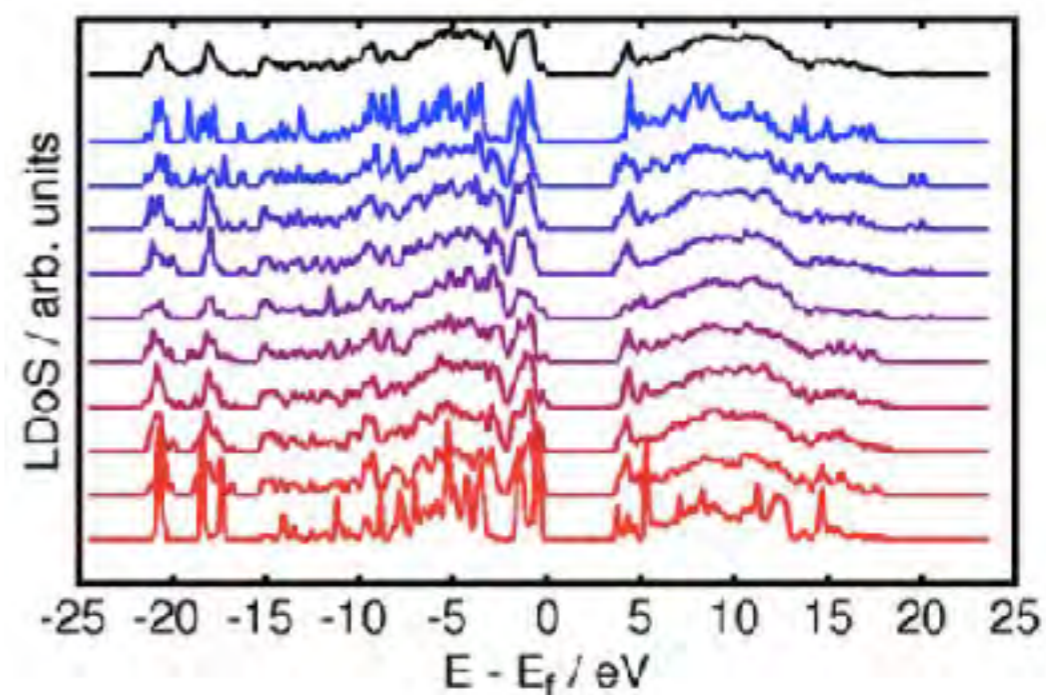
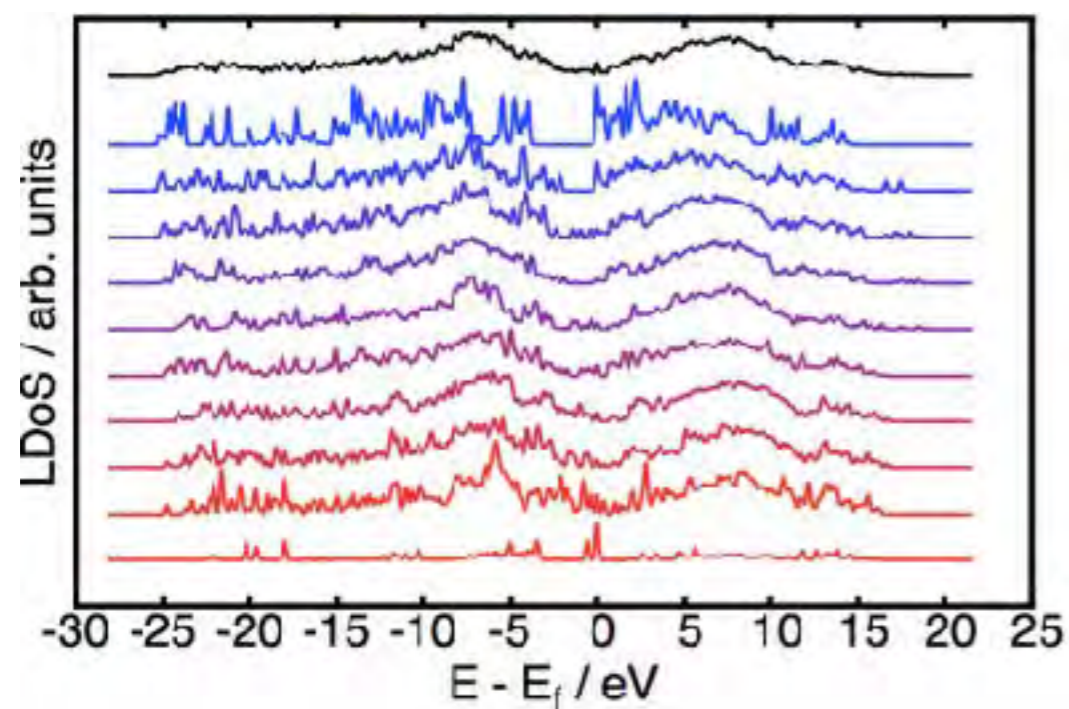
Dipole field leads to shifts in the electronic energy levels and closing of the HOMO-LUMO gap.



# HOMO-LUMO Gap

Before

After

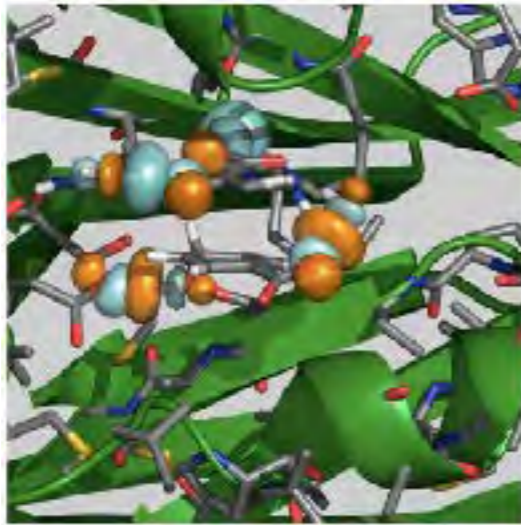


For large-scale cluster calculations, Kohn-Sham DFT works well, but:

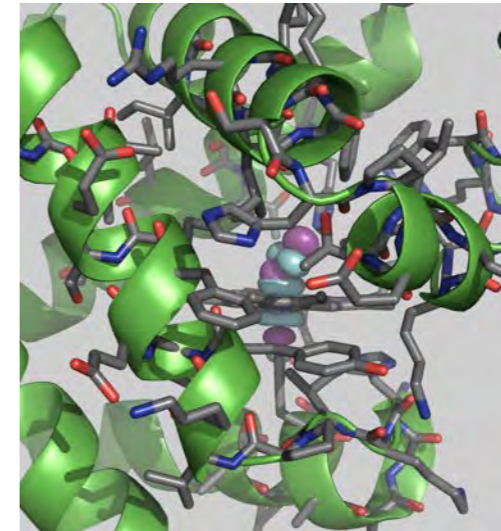
- 1) check for presence of HOMO-LUMO gap;
- 2) use implicit solvent.



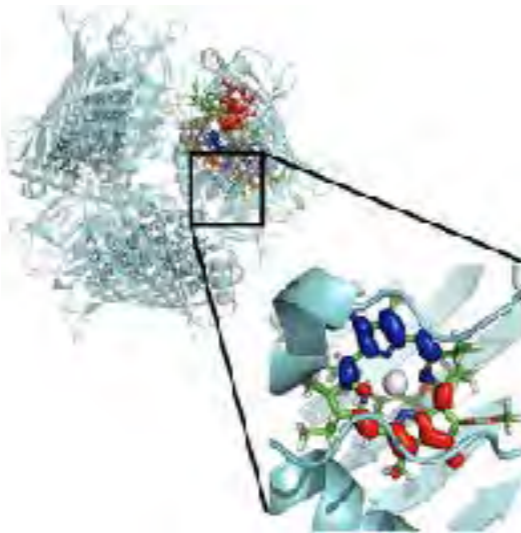
# Biological Applications



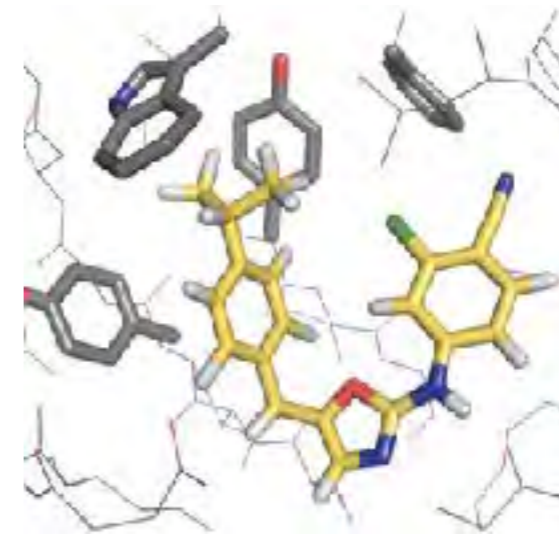
Transition state searching in enzymes



Protein-ligand binding in metalloproteins



Optical spectroscopy in a light-harvesting protein



Classical force field parameterisation for drug discovery

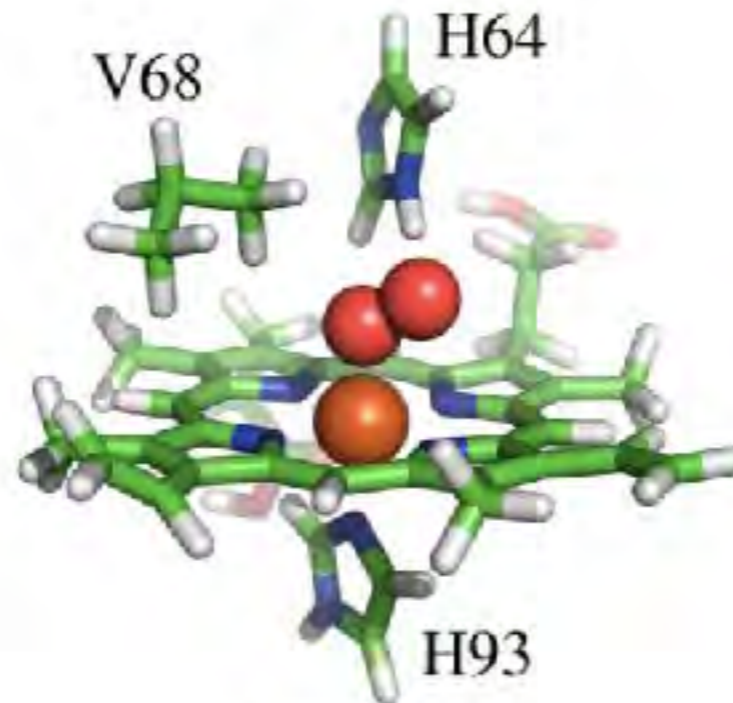


# Metalloproteins

$K_{\text{CO}}:K_{\text{O}_2} \sim 20,000$   
 $\Delta\Delta E = 5.9 \text{ kcal/mol}$

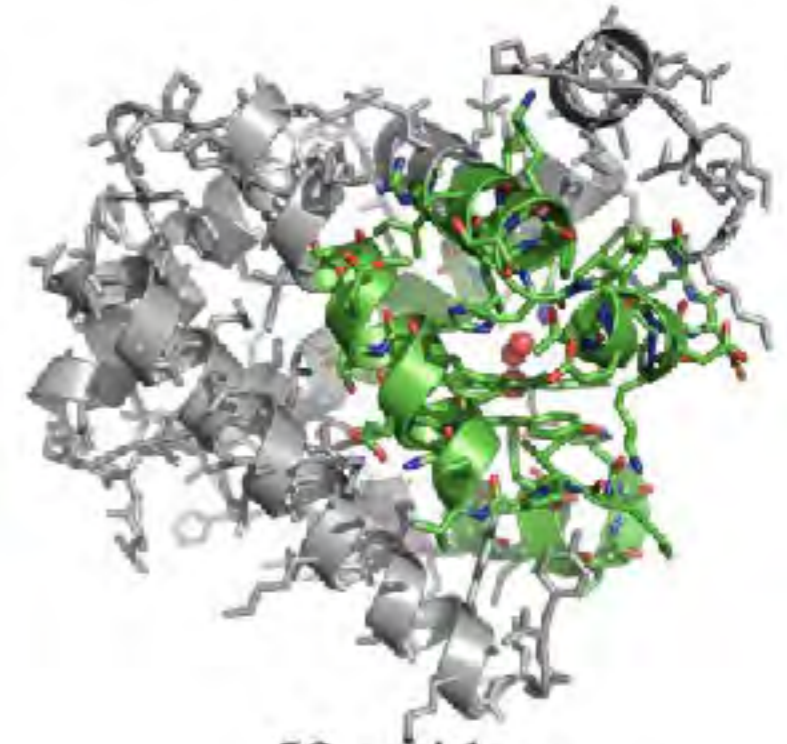


1 residue



3 residues

$K_{\text{CO}}:K_{\text{O}_2} \sim 20$   
 $\Delta\Delta E = 1.9 \text{ kcal/mol}$



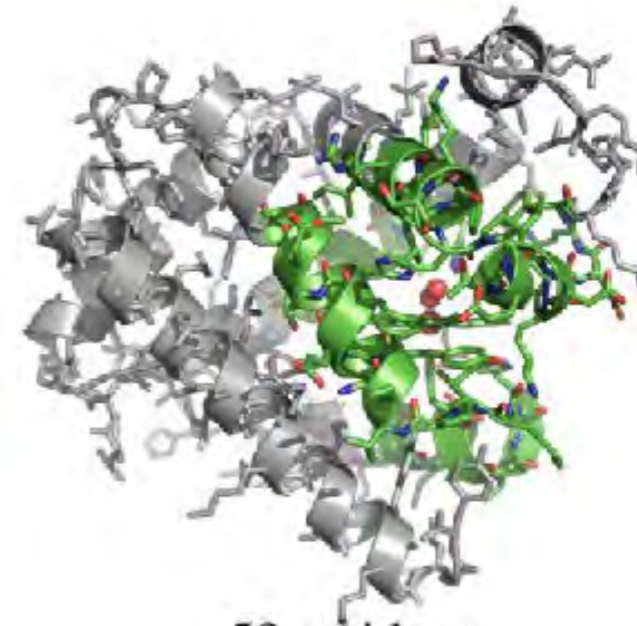
53 residues

Myoglobin is small protein responsible for storing  $\text{O}_2$  in muscle tissue.  
Function hindered by CO.

# Energetics



1 residue



53 residues

$\Delta\Delta E$  / kcal/mol

Vacuum

Protein

U=0eV	18	15
U=3eV	12	9
Experiment	6	2

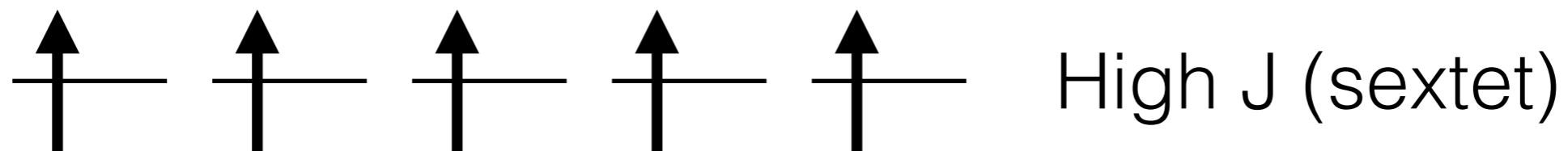
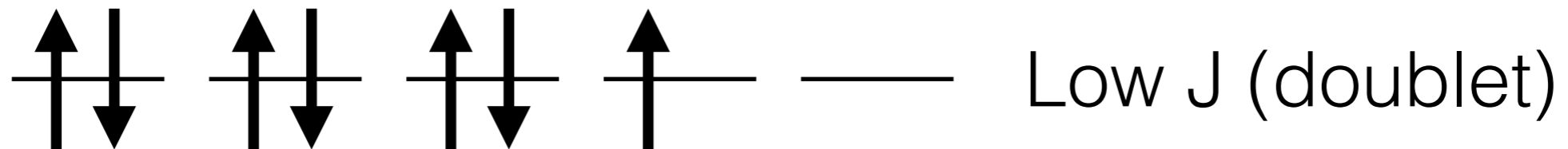


# Dynamical Mean Field Theory

In systems with strongly-correlated electrons, DMFT treats the  $U$  correction at the many-body level, including multi-determinant and finite-temperature effects.

In addition, Hund's exchange coupling  $J$  is included, which tends to align the spins in the correlated subsystem.

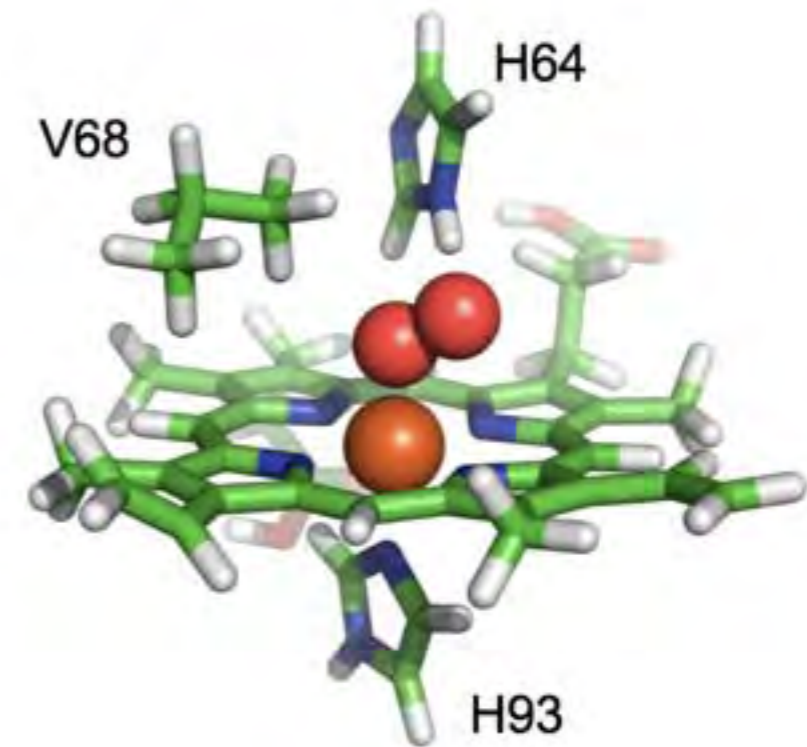
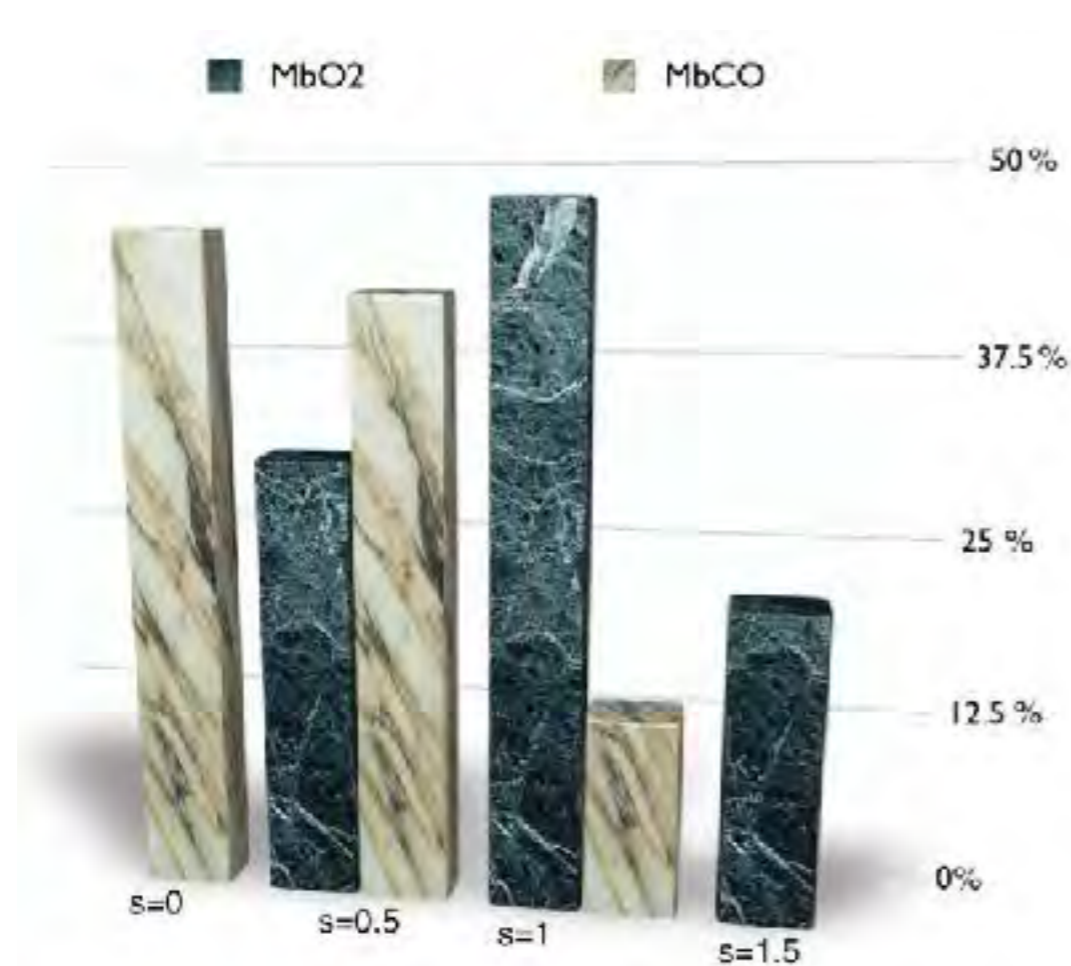
## Occupation of Fe 3d subshell in heme:



# Dynamical Mean Field Theory

Apply DFT+DMFT to realistic model of myoglobin (1,000 atoms).

The ground state wave function is not a pure state (entangled singlet, triplet ... states). Larger valence fluctuations observed in MbO<sub>2</sub> than MbCO.



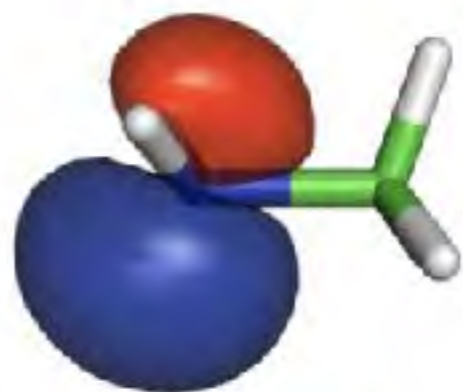
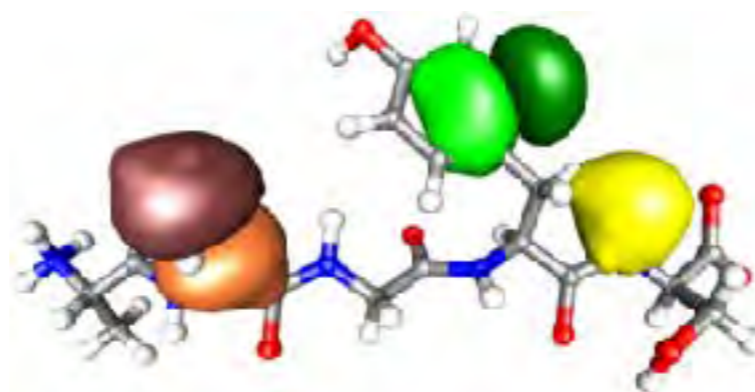
DFT+U:  $Q(O_2) \sim -0.5 e$   
DFT+DMFT:  $Q(O_2) \sim -1.0 e$



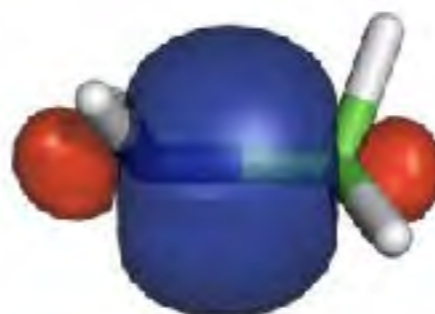
# Natural Bond Orbitals

NBO

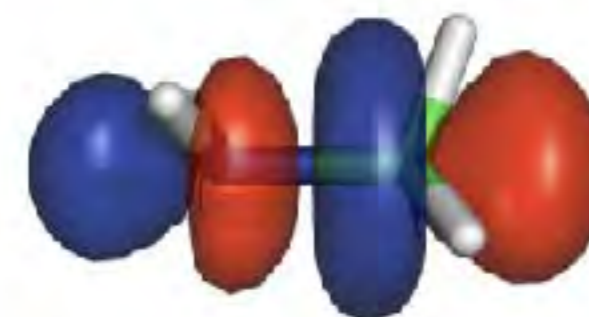
NBO translates accurate  
calculations into chemical insights  
<http://www.chem.wisc.edu/~nbo5>



N lone pair

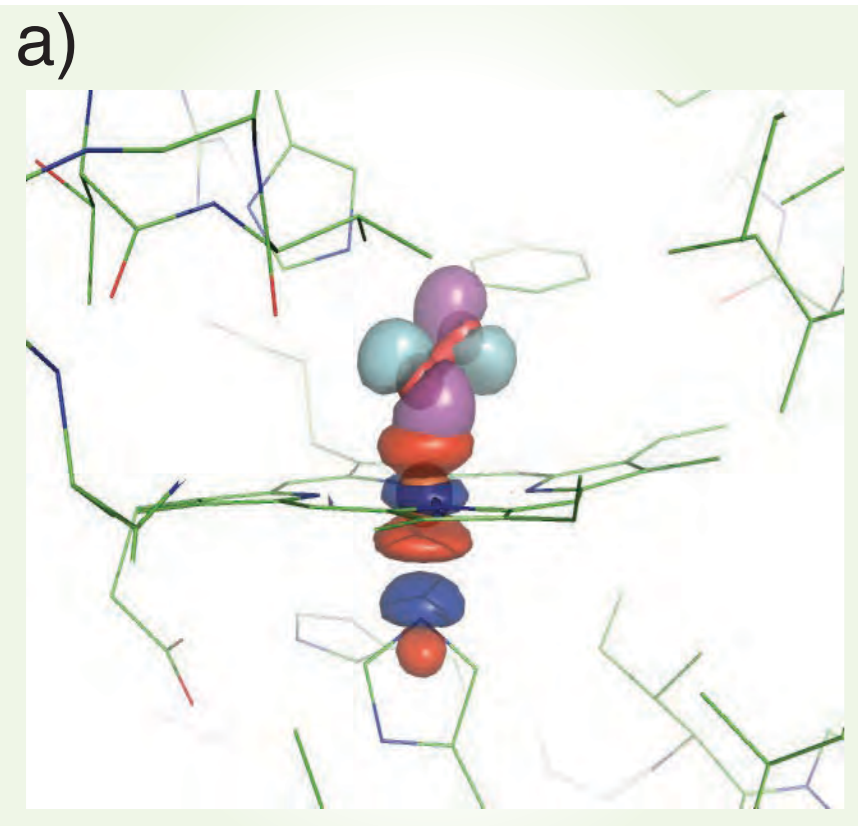


C-N  $\sigma$  bond

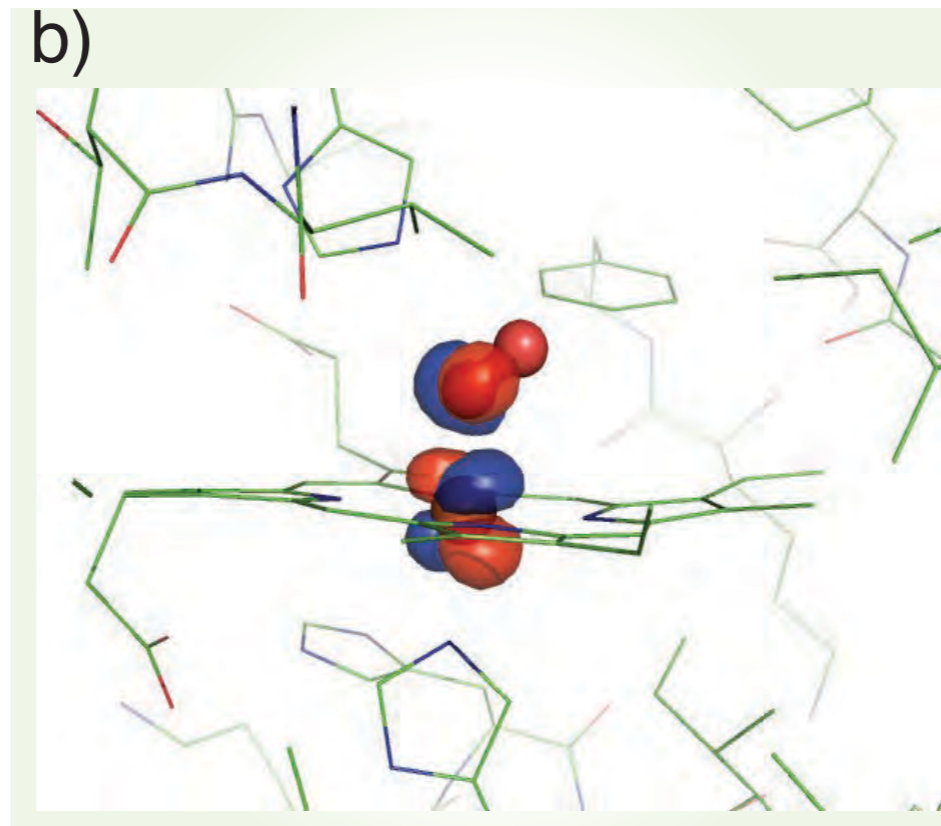


C-N  $\sigma^*$  anti-bond

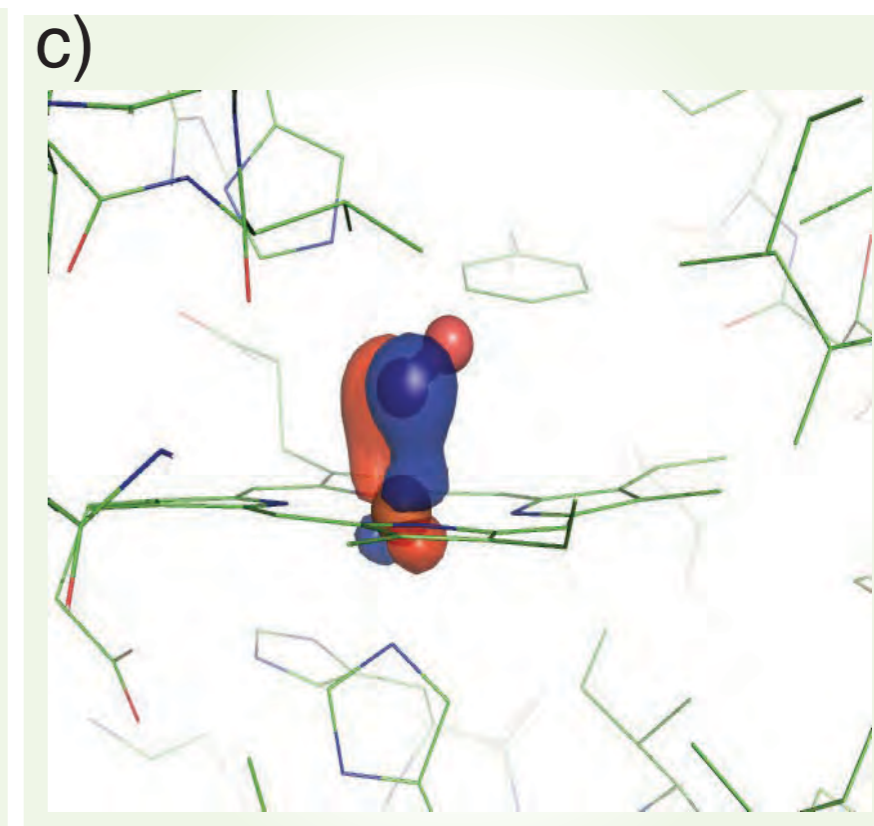
# Dynamical Mean Field Theory



ligand-to-metal back charge transfer



metal-to-ligand charge transfer



Enhanced  $\pi$ -bonding, charge transfer increases bonding to  $O_2$ .

$d\pi$  hole character is 19% using DFT+DMFT, compared with 15% from Fe L-edge X-ray absorption spectroscopy (50% for CASSCF/MM).



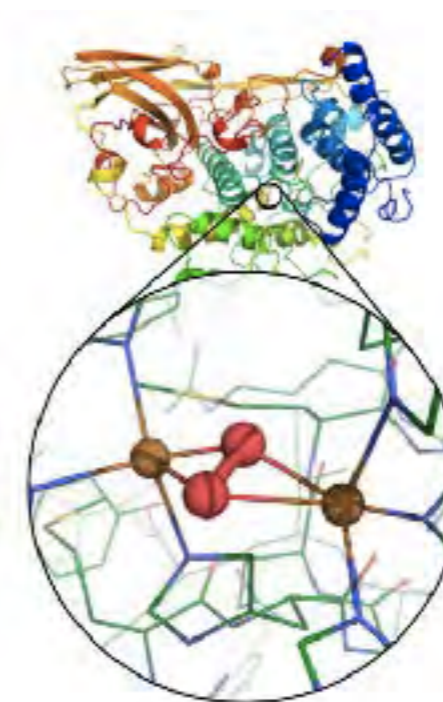
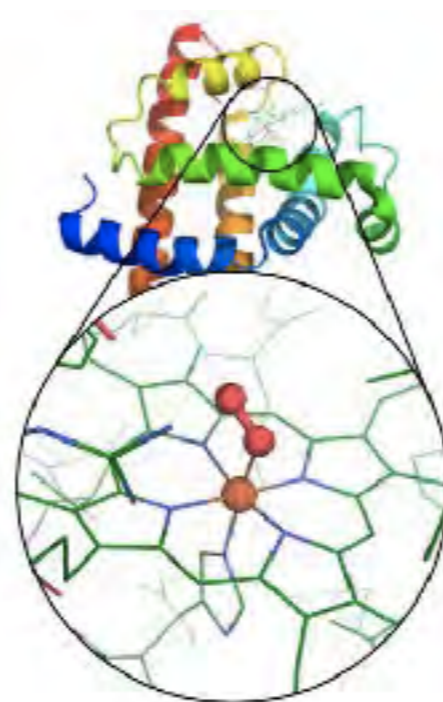
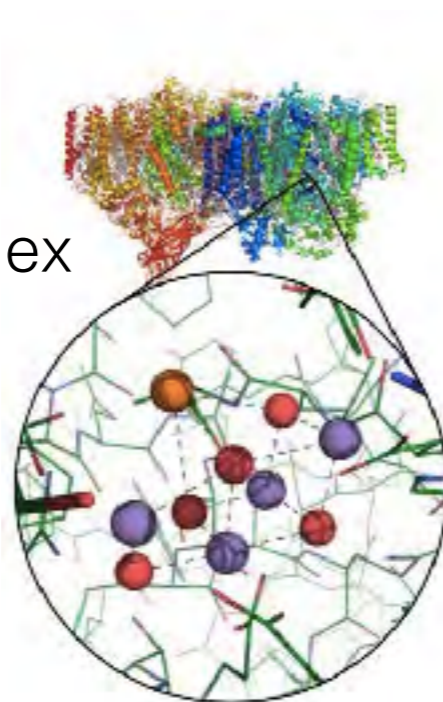
# Energetics

	$\Delta\Delta E$ / kcal/mol	
	Vacuum	Protein
DFT	18	15
DFT+U (U=3eV)	12	9
DFT+DMFT (J=0.7eV)	—	2
Experiment	6	2

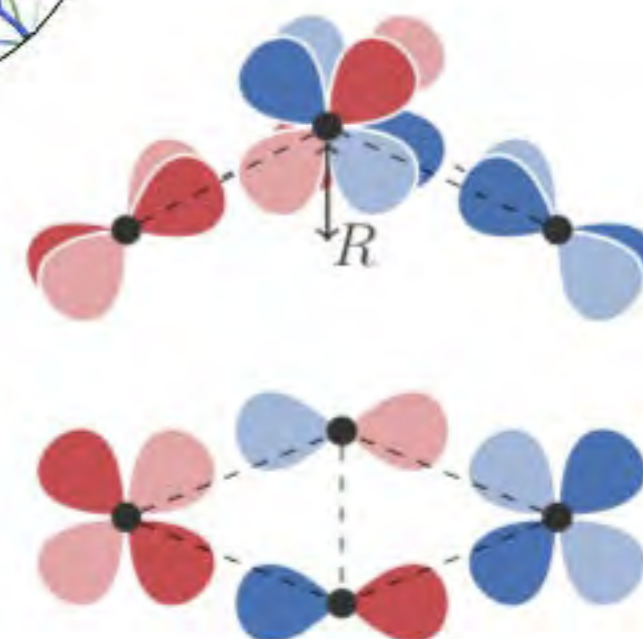
Require both multi-determinant quantum effects and large system sizes to recover experimental relative binding energies

# Ongoing Work

Water oxidising complex  
of photosystem II



di-Cu oxo bridge in  
hemocyanin

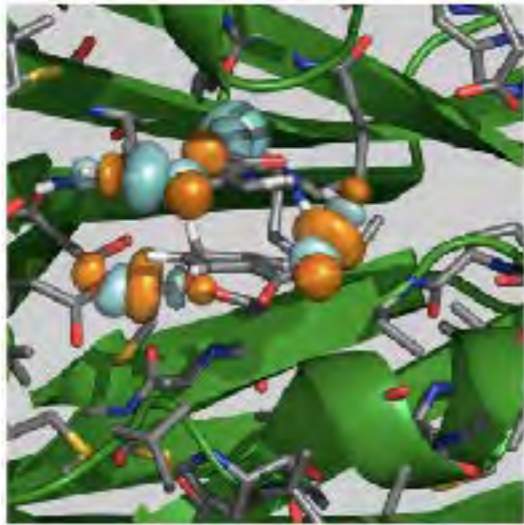


In hemocyanin, experimental observation of singlet state is at odds with DFT calculations on Cu-O<sub>2</sub>-Cu core.

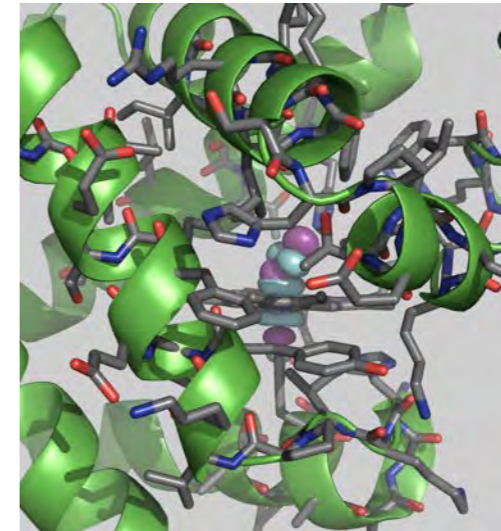
Aim to move away from 'toy models' towards predictive modelling of quantum effects in biology.



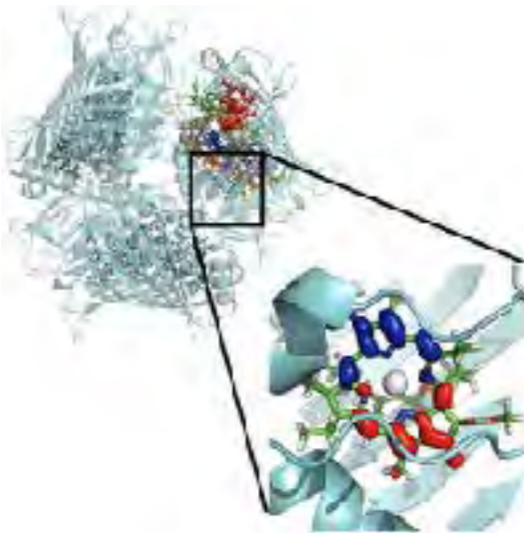
# Biological Applications



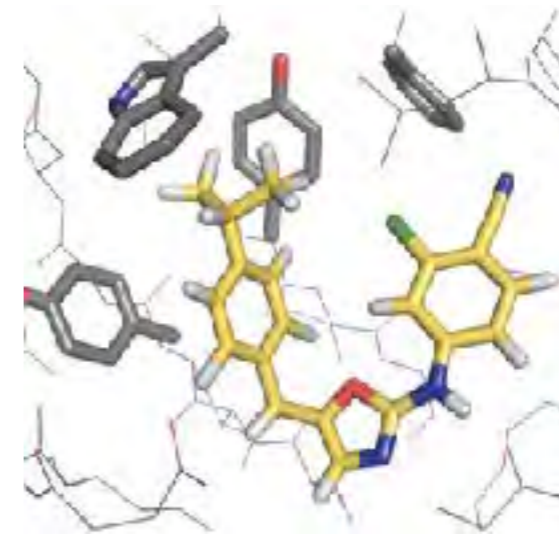
Transition state searching in enzymes



Protein-ligand binding in metalloproteins



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Classical force field parameterisation for drug discovery

# FMO Complex

## Fenna-Matthews-Olson (FMO) complex:

funnels electronic excitations (excitons) to reaction centre where they are used to release electrons for photosynthesis.

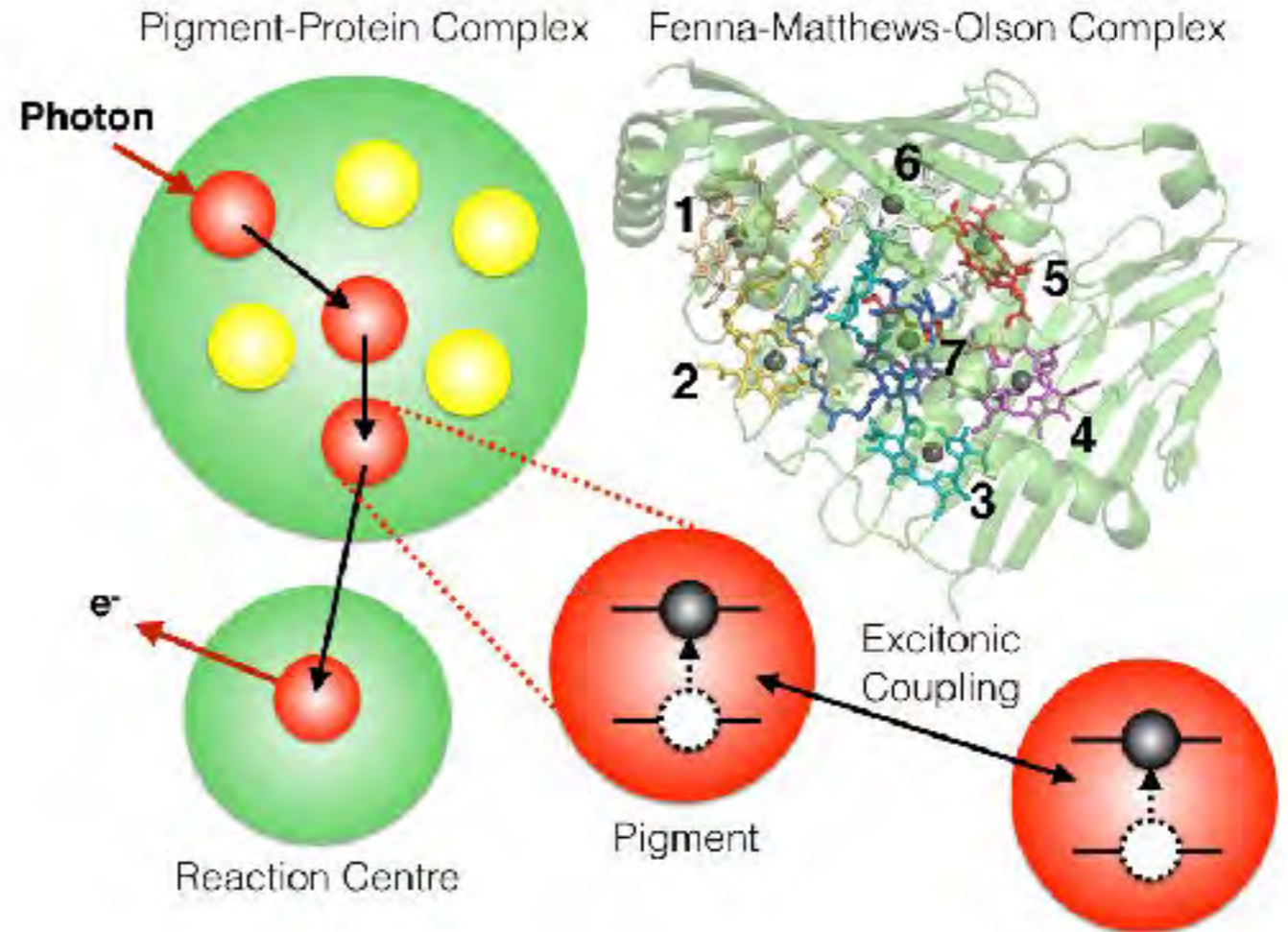
X-ray diffraction reveals a trimeric structure. Each monomer contains 7 bacterio-chlorophyll pigments.

Exciton transfer through FMO modelled by pigment-protein complex (PPC) Hamiltonian:

$$H = \sum_i \epsilon_i |i\rangle \langle i| + \sum_{i \neq j} J_{ij} |i\rangle \langle j|$$

↑  
site energies

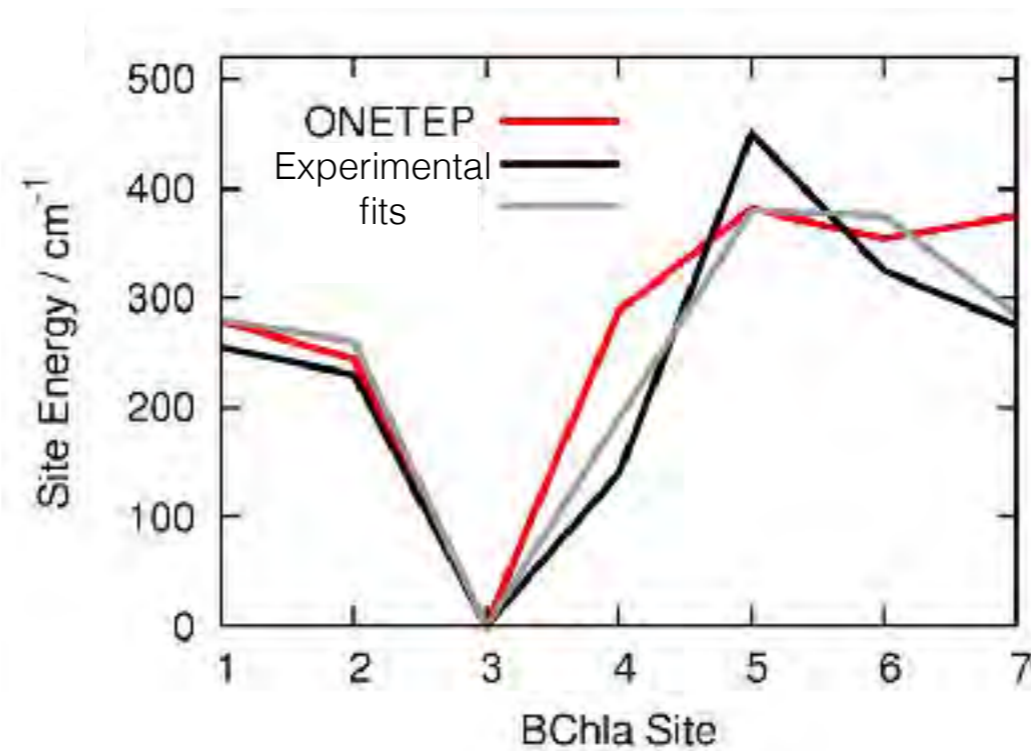
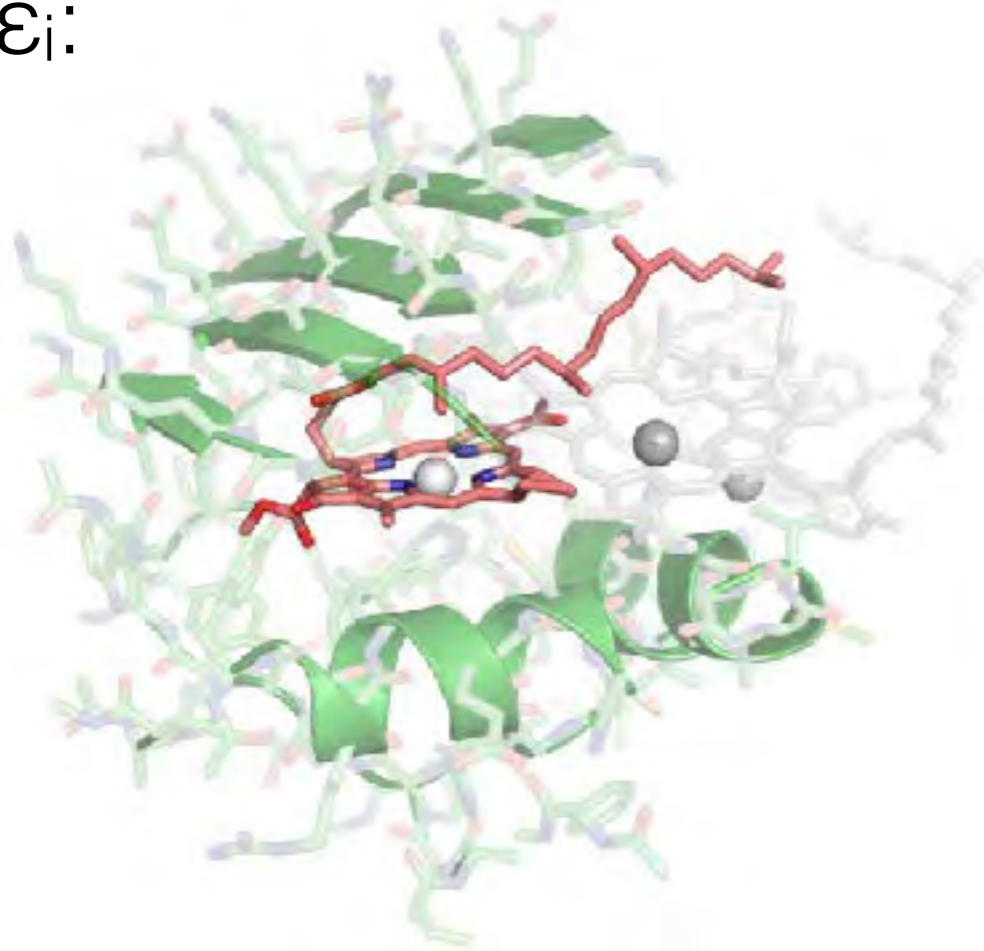
↑  
coupling between optical transitions





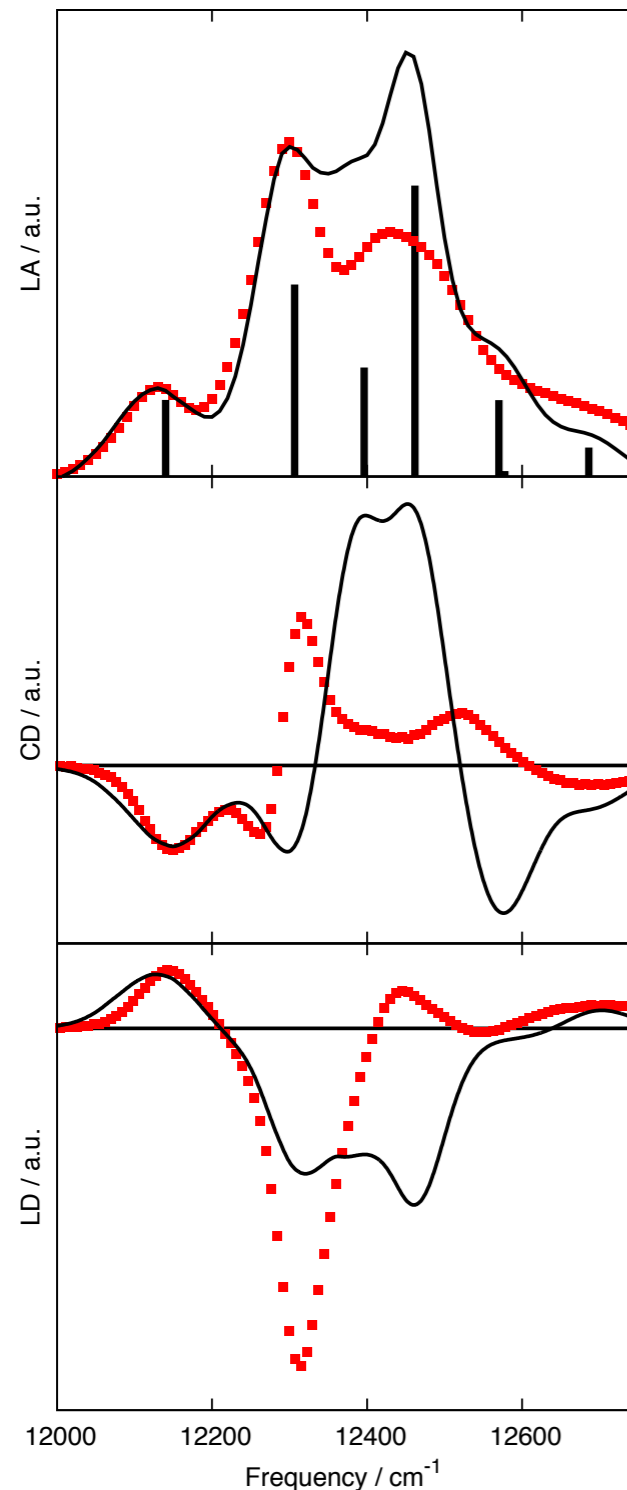
# DFT results

$\epsilon_i$ :



Pigment site energies modulated by:  
conformation of pigment  
hydrogen bonds with environment  
interactions with protein secondary structure

# Optical Spectra



$$H = \sum_i \epsilon_i |i\rangle \langle i| + \sum_{i \neq j} J_{ij} |i\rangle \langle j|$$

Linear optical absorption spectrum calculated from excitonic eigenstates of PPC Hamiltonian.

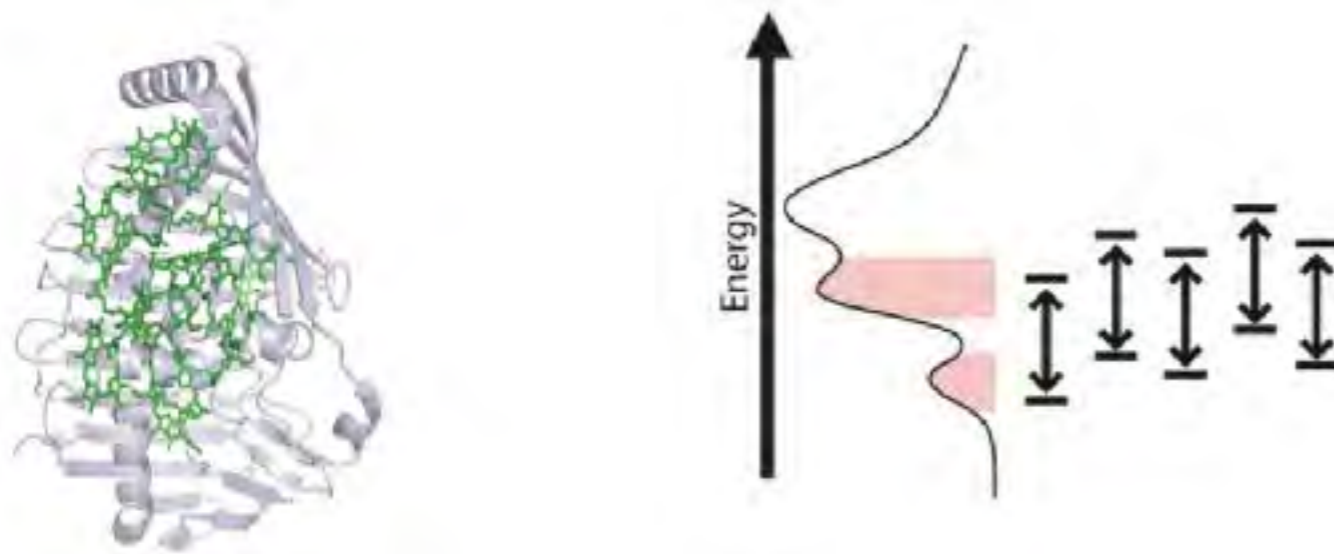
Also require spectral density function describing finite-temperature dissipative interactions with protein and electronic disorder.

Red = experiment (courtesy of Dugan Hayes, Rienk van Grondelle and Markus Wendling)



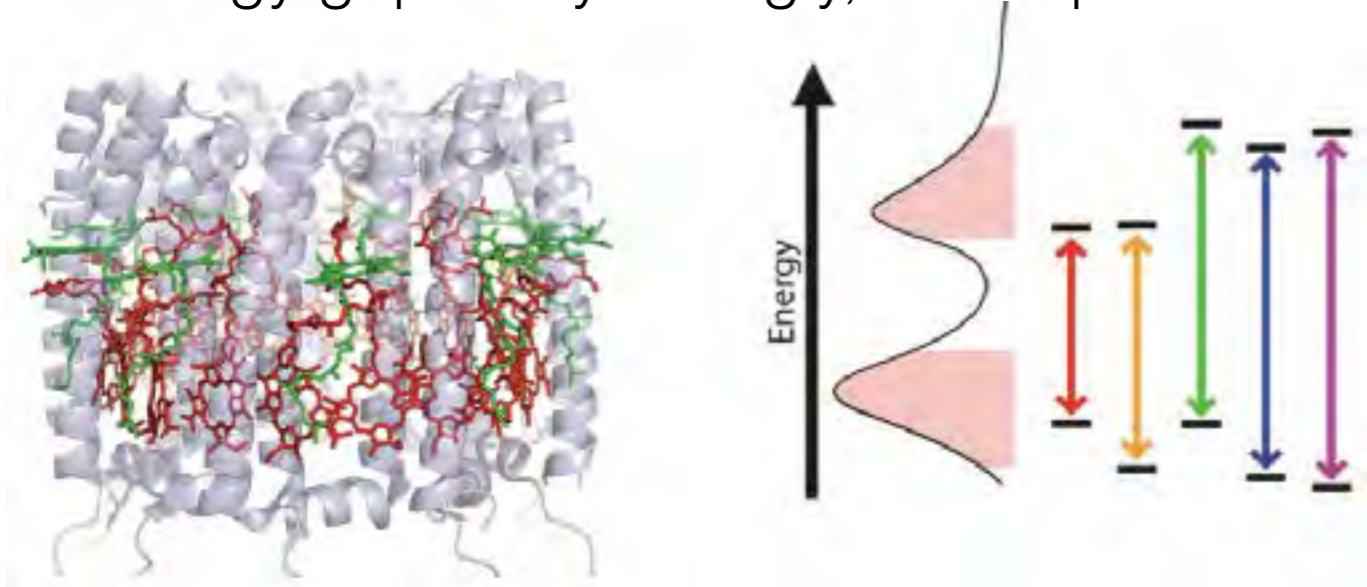
# Static Disorder

FMO: energy gaps remain constant, strong quantum beats



Exciton structure can be masked in experiments by **static disorder** across structural ensembles.

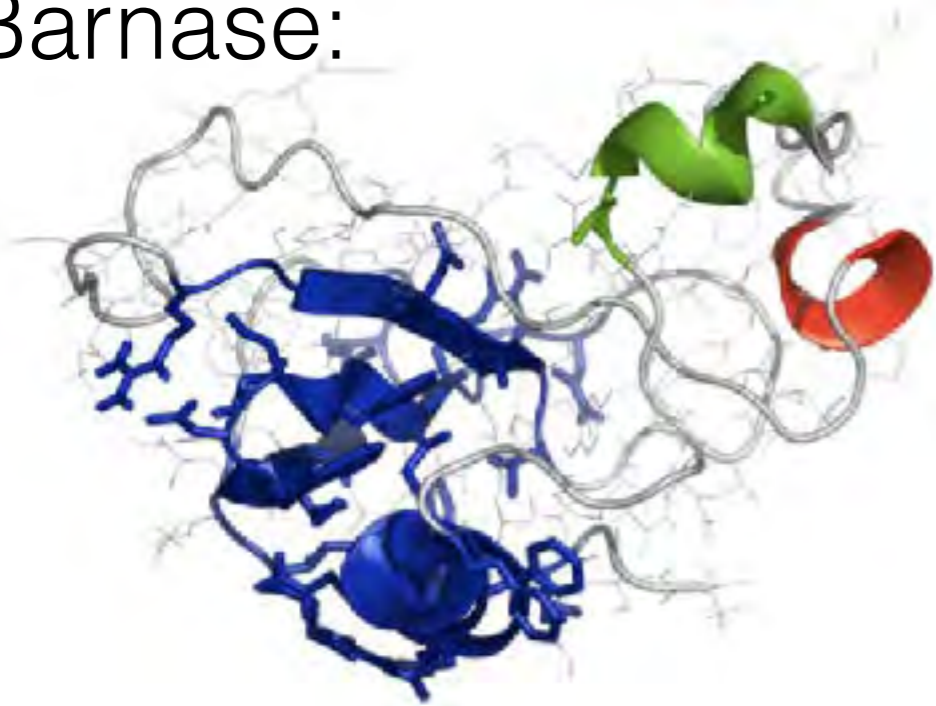
LH2: energy gaps vary strongly, weak quantum beats



Structural motion associated with static disorder is on long time scale — difficult to access using traditional atomistic simulations.

# Constrained Geometric Simulation

Barnase:



FIRST software identifies constraints due to bonds, angles, hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic interactions.

Determines flexible and rigid regions in the protein. Substantially reduces number of degrees of freedom to be explored.

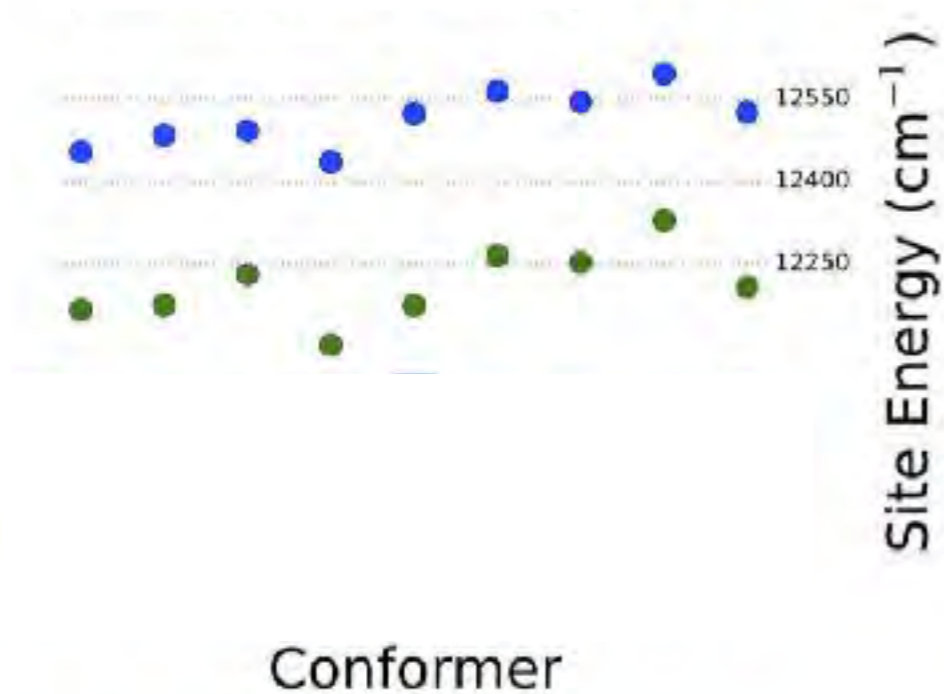
FMO:



Ensemble of structures satisfying constraints is generated using FRODA — our best estimate of the large-amplitude fluctuations present in the experimental ensemble.



# Pigment-Protein Dynamics

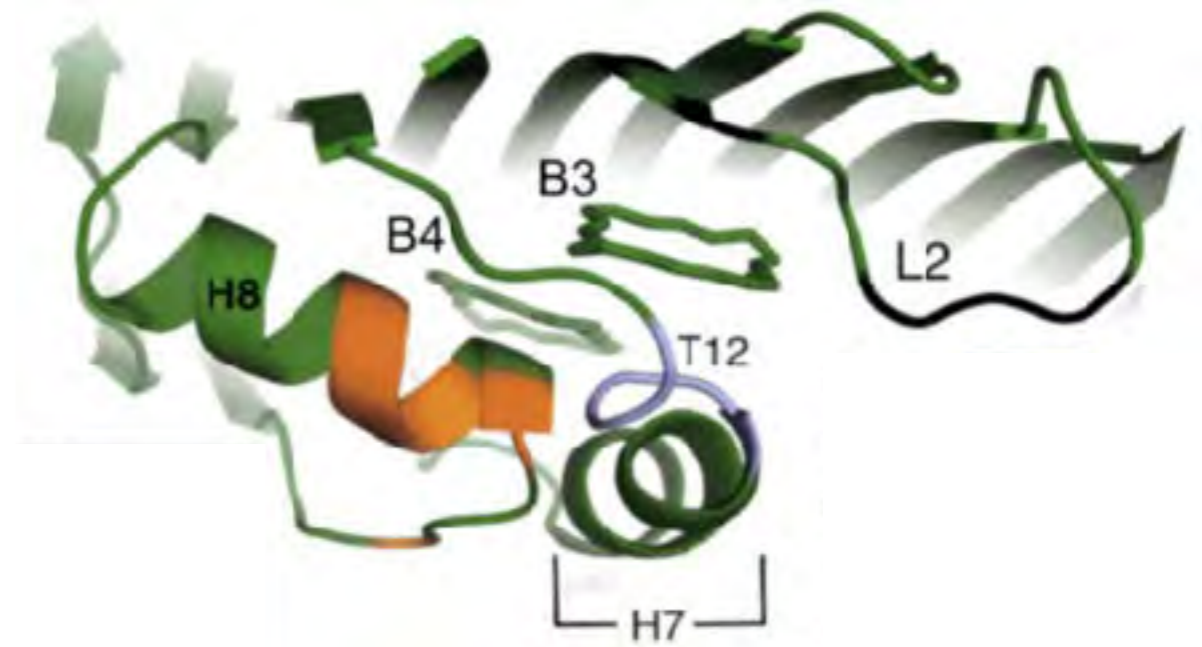
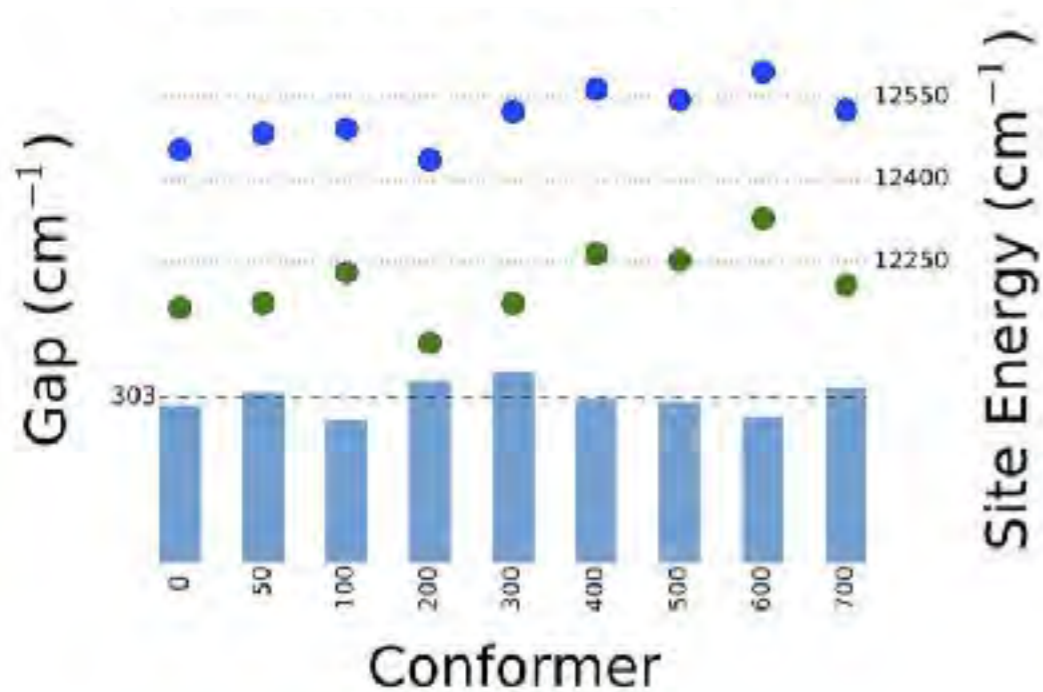


Snapshots post-processed using ONETEP to investigate effects of thermal disorder on excitonic energy landscape.

Substantial variation in site energies of pigments 3 (green) and 4 (blue).

If the site energies were uncorrelated we would expect gap variations of  $\sim 85/\text{cm}$  and rapid loss of exciton coherence.

# Pigment-Protein Dynamics

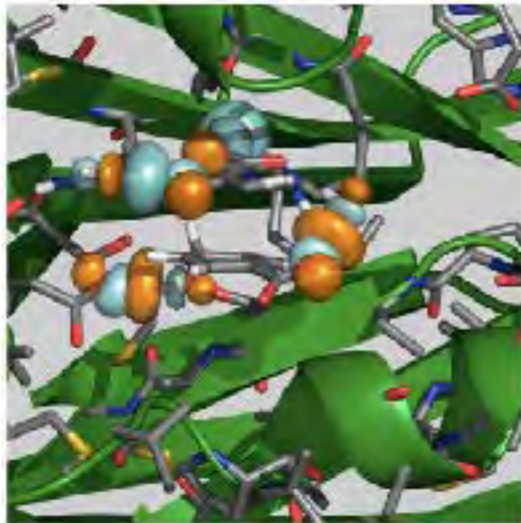


However, energy gap is extremely homogeneous ( $303 \pm 27/\text{cm}$ ).

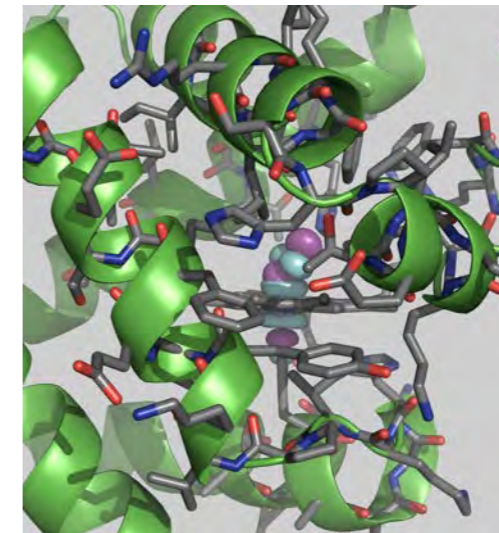
FMO appears to stabilise its excitonic structure by limiting thermal fluctuations to motions that do not affect energy gaps.

Exploitation in artificial light-harvesting devices?

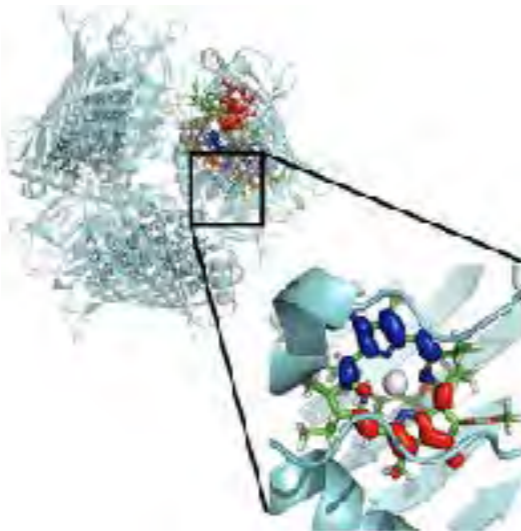
# Biological Applications



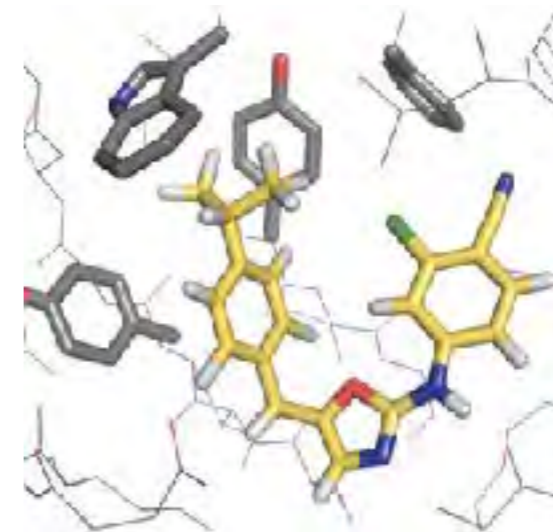
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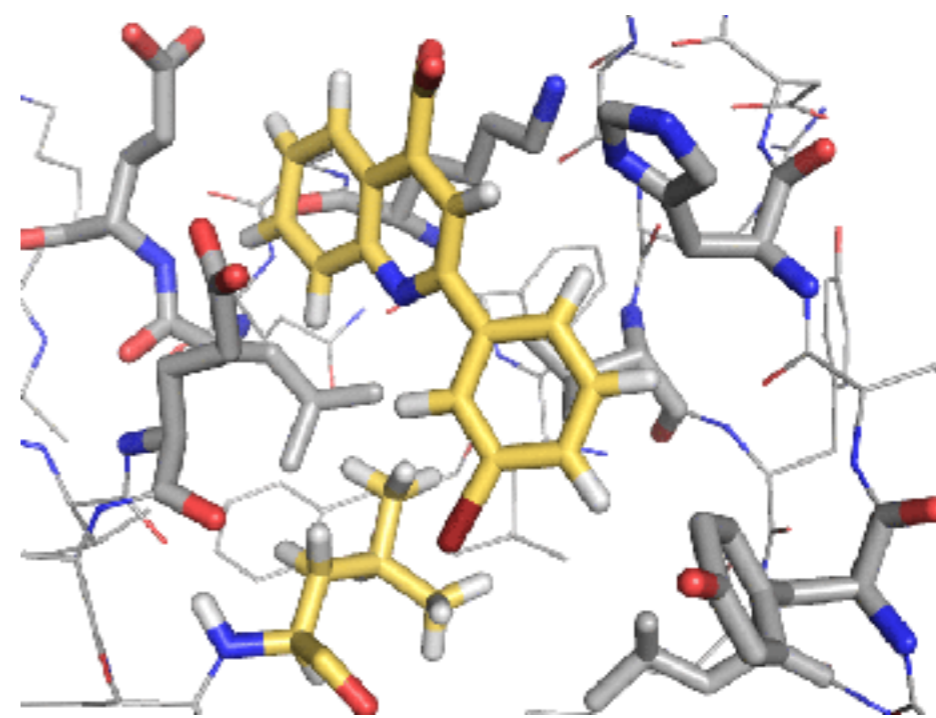
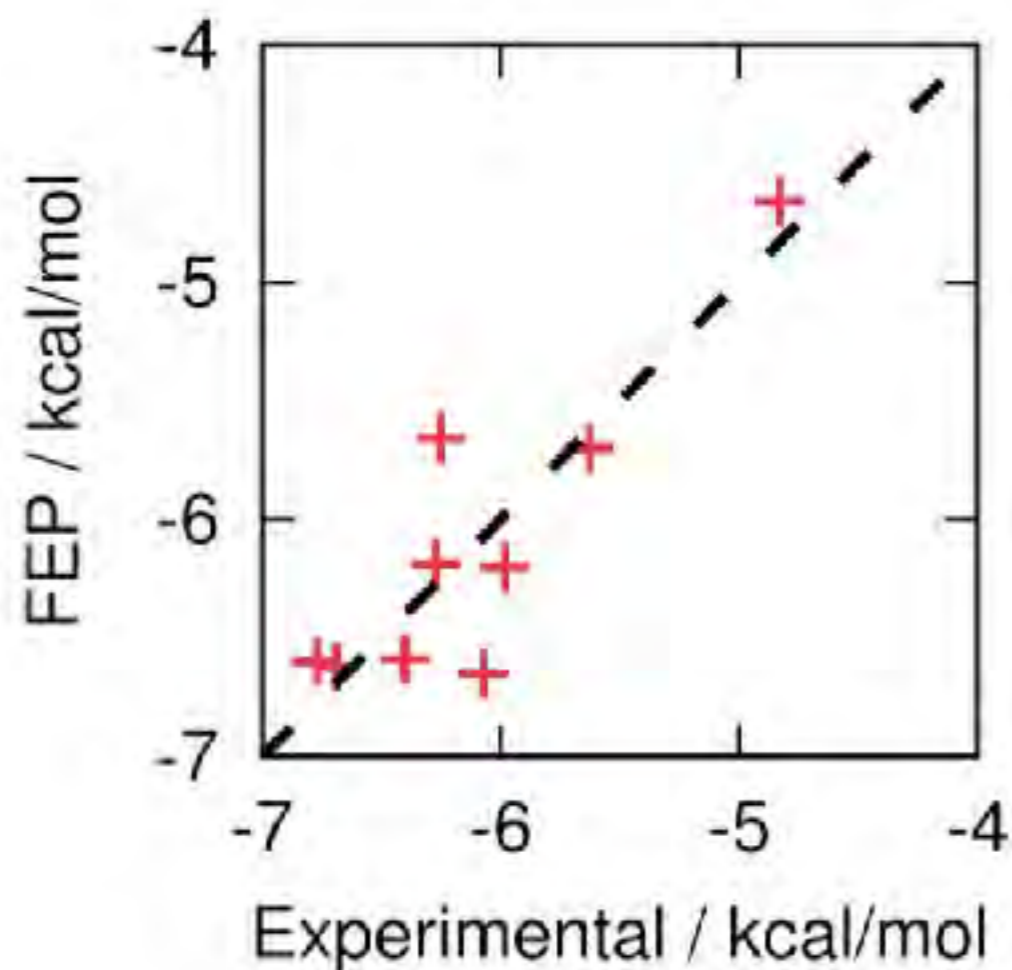
Classical force field parameterisation for drug discovery



# Introduction

Molecular mechanics (MM) force fields are widely used in computer-aided drug design, protein folding, protonation states, protein-surface interactions, allosteric mechanisms, QM/MM....

$$E^{MM} = E_{\text{bonded}} + E_{\text{non-bonded}} = E_{\text{bonded}} + \sum_{i < j} \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}} + \left( \frac{A_{ij}}{r_{ij}^{12}} - \frac{C_{6}^{ij}}{r_{ij}^6} \right)$$



Cole et al., *Chem. Commun.* **2017**, 53, 9372

# QUBE Force Field

$$E^{QM} = \langle \psi | \hat{H} | \psi \rangle$$

*ab initio*

electrostatics  
induction  
dispersion  
exchange-repulsion

**QUantum mechanical  
BEspoke (QUBE) force field**

fast to evaluate  
large system sizes

**Transferable  
force field**

$$E^{MM} = E_{\text{bonded}} + E_{\text{non-bonded}} = E_{\text{bonded}} + \sum_{i < j} \frac{q_i q_j}{r_{ij}} + \left( \frac{A_{ij}}{r_{ij}^{12}} - \frac{C_{ij}}{r_{ij}^6} \right)$$

accuracy

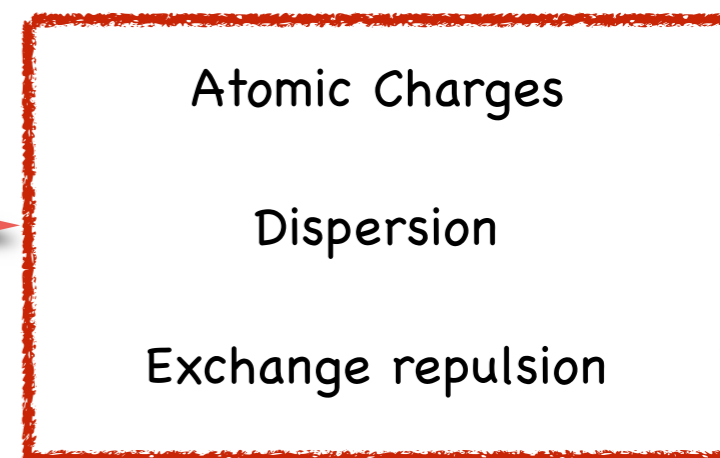
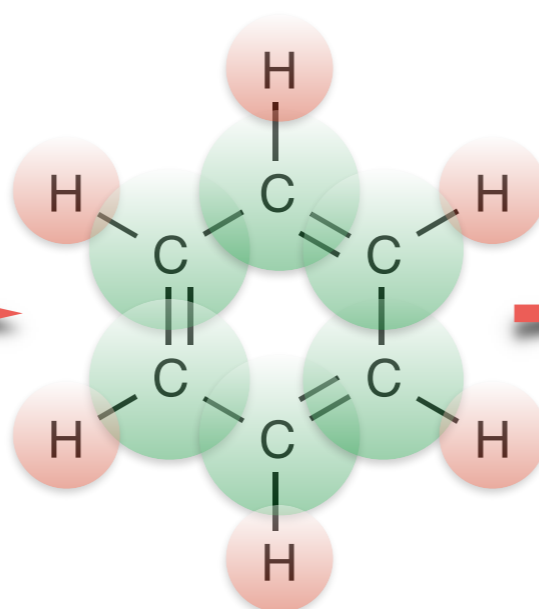
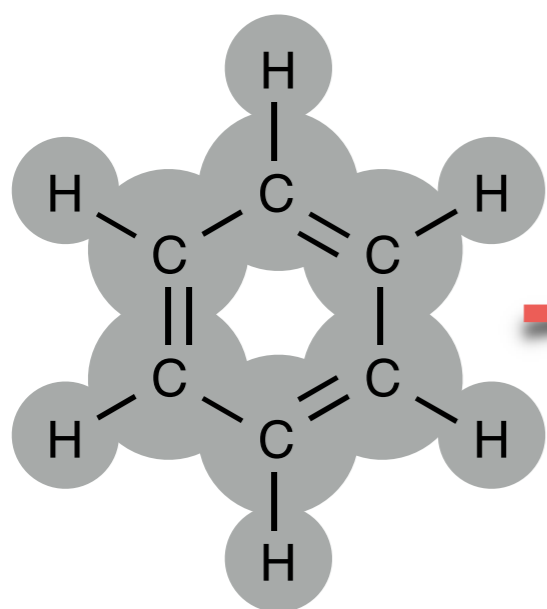
system size

# Atoms-in-Molecule

DFT Calculation computes total electron density

Electrons partitioned amongst the atoms in the system

Atomistic force field parameters computed directly from partitioned electron density



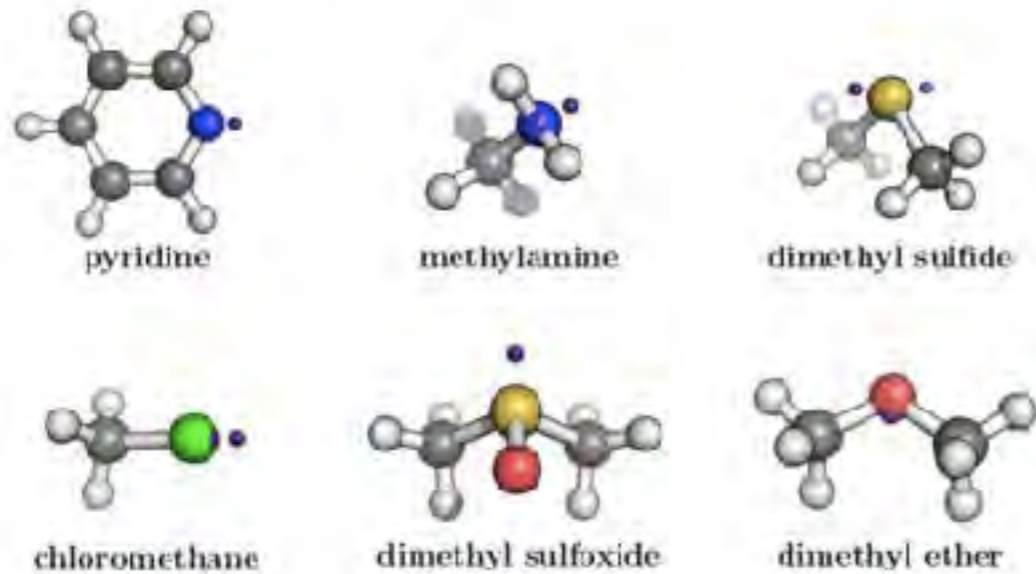
Density derived electrostatic and chemical (DDEC) electron density partitioning (good reproduction of the ESP and not too conformation dependent).

Charges are computed in implicit solvent to account for induction effects.

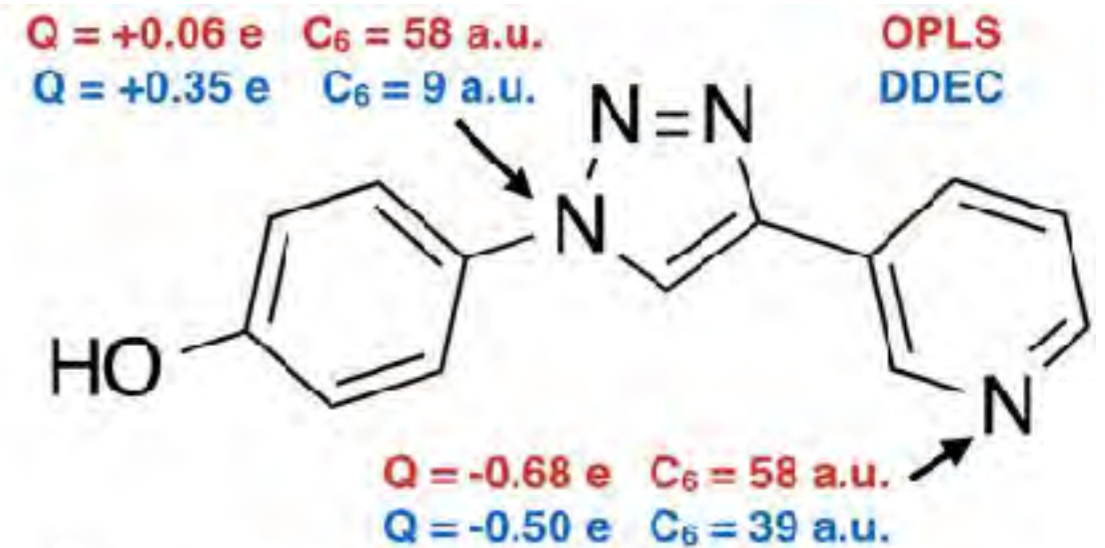


# Force Field Parameters

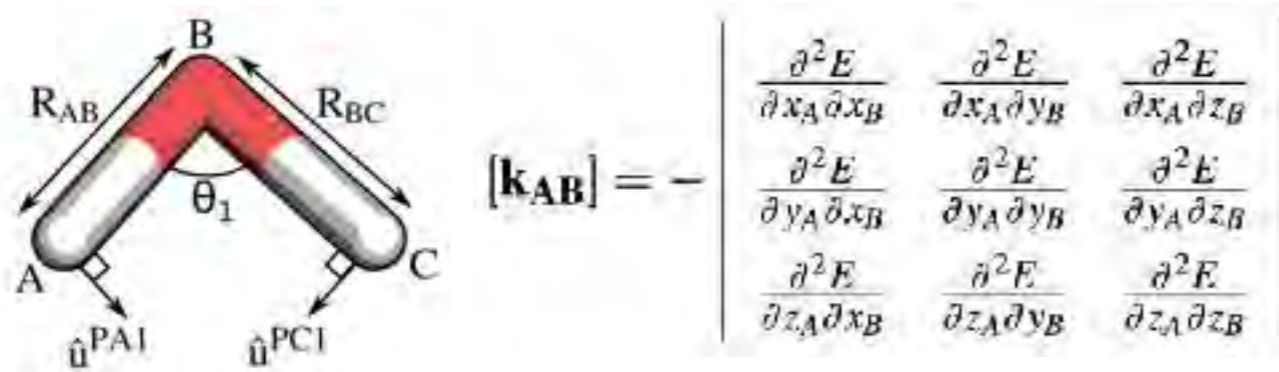
Off site charges (available in ONETEP)



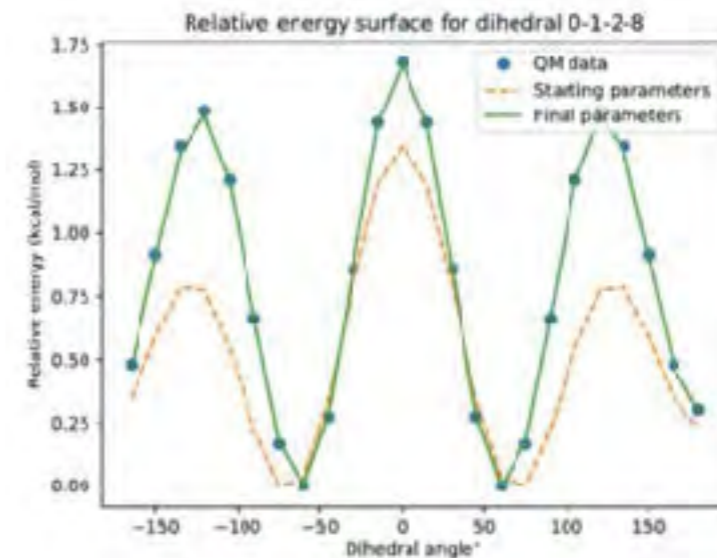
Lennard-Jones (from Tkatchenko-Scheffler approach)



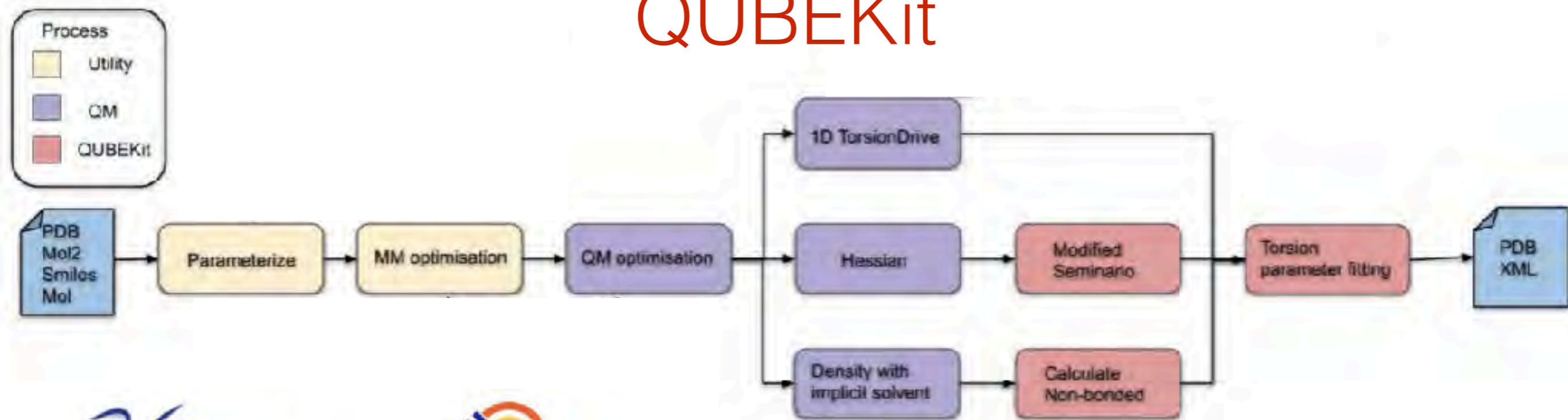
Bonded parameters (modified Seminario)



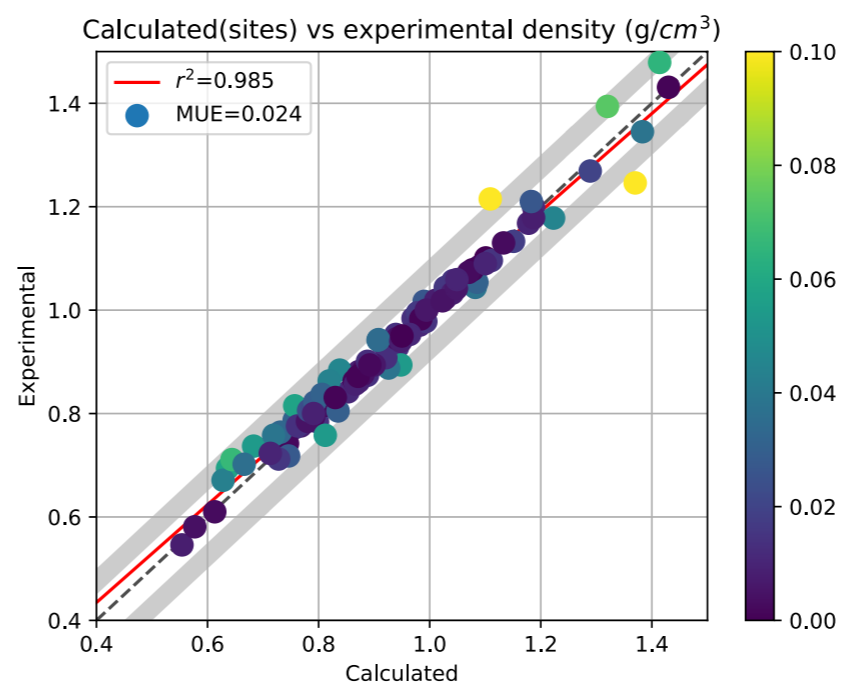
Torsion parameters from QM scans



# QUBEKit



<https://github.com/cole-group/QUBEKit>

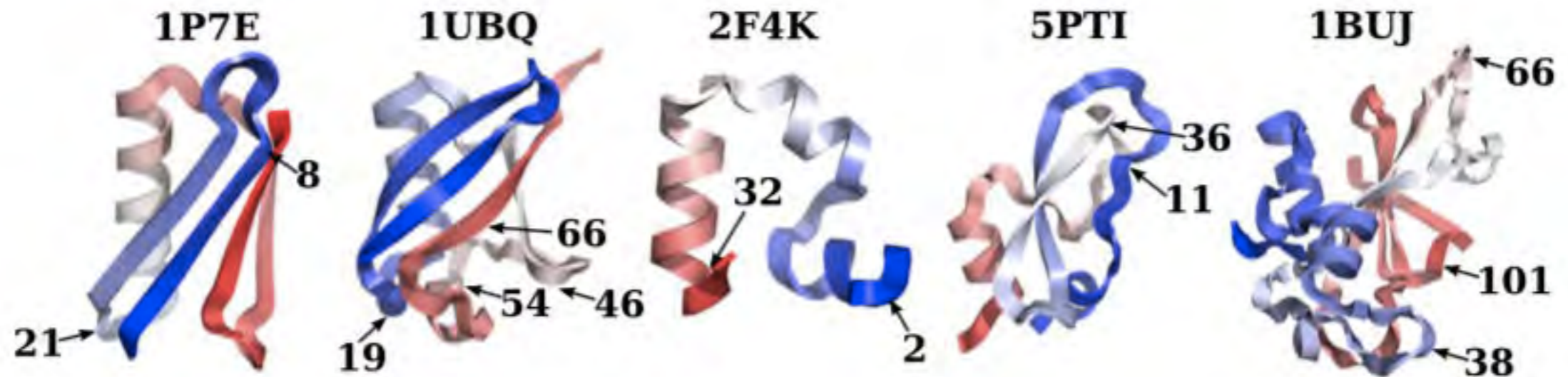
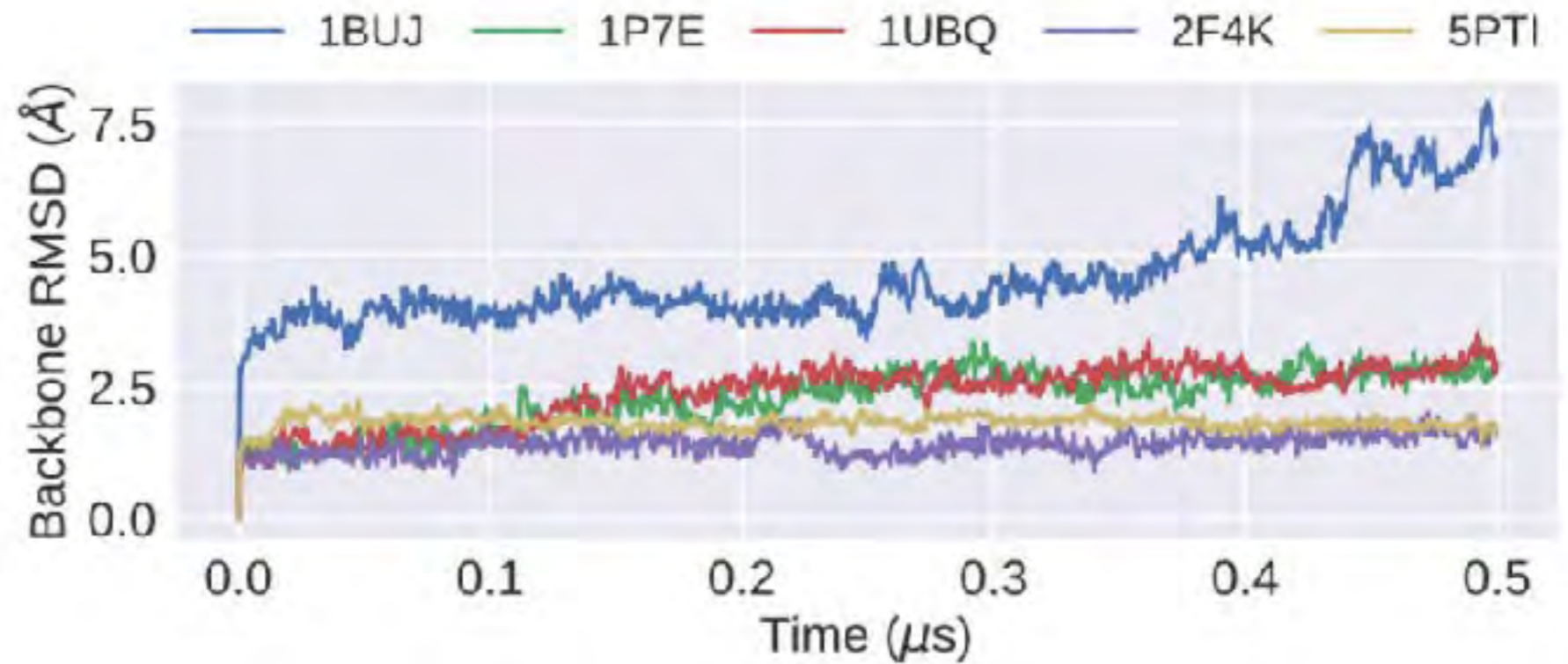


Josh Horton,  
Chris Ringrose



# QUBE Protein Force Field

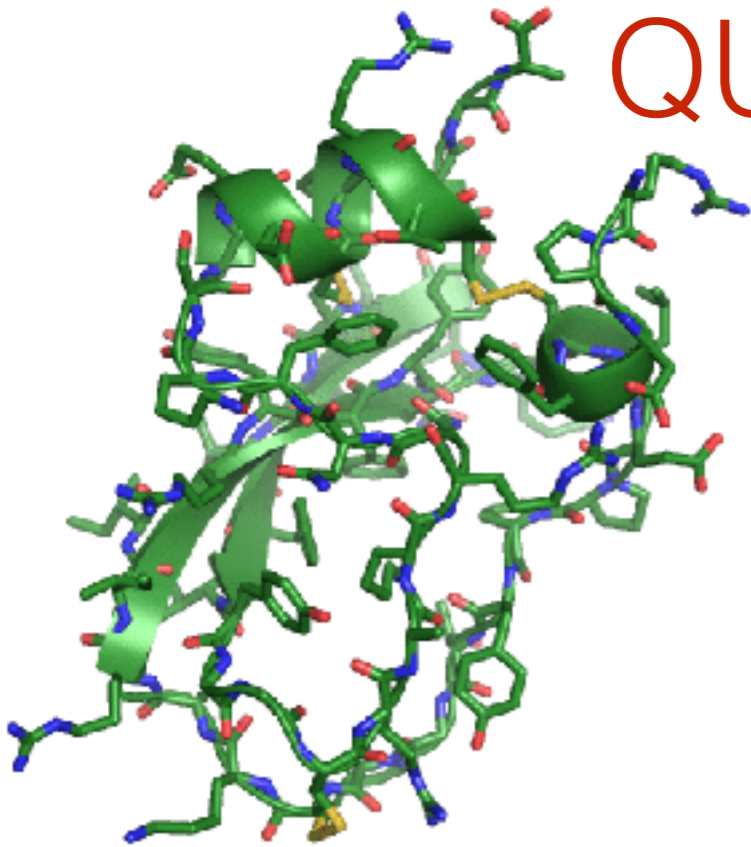
RMSD relative to crystal structure  
(3 x 0.5 $\mu$ s MD):



<https://github.com/cole-group/QUBEKit>

A. Allen, M. Robertson, M. Payne, D. Cole, *ACS Omega* (2019), in press





# QUBE Protein Force Field

MD simulations can be benchmarked against experimental NMR J-couplings which describe conformational fluctuations.

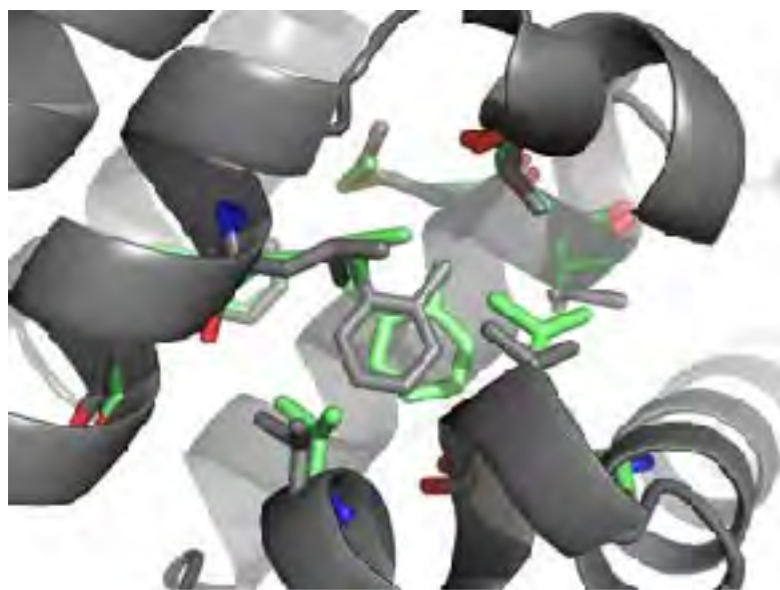
	<b>OPLS-AA</b>	<b>OPLS-AA/M</b>	<b>QUBE</b>
Dipeptides	1.0	0.4	0.4
Ala <sub>5</sub>	2.3	1.2	0.9
1UBQ	1.8	1.1	1.5
1P7E	1.5	0.9	1.2

<https://github.com/cole-group/QUBEKit>

A. Allen, M. Robertson, M. Payne, D. Cole, *ACS Omega* (2019), in press

# Free Energy Perturbation

Absolute free energies of binding of small molecules to the L99A mutant of T4 lysozyme (kcal/mol):



	<b>OPLS</b>	<b>QUBE</b>	<b>Experiment</b>
benzene	-7.7	-6.0	-5.2
p-xylene	-5.0	-4.4	-4.7
o-xylene	-2.9	-5.0	-4.6
benzofuran	-7.2	-7.0	-5.5
indole	-4.4	-3.8	-4.9
indene	-5.9	-4.0	-5.1
<b>MUE</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>—</b>

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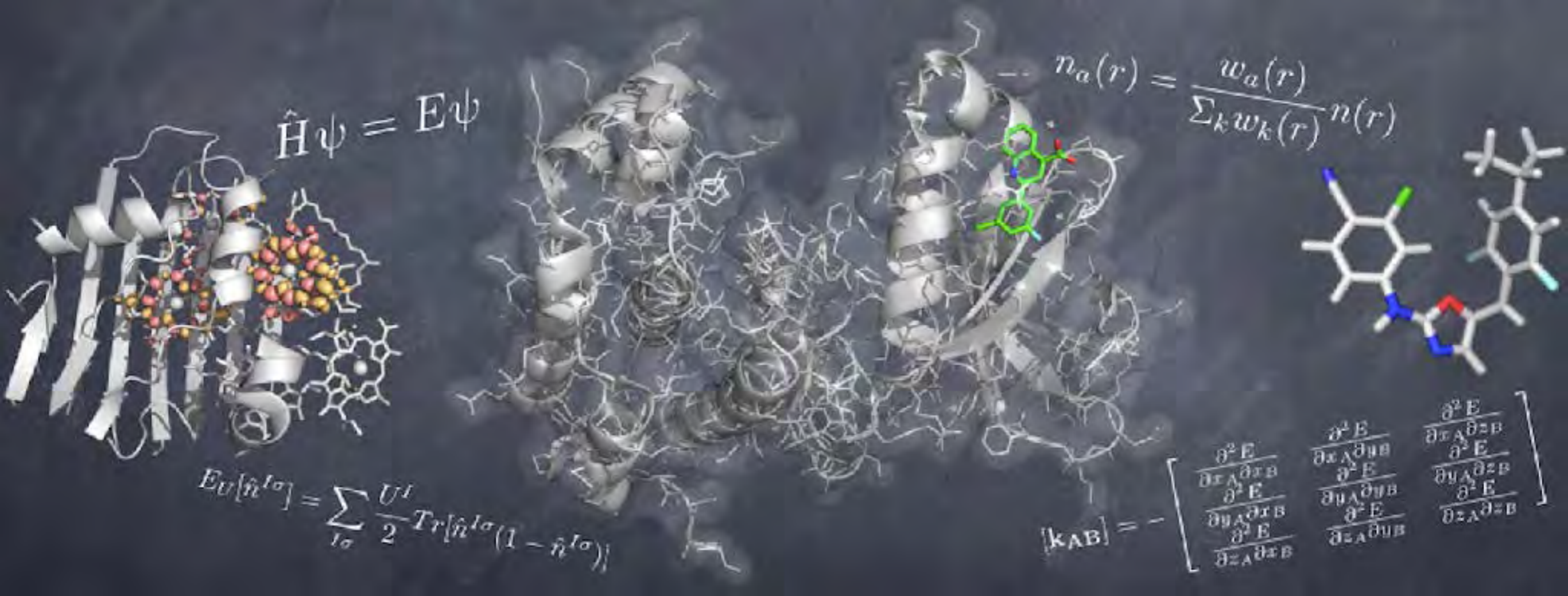
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Thank you for your attention