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David van der Spoel

Molecular Biophysics
Group, Department of
Cell and Molecular
Biology

spoel at
xray.bmc.uu.se

GROMACS *inside* TM

- Electrostatics
- Force fields
- Polarizability
- Parallelization
- Future technology

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spoel at
xray.bmc.uu.se

Electrostatics

- Coulomb's law gives the electrostatic interaction V_{ij} between particles i and j at distance r_{ij} :

$$V_{ij} = \frac{q_i q_j}{4 \pi \epsilon_0 r_{ij}}$$



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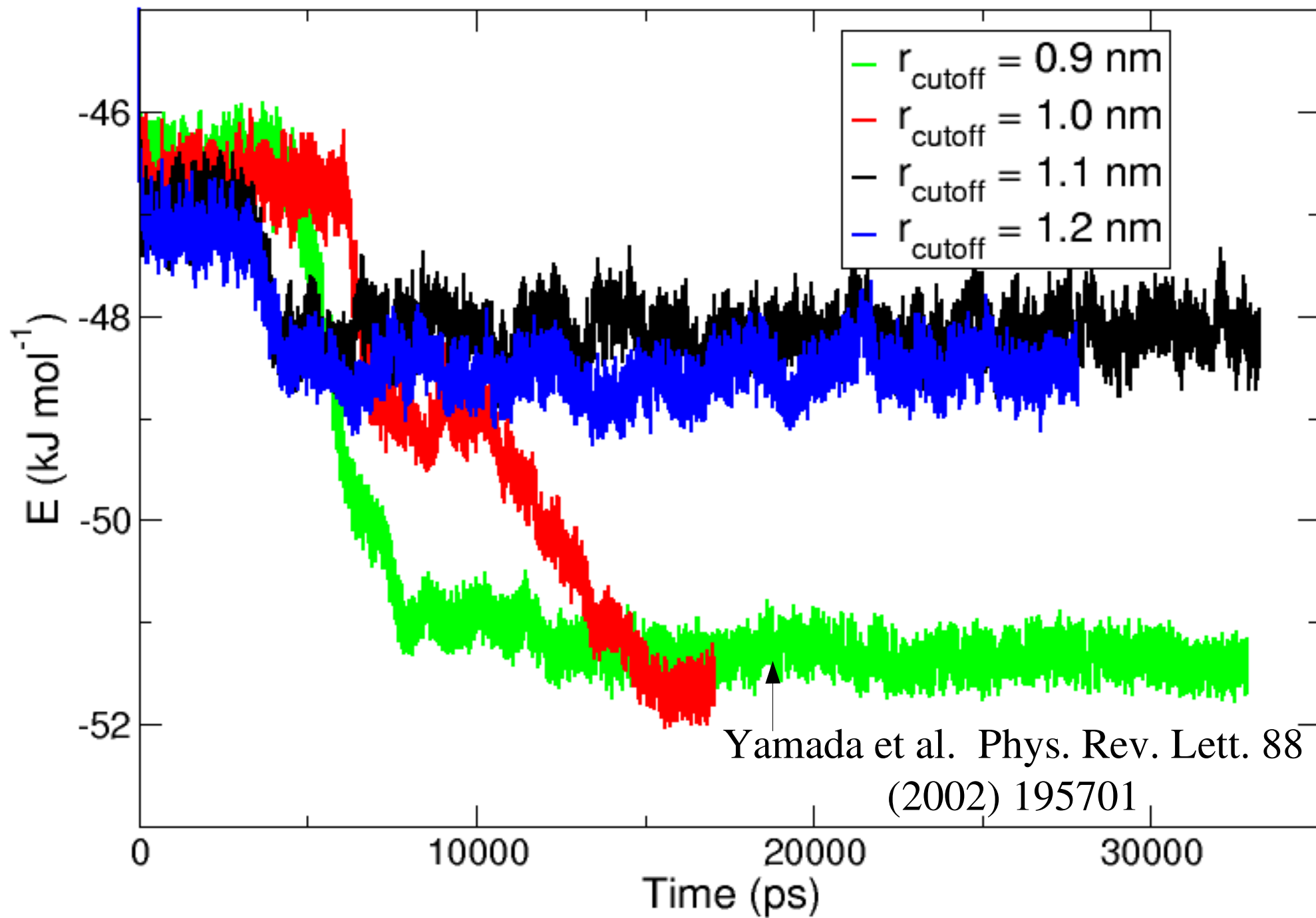
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Electrostatics

- Long ranged, in particular with full charges, but even with large dipoles like in water.
- Cut-off methods give huge artefacts

