

# NWChem: Molecular Dynamics and QM/MM



**Target systems:**            **biomolecules**  
**(proteins, DNA/RNA, biomembranes)**

**General features:**        **energy evaluation (SP)**  
**energy minimization (EM)**  
**molecular dynamics simulation (MD)**  
**free energy evaluation (MSTP & MCTI)**  
**quantum molecular dynamics (QMD)**  
**hybrid molecular dynamics (QM/MM)**

- **Classical empirical force fields**
  - Bond-stretching, angle-bending, torsional, out-of-plane-bending, electrostatic, and van der Waals non-bonded interactions
- **Electronic polarization**
  - First order
  - Self-consistent induced fields
- **Smooth particle-mesh Ewald electrostatics**
  - Effective pair potential MD only
- **Self-guided MD**

- **Integration Newton's Equations of Motion**  
(leapfrog, Browne-Clark)
- **Constant Temperature and Pressure**  
(Berendsen weak coupling)
- **Periodic Boundary Conditions**  
(minimum image convention)
- **Geometry Optimization**  
(steepest descent, conjugate gradient)
- **Twin-Range Verlet Neighbor Lists**  
(cell index method)
- **Constraints**  
(SHAKE)

- **Single Step Thermodynamic Perturbation (SSTP)**

$$\Delta G = G_1 - G_0 = -RT \ln \langle \exp(-\Delta H/RT) \rangle_0 \text{ with } \Delta H = H_1 - H_0$$

- **Multiple Step Thermodynamic Perturbation (MSTP)**

$$DG = S_i (G_{i+1} - G_i) = -S_i RT \ln \langle \exp(-\Delta H_i/RT) \rangle_i \text{ with } \Delta H_i = H_{i+1} - H_i$$

- **Multiconfiguration Thermodynamic Integration (MCTI)**

$$DG = S_i (G_{i+1} - G_i) = S_i \langle \partial H(\lambda) / \partial \lambda \rangle_i D\lambda_i$$

Single and dual topology Hamiltonians

Double-wide sampling

Separation-shifted scaling (SSS)

Potentials of mean force over multiple processors

Statistical error correlation analysis

**ffield\_lvl**                      **ffield**                      force field e.g. **amber, charmm**  
**lvl**    **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9**

Directories supplied with NWChem are named **ffield\_ℓ** where **ℓ** is one of:

<b>s</b>	<b>standard parameters as published for the force field</b>
<b>x</b>	<b>extensions as published in open literature</b>
<b>q</b>	<b>contributed parameters by NWChem team</b>
<b>u</b>	<b>user contributed parameters</b>
<b>t</b>	<b>temporary</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>current</b>

Defined in input file or **~/.nwchemrc**

**ffield amber**

**amber\_1 /software/nwchem/share/data/amber/amber\_s/**

**amber\_2 /software/nwchem/share/data/amber/amber\_x/**

**amber\_3 /home/newton/data/amber/amber\_q/**

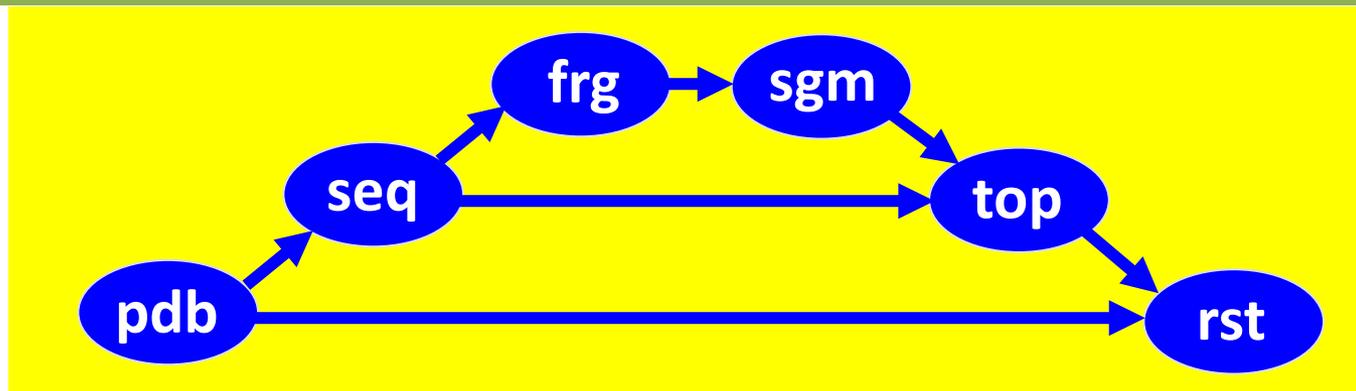
**spce /software/nwchem/share/data/solvents/spce.rst**

## system.ext

<b>system</b>	user defined molecular system name		
<b>ext</b>	file type, e.g.	<b>pdb</b>	PDB file
		<b>top</b>	topology file
		<b>seq</b>	sequence file

## system\_calc.ext

<b>system</b>	user defined molecular system name		
<b>calc</b>	user defined identification for the calculation identification, e.g. <b>em</b> , <b>md002</b> , <b>tiA</b>		
<b>ext</b>	file type, e.g.	<b>out</b>	output file
		<b>rst</b>	restart file
		<b>qrs</b>	energy minimized restart file
		<b>prp</b>	property file
		<b>trj</b>	trajectory file
		<b>gib</b>	free energy file



## Functionality:

- Topology and restart file generation
- Coordinates from **pdb** formatted file or geometry input
- Fragment and segment file generation from coordinates
- Solvation
- Potential of mean force functions
- Topology modification for free energy and QM/MM calculations
- File format conversion, e.g. from **rst** to **pdb**

## Requirements

- PDB format, i.e. IUPAC atom names, residue names, etc.
- Automated atom typing based on force field typing rules
- Force field parameters from **par** file(s)
- Partial atomic charges from **frg** or **sgm** files

- PDB format, i.e. IUPAC atom names, residue names, etc.
- Automated atom typing based on force field typing rules
- Force field parameters from par file(s)
- Partial atomic charges from frg or sgm files

```
memory noverify heap 1 mb stack 48 mb global 24 mb
```

```
start crown
```

```
basis "ao basis" print
```

```
  H library sto-3g
```

```
  C library sto-3g
```

```
  O library sto-3g
```

```
  Na library sto-3g
```

```
end
```

Define basis sets in case partial charges need to be calculated

```
prepare
```

```
  system crown_em
```

```
  modify atom 7:Na set 3 type K
```

```
end
```

```
task prepare
```

Read coordinates from **crown.pdb**  
Specify atom type change in topology  
Generate topology file **crown.top**  
Restart file **crown\_em.rst**

```
md
system crown_md
data 1000
isotherm
isobar
record rest 1000 coord 100 prop 10
end
task md dynamics

task shell "cp crown_md.rst crown_ti.rst"
```

```
md
system crown_ti
equil 1000 data 2000 over 1000 step 0.002
isotherm
isobar
new forward 21 of 21
print step 100 stat 1000
record rest 1000 free 1
end
task md thermodynamics
```

Molecular dynamics input:  
NpT ensemble, 1000 steps

Copy restart file.

Free energy simulation  
MCTI: 21\*(1000+2000)  
NpT ensemble

memory heap 8 mb stack 64 mb global 24 mb  
start job

## analysis

```
system system_calc  
reference system_calc.rst  
file crown_md?.trj 0 10  
select _C? _O?  
essential  
project 1 crown_vec1  
project 2 crown_vec2  
end
```

# ? Is wild card, replaced by series 0-10  
# select subset of atoms  
# Perform essential dynamics analysis  
Projection onto specified vector

## task analyze

Files required:        **system.top** ( molecular topology )  
                      **system\_calc.rst** ( coordinates )

# Relative solvation $\Delta G$ Input Example

```
memory noverify heap 10 mb stack 32 mb global 32 mb
```

```
start crown
```

```
basis "ao basis" print
```

```
  H library sto-3g
```

```
  C library sto-3g
```

```
  O library sto-3g
```

```
  Na library sto-3g
```

```
end
```

```
prepare
```

```
  system crown_em
```

```
  modify atom 7:Na set 3 type K
```

```
end
```

```
task prepare
```

```
md
```

```
  system crown_em
```

```
  sd 1000
```

```
  noshake
```

```
end
```

```
task md optimize
```

```
prepare
```

```
  read crown_em.qrs
```

```
  write crown_em.pdb
```

```
  solvate
```

```
  write crown_md.rst
```

```
end
```

```
task prepare
```

Define basis sets

Read coordinates from crown.pdb

Specify atom type change in

topology

Generate topology file crown.top

Restart file crown\_em.rst

Perform energy minimization

Solvate the solute

Generate crown\_md.rst

# Relative solvation $\Delta G$ Input Example (continued)

```
md
system crown_md
data 1000
isotherm 298.15 trelax 0.1 0.1
isobar
record rest 1000 scoor 100 prop 10
end
task md dynamics
```

Molecular dynamics input:  
NpT ensemble, 1000 steps

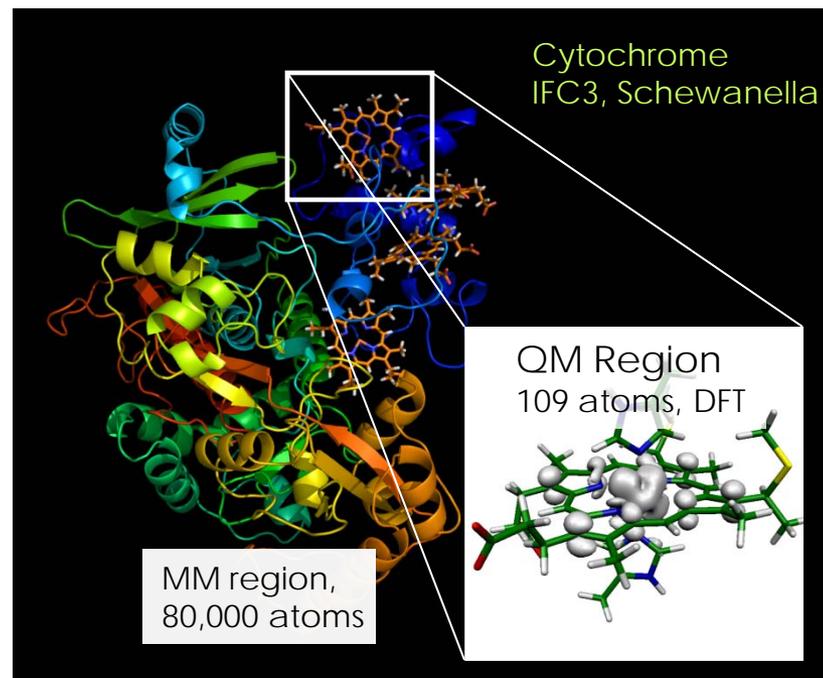
```
task shell "cp crown_md.rst crown_ti.rst"
```

Copy restart file.

```
md
system crown_ti
equil 1000 data 2000 over 1000 step 0.002
isotherm 298.15 trelax 0.1 0.1
isobar
new forward 21 of 21
print step 100 stat 1000
record rest 100 free 1
end
task md thermodynamics
```

Free energy simulation input:  
MCTI: 21\*(1000+2000)  
NpT ensemble

- Combines two different descriptions – quantum-mechanical and classical
- The level theory **changes** based on a particular region
- Reactive regions – quantum mechanical description (QM)
- Regions where no chemical changes occur (or important) are treated at the classical molecular mechanics level (MM)



$$E_{qm/mm}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}; \psi) = E_{qm}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}; \psi) + E_{mm}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R})$$

