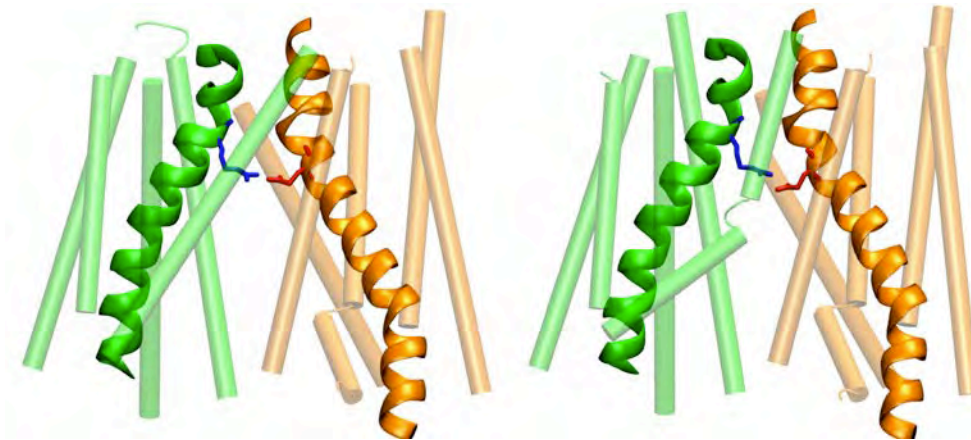


# Thermodynamic Characterization of Conformational Landscape in Proton-Coupled Oligopeptide Transporters

**Mahmoud Moradi**

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
University of Arkansas

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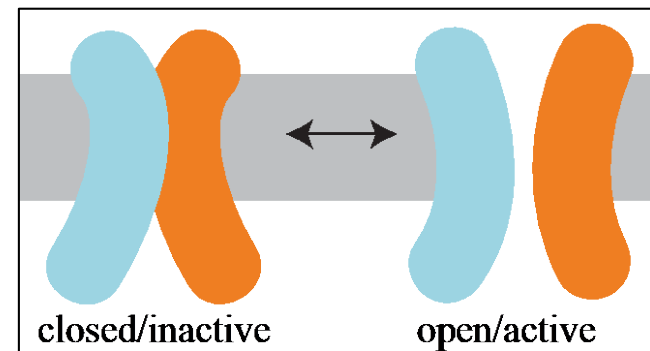
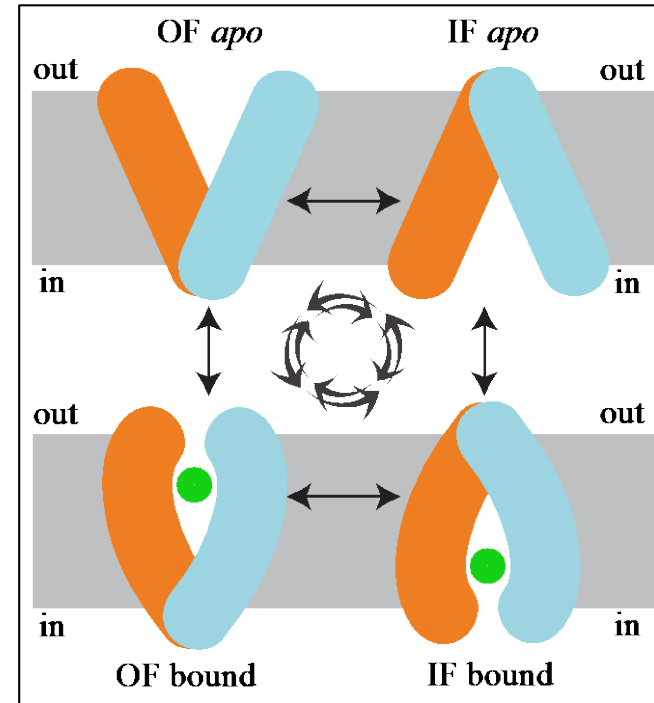
**Blue Waters Symposium 2018**  
**Sunriver, OR**  
**June 5, 2018**

# Outline

- **Introduction**
  - Large-scale protein conformational changes
- **Methodology**
  - Path-finding algorithms and free energy calculation methods
- **Theoretical Framework**
  - Effective Riemannian diffusion model
- **Applications**
  - Membrane transport proteins

# Large-Scale Conformational Changes in Membrane Transport Proteins

- **Membrane transporters** rely on large-scale conformational changes between **inward-facing (IF)** and **outward-facing (OF)** states (**alternating access mechanism**)
- **Channels** may require large-scale conformational changes between their **open/active** and **closed/inactive** states.



# A Case Study: Proton-coupled Oligopeptide Transporters (POTs)

**GkPOT** (PDB:4IKV, 1.9 Å)

~100,000 atoms

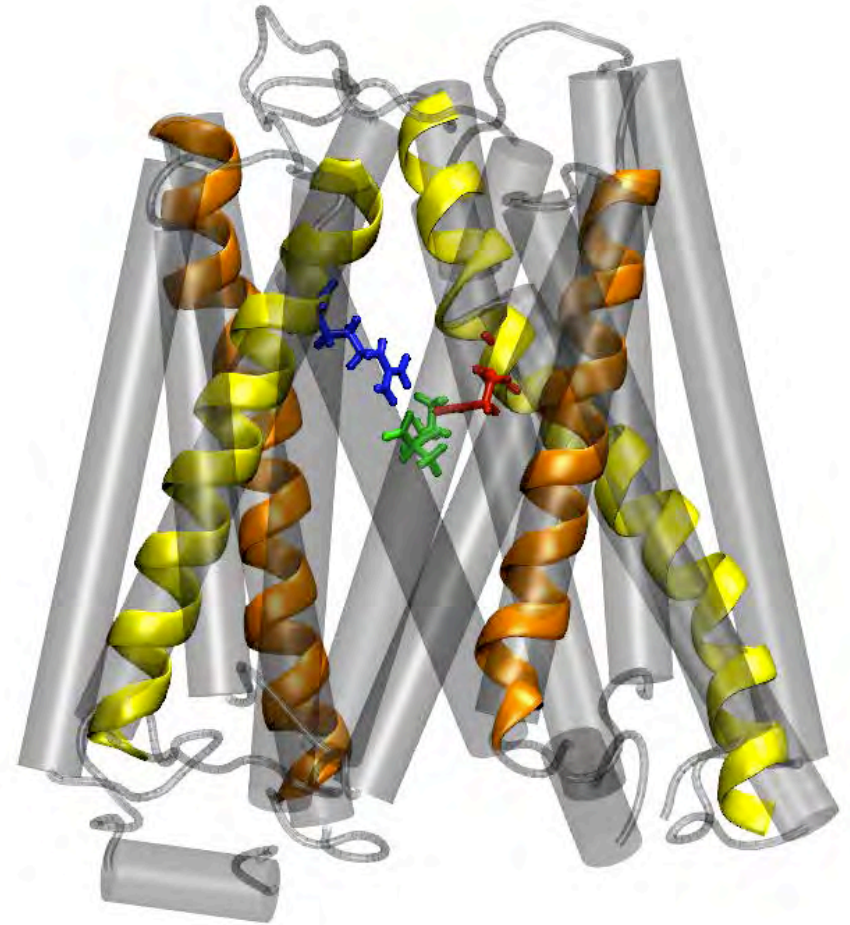
Conventional unbiased  
simulations performed:

**8 conditions**

**(protonated/unprotonate,  
different substrates)**

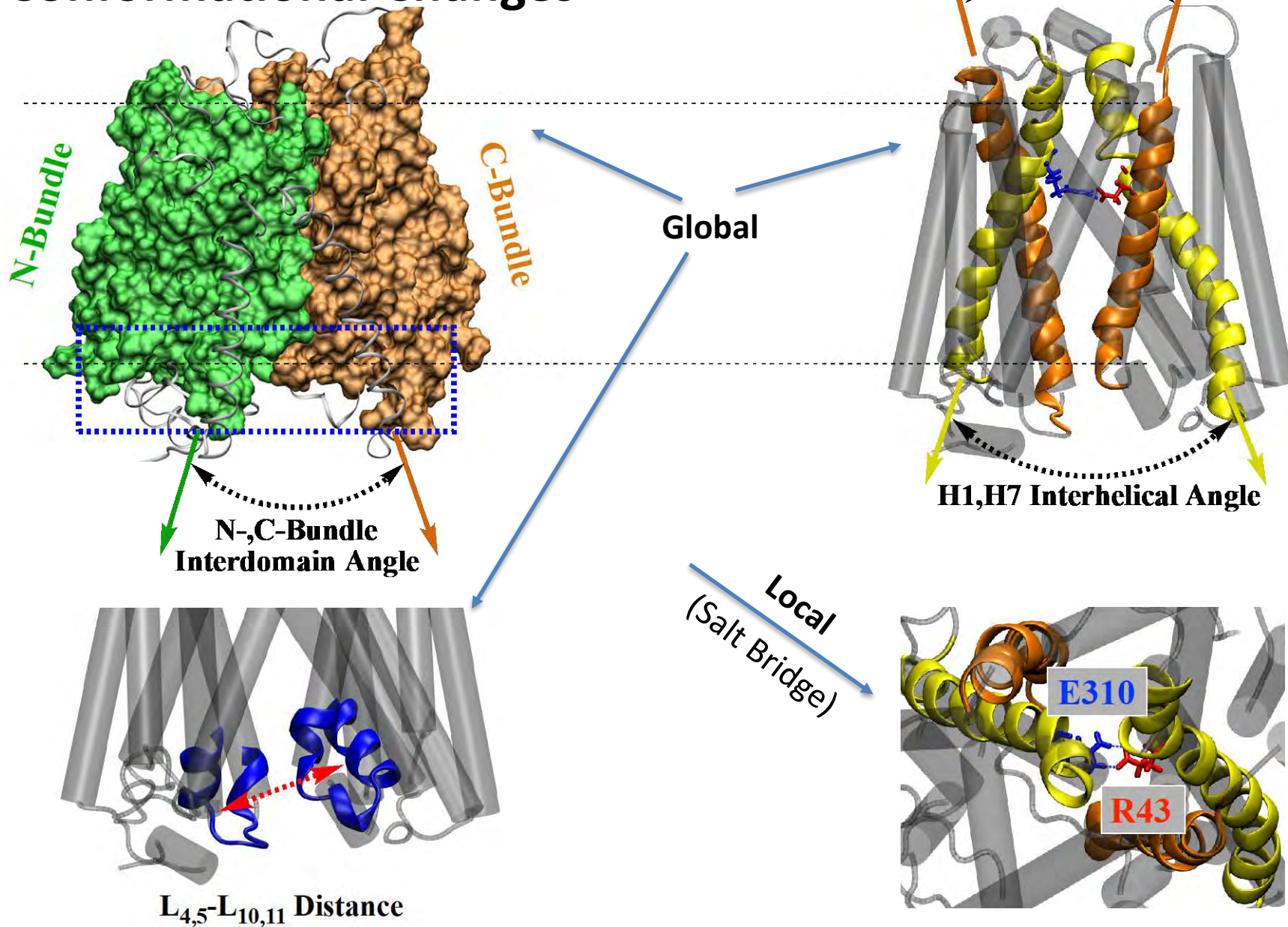
**× 400 ns**

**× 2 repeats**

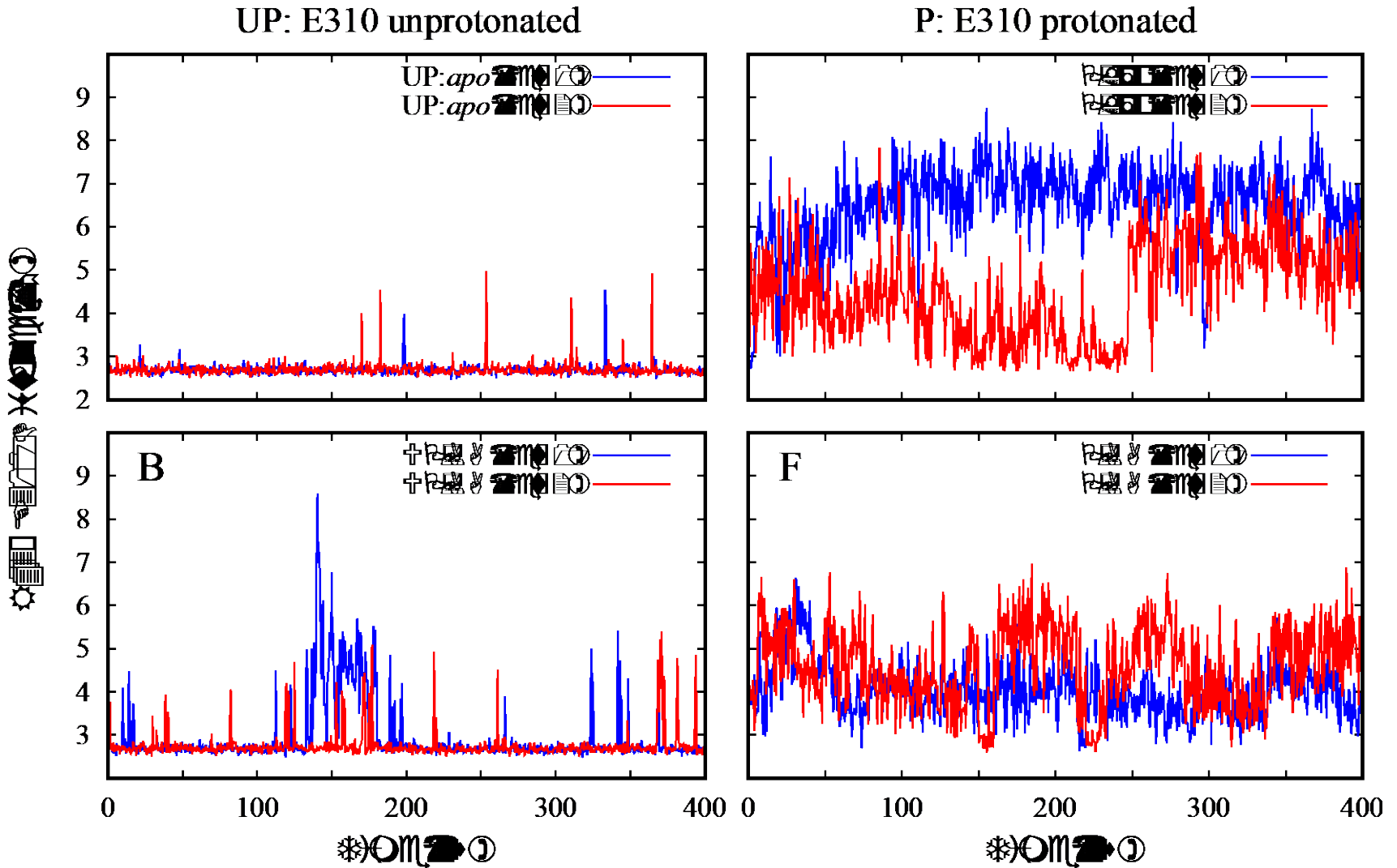


K Immadisetty, J Hettige, and M Moradi, *What Can and Cannot Be Learned from Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Bacterial Proton-Coupled Oligopeptide Transporter GkPOT?* [J. Phys. Chem. B, 121:3644-3656, 2017.](#)

# Monitoring Global and Local Conformational Changes

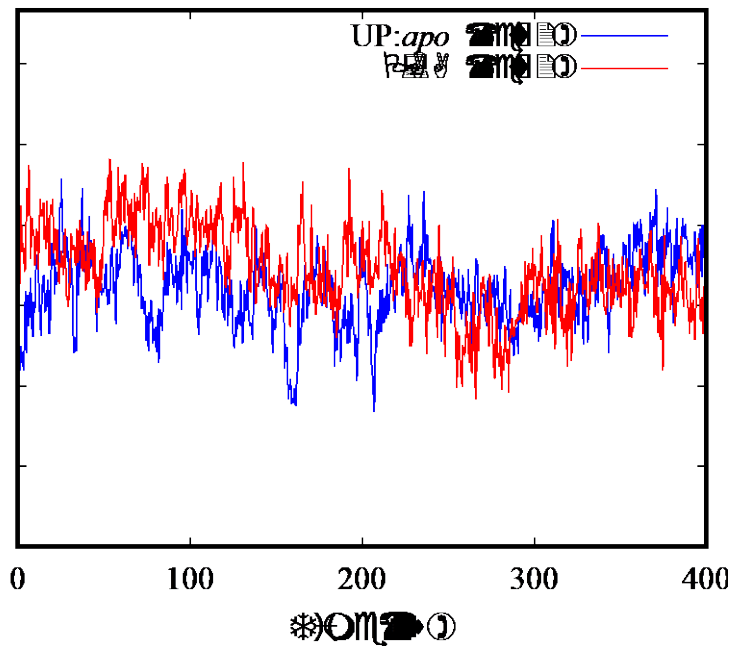
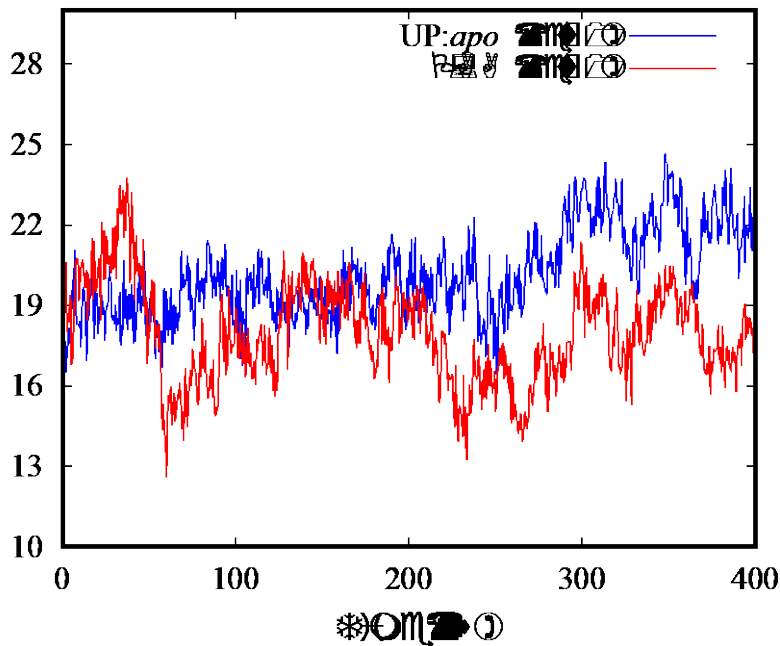
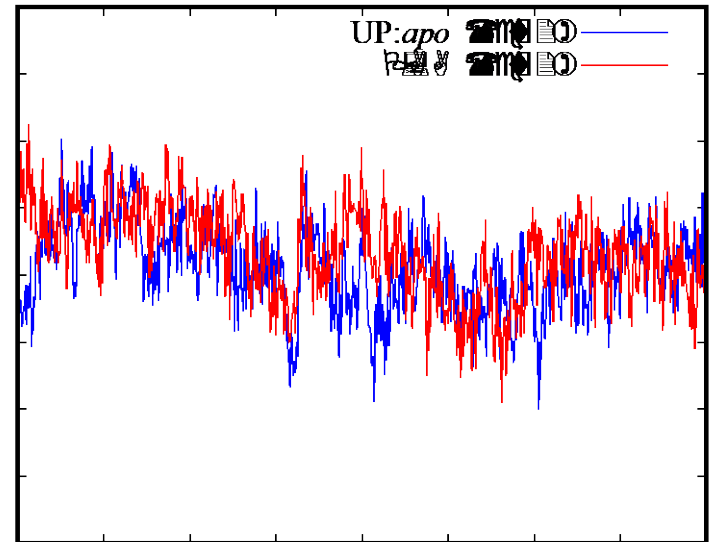
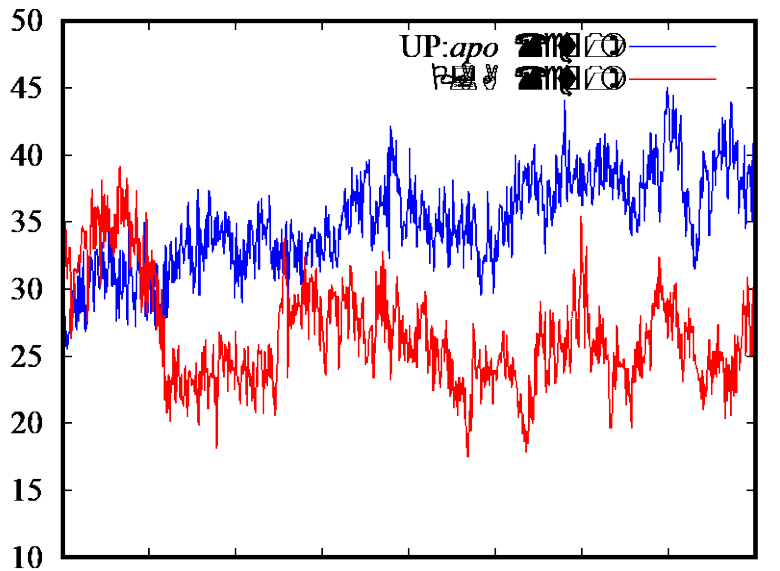