1000 TIP5P water, NVT

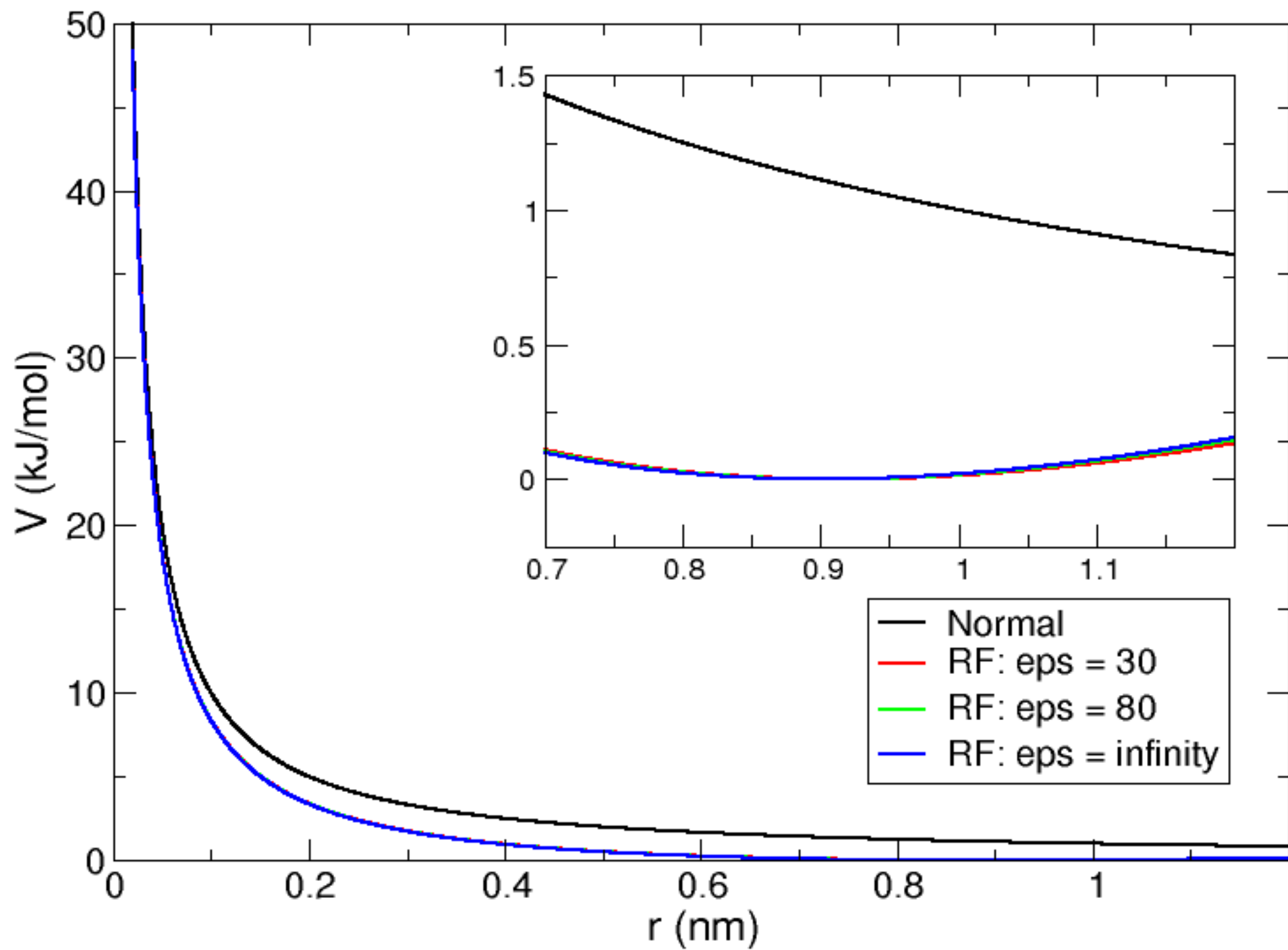




Electrostatics - Reaction field

- Assume there is a dielectric continuum ϵ_{RF} beyond the cut-off r_c that modulates the interaction between two charges.
- Interaction can then be written as:

$$V_{ij}^{\text{RF}} = V_{ij} \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon_{\text{RF}} - 1}{2\epsilon_{\text{RF}} + 1} \frac{r_{ij}^3}{r_c^3} \right)$$





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Electrostatics – Reaction field

- Cheap to compute with short r_c
- Reasonable results for dipolar liquids
- Problematic for charged groups
- Makes molecules more “slippery” (i.e., higher mobility)



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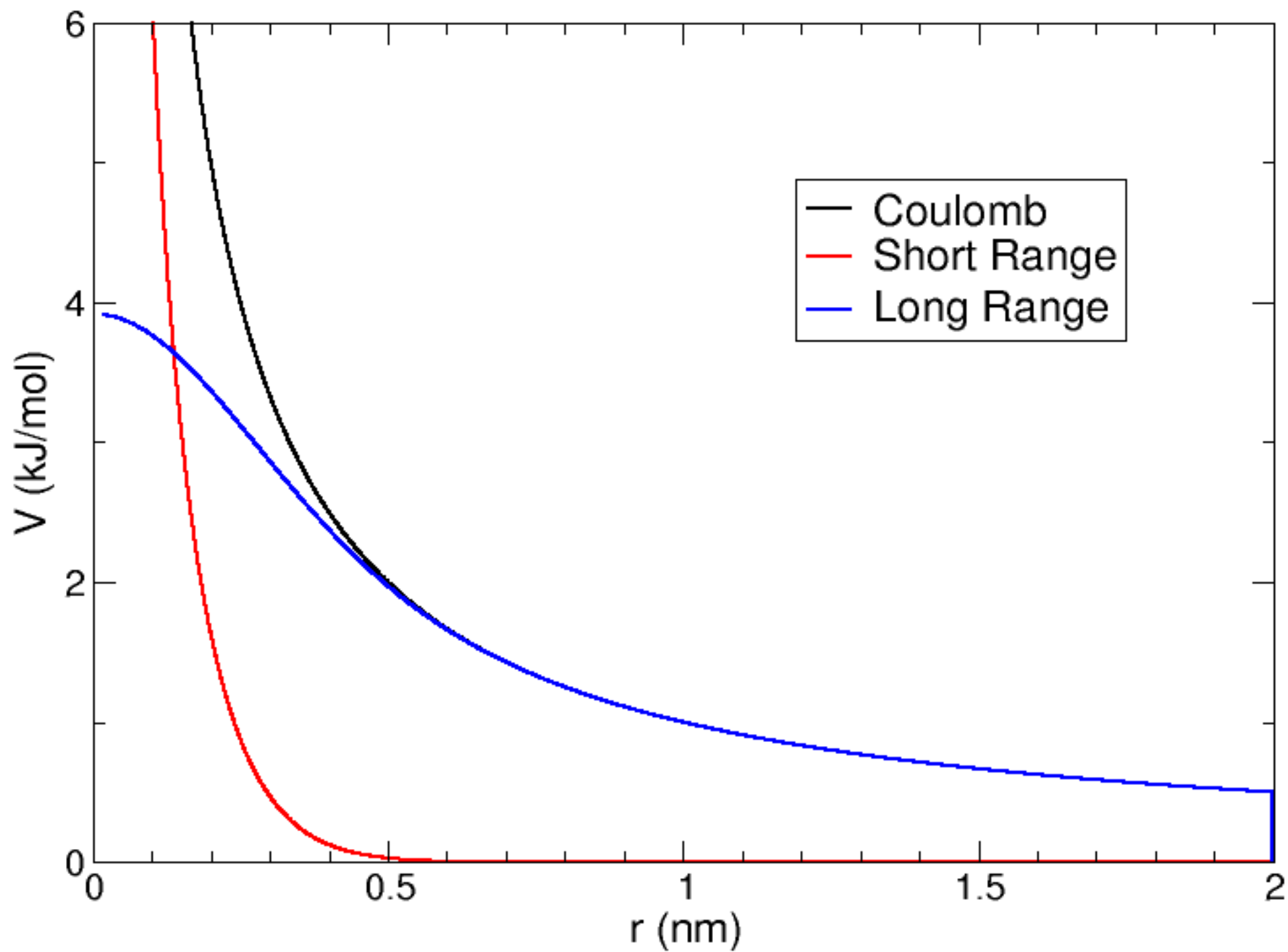
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Electrostatics – Ewald