- ▶ All QM-dependencies are in the first term

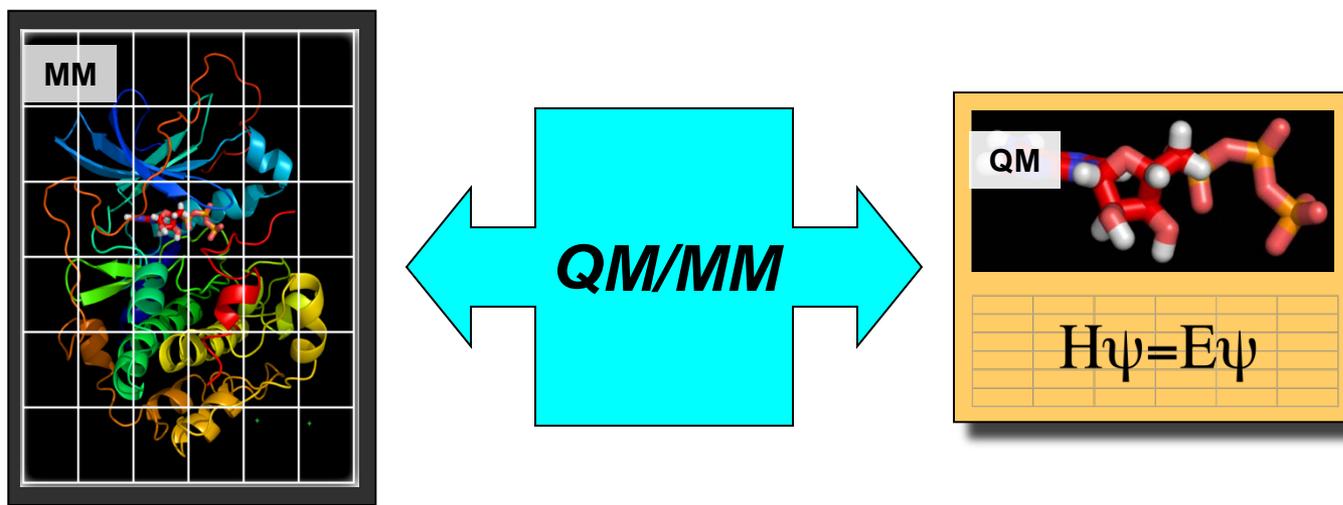
$$E_{qm}[\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}; \psi] = E_{qm}^{int}[\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}; \psi] + E_{qm}^{ext}[\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}; \rho]$$

Internal QM energy  
(theory dependent)

Coulomb interactions  
with MM atoms

$$\sum_I \int \frac{Z_I \rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{R}_I - \mathbf{r}'|} d\mathbf{r}'$$

- ▶ All other classical terms are in the second term
  - ▶ Bonded, angle, dihedral
  - ▶ Coulomb interactions
  - ▶ Vdw interactions



- Modular implementation
  - ◆ sits on top of molecular mechanics (MM) and quantum (QM) modules
  - ◆ Generic interface driven by function calls
- Manages data flow
  - ◆ domain decomposition of coordinates in MM module
  - ◆ replicated geometry data in QM module
  - ◆ all data transfers happen in core
- Dispatches high level operations (e.g. optimization)

- Ground and excited state properties
- Structural optimization
- Reaction Pathway Calculations
- Dynamical Simulations
- Statistical Sampling (free energies)

# Example of QM/MM Single Point Calculation

```
start capk
charge 2

prepare
  source capk.pdb
  modify segment 358 quantum
  ...
  ignore
  update lists
  write capk.rst
end
task prepare

md
  system capk
  cutoff 1.5
end

basis
  * library "Ahlrichs pVDZ"
end

qmmm
  link_atoms hydrogen
end

task qmmm dft energy
```

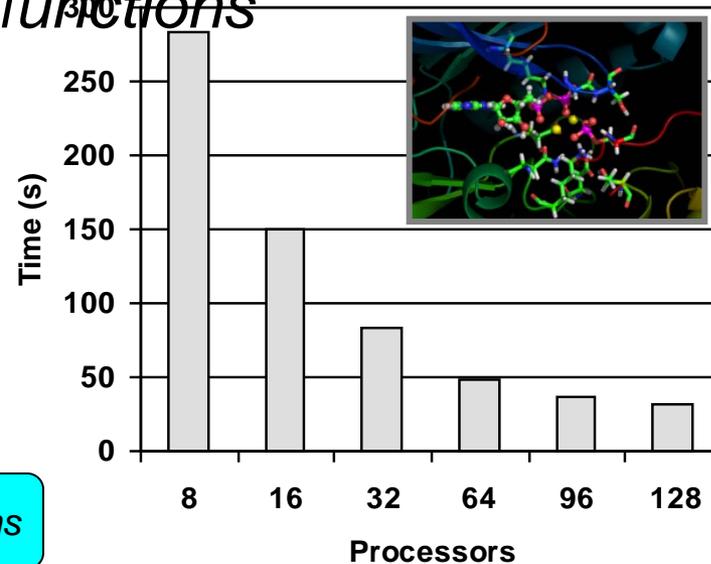
QM region definition

Hydrogen Link Atoms

Commence QM/MM DFT Calculation

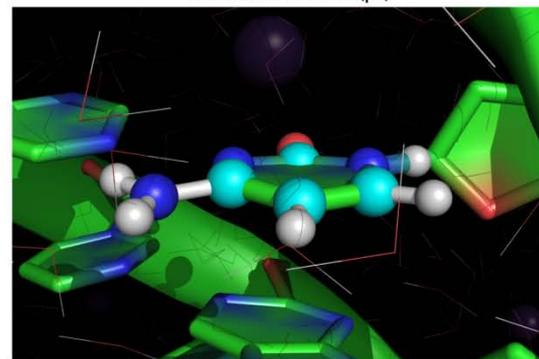
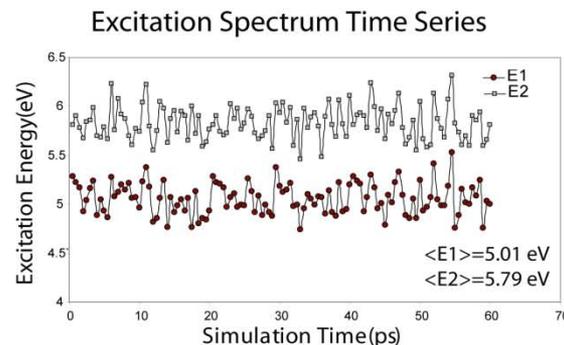
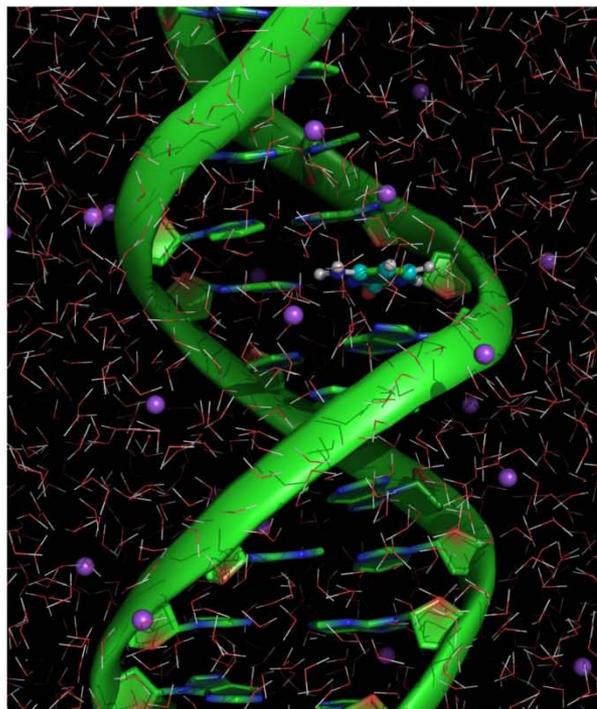
## Active Site of cAPK kinase

Scaling of QM/MM-DFT calculation  
75 atoms, 817 basis functions



Valiev, M., et al. JPC B, 2007. 111(47): p. 13455-13464.

# Example: QM/MM Excited State Calculations of cytosine base in DNA



- QM/MM coupled-cluster CR-EOMCCSD(T) calculations of two lowest excited states
- Protein environment has a significant influence on the excitation leading to a 0.4 eV stabilization of the  $\pi\pi^*$  excited state compared to gas phase
- M. Valiev, K. Kowalski, JCP, 125(21), (2006)

- Large system sizes ( $10^3$ - $10^6$ ) makes direct optimizations impractical even with QM/MM approximation
- Key observations
  - ◆ Most of degrees of freedom are in MM region
  - ◆ The structure of far away MM regions has a little effect on the structure of QM region
  - ◆ Small displacements of MM atoms affect little the electronic structure of QM region.
- Decouple optimization of QM and MM regions

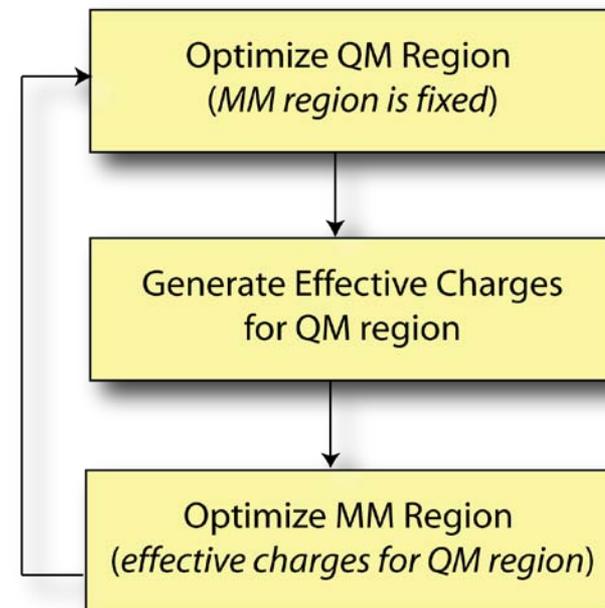
## 1. QM Region Optimization

- a. MM region is fixed
- b. Typically 20-30 steps
- c. Requires solution of Schrödinger Equation

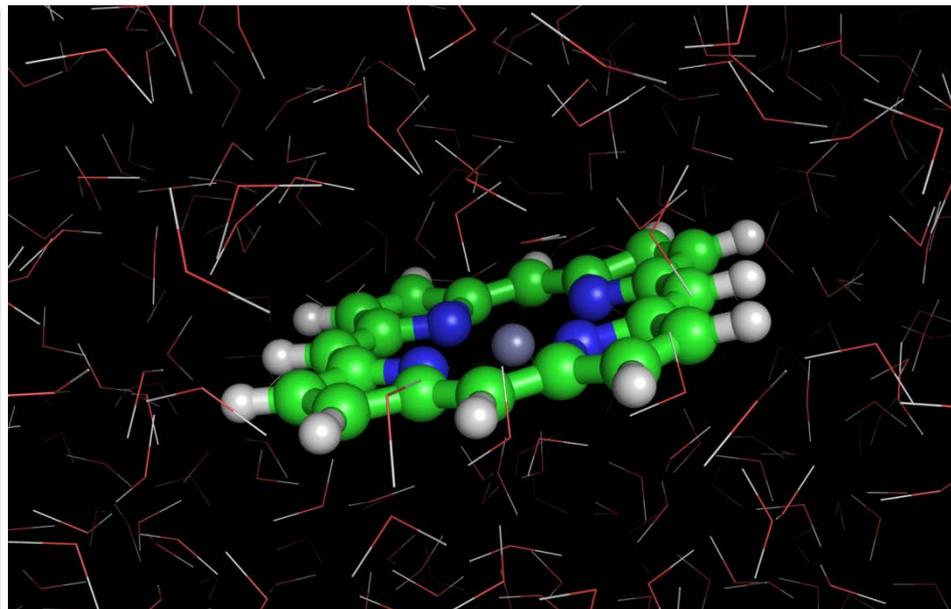
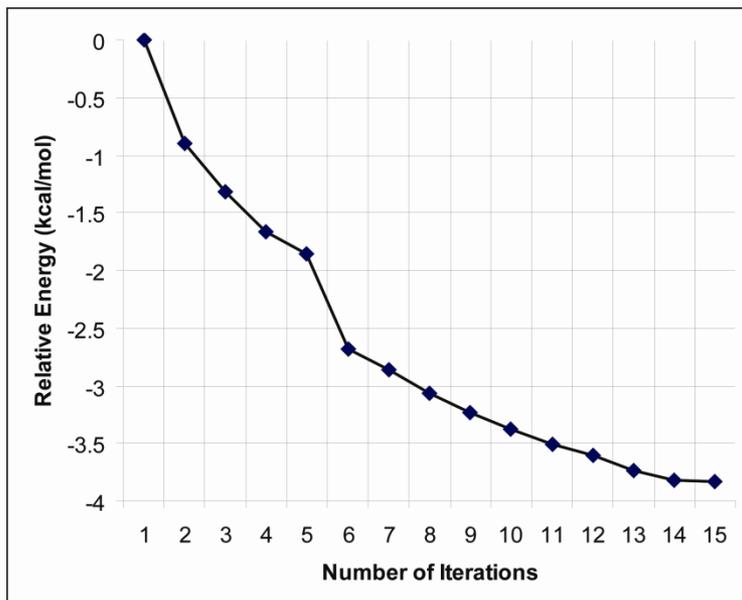
## 2. MM Region Optimization

- a. QM region is fixed
- b. 1000-3000 steps
- c. QM region is represented either as effective point charges or static electron density distribution

## 3. Repeat the cycle until convergence



# Example: Optimization of Zn-porphyrin in solution



- QM region Zn-porphyrin (37 atoms) DFT/B3LYP
- MM region – 869 SPC/E waters
- **4.5 hours on 48 processors** versus direct optimization would take ~ 2 days

... •

`qm`

`region qm solvent`

`maxiter 10 3000`

`method lbfgs sd`

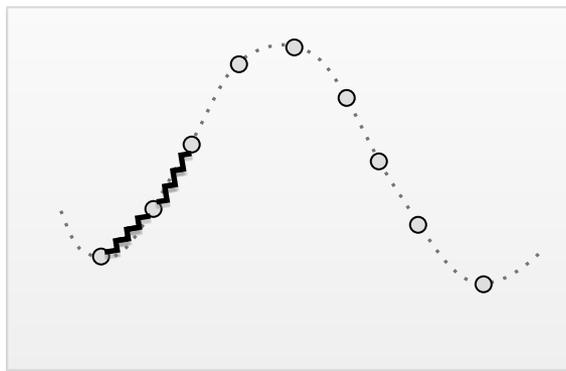
`ncycles 20`

`density espfit`

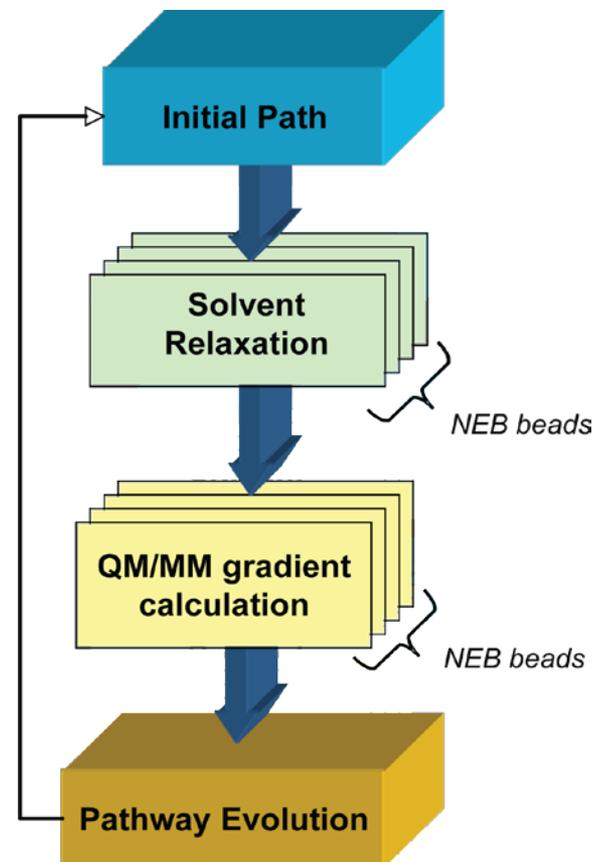
`end`

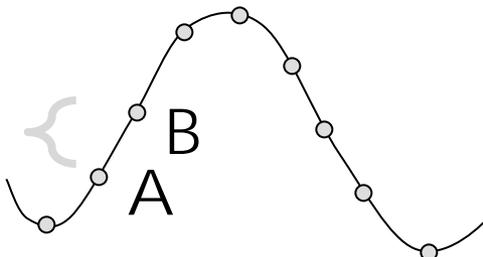
`task qmmm dft optimize`

*Input File*



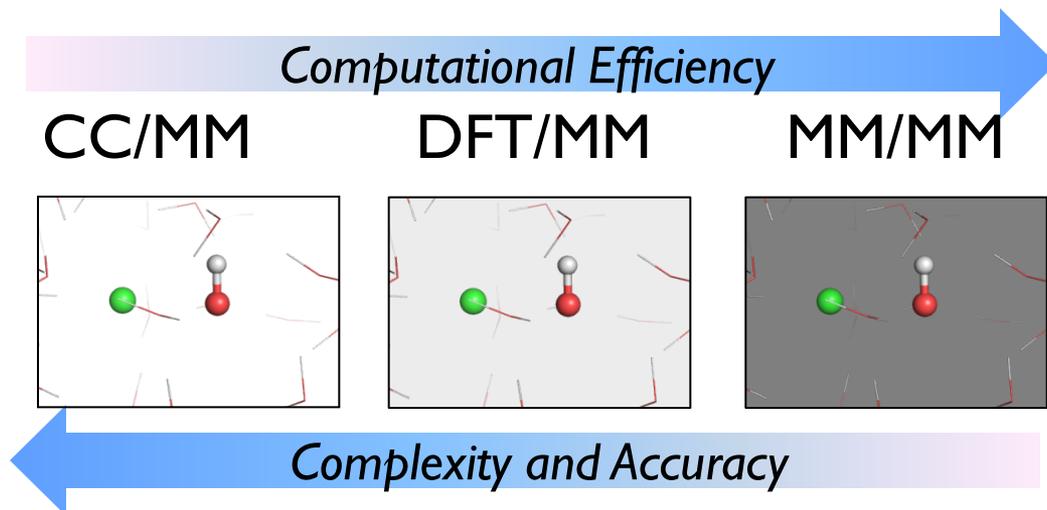
- Nudged Elastic Band Method
- Pathway approximated discrete set of intermediate structures
- Beads represent different snapshots of reactive QM region along the pathway
- Forces on beads are calculated at the relaxed solvent configuration



$$\Delta W_{AB} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left\langle e^{-\beta(E(A)-E(B))} \right\rangle_A \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{Reaction Coordinate Diagram}$$


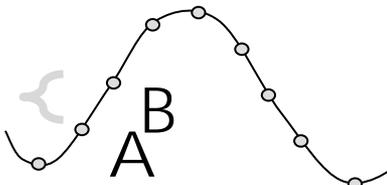
- Accurate quantum mechanical description is a major challenge especially for high level methods (  $10^4 - 10^5$  energy evaluations)
- The solution
  - ◆ Introduce intermediate less expensive representation(s)
  - ◆ Redistribute sampling using thermodynamic cycles

- Different QM/MM representations

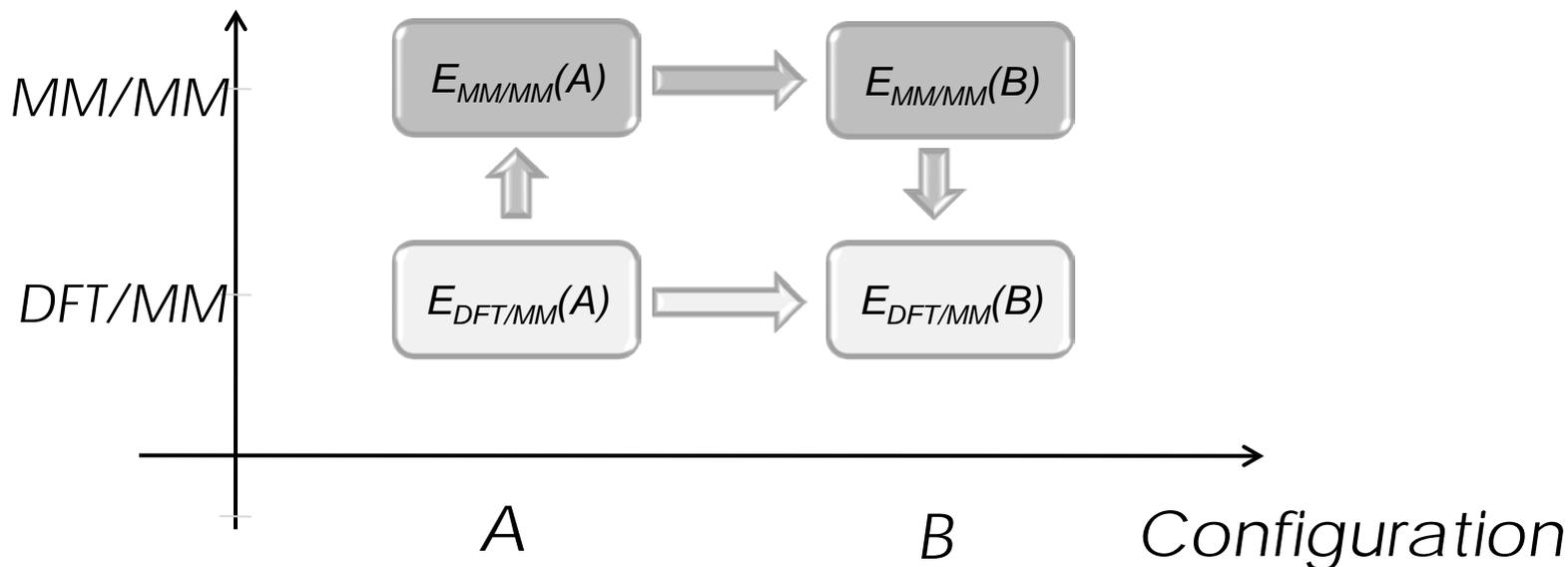


- Example of MM/MM representation - QM atoms are replaced by effective point charges  $Q_i$  reproducing correct field

$$E_{qm} = \sum_{i,I} \frac{Z_I Q_i}{|\mathbf{R}_I - \mathbf{r}_i|} \quad \leftarrow \quad \sum_I \int \frac{Z_I \rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{R}_I - \mathbf{r}'|} d\mathbf{r}' = \sum_{i,I} \frac{Z_I Q_i}{|\mathbf{R}_I - \mathbf{r}_i|}$$

$$\Delta W_{AB} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left\langle e^{-\beta(E(A)-E(B))} \right\rangle_A \rightarrow \text{Reaction Coordinate Diagram}$$


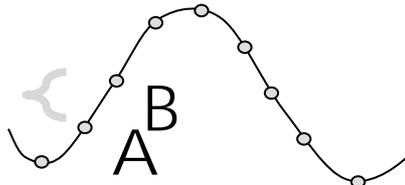
Representation



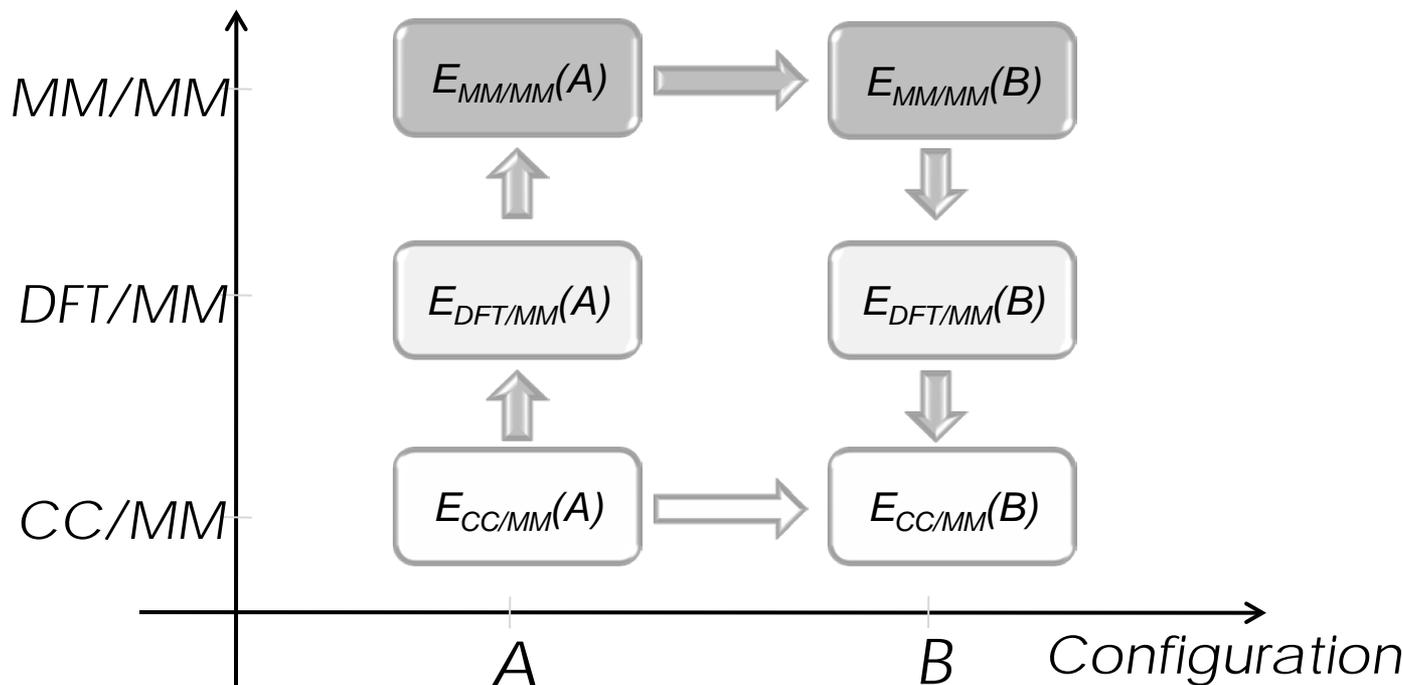
$$\Delta W_{AB} = \left( \Delta W_{AA}^{DFT \rightarrow MM} - \Delta W_{BB}^{DFT \rightarrow MM} \right) + \Delta W_{AB}^{MM}$$

Valiev et al JCP 127, 051102 (2007)

# Free Energy Ladder

$$\Delta W_{AB} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left\langle e^{-\beta(E(A)-E(B))} \right\rangle_A \rightarrow$$


Representation



$$\Delta W_{AB} = \left( \Delta W_{AA}^{CC \rightarrow DFT} - \Delta W_{BB}^{CC \rightarrow DFT} \right) + \left( \Delta W_{AA}^{DFT \rightarrow MM} - \Delta W_{BB}^{DFT \rightarrow MM} \right) + \Delta W_{AB}^{MM}$$



- Can use any of the methods developed for classical free energy calculations
- Transformation between A and B configurations

$$\mathbf{r}_\lambda = (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{r}_A + \lambda\mathbf{r}_B$$

$$Q_\lambda = (1 - \lambda)Q_A + \lambda Q_B$$

- Free Energy Perturbation

$$\Delta W_{AB}^{ESP} = -\sum_i \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left\langle e^{-\beta \Delta E_{\lambda_i \rightarrow \lambda_{i+1}}^{ESP}} \right\rangle_{\lambda_i}$$

$$E_{MM/MM}(A)$$



$$E_{DFT/MM}(A)$$

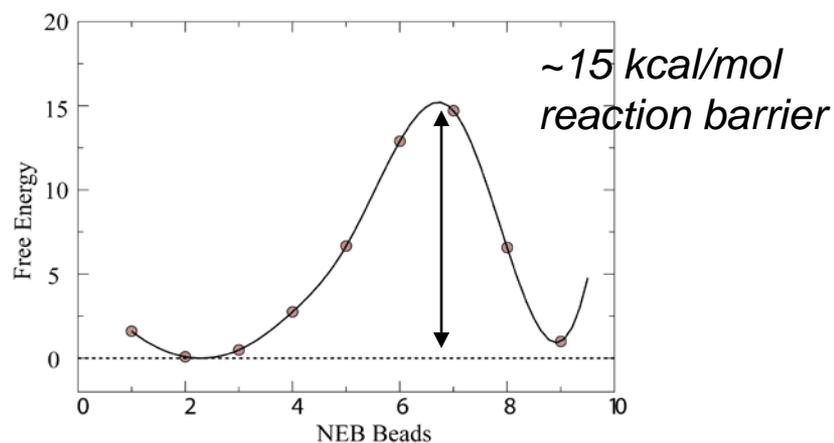
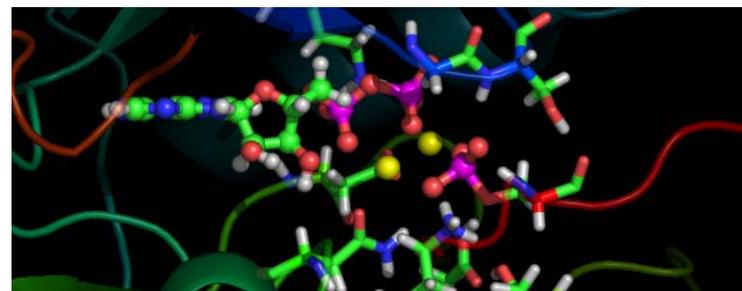
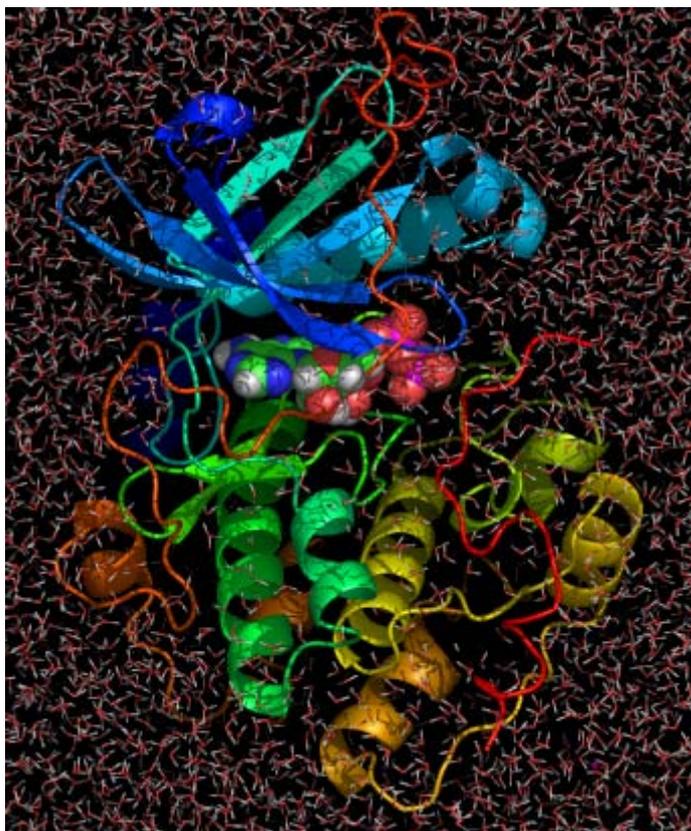
$$\Delta W_{AA}^{DFT \rightarrow MM} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left\langle e^{-\beta(\Delta E_{AA}^{DFT \rightarrow MM})} \right\rangle_{MM/MM}$$



$$\Delta E_{AA}^{DFT \rightarrow MM} = E_{DFT/MM}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{R}; \psi_A) - E_{MM/MM}(\mathbf{r}_A, \mathbf{R}; Q_A)$$

- “Vertical” change of transformation (fixed QM region)
- MM representation is closely tailored to DFT by point charge fitting
- Approximate by the energy difference
- Can utilize free energy perturbation approach by resampling MM/MM trajectory

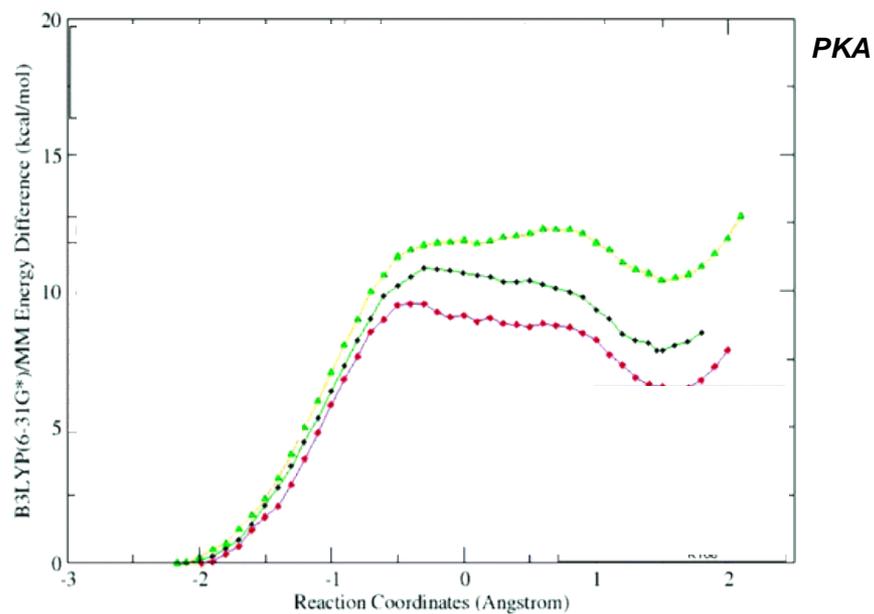
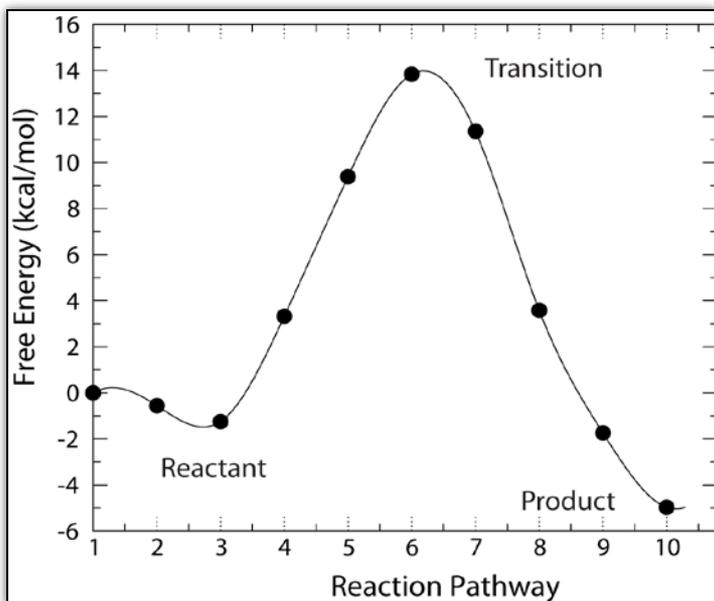
# Example : Free energy barrier for the phosphorylation reaction in kinase protein



- cAPK protein kinase catalyze the transfer of the g-phosphoryl
- Determination of the reaction pathway using NEB QM/MM ap
- Calculation of free energy using effective charge approximatio
- Valiev et al J. Phys Chem B. 111(47):13455-64. (2007)

# Importance of free energy

(Cheng et al JACS, 127,1553,2005)



# Questions?

