

The Challenge of Biology

Daniel Cole

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Biography



Prof. Bill Jorgensen

Yale

2



Newcastle University



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

3

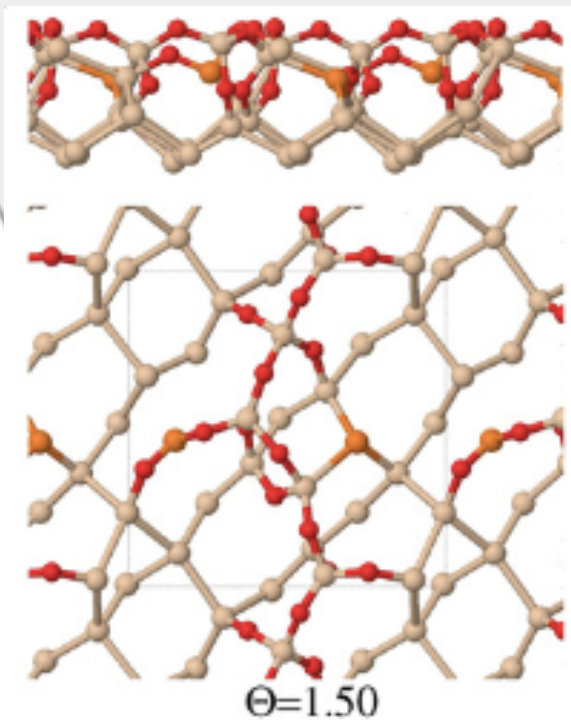


Prof. Mike Payne FRS

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NUS
National University
of Singapore

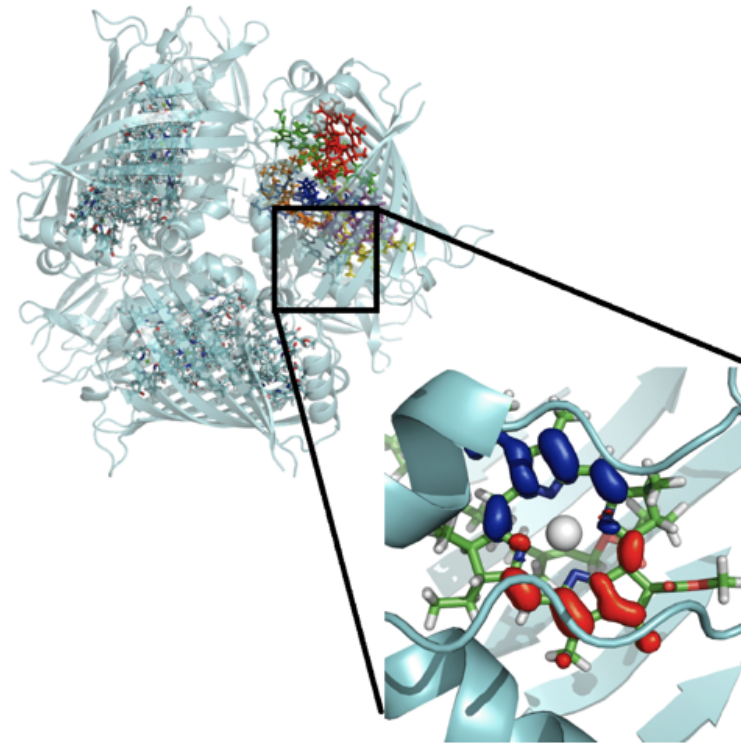


*DJ Cole, MC Payne, L Colombi Ciacchi,
Surf Sci, (2007) 601, 488*

Why did I keep going back?



*Alex Chin, group leader,
Sorbonne Université*



*James Kermode, reader,
University of Warwick*

William Belfield: constrained geometric simulation of ion channel proteins

Louis Lee: electronic structure analysis in ONETEP, including protein-specific charges

Greg Lever: computational enzymology

Edward Linscott: strong correlation effects in metalloproteins

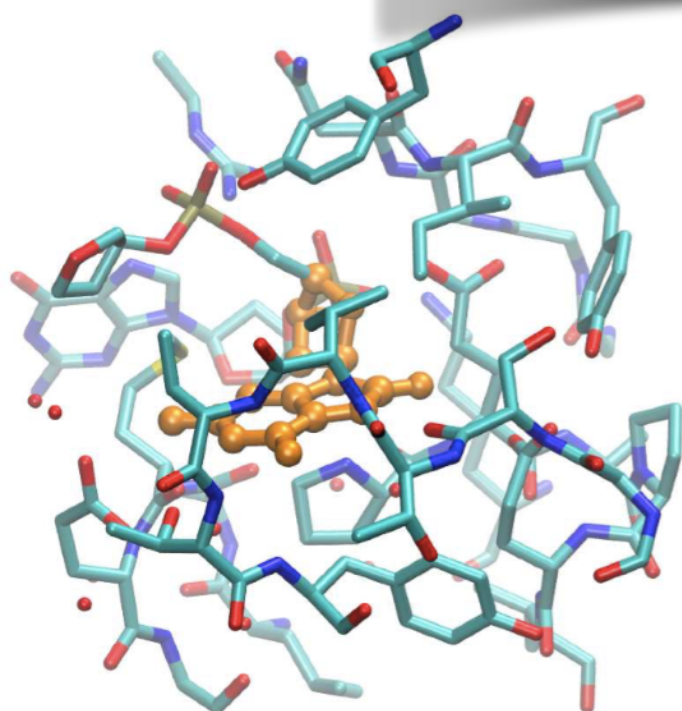
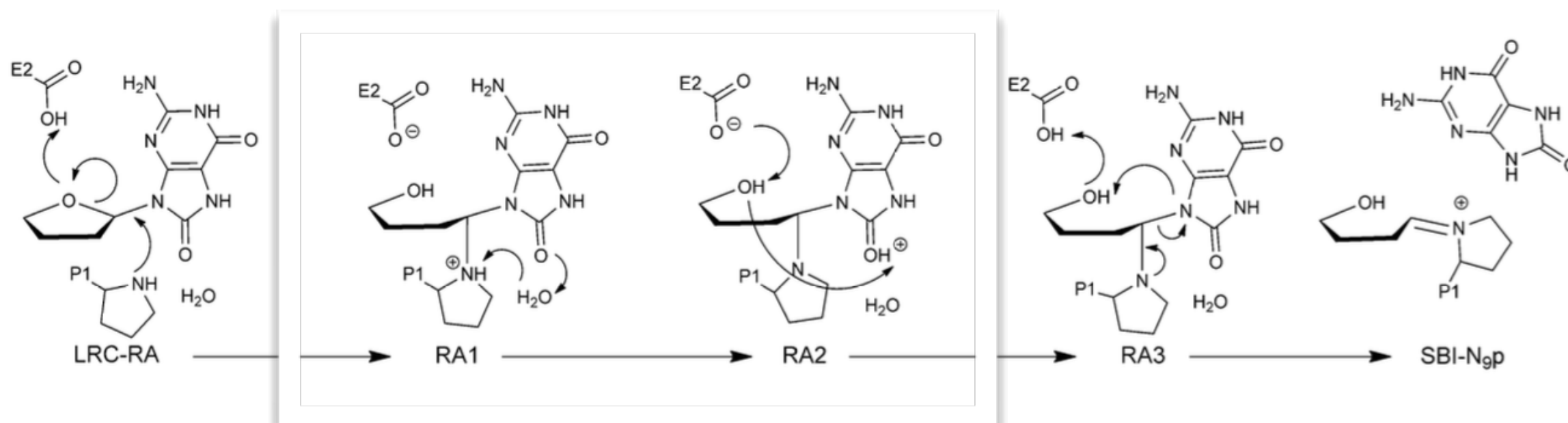
Alice Allen: biomolecular force field development

Lupeng Yang: excited state force fields

Can the same methods that we've been hearing about today be used to address problems in biology? (last stage of the grand agenda?)

The Length Scale Problem

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

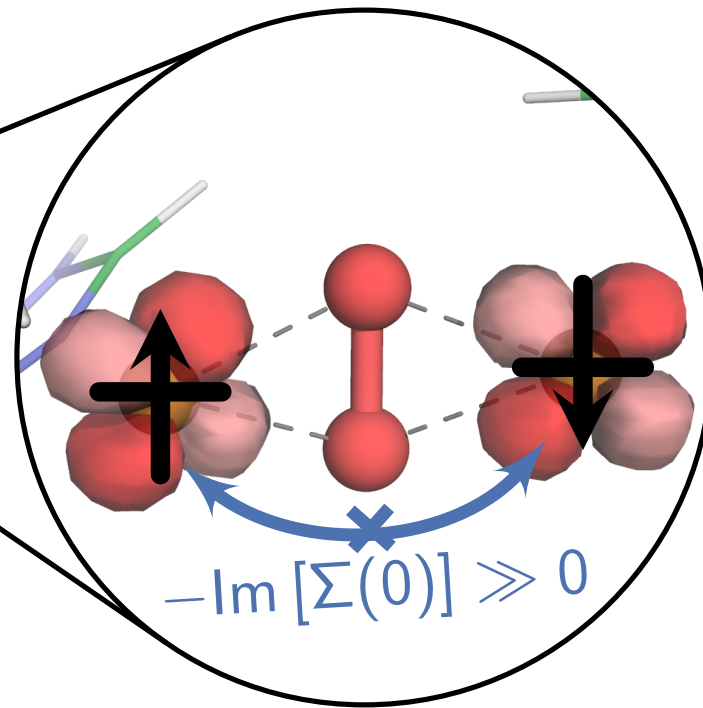


QM atoms	Barrier (kcal/mol)
143	28
278	6
493	14
606	14

Strong correlations in metalloproteins



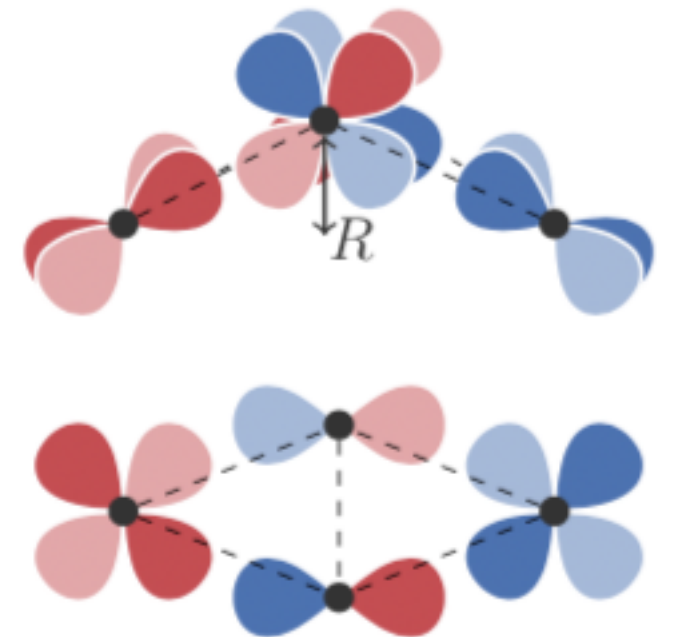
DFT + DMFT



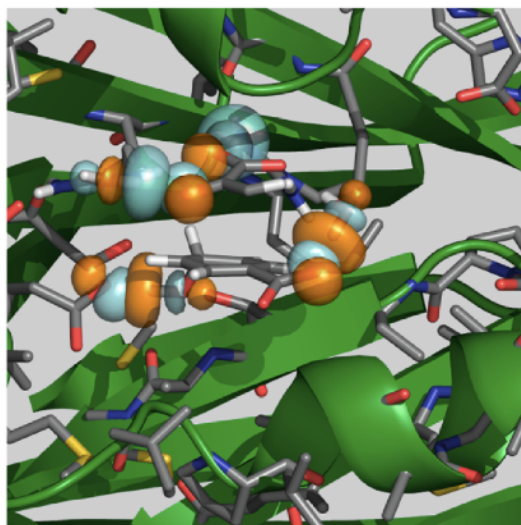
*di-Cu oxo bridge in
hemocyanin*

In hemocyanin, experimental observation of open shell singlet state is at odds with DFT calculations on Cu-O₂-Cu core.

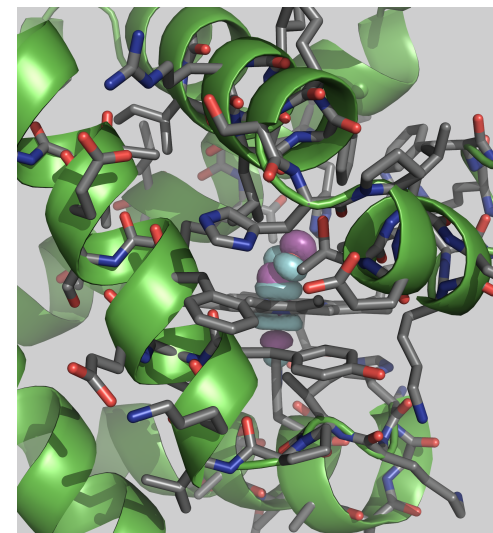
Using DFT+DMFT found that singlet is superposition of two localised magnetic moments in Heitler-London regime.



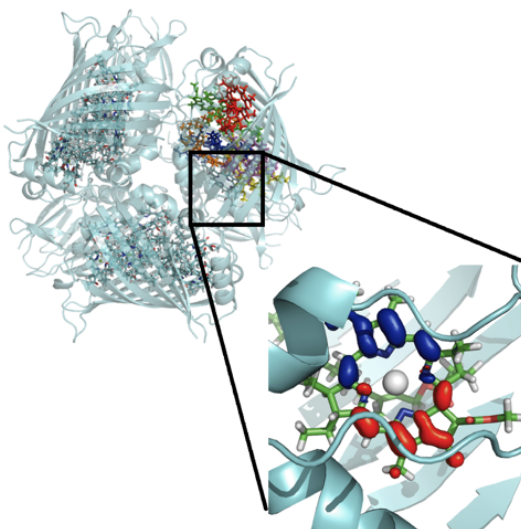
Biological Applications



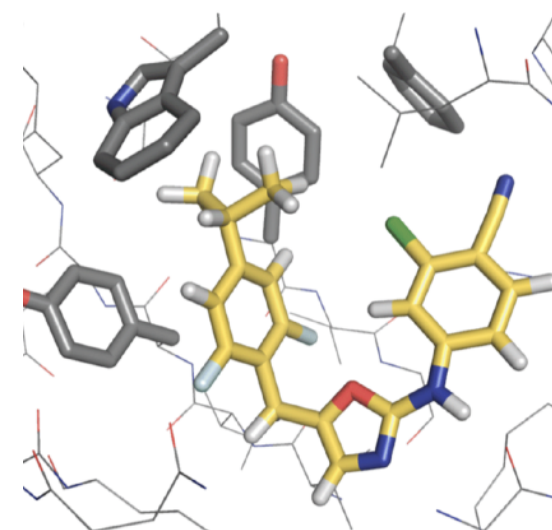
Transition state searching in enzymes



Protein-ligand binding in metalloproteins



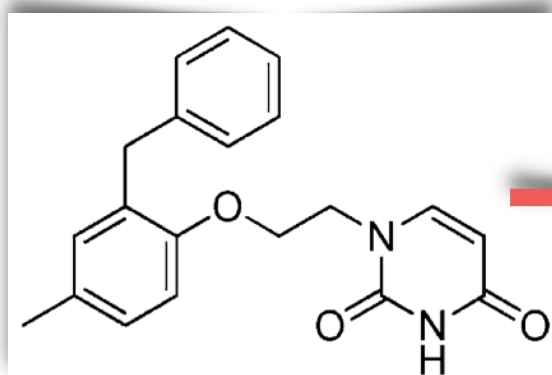
Optical spectroscopy in a light-harvesting protein



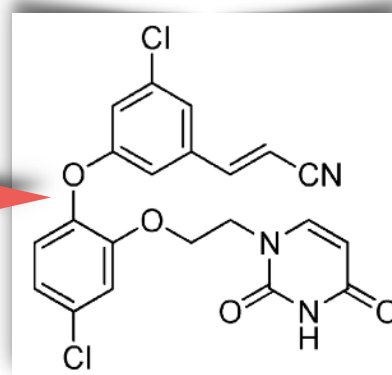
Classical force field parameterisation for drug discovery

Computer-Aided Drug Design

5 μ M docking hit



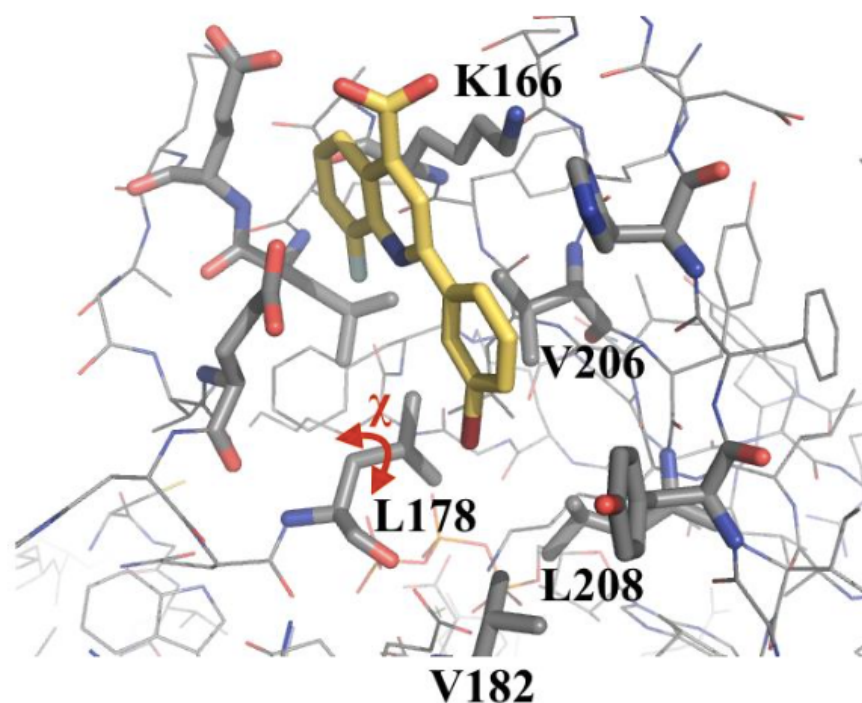
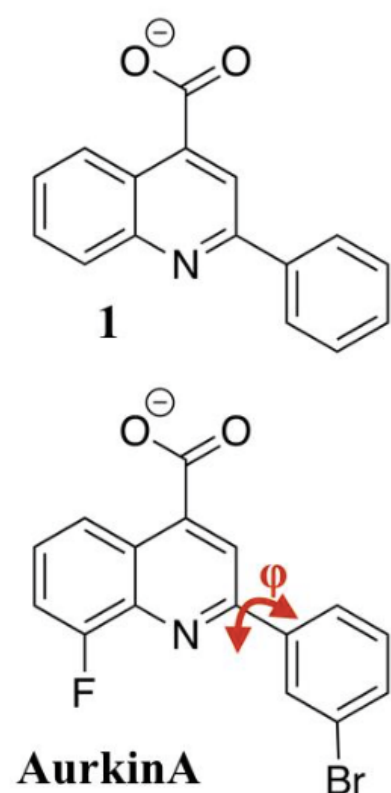
55pM inhibitor



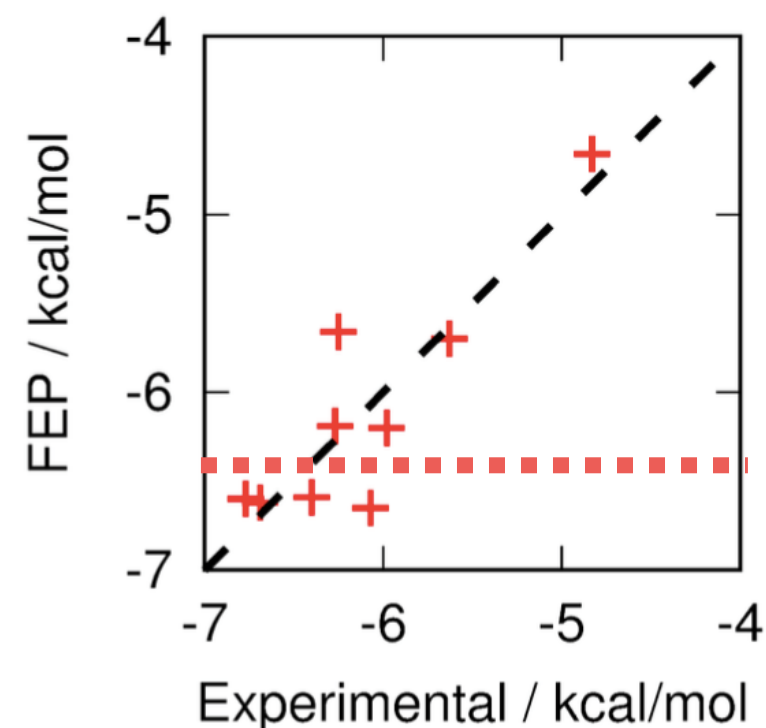
Notable successes include computationally-guided design of non-nucleoside inhibitors of HIV-1 reverse transcriptase (NNRTIs).

M. Bollini *et al.*, *J. Med. Chem.* **2011**, 54, 8582

W. G. Lee *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2013**, 135, 16705



aurora kinase

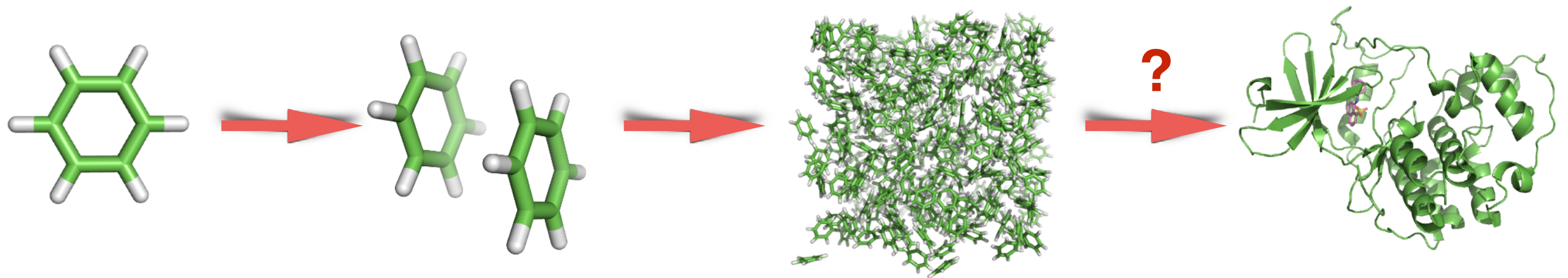


**RMSE =
0.32 kcal/mol**

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

Disadvantages of Force Field Design

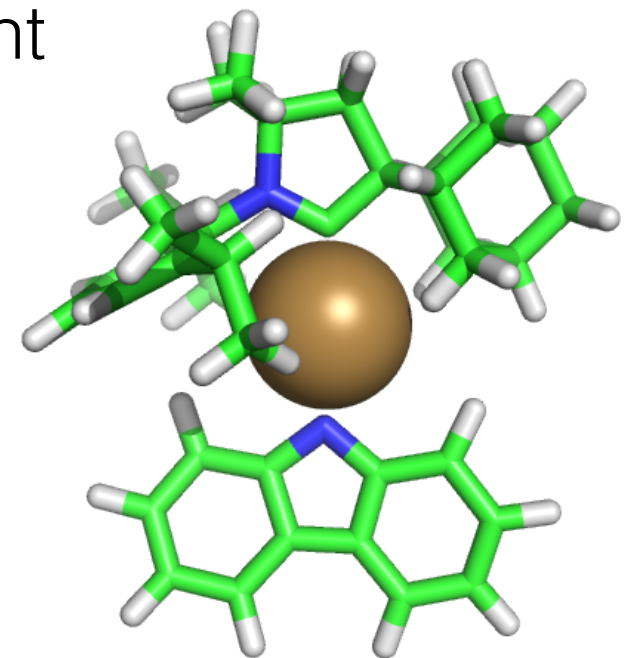
Transferability: Force field parameters are obtained by fitting to properties of small molecules:



Labour-intensive: Typically requires large groups, significant time to produce a model useful for practical problems.

Functional form: Is all of the required physics contained within the simple functional form of MM force fields?

Ease of use: Missing parameters are problematic for inexperienced force field users (metals, excited states?).



Disadvantages of Force Field Design

Transferability: Force field parameters are obtained by fitting to properties of small molecules:



“Classical force field parameterization is a bottomless pit of despair”

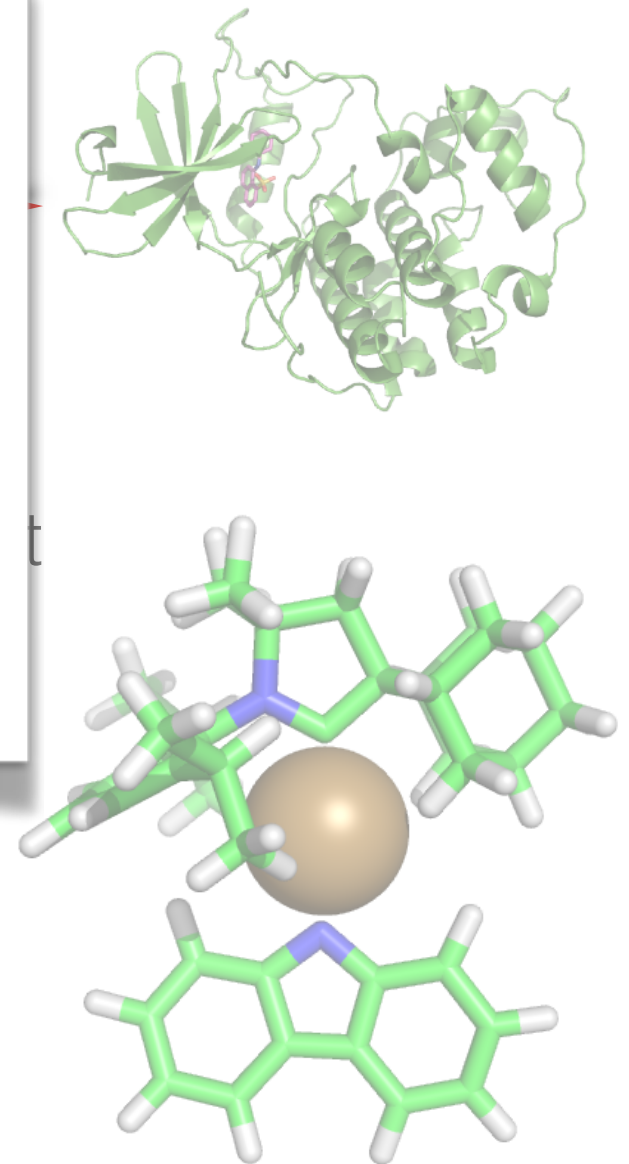
Labour-intensive
time to produce



Twitter user

Functional form: Is all of the required physics contained within the simple functional form of MM force fields?

Ease of use: Missing parameters are problematic for inexperienced force field users (metals, excited states?).



QUBE Force Field

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

ab initio

electrostatics
induction
dispersion
exchange-repulsion

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

**Transferable
force field**

fast to evaluate
large system sizes

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

accuracy

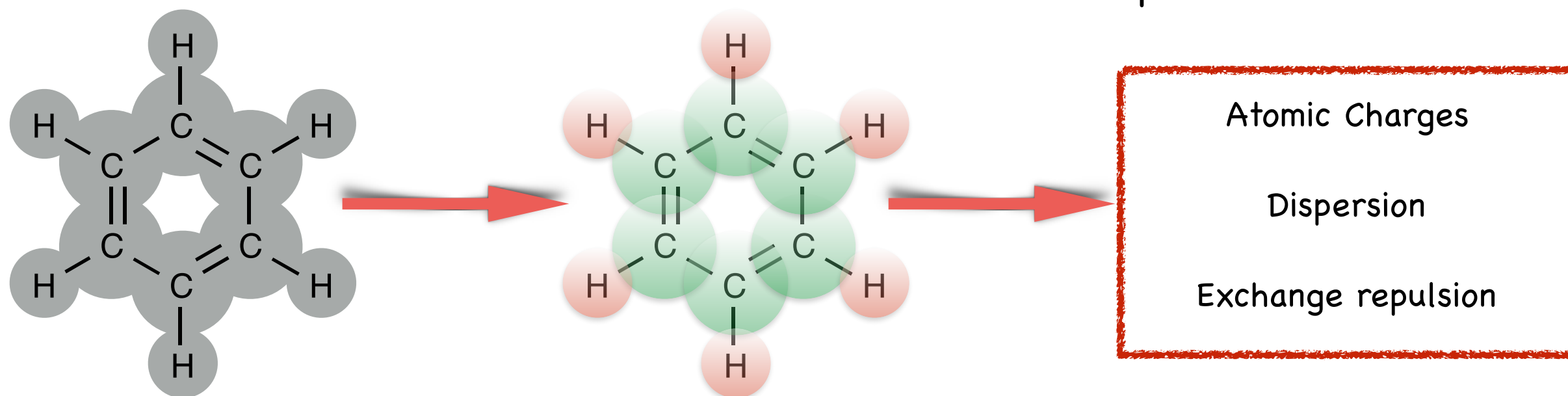
system size

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

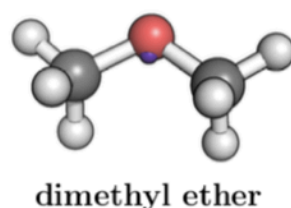
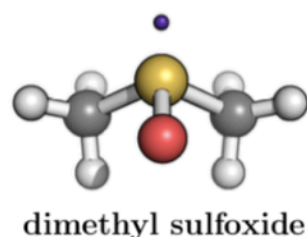
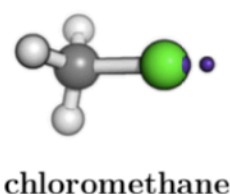
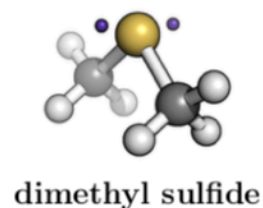
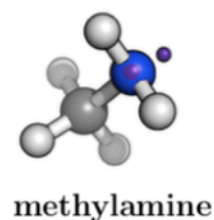


Density derived electrostatic and chemical (DDEC) electron density partitioning
(good reproduction of the ESP and not too conformation dependent).

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

Force Field Parameters

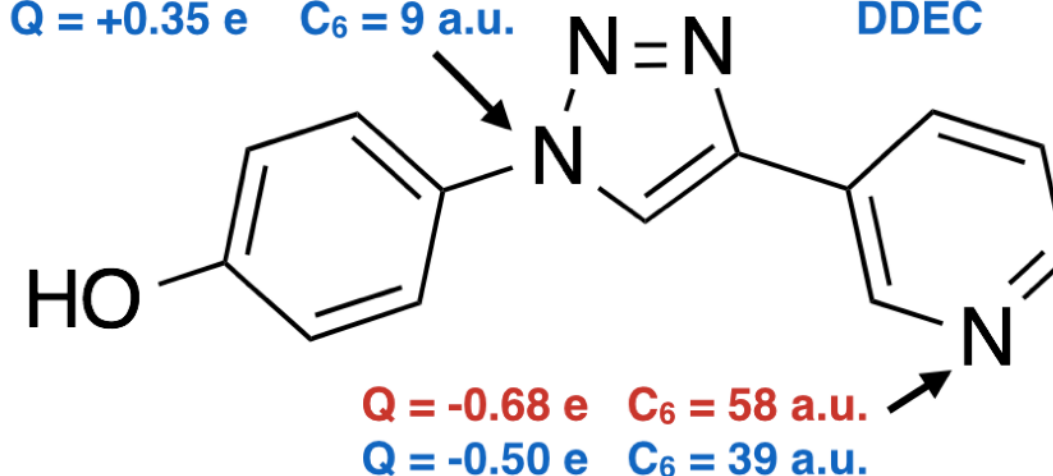
Off site charges (available in ONETEP)



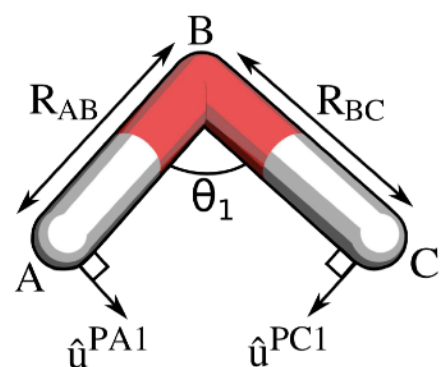
Lennard-Jones (from Tkatchenko-Scheffler approach)

$Q = +0.06\text{ e}$ $C_6 = 58\text{ a.u.}$
 $Q = +0.35\text{ e}$ $C_6 = 9\text{ a.u.}$

OPLS
DDEC

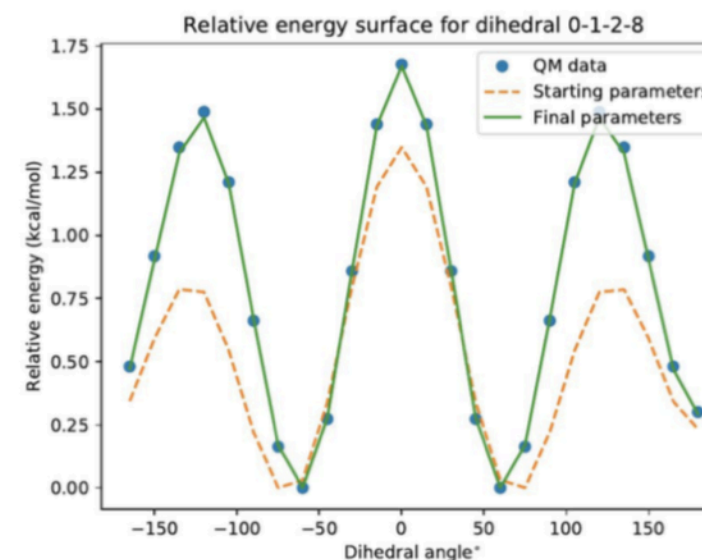


Bonded parameters (modified Seminario)

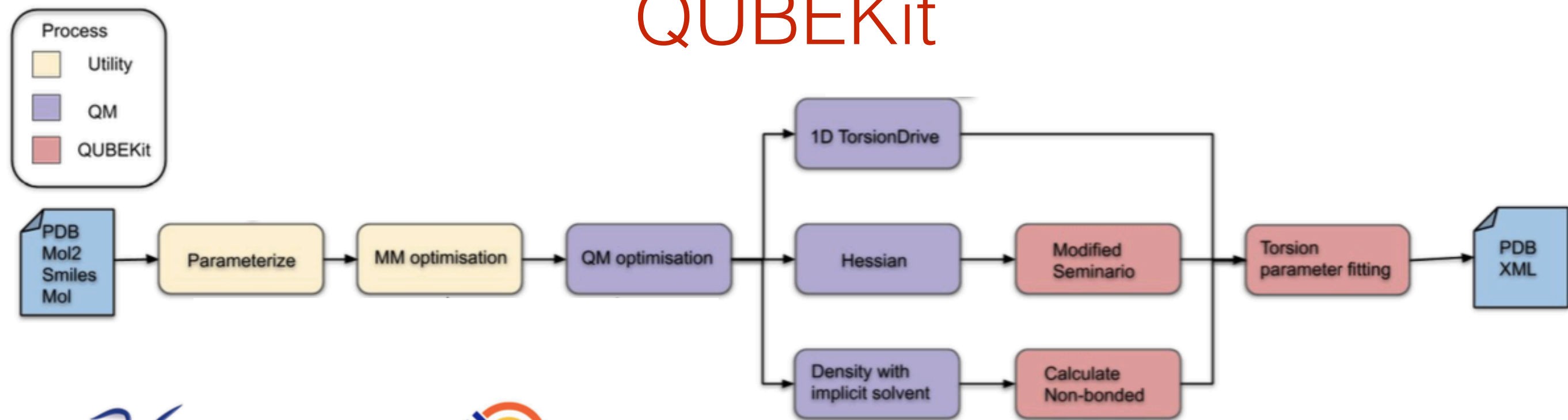


$$[\mathbf{k}_{AB}] = - \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x_A \partial x_B} & \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x_A \partial y_B} & \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x_A \partial z_B} \\ \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial y_A \partial x_B} & \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial y_A \partial y_B} & \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial y_A \partial z_B} \\ \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial z_A \partial x_B} & \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial z_A \partial y_B} & \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial z_A \partial z_B} \end{vmatrix}$$

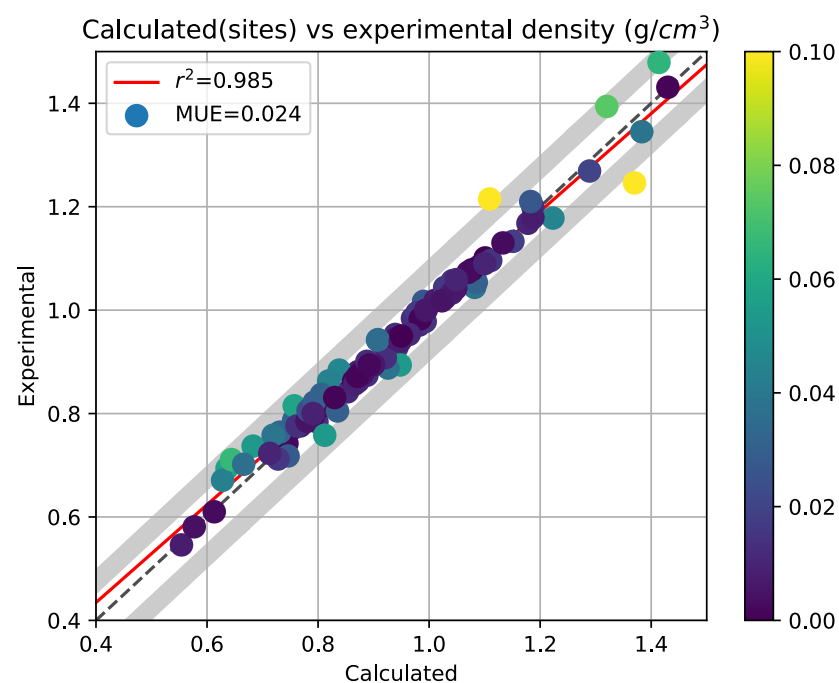
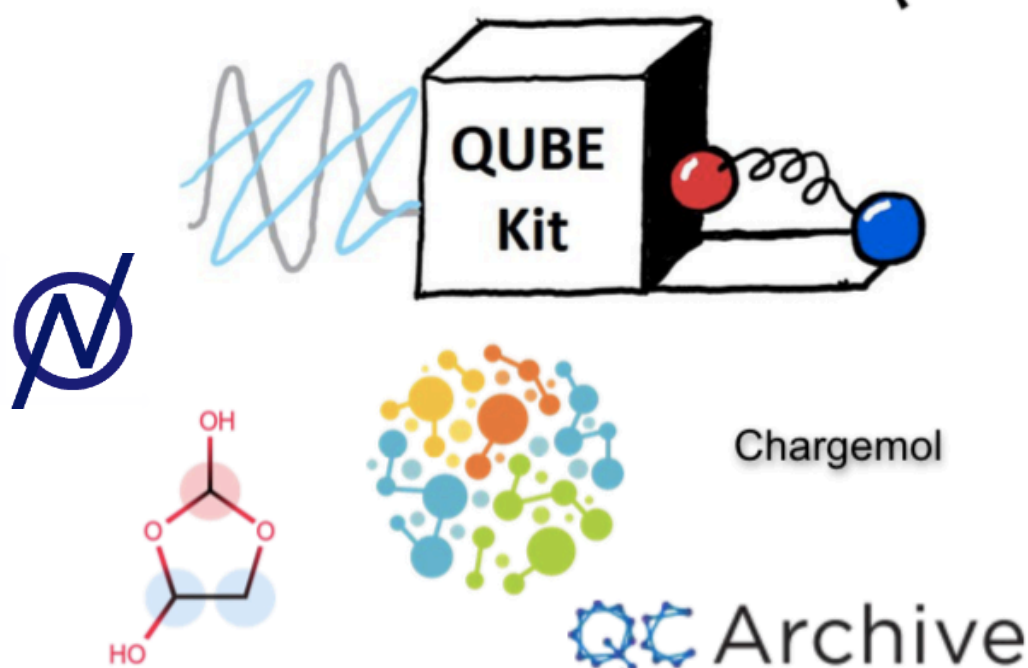
Torsion parameters from QM scans



QUBEKit



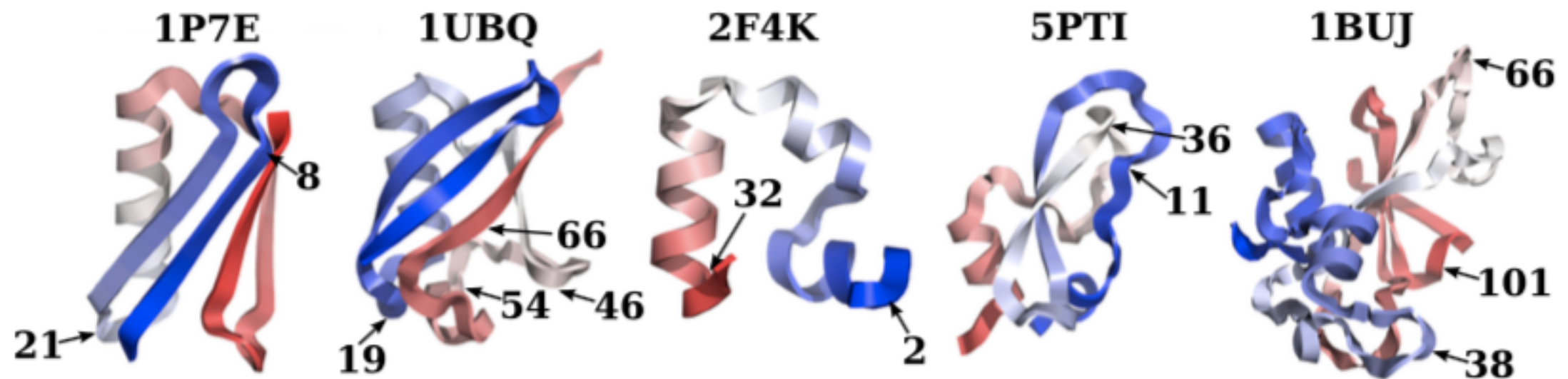
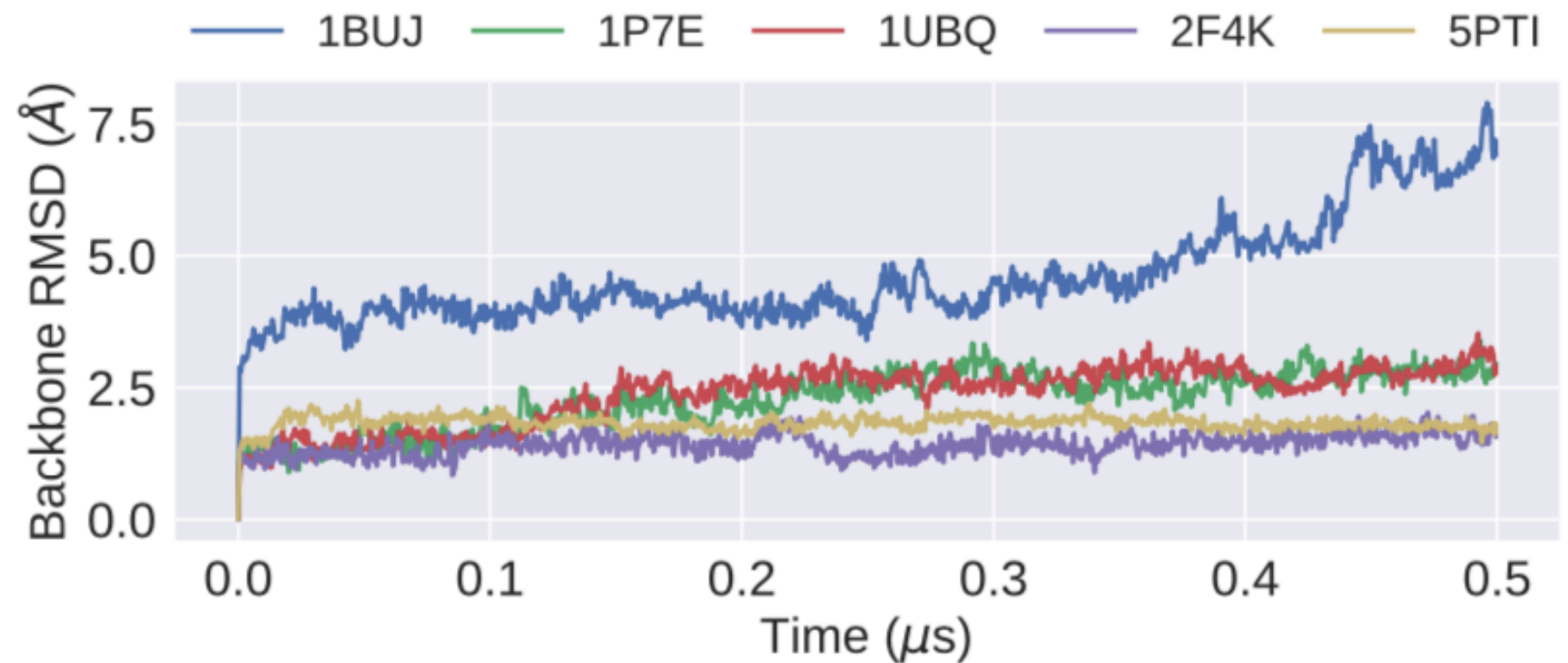
<https://github.com/cole-group/QUBEKit>



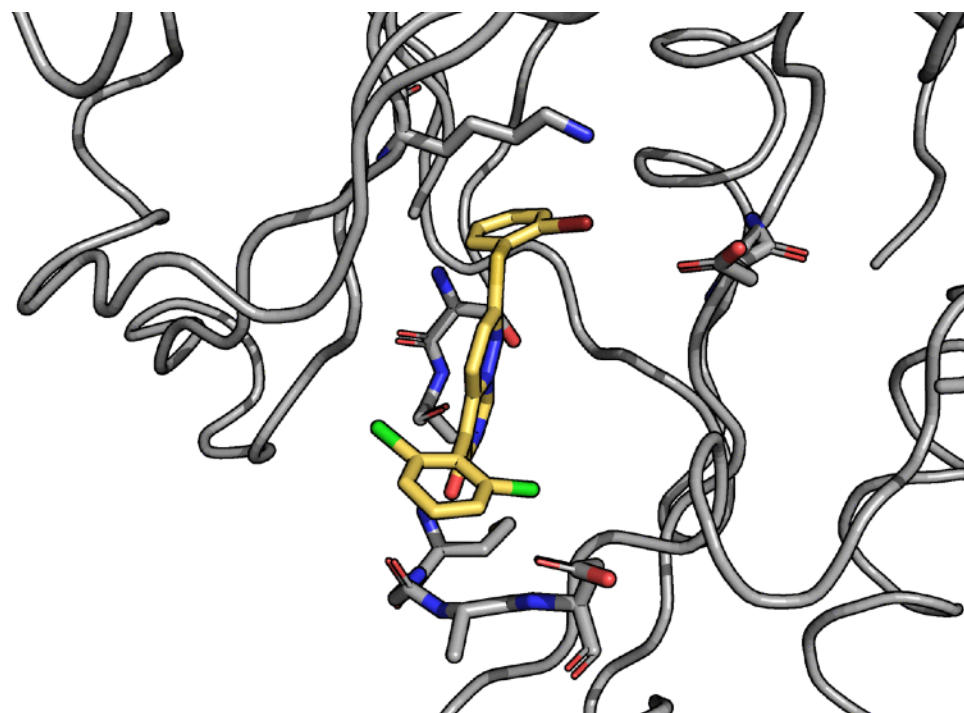
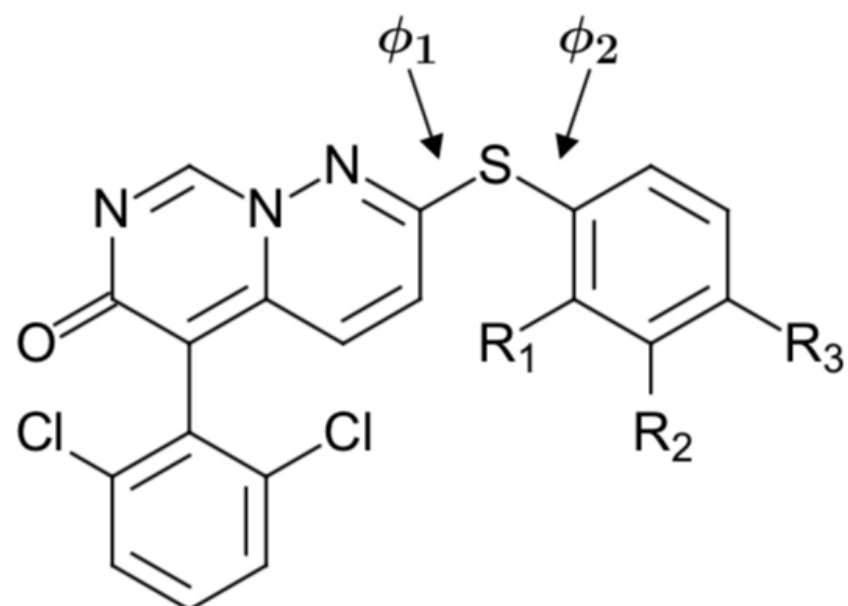
Josh Horton,
Chris Ringrose

QUBE Protein Force Field

RMSD relative to
crystal structure
(3 x 0.5 μ s MD):

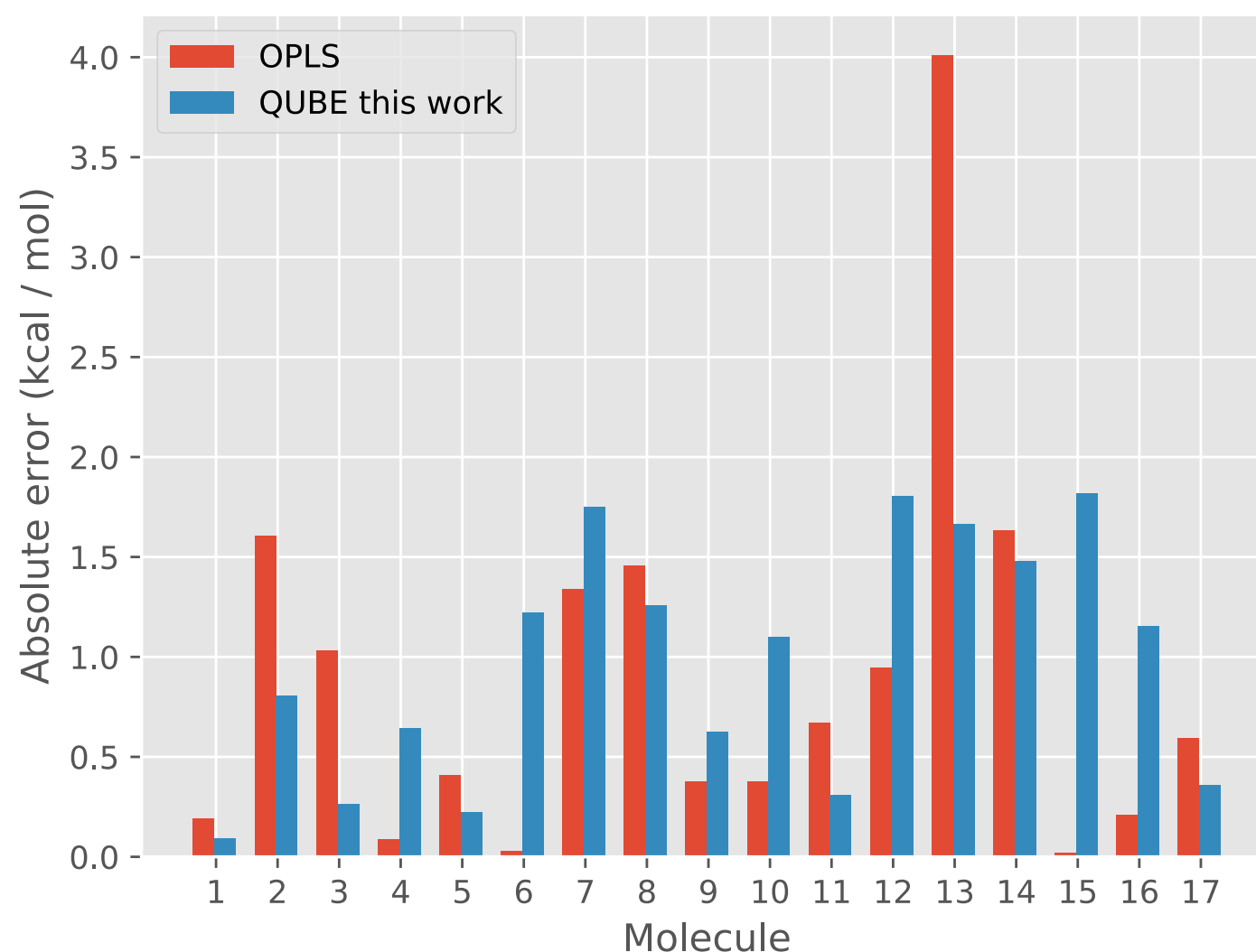


p38 Kinase FEP

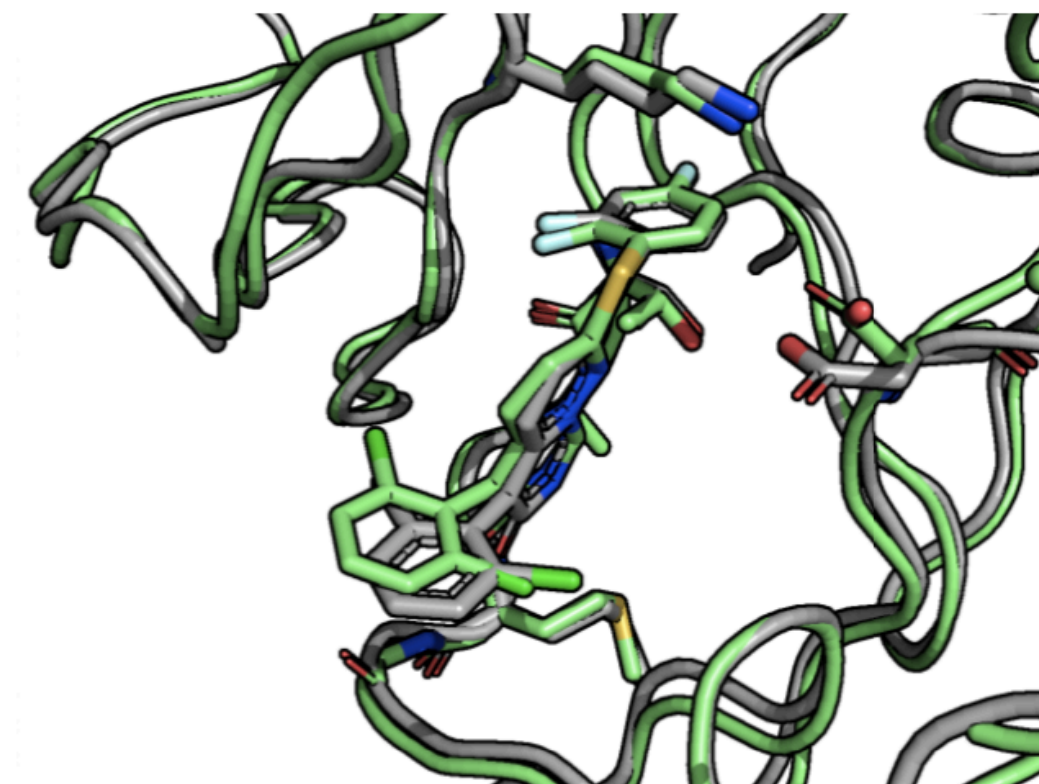


Compound	R1	R2	R3	pIC ₅₀
1	H	H	H	6.602
2	H	H	F	7.000
3	H	H	CH ₃	5.854
4	H	Cl	Cl	6.097
5	H	CH ₃	H	5.854
6	H	CH ₃	CH ₃	5.721
7	H	F	H	6.347
8	CH ₃	H	H	6.699
9	H	Cl	F	6.301
10	H	Cl	H	6.553
11	CH ₃	H	Cl	6.745
12	Br	H	H	6.602
13	CH ₃	H	CH ₃	6.577
14	OH	H	H	6.444
15	NH ₂	H	F	6.658
16	Cl	H	F	7.444
17	F	F	F	8.046
18	F	H	H	N/A

p38 Kinase FEP



RMSE(OPLS) = **1.3** kcal/mol
RMSE(QUBE) = **1.1** kcal/mol



Good structural/energetic agreement for 1st generation MM force field.

Future Work

Continuing development of **QUBEKit** to improve ease-of-use and widen applicability.

Interfaces with **Open Force Field Initiative** infrastructure will give access to large quantum chemistry databases for force field derivation and workflows for force field validation.

Investigating **machine learning** approaches for learning both force field parameters or entire potential energy surfaces from large quantum chemistry datasets.

There are very few empirical parameters, so the force field can easily be **re-designed** with a different functional form. E.g. we have been investigating the derivation of screened C_6 , C_8 and polarisability coefficients from QM.

Potential to move into areas of **unmet need** for force fields, e.g. metals, excited state potential energy surfaces, transition states.



<https://blogs.ncl.ac.uk/danielcole/>
<https://github.com/cole-group/>
[@ColeGroupNCL](#)



Thank you for your attention