- Split the Coulomb interaction into two parts, a short range and a long range.

$$V_{ij}^{\text{SR}} = V_{ij} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{r_{ij}}{\beta}\right)$$

$$V_{ij}^{\text{LR}} = V_{ij} \left[1 - \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{r_{ij}}{\beta}\right) \right]$$





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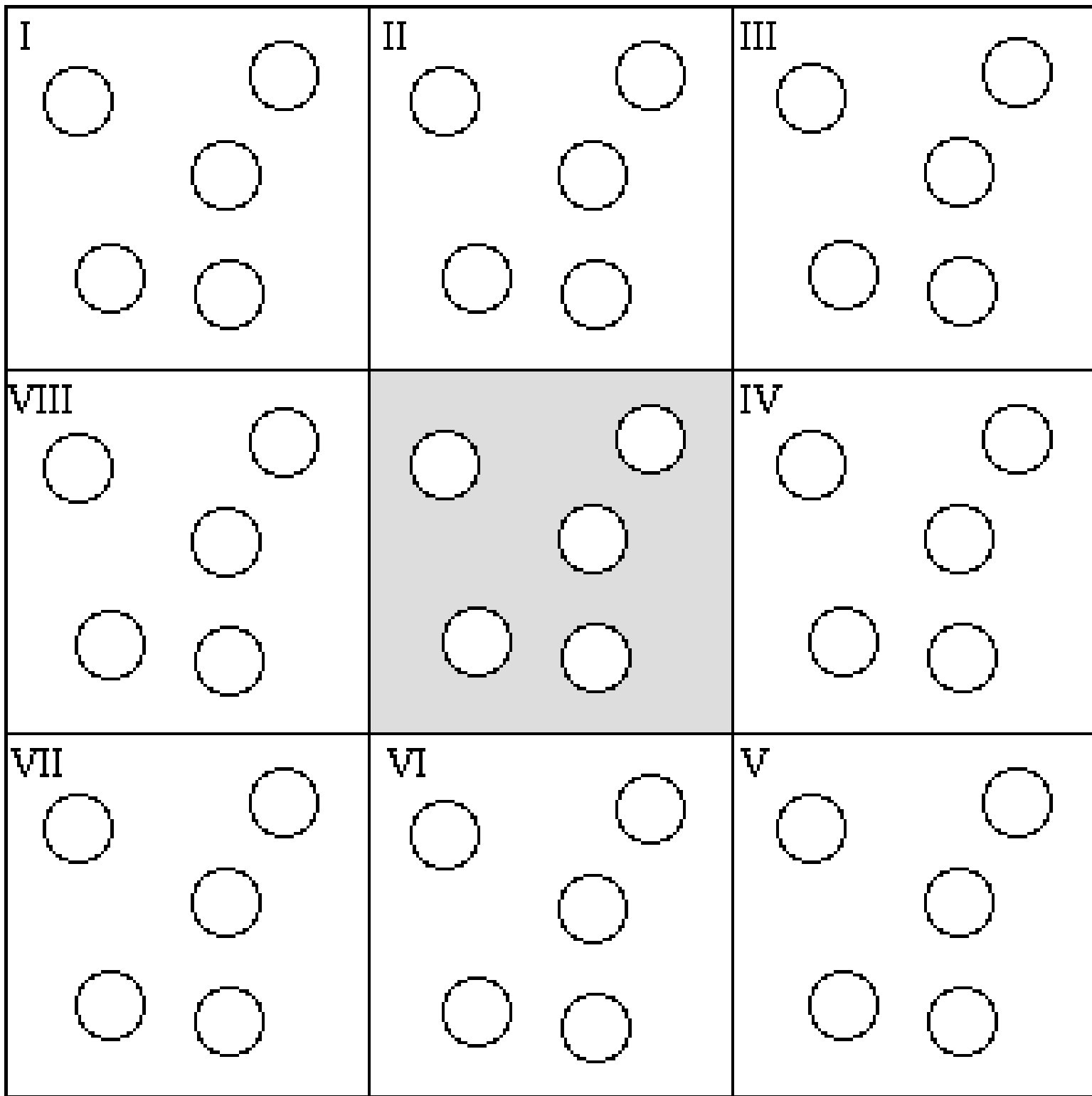
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Electrostatics – Ewald

- Compute the short range part of the potential directly
- Compute the long range part by solving the modified Poisson equation in Fourier space (for an infinitely periodic sample):

$$\Delta \phi(\mathbf{r}) = -\frac{\rho(\mathbf{r})}{\epsilon_0}$$





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Electrostatics – Ewald

- Long range part can be done analytically (classical Ewald summation)
- Long range on a grid can be done using fast Fourier transform



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Electrostatics – Ewald

- Practical considerations:
- Grid spacing
- Cut-off distance
- Distribution of charges on a grid using splines (need to do the inverse when computing the forces).



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Force field status

- GROMOS and OPLS supported
- Amber underway
- CHARMM unknown?