# Local Conformational Changes

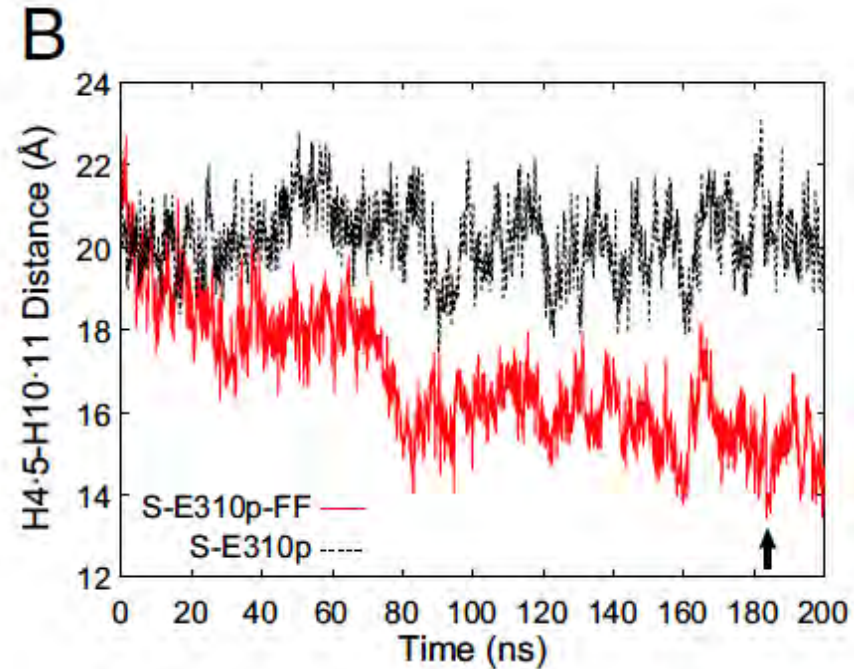
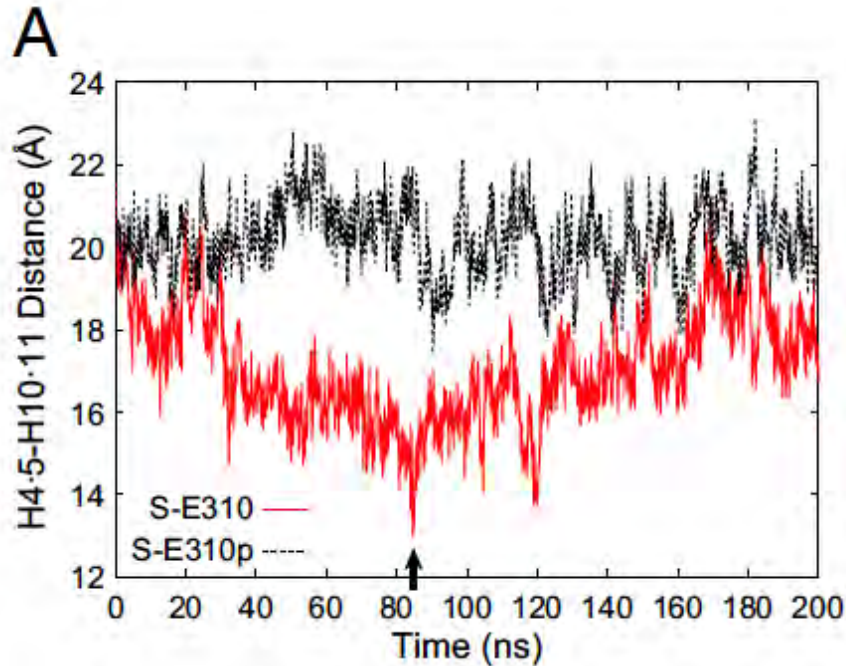


There is a clear distinction between different conditions.

# Global Conformational Changes



# Global Conformational Changes

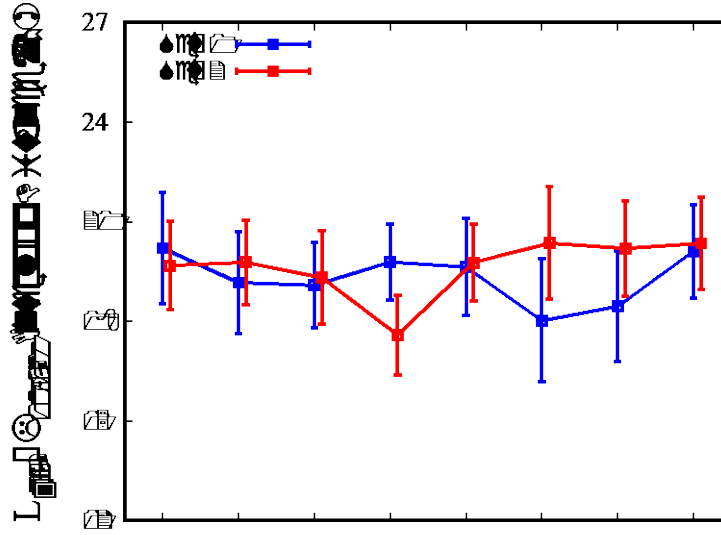
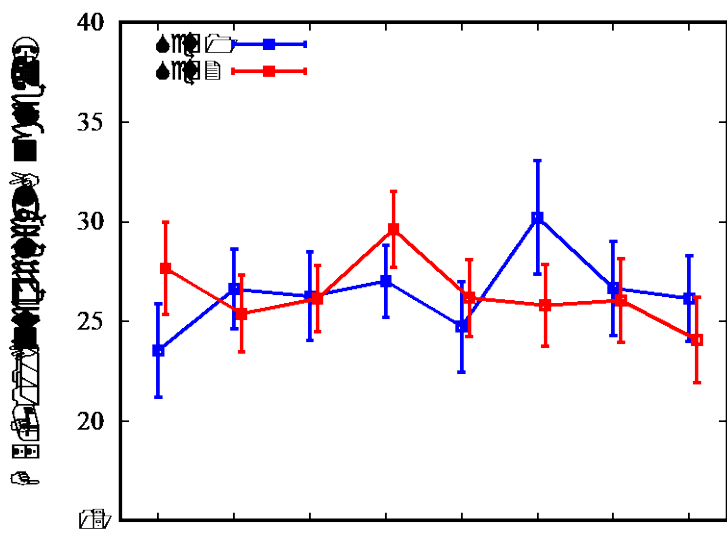
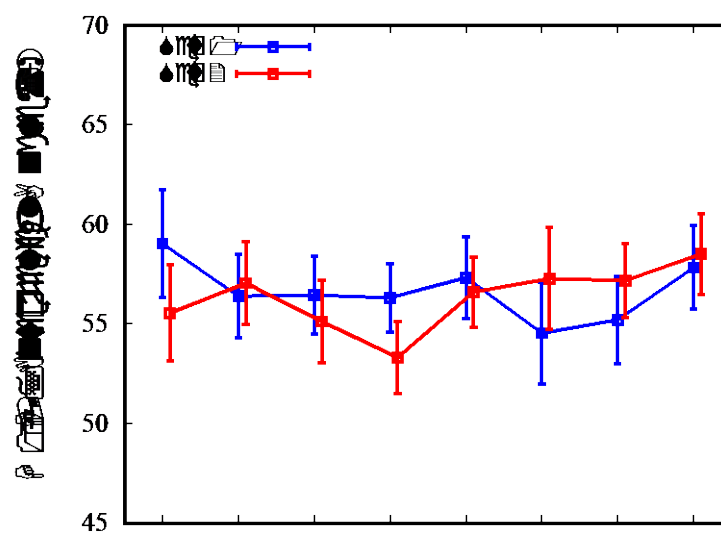
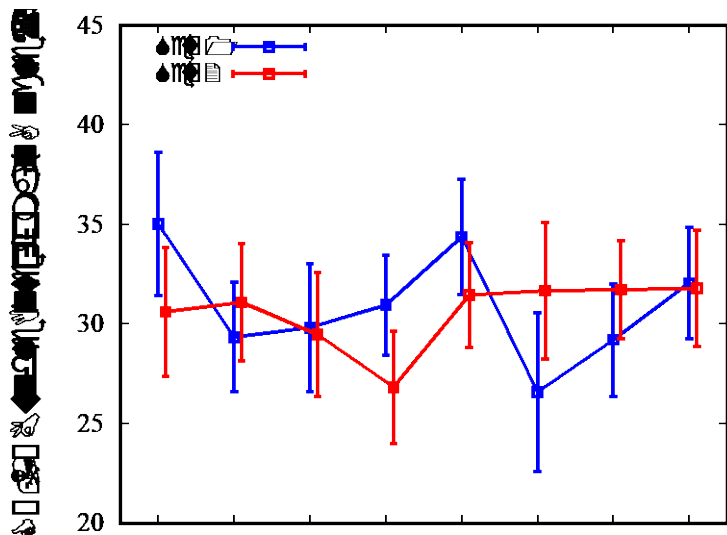


“Structural basis for dynamic mechanism of proton-coupled symport by the peptide transporter POT.” **PNAS 2013** | vol. 110 | no. 28 | 11343–11348.

Although a common practice, statements made about millisecond-level biomolecular events based on sub-microsecond level simulations are not reliable.



# Global Conformational Changes



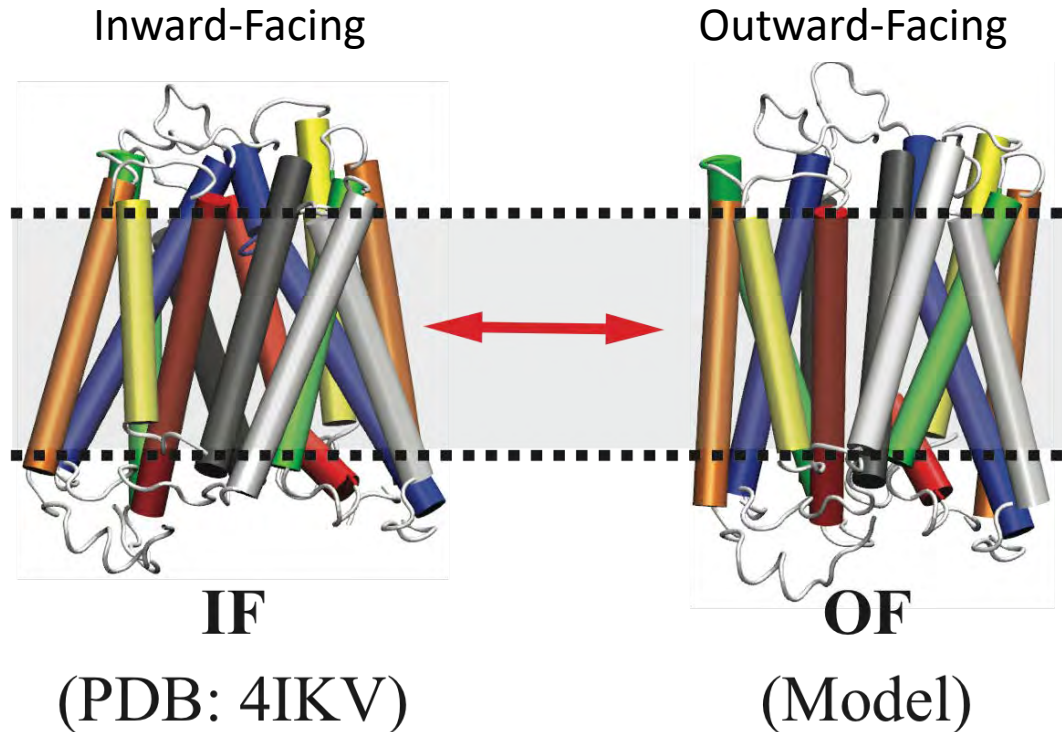
Legend for the first two graphs:

- Blue line with square markers:  $\Delta$  (UP:apo),  $\square$  (UP:FF),  $\square$  (UP:EE),  $\square$  (UP:FF),  $\square$  (P:apo),  $\square$  (P:FF),  $\square$  (P:EE),  $\square$  (P:FF)
- Red line with circle markers:  $\bullet$  (UP:apo),  $\bullet$  (UP:FF),  $\bullet$  (UP:EE),  $\bullet$  (UP:FF),  $\bullet$  (P:apo),  $\bullet$  (P:FF),  $\bullet$  (P:EE),  $\bullet$  (P:FF)

Legend for the last two graphs:

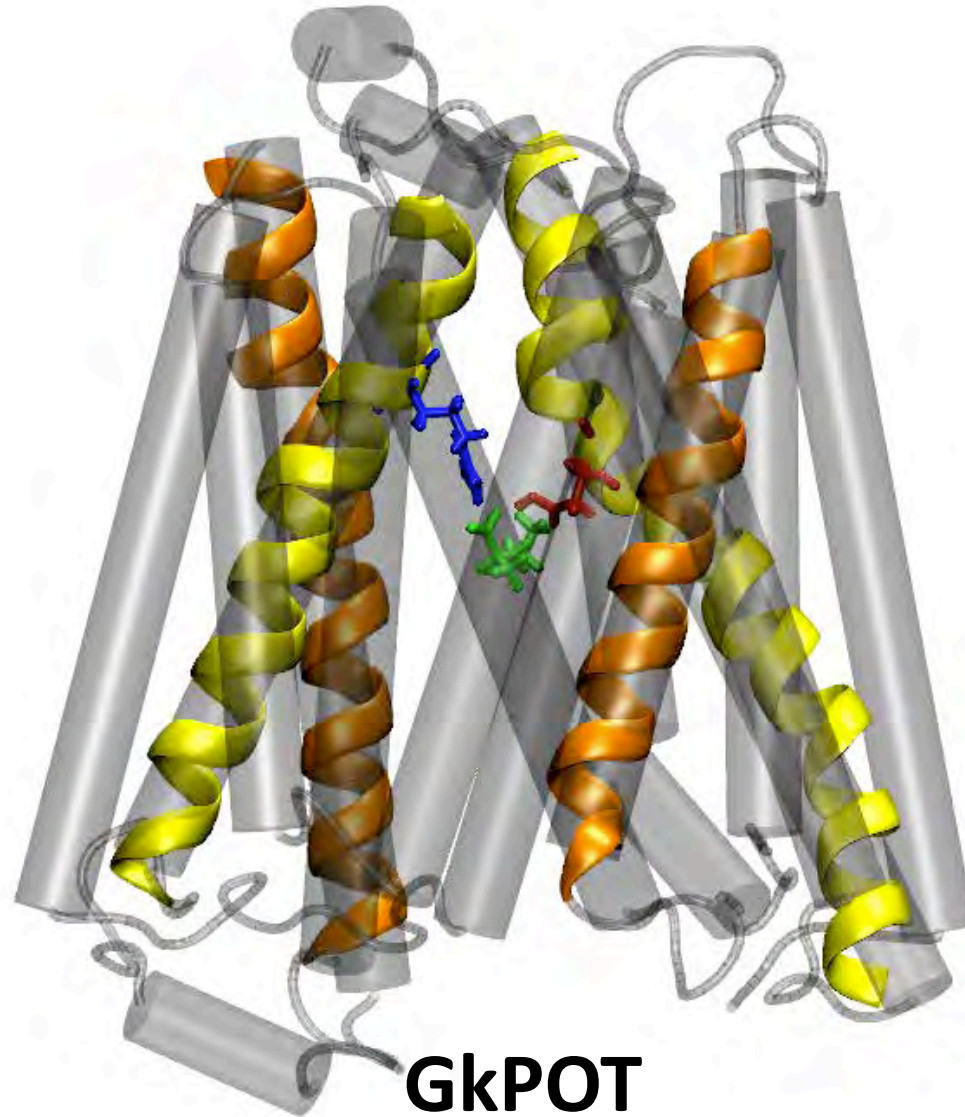
- Blue line with square markers:  $\Delta$  (UP:apo),  $\square$  (UP:FF),  $\square$  (UP:EE),  $\square$  (UP:FF),  $\square$  (P:apo),  $\square$  (P:FF),  $\square$  (P:EE),  $\square$  (P:FF)
- Red line with circle markers:  $\bullet$  (UP:apo),  $\bullet$  (UP:FF),  $\bullet$  (UP:EE),  $\bullet$  (UP:FF),  $\bullet$  (P:apo),  $\bullet$  (P:FF),  $\bullet$  (P:EE),  $\bullet$  (P:FF)

# How to study large-scale conformational changes?

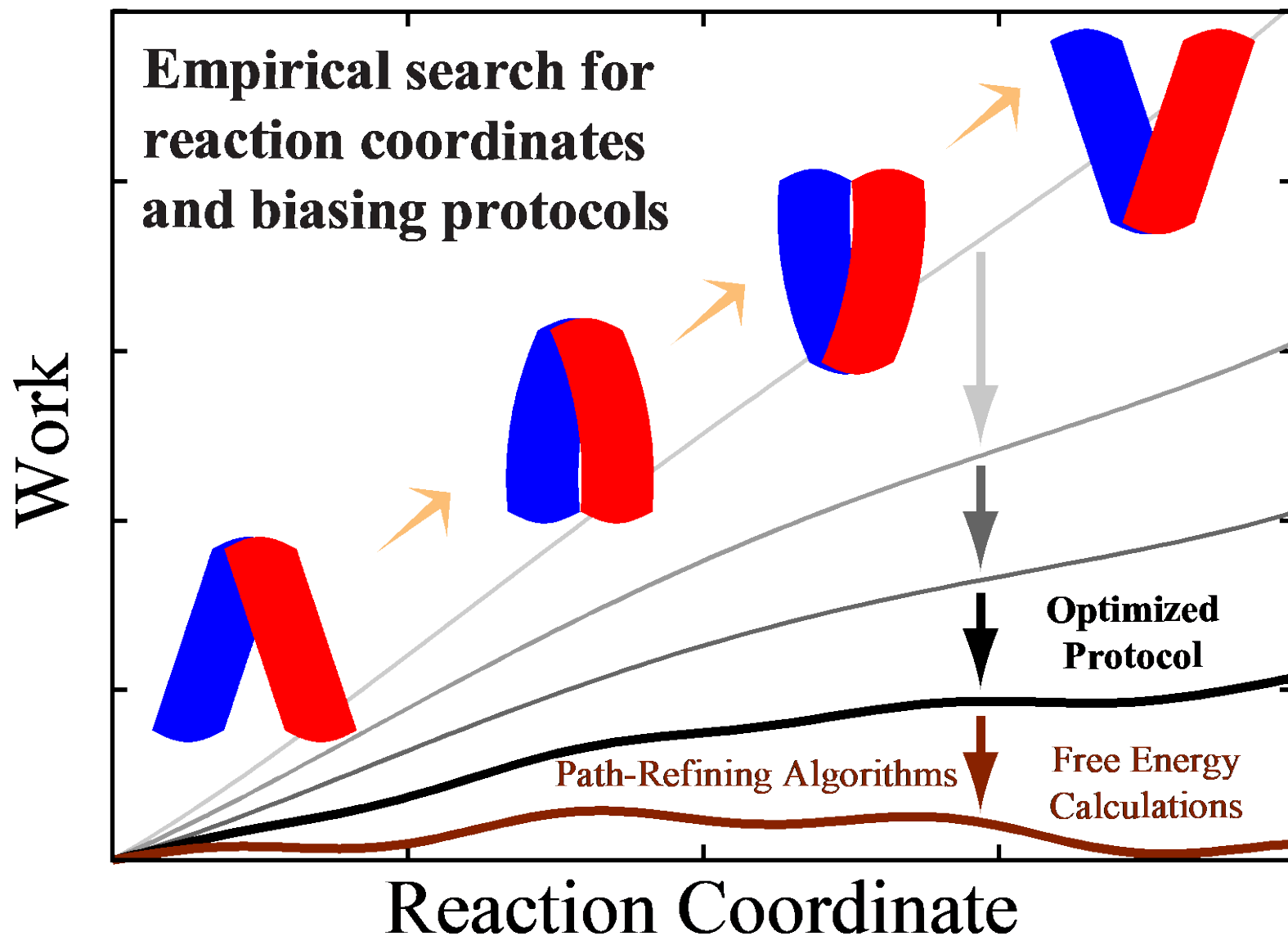


**GkPOT**

# How to study large-scale conformational changes?



# Our Sampling Strategy



# Iterative path-finding algorithms and free energy calculations

- Path-finding algorithms:

- e.g., string method (SM or SMwST)

- Start from an initial string of N images ( $\zeta_i$ )
    - Restrain M copies of each image for time  $\Delta t$

$$U_i(\xi) = \frac{1}{2} k (\xi - \zeta_i)^2$$

- Release the restraints and run for time  $\Delta t'$
    - New string ( $\zeta_i$ ) is determined from  $\langle \xi \rangle_i$ 's
    - Iterate until converged

- Free energy calculations:

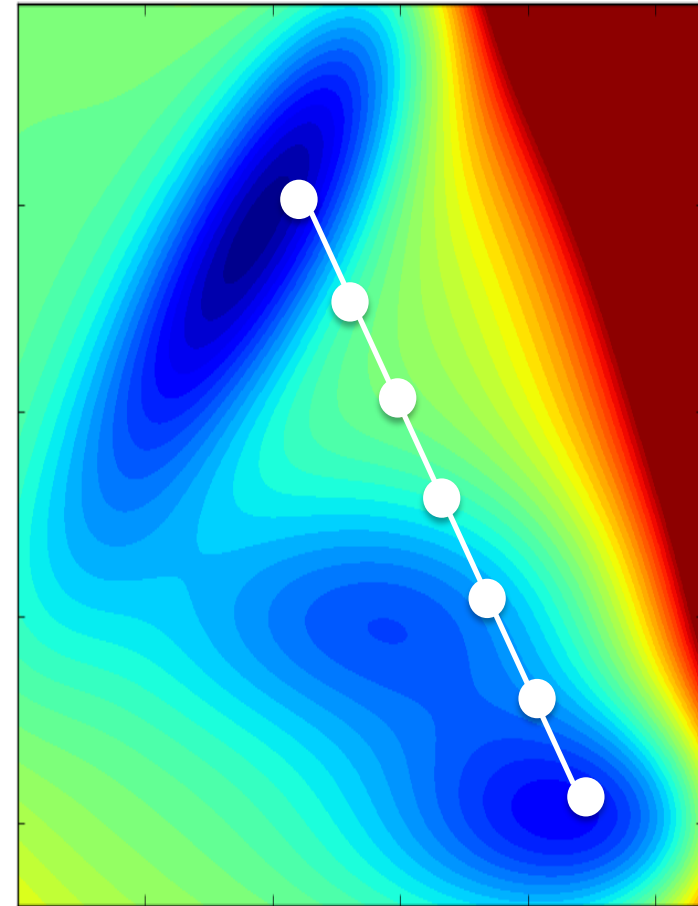
- e.g., umbrella sampling (US or BEUS): [Shirts, Chodera, JCP, 129, 124105 \(2008\)](#)

- Bias one or more (e.g., M) copies

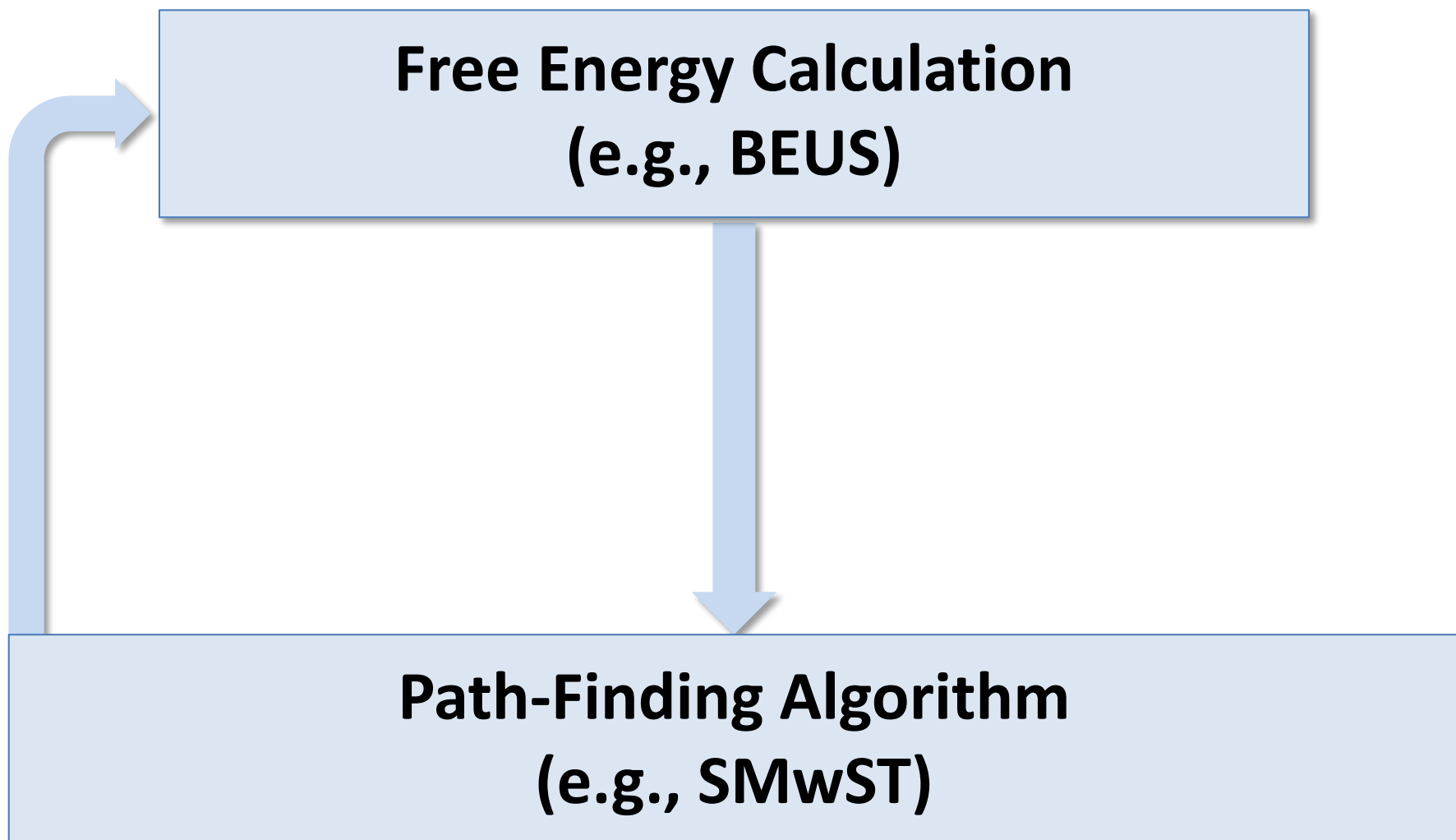
$$U_i(\xi) = \frac{1}{2} k (\xi - \zeta_i)^2$$

$$e^{-\beta F_i} = \left\langle \frac{e^{-\beta U_i(\xi^t)}}{\sum_j n_j e^{-\beta(U_j(\xi^t) - F_j)}} \right\rangle_{\text{all samples}}$$

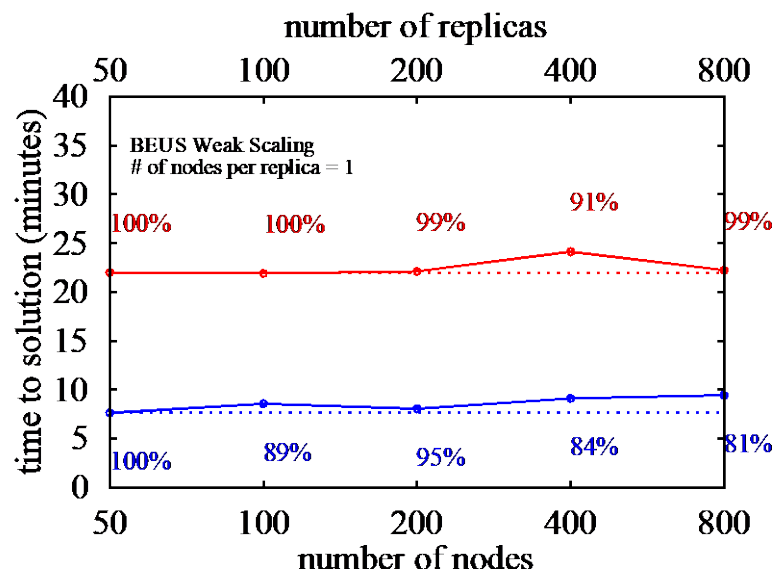
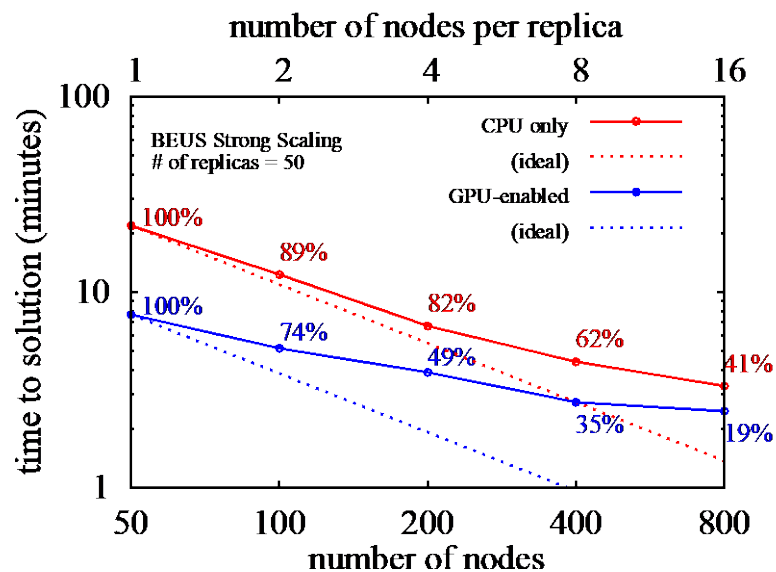
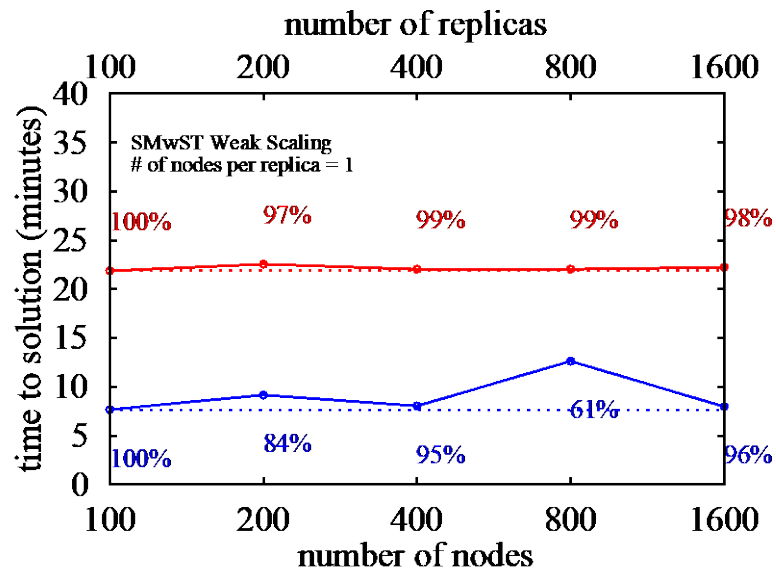
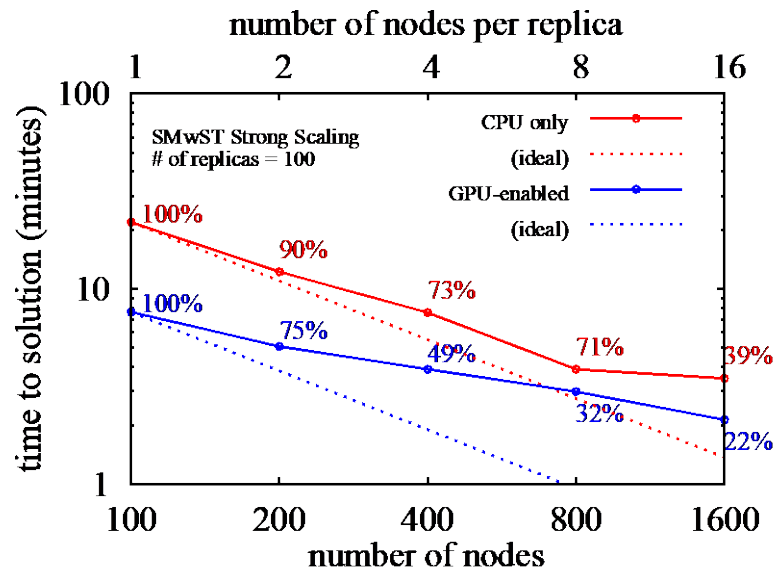
PMF is related but not the same as the “perturbed free energy”



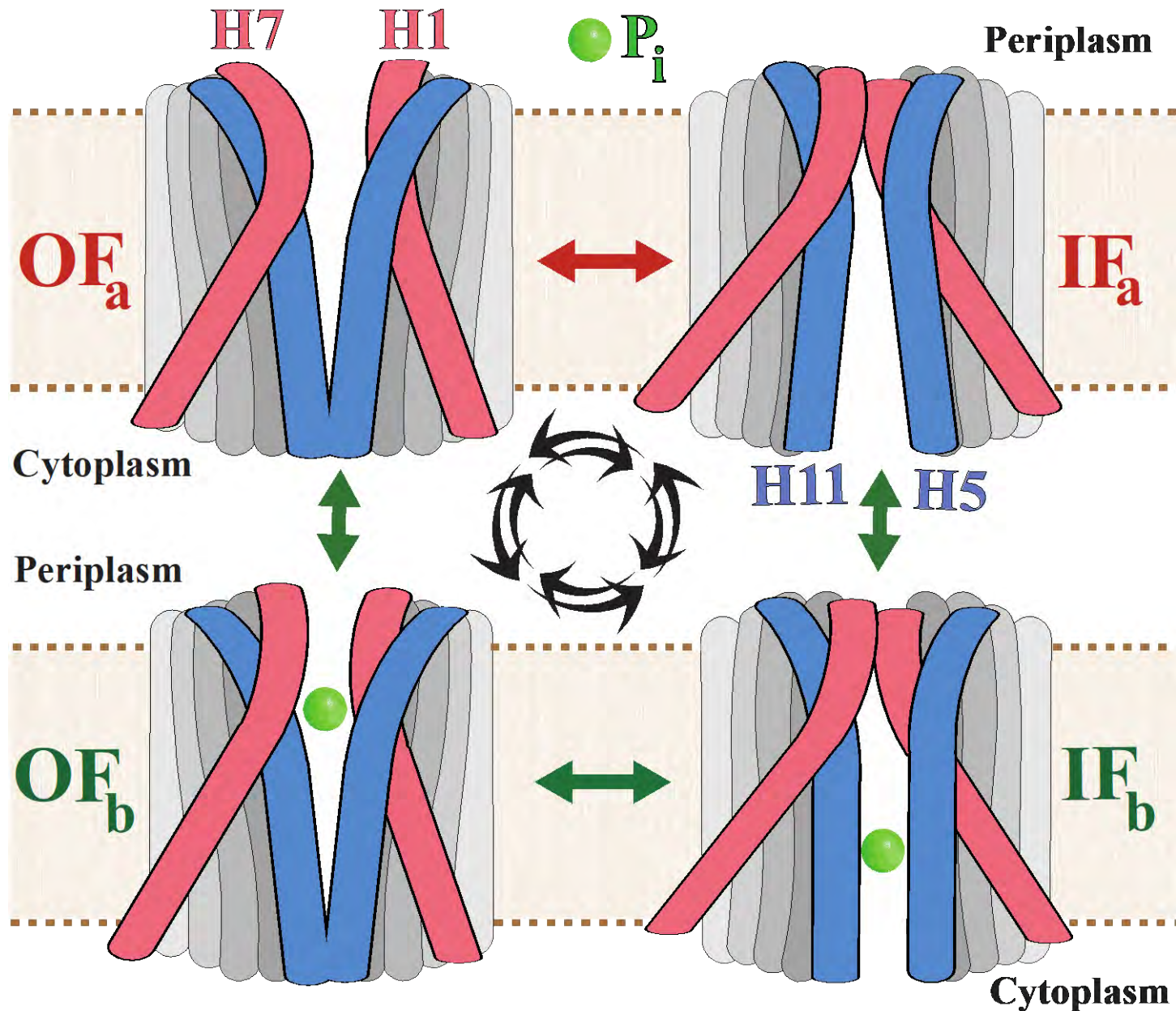
# Iterative path-finding algorithms and free energy calculations



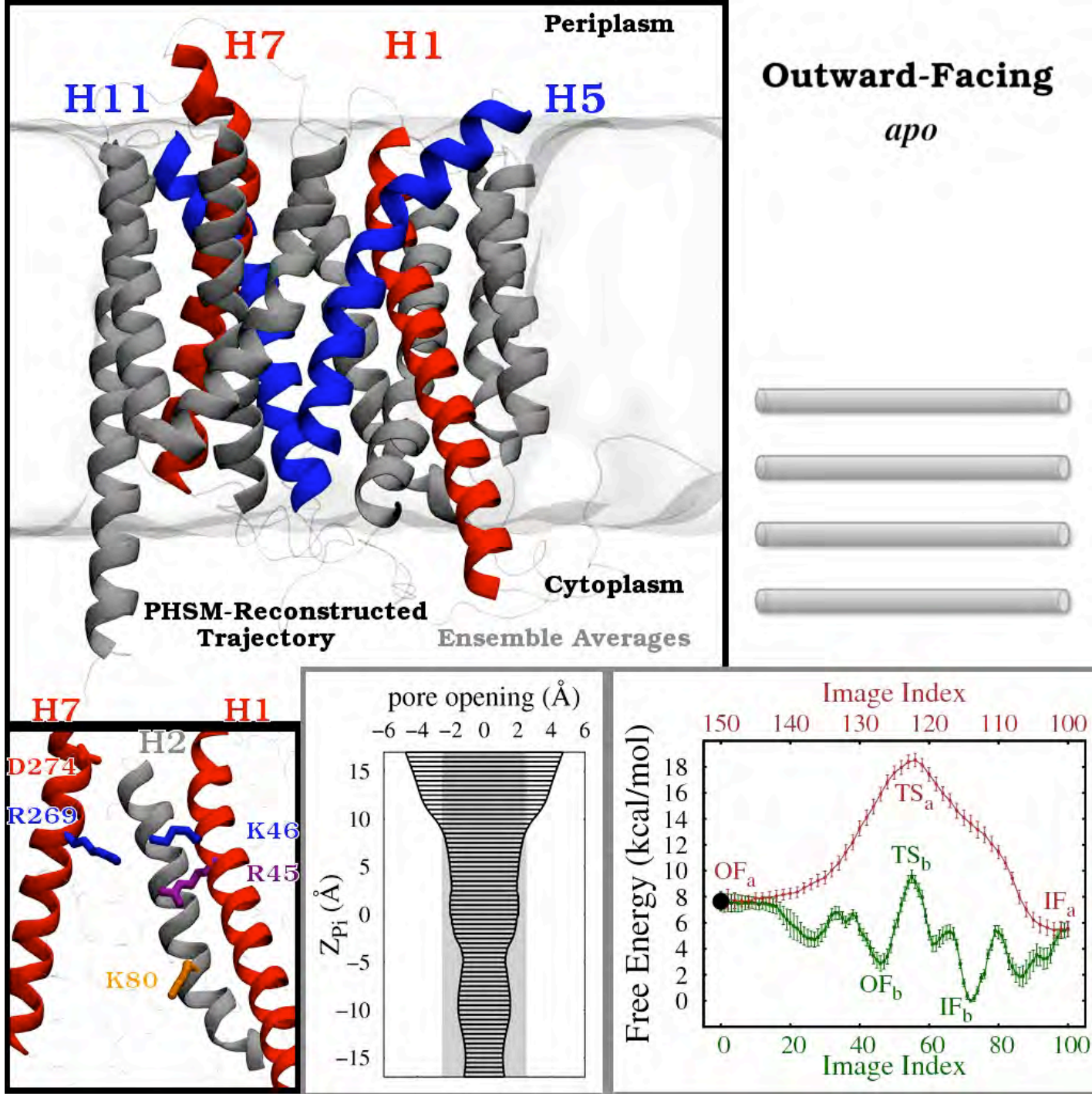
# BEUS and SMwST are both loosely-coupled multiple-copy (LCMC) algorithms



# Example: Transport Cycle of GlpT

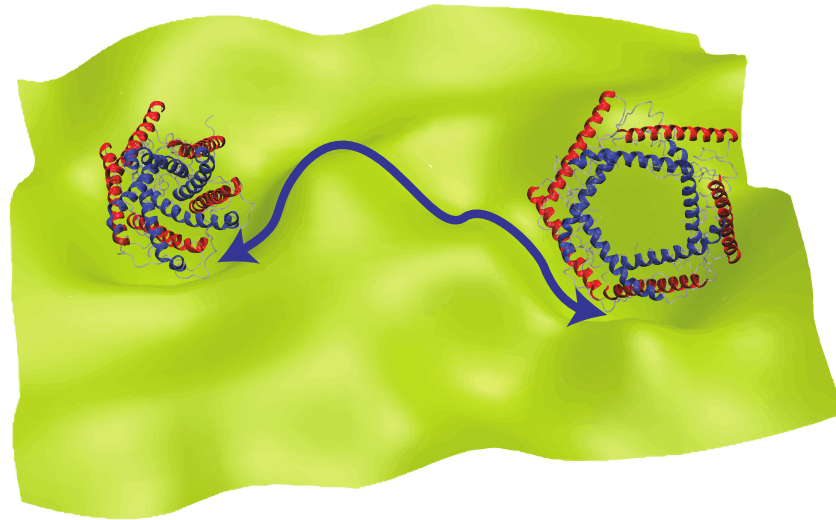






# Riemannian Reformulation

- Riemannian reformulation of path-finding algorithms and free energy calculations methods such as SMwST/BEUS provide solutions for the minimum free energy path and its free energy that are **invariant under coordinate transformation**.



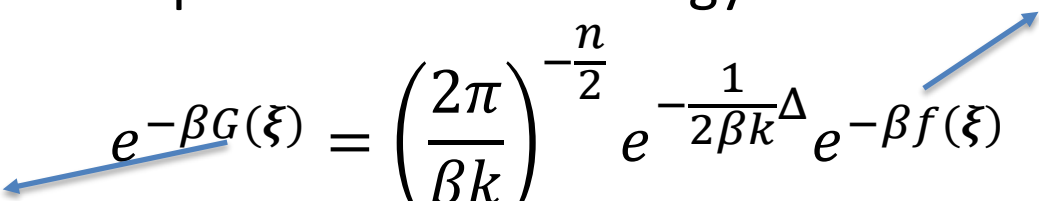
- The Riemannian formulation allows for developing **more robust** free energy calculation methods and path-finding algorithms (due to the “**invariance**” feature).

Fakharzadeh & Moradi, *Effective Riemannian diffusion model for conformational dynamics of biomolecular systems*. *J Phys Chem Lett*. 2016;7(24):4980-4987.

# Riemannian Reformulation

- There is an **exact analytical relationship** between the PMF and estimated perturbed free energy:

$$e^{-\beta G(\xi)} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{\beta k}\right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2\beta k}\Delta} e^{-\beta f(\xi)}$$

Riemannian PMF ← 

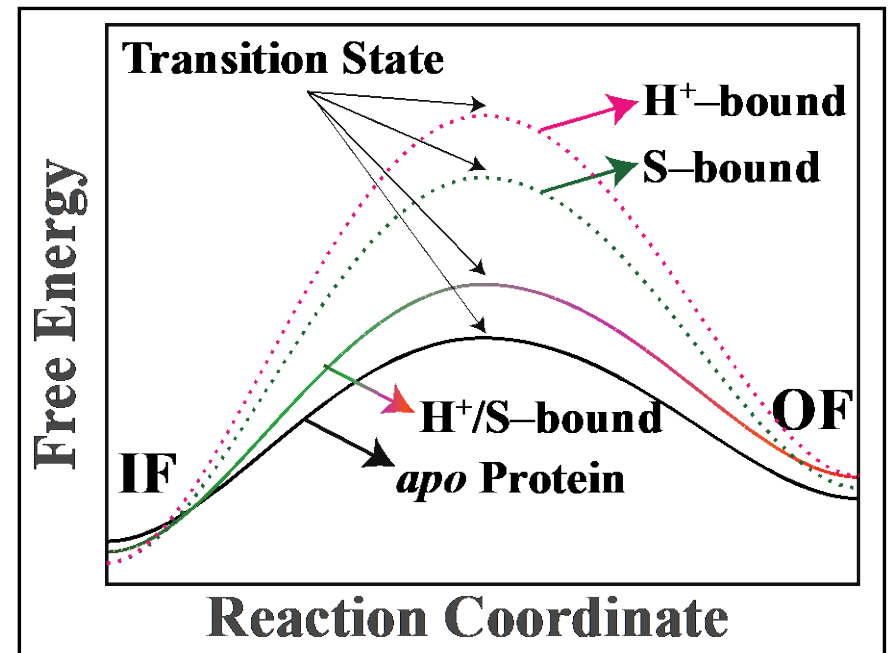
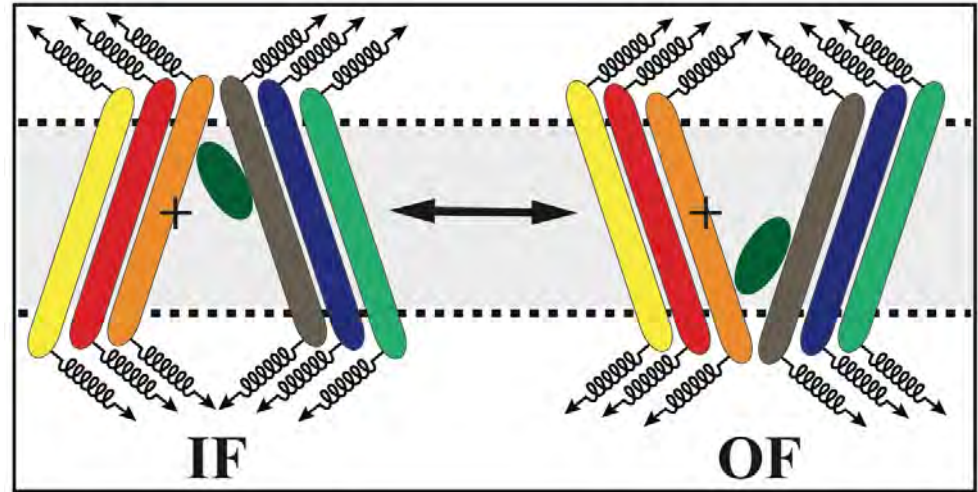
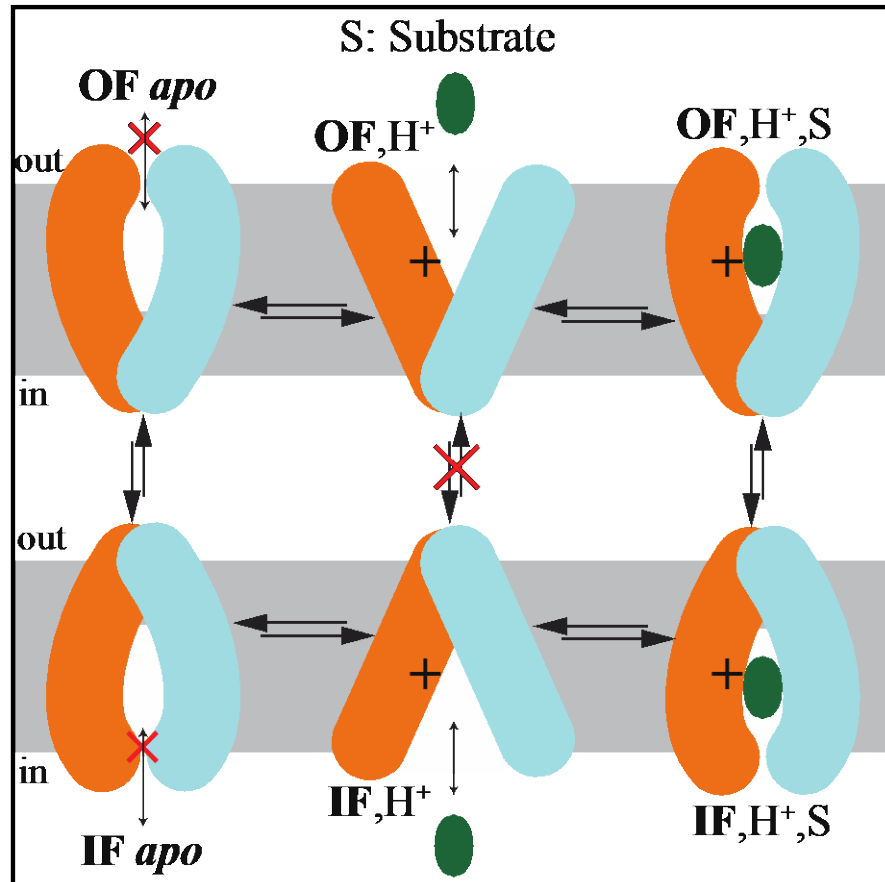
- Methods such as BEUS and SMwST can be modified by using **geodesic distance** instead of **Euclidean distance**, etc.
- For certain collective variables, the geodesic distance can be approximated by analytic expressions, e.g., for **orientation quaternions**:

$$d(\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2) \approx \cos^{-1}(\mathbf{q}_1 \cdot \mathbf{q}_2)$$

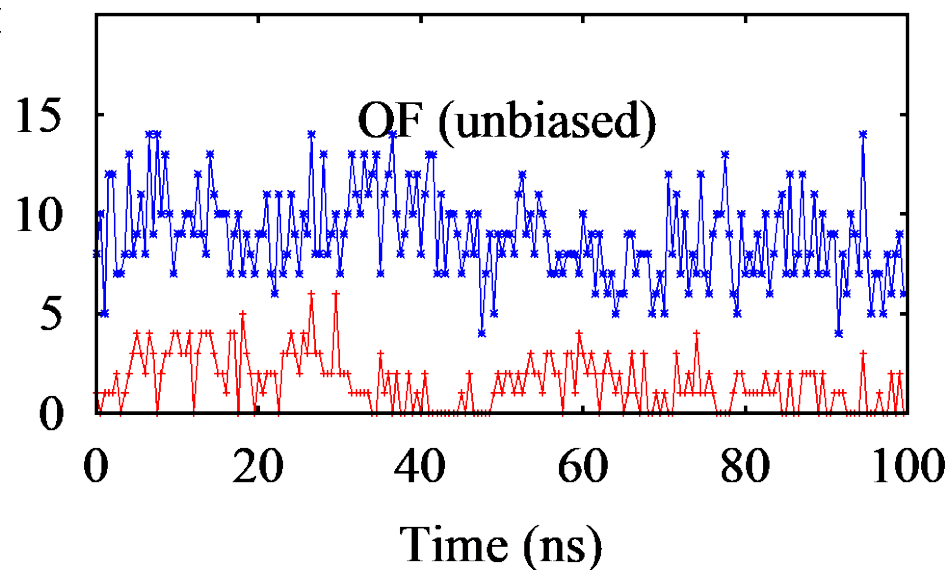
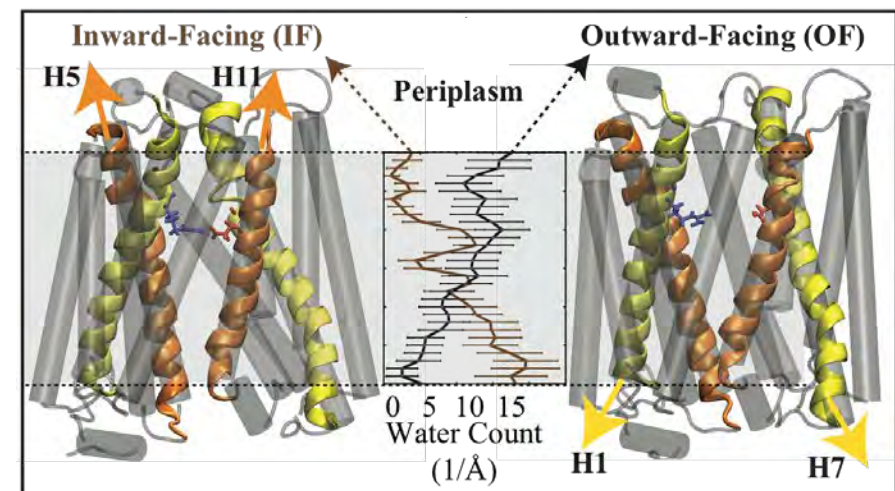
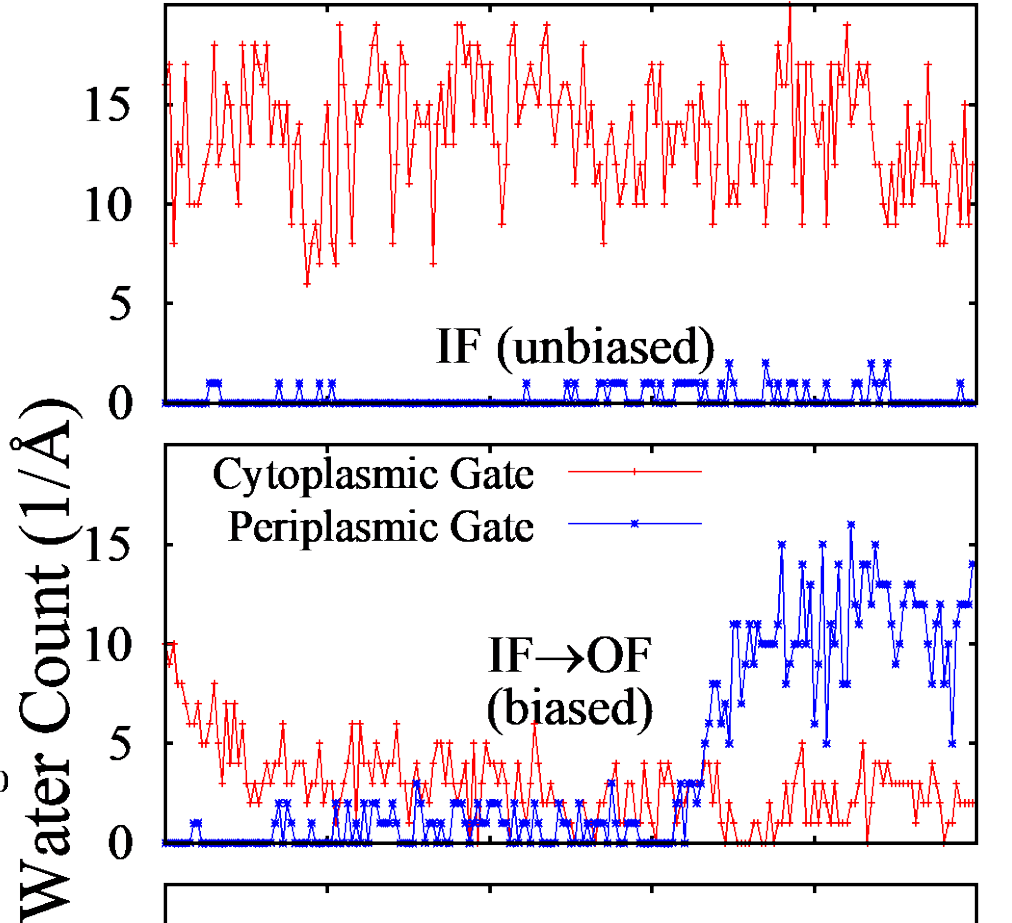
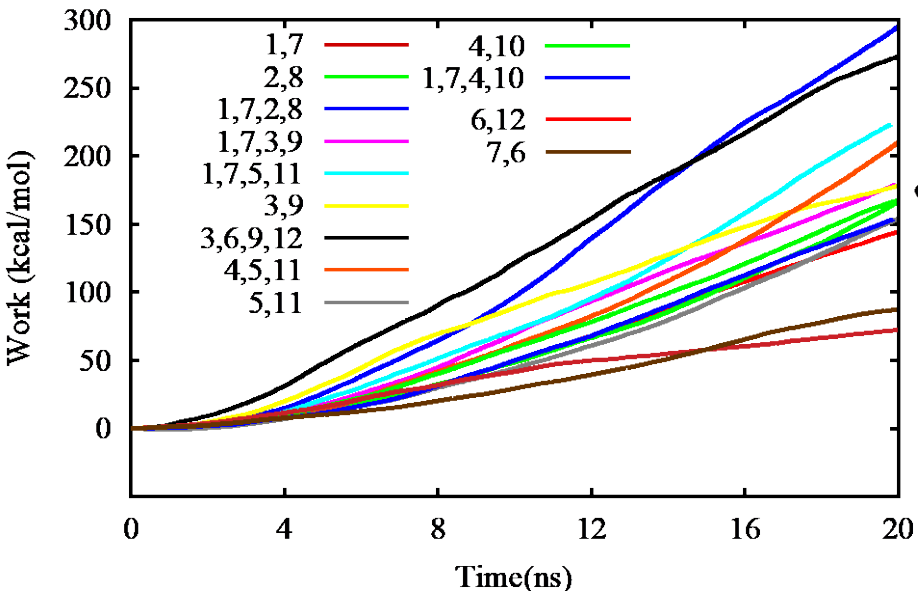
- For other collective variables, on-the-fly metric calculations maybe necessary.

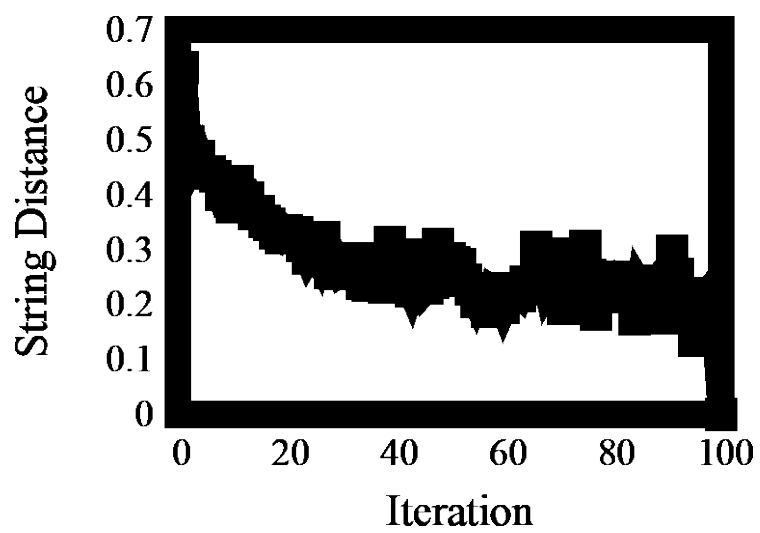
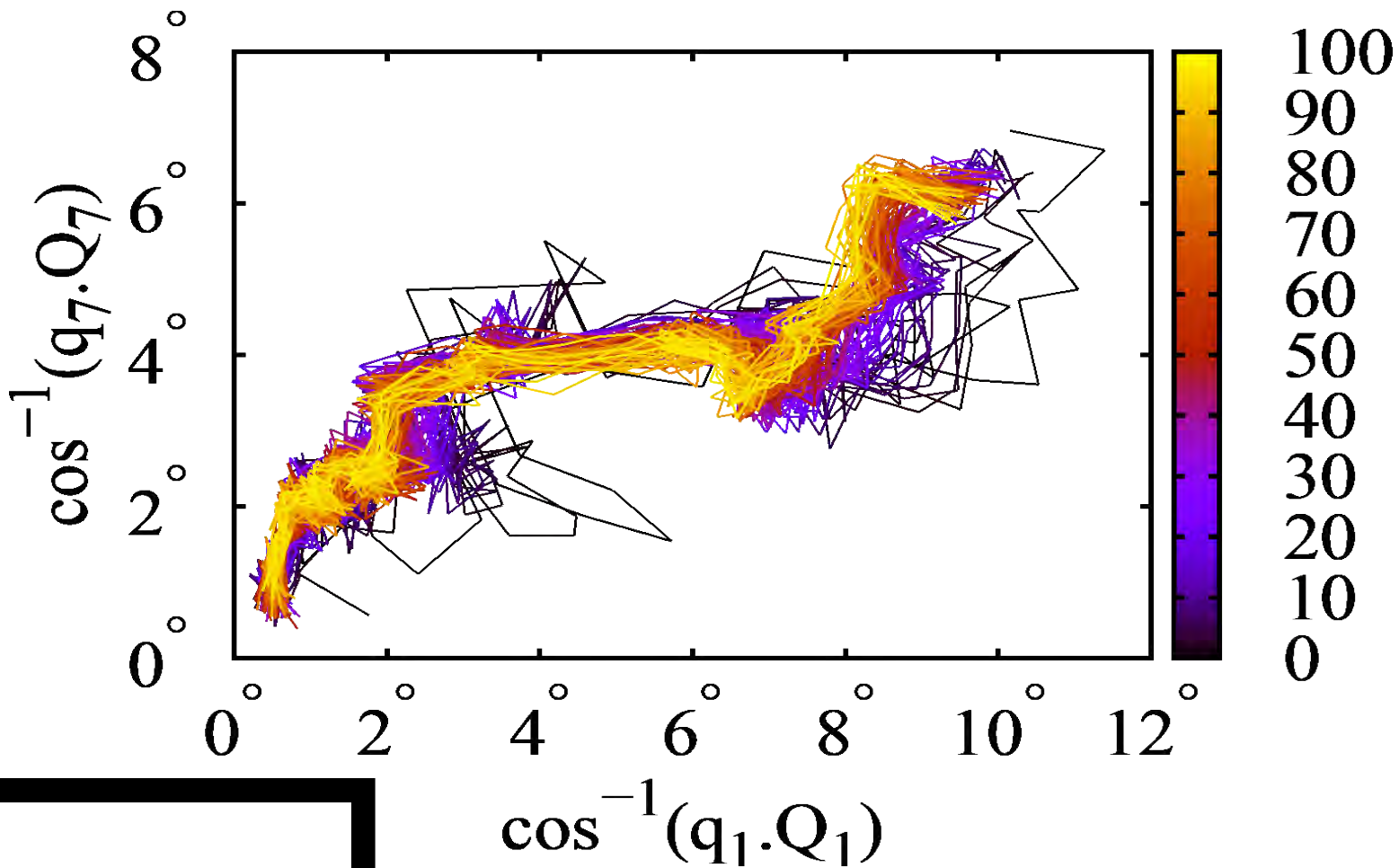
Fakharzadeh & Moradi Effective Riemannian diffusion model for conformational dynamics of biomolecular systems. **J Phys Chem Lett.** 2016;7(24):4980-4987.

# Bacterial POT transporter GkPOT



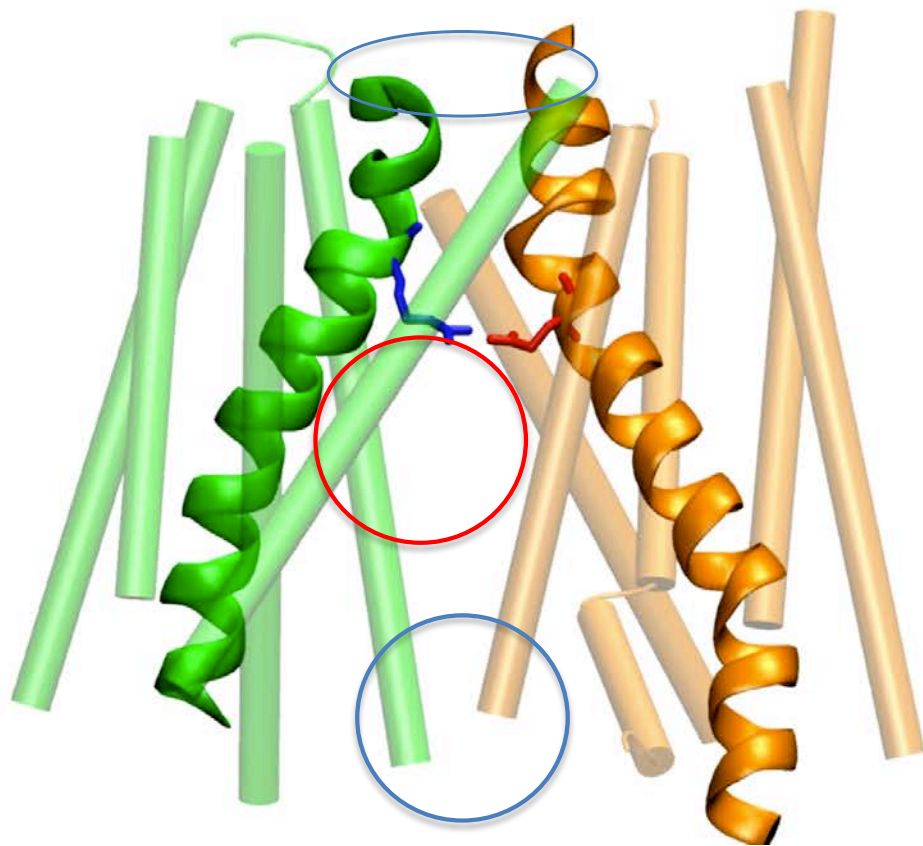
# Search for biasing protocols



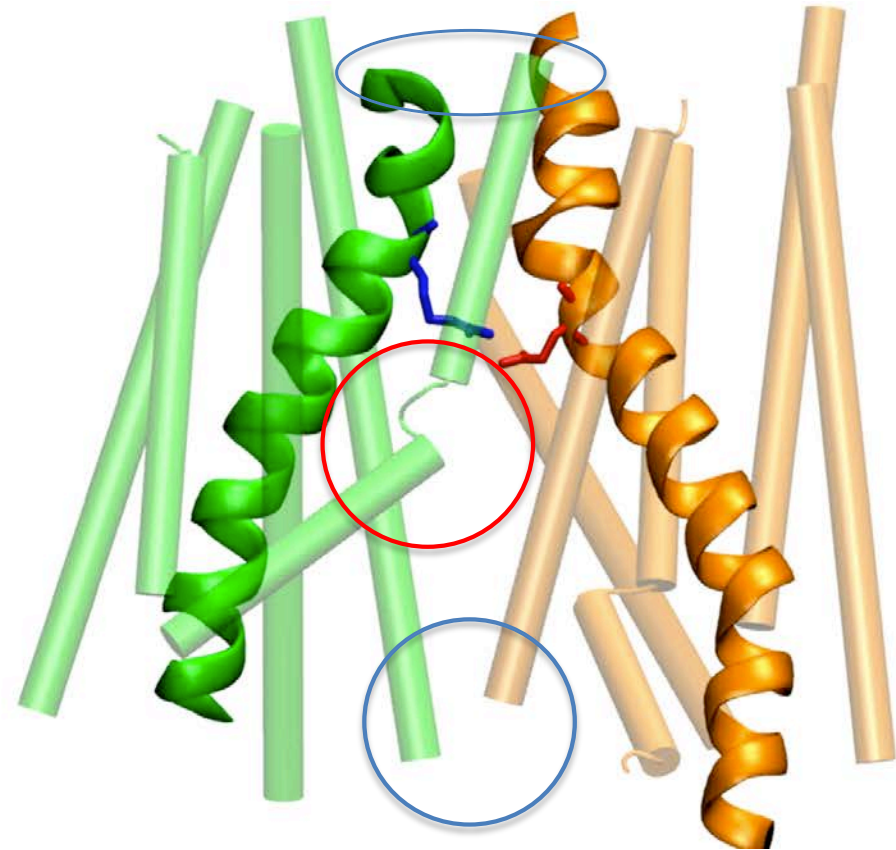


**SMwST Convergence**

# Inward- ↔ outward-facing transition



**Nonequilibrium Pulling**



**SMwST**

Great Lakes Consortium  
for Petascale  
Computation



## Biomolecular Simulations Group

[biosimlab.uark.edu](http://biosimlab.uark.edu)

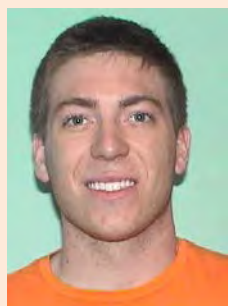
@ Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

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Protein Conformational Landscapes, Energetics, and Dynamics



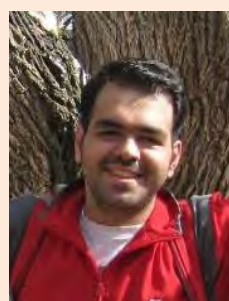
Curtis  
Goolsby



Dylan  
Ogden



Kalyan  
Immadisetty



Hamid  
Tabari



Vivek  
Govind  
Kumar



Adithya  
Polasa

