

PLUMED Masterclass 2022

31 January 2022

### Ligand Binding Free-Energy Calculations with Funnel-Metadynamics



# Life is Dynamics





Source: wikimedia commons

### ...including proteins and DNA

Limongelli et al., PNAS (2010)



Limongelli et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. (2013)





# Life is Dynamics

### What if we neglect dynamics?





# Life is Dynamics







# Molecular Binding



 $\checkmark$  K<sub>b</sub> can be measured by experiments

 $\checkmark K_b$  is correlated to  $\Delta G_{bind}$  as follows:

\*
$$\Delta G_{bind} = G_{[LP]} - G_{[L][P]} = -k_b T \ln K_b$$

\* in case of competitive inhibitors



**Limongelli** WIREs Comput. Mol. Sci. (2020) Gilson, Zhou. Annu Rev Biophys Biomol Struct (2007)

# Molecular Binding



$$\Delta G_{bind} = G_{[LP]} - G_{[L][P]} = -k_b T \ln K_b$$

**Reaction Coordinate** 

$$\Delta G^{0} = \mu_{LP} - \mu_{L} - \mu_{P} = -k_{b}Tln \left( \frac{C^{0}}{8\pi^{2}} \frac{\int e^{-(U(rLP) + S(rLP) / k_{b}T)} dr_{(LP)}}{(\int e^{-(U(rL) + S(rL) / k_{b}T)} dr_{(L)})(\int e^{-(U(rP) + S(rP) / k_{b}T)} dr_{(P)})} \right)$$

**Limongelli** WIREs Comput. Mol. Sci. (2020) Gilson, Zhou. Annu Rev Biophys Biomol Struct (2007)



# **Computational Methods**



Gilson, Zhou. Annu Rev Biophys Biomol Struct (2007)

### Outline of the Class

### √Funnel-Metadynamics (FM)

- Ligand/Protein binding free-energy
- Ligand/Protein binding kinetics
- Funnel-Metadynamics Automated Protocol (FMAP)

# Funnel metadynamics as accurate binding free-energy method

2013

Vittorio Limongelli<sup>a,1</sup>, Massimiliano Bonomi<sup>b</sup>, and Michele Parrinello<sup>c,d,1</sup>

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Further Reading: Raniolo & **Limongelli** *Nature Protocols* (2020) **Limongelli** and co. *PNAS* (2017)

**Limongelli** et al. PNAS (2010) **Limongelli** et al. PNAS (2012) Grazioso, **Limongelli** et al. JACS (2012)



## Theory in the Class



- Metadynamics and Well-Tempered Metadynamics
- Collective Variables (CVs)
- Variational Approach to Conformational dynamics (VAC) Metadynamics
- Funnel-Metadynamics (FM)
- Infrequent Metadynamics (IM)
- Path Collective Variables (PCV)
- Multiple Walker Simulations
- Reweigthing the Boltzmann distribution in not-biased CV space



# The Time Scale Issue



- MD timestep ~ I fs (bond-stretching, bending,...)
- Biologically relevant processes (ligand binding, protein/DNA folding...) > 10<sup>1</sup>  $\mu$ s



# **Dimensional Reduction**



Major advantage: Analysis of q-space trajectories by means of modeling dynamics in s-space



### Metadynamics









$$V_{G}(\boldsymbol{S},t) = \int_{0}^{t} dt' \, \omega \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^{d} \frac{(S_{i}(\boldsymbol{R}) - S_{i}(\boldsymbol{R}(t')))^{2}}{2\sigma_{i}^{2}}\right)$$
  
bias rate  $\omega = \frac{W}{\tau_{G}}$  Gaussian height  
 $V_{G}(\boldsymbol{S}, t \to \infty) = -F(\boldsymbol{S}) + C$ 

$$\int_{0}^{d} \frac{(S_{i}(\boldsymbol{R}) - S_{i}(\boldsymbol{R}(t')))^{2}}{2\sigma_{i}^{2}}$$

$$Gaussian width$$

$$Gaussian width$$

$$\int_{0}^{ree} \frac{e_{energy}}{e_{energy}} + e_{energy}$$



variable

### Well-Tempered Metadynamics



$$F(s,t) = -\frac{T + \Delta T}{\Delta T} V(s,t)$$





### NSAIDs Mechanism of Action



Limongelli et al. PNAS (2010)



SC-558 activities: IC<sub>50</sub>(COX-1) = 17.7 μM IC<sub>50</sub>(COX-2) = 9.3 nM

Model for COX-2 Diarylheterocycle Binding



FIGURE 7: Three-step model of SC299 binding to COX-2. SC299 binds in the lobby region in the first step, moves past the constriction comprised of Arg120, Tyr355, and Glu524 in the second step, and then inserts into the side pocket bordered by Val523 in the third step. Insertion into the side pocket accounts for the stability of SC299 binding and the stability of inhibition.

Lanzo et al., Biochemistry (2000)



# Protein/Ligand Binding



Problems in converging the free energy in the unbound region

Limongelli et al. PNAS (2010)



# Protein/Ligand Binding

Facoltà di scienze biomediche





Rcyl

# Funnel-Metadynamics



$$\Delta G_b^0 = -\frac{1}{\beta} ln(C^0 \ K_b)$$



References:

\* Allen et al., PNAS (2004); Roux et al., J. Chem. Phys. (2008)

\*\* Limongelli, Bonomi & Parrinello, PNAS (2013)



# Funnel-Metadynamics (FM)



$$\Delta G_b^0 = -\frac{1}{\beta} ln(C^0 K_b)$$



**U**S

References:

\* Allen et al., PNAS (2004); Roux et al., J. Chem. Phys. (2008)
\*\* Limongelli, Bonomi & Parrinello, PNAS (2013)

### Trypsin/Benzamidine Binding with FM



Funnel-Metadynamics code available on my website and GitHub: <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/vittoriolimongelli/software?authuser=0">https://sites.google.com/view/vittoriolimongelli/software?authuser=0</a>



# Ligand Binding Free Energy









Brotzakis, Limongelli & Parrinello JCTC (2019)

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## What about Ligand Kinetics?



# What about Ligand Kinetics?



Figure 2 | **Drug affinity (target potency) is often driven by drug-target residence time.** Correlation between the dissociation rate constant ( $k_{off}$ ; orange circles) or association rate constant ( $k_{on}$ ; green circles) with the equilibrium dissociation constant ( $K_{d}$ ) for biotin binding to wild-type and mutant forms of streptavidin<sup>16</sup> (part **a**), saquinavir binding to wildtype and resistant mutants of HIV protease<sup>17</sup> (part **b**), and a series of aminonucleoside inhibitors binding to the protein methyltransferase DOT1L<sup>18</sup> (part **c**).

Copeland Nature Review Drug Discovery (2016)

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### Infrequent Metadynamics



References:

Tiwary & Parrinello, *PRL* 2013 Salvalaglio, Tiwary & Parrinello, *JCTC* 2014 Grubmueller, *PRE* 1995; Voter, *JCP* 1997 **Acceleration factor** 



### koff from Unbinding Trajectories





### koff and Rate-Determining Step



Tiwary, Limongelli, Salvalaglio, Parrinello PNAS (2015)



### Ligand Binding Kinetics to Kinase



#### Unbinding Kinetics of a p38 MAP Kinase Type II Inhibitor from Metadynamics Simulations

Rodrigo Casasnovas,<sup>†</sup><sup>©</sup> Vittorio Limongelli,<sup>#,‡,§</sup> Pratyush Tiwary,<sup>#,||</sup> Paolo Carloni,<sup>\*,†</sup> and Michele Parrinello<sup>\*,⊥</sup>



# **PRXV** Inhibitors



Table 1. Comparison of Calculated and Experimental Dissociation Constants  $K_D$  and Absolute Binding Free Energy  $\Delta G_b^{\ 0}$  of Catechol and 4-Methylcatechol for Human PRX5

	catechol	4-methylcatechol
$\Delta G_{ m b}^{\ 0  a}$		
$\mathrm{FM}^{b}$	$-3.0 \pm 0.2$	$-4.2 \pm 0.3$
NMR	$-3.2 \pm 0.1$	$-4.1 \pm 0.1$
$K_{\rm D}~(10^{-3})$		
$\mathrm{FM}^{\mathcal{b}}$	$6.9 \pm 2.1$	$0.9 \pm 0.4$
NMR	$4.5 \pm 0.6$	$1.0 \pm 0.2$
<sup><i>a</i></sup> kcal/mol. <sup><i>b</i></sup> Mean value over the last 100 ns of 500 ns FM.		

Troussicot, Guillere, **Limongelli**, Walker, Lancelin JACS (2015)





### Fruit Fly Resistance to Dieldrin PLGIC



Comitani, **Limongelli**, Molteni, *JCTC* (2016)

### Ligand/Protein Binding

# What if we have large protein conformational changes? (configurational entropy)



### Adenosine DeAminase (ADA)

Helix displacement in the apo and bound X-ray structure



### Sampling protein motion and solvent effect during ligand binding

2012

Vittorio Limongelli<sup>a,b,c,1</sup>, Luciana Marinelli<sup>c</sup>, Sandro Cosconati<sup>d</sup>, Concettina La Motta<sup>e</sup>, Stefania Sartini<sup>e</sup>, Laura Mugnaini<sup>e</sup>, Federico Da Settimo<sup>e</sup>, Ettore Novellino<sup>c</sup>, and Michele Parrinello<sup>a,b,1</sup>

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Path Collective Variables



•s(R)\* allows the system to go from state A (closed) to state B (open)\*\*

 $s(\mathbf{R}) = \lim_{\lambda \to \infty} \frac{\int_0^1 t e^{-\lambda (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}(t))^2} dt}{\int_0^1 e^{-\lambda (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}(t))^2} dt}$ 



•z(R)\* allows exploring states far from the guess path

$$z(\mathbf{R}) = \lim_{\lambda \to \infty} -\frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \int_0^1 e^{-\lambda (\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}(t))^2} dt.$$



\* Branduardi et al. JCP (2007); Bonomi et al. JACS (2008); Ren et al. JCP (2005) \*\* Closed and open state defined by the available X-ray ADA structures



### Path Collective Variables



# The ADA Movie





Limongelli et al. PNAS (2012)

# The Binding Mode

### The ligand binds to ADA in the open conformation



- closed X-ray
- open X-ray
- open metadynamics





**Limongelli** et al. *PNAS* (2012)

# Reweighting the FES

The Boltzmann probability distribution for different CVs can be computed as:

 $P_B(\mathbf{R}) \propto e^{+\beta V_G(\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{R}),t)} P(\mathbf{R},t)$ 

Bonomi et al. JCC (2009)





$$I_{\text{IntWat}} = \sum_{i}^{n_0} \left( \frac{1 - \left(\frac{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_1|}{r_0}\right)^n}{1 - \left(\frac{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_1|}{r_0}\right)^m} \right) \left( \frac{1 - \left(\frac{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_2|}{r_0}\right)^n}{1 - \left(\frac{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_2|}{r_0}\right)^m} \right)$$



# Ligand/G-quadruplex DNA



**Limongelli** and co. *PNAS* (2017)



# Allostery in the P2Y<sub>1</sub> GPCR



Yuan, Raniolo, **Limongelli**, Xu, *JCTC* (2018)

# Allostery in HSP90



D'Annessa, Raniolo, **Limongelli**, Di Marino, Colombo JCTC (2019)



# Funnel-Metadynamics Advanced Protocol (FMAP)



# Ligand binding free-energy calculations with funnel metadynamics

Stefano Raniolo<sup>0</sup><sup>1</sup> and Vittorio Limongelli<sup>0,2</sup><sup>∞</sup>

I. Pre-processing

2. FM Simulation

3. Post-processing



# Funnel-Metadynamics Advanced Protocol (FMAP)



Raniolo & Limongelli Nature Protocols (2020)





Apply Changes Autor atically Apply

# Funnel-Metadynamics Advanced Protocol (FMAP)

 nature protocols
 2020
 PROTOCOL

 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41596-020-0342-4
 Image: Check for updates

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# Funnel-Metadynamics Advanced Protocol (FMAP)



# Ligand binding free-energy calculations with funnel metadynamics

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I. Pre-processing

2. FM Simulation

### 3. Post-processing







### Funnel-Metadynamics (FM) + FMAP

#### https://sites.google.com/view/vittoriolimongelli/software?authuser=0

**Limongelli**, Bonomi, Parrinello PNAS (2013) Raniolo, **Limongelli** *Nat. Protoc.* (2020)



Bonomi, Bussi, Camilloni, Tribello... Limongelli et al. Nature Methods (2019)