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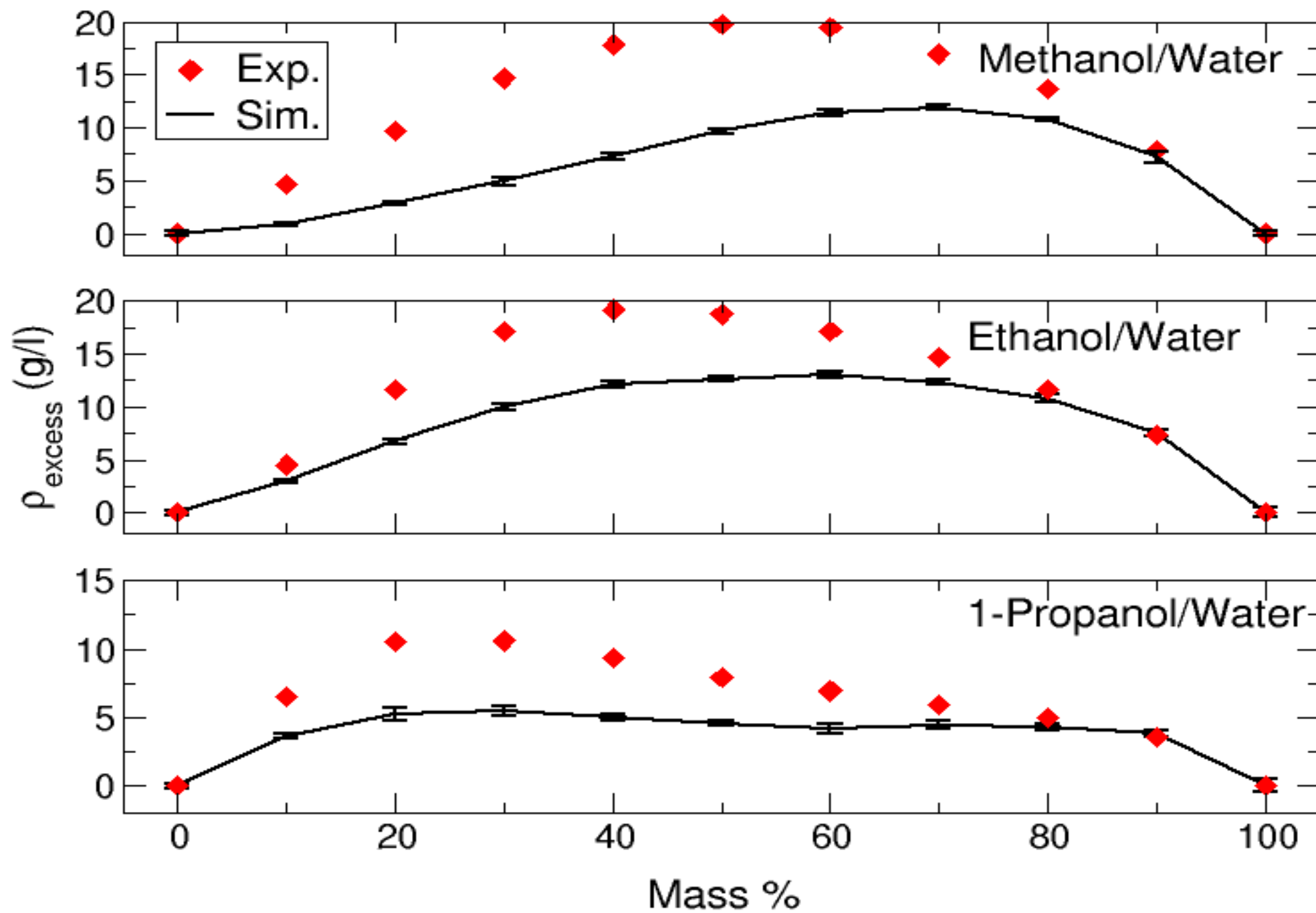
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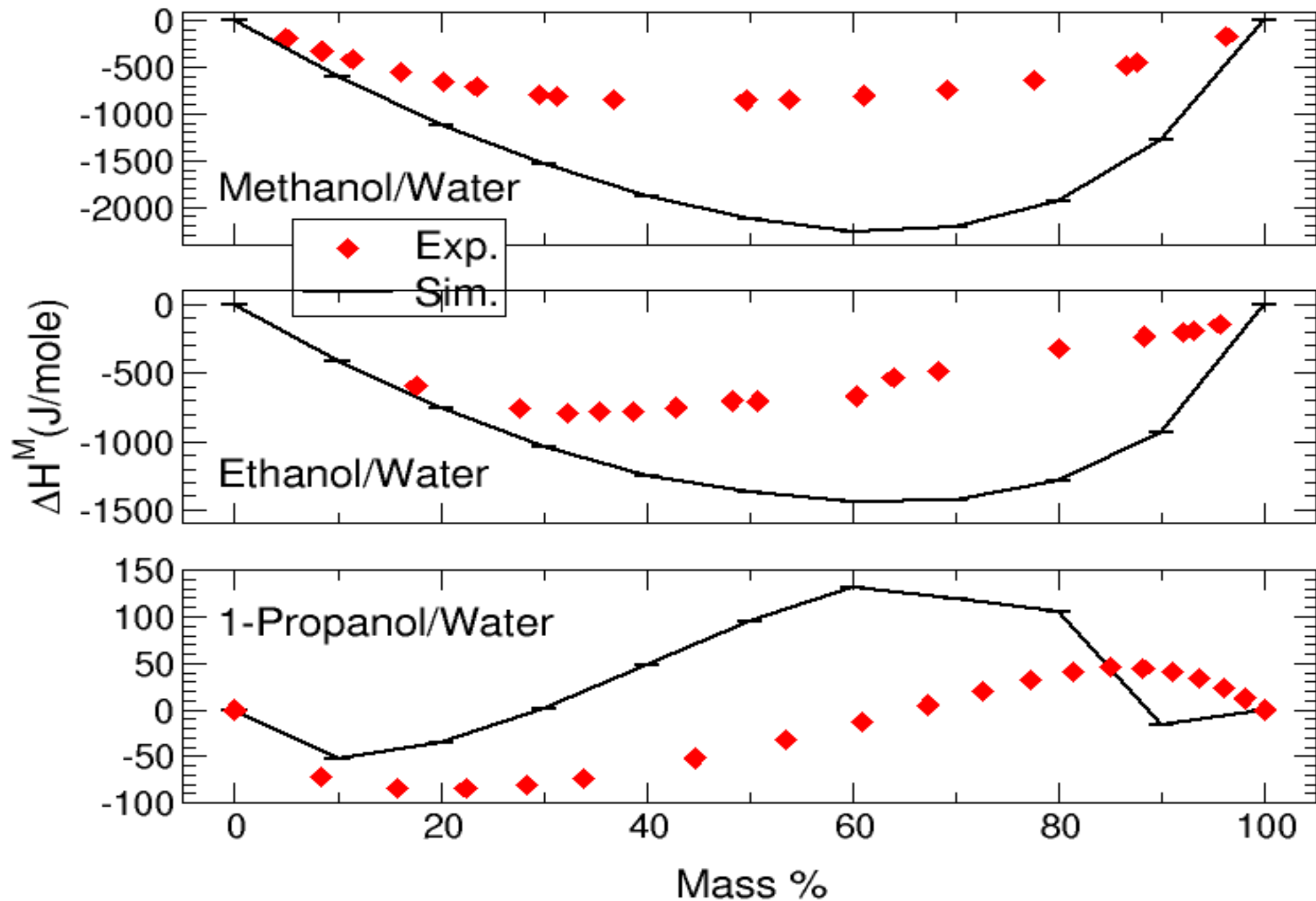
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Force field status

- How to test force fields?
- Organic molecules







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Force field status

- Organic molecule simulations teach us that force fields are qualitatively correct but not quantitatively yet.
- Combination of too large excess enthalpy and too low excess density may mean that potentials are too attractive overall *and* too repulsive at short distance
- Solution: get rid of the 12 term in Lennard Jones potential.



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Force field status

- How to test force fields?
- Protein simulations (Van der Spoel & Lindahl, J. Phys. Chem. B 107 (2003) 11178-11187)



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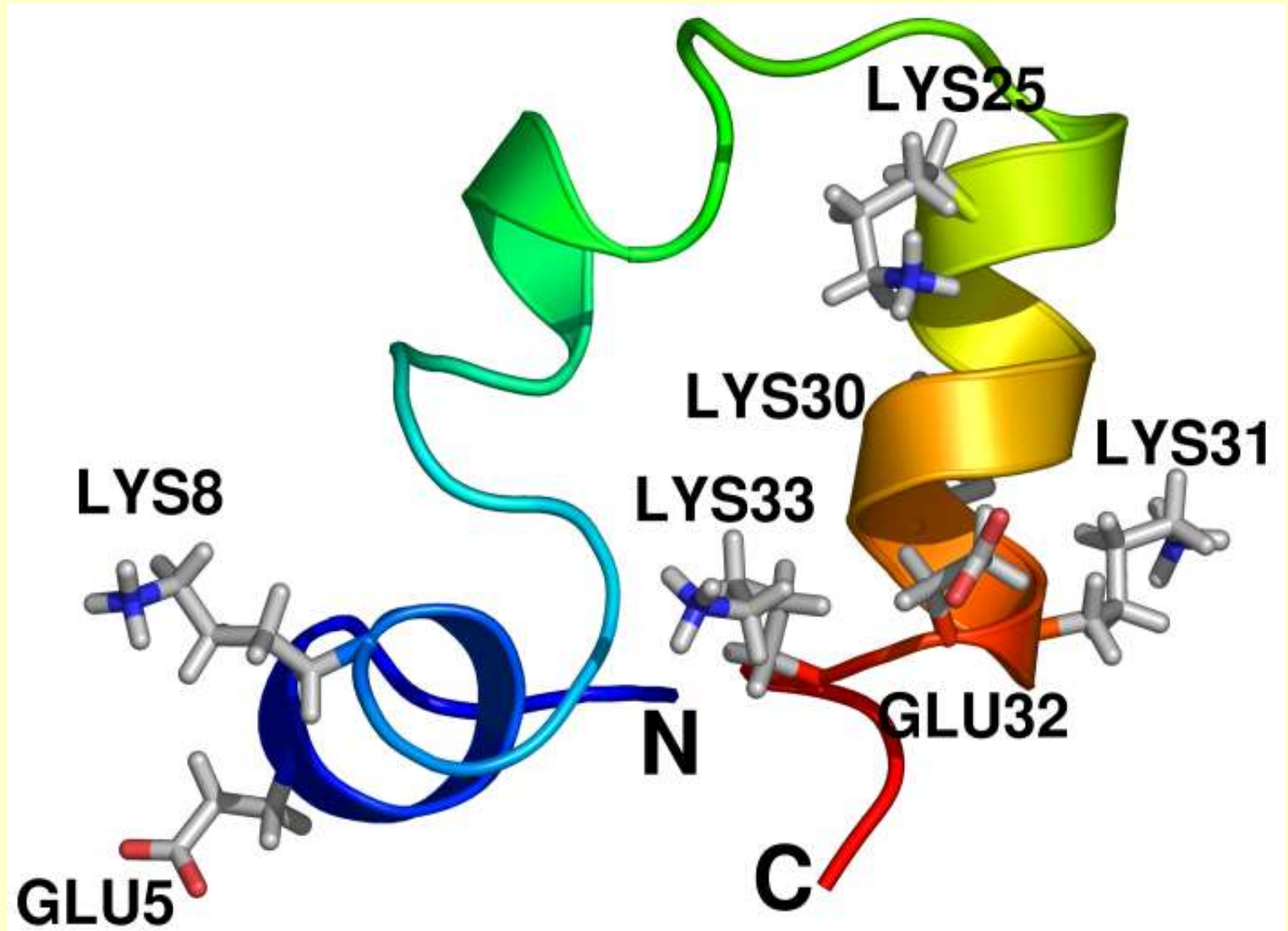
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Villin headpiece subdomain



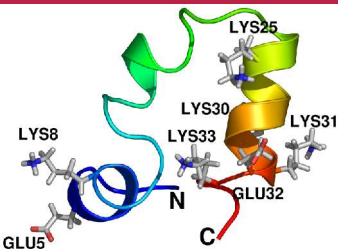


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Villin headpiece subdomain

- 36 residue mini protein
- NMR Structure known
- Thermostable
- Hydrophobic core
- Protein stable under single mutations of the core
- Studied by Duan and Kollman in a single microsecond simulation

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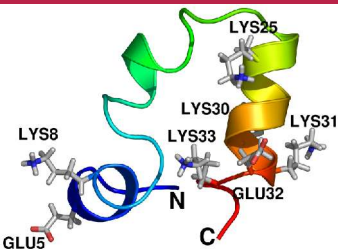


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Correspondence with NMR

- Compute distances derived from NOE data
- Compare simulated to experimental results
- The *violation* of experimental distances (largest violation, number of violations and the sum of violations) determines the quality of the simulation

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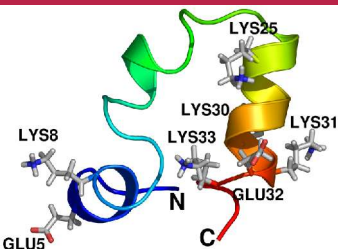
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NMR distance restraints

• Sim.	$N_{\text{viol}}(325)$	$\text{Max}_{\text{viol}}(\text{nm})$	$\sigma_{\text{viol}}(\text{nm})$
• NMR	42	0.17	1.7
• GROMOS	31	0.15	1.2
• OPLS	42	0.22	2.0



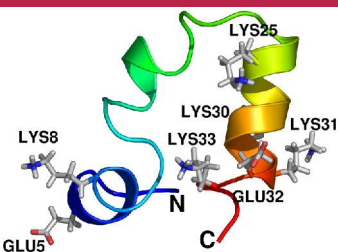


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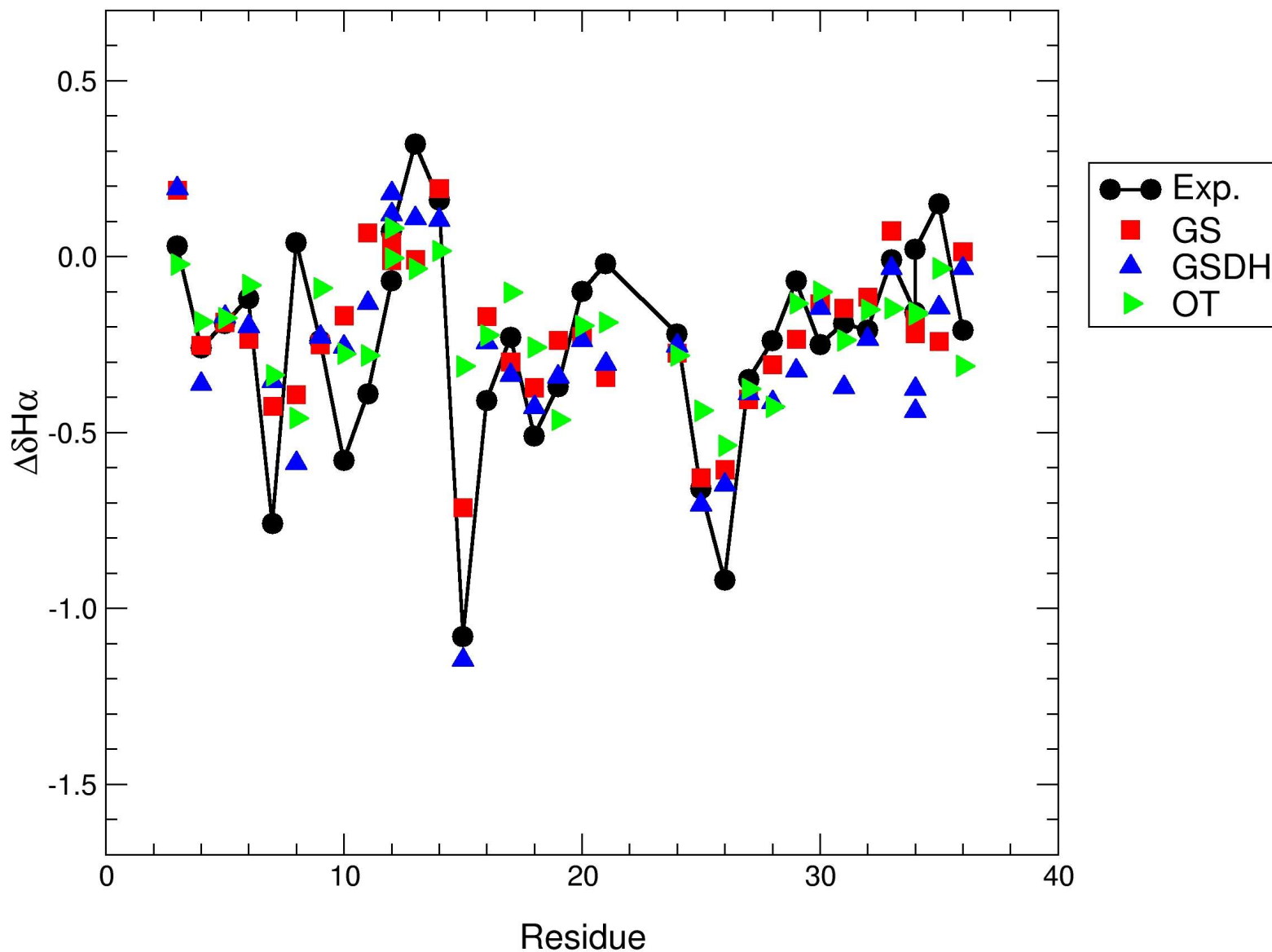
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NMR Chemical shifts



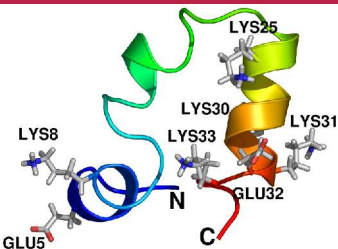


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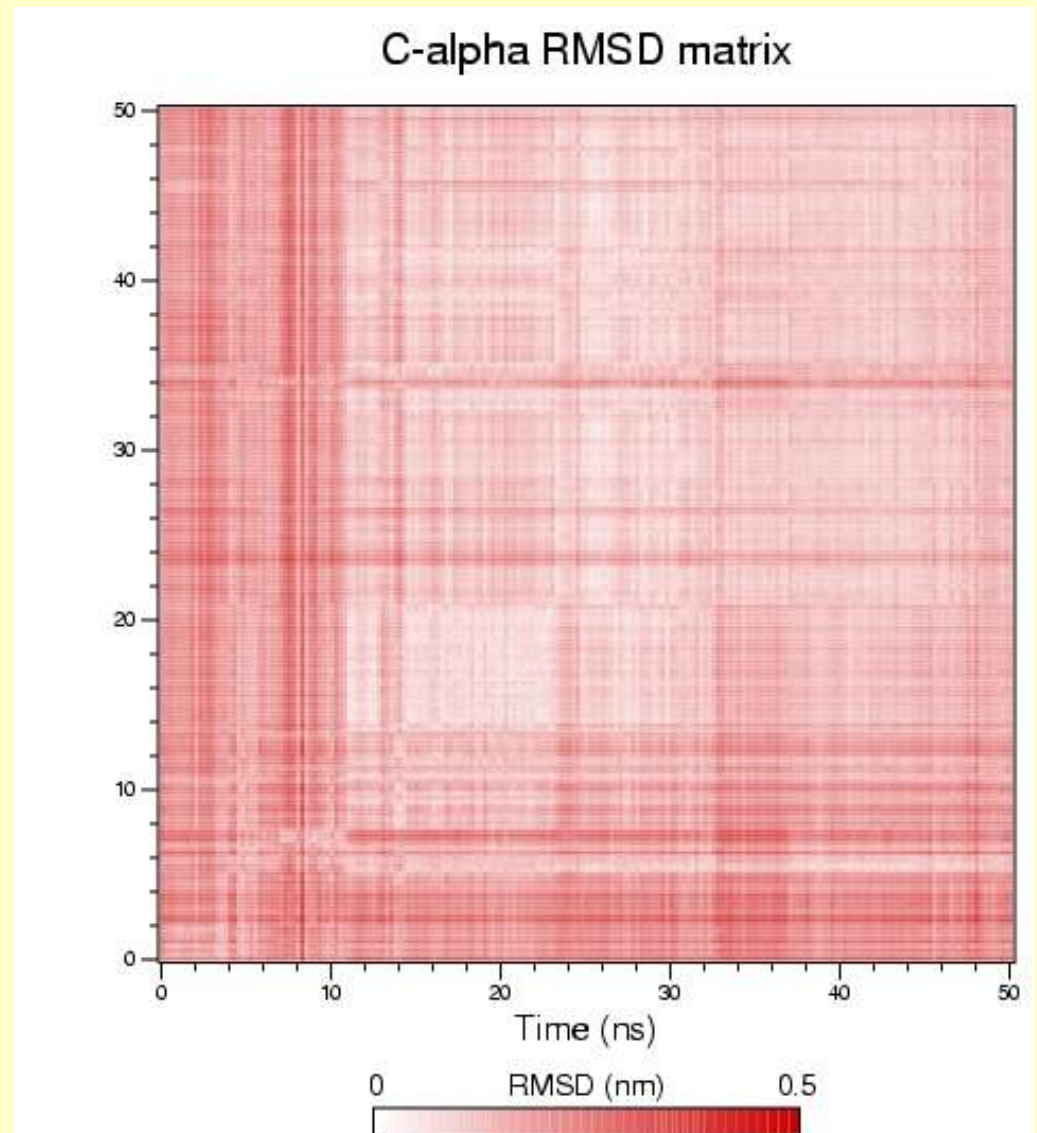
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Effect of starting structure

- OPLS
- Max RMSD
- 50 ns





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Force field status

- Simulation ensemble comparable to NMR ensemble, but not perfect compared to NMR data
- GROMOS slightly better than OPLS for Villin
- For Trp-cage it was the other way around (not shown)



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Polarizability

- Phase transferability
- Interfaces
- Inhomogeneous systems
- Protein-metal interactions

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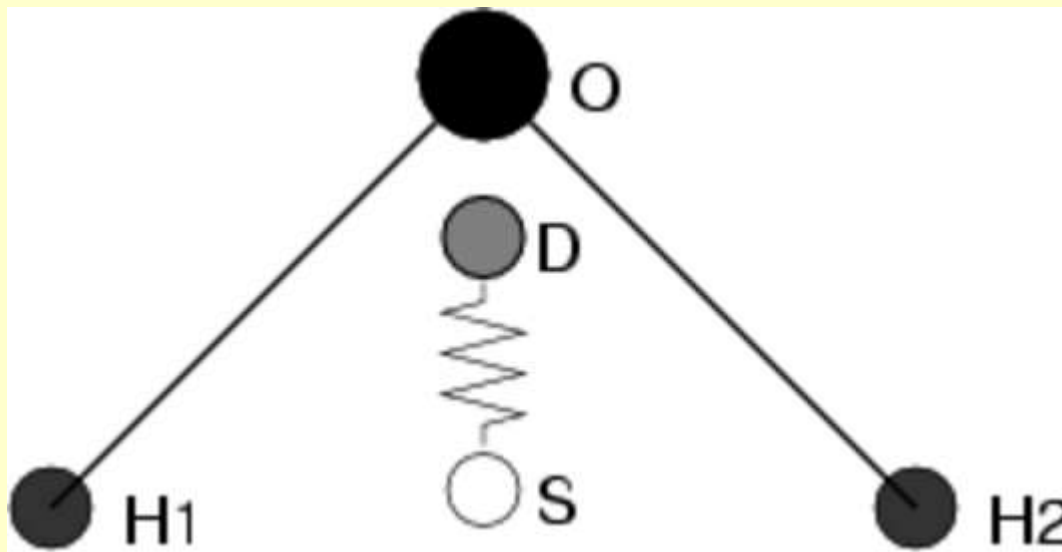
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Polarizability



Shell Water (SW)

Van Maaren & Van der Spoel,
J. Phys. Chem. B 105 (2001) 2618



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Polarizability

- $k r_{SD} = q_s E$
- $\mu_{ind} = \alpha E$
- $k = q_s^2 / \alpha$



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Polarizability – water dimer

• Model	R_{OO}	E_{pot}	μ
• SW	0.295	-21.78	2.59
• Dang	0.287	-19.62	
• MCDHO	0.292	-20.9	2.68
• TIP4P	0.274	-26.35	2.70
• SPC/E	0.274	-30.1	3.76
• Ab Initio	0.291	-21.0	
• Exper.	0.295	-22.6(3)	2.60



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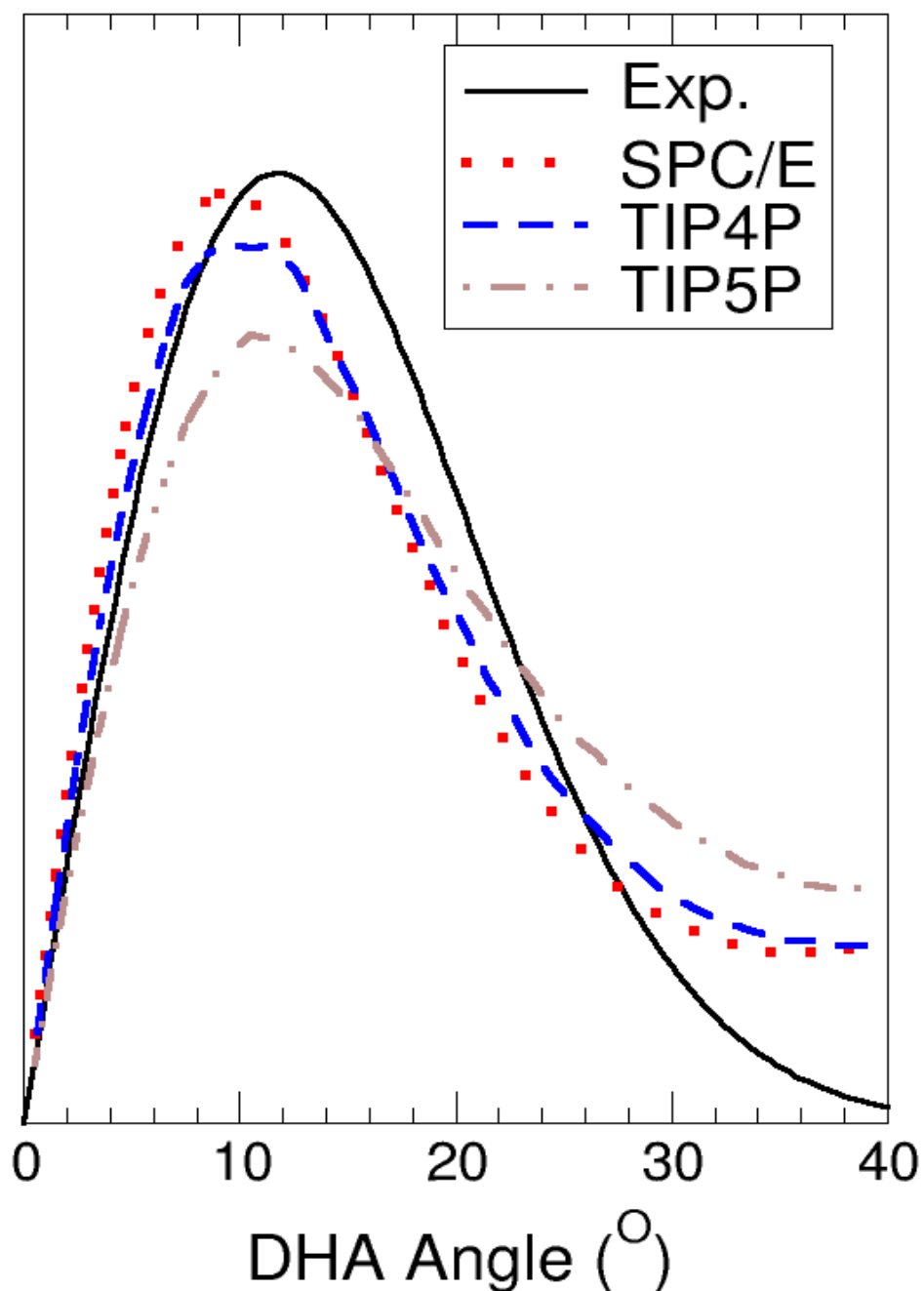
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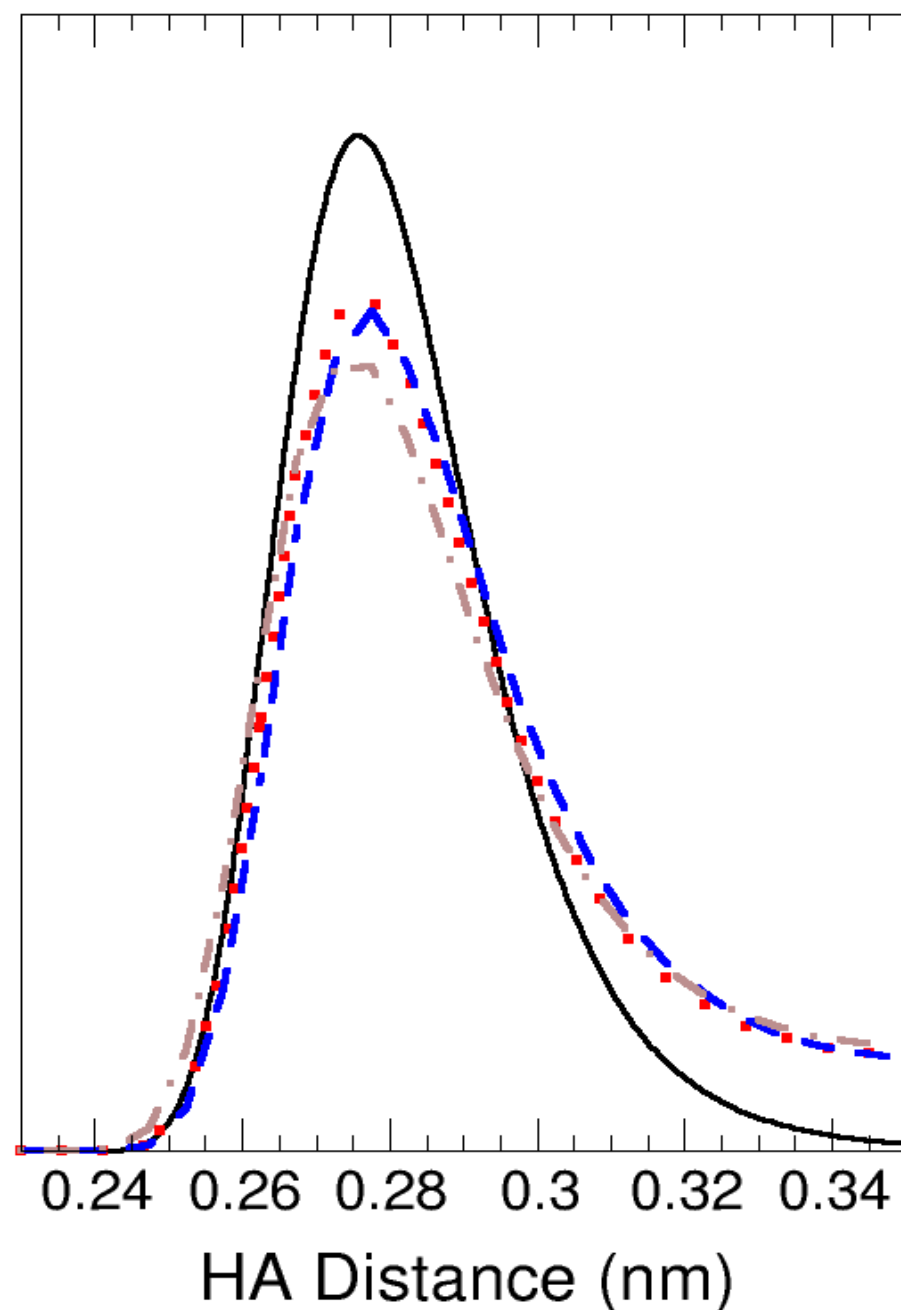
Polarizability

- Further work in progress, based on ab initio calculations for HF, Water, NH₃, CH₄.
- Automatic parameterisation tools available in GROMACS

HBond angle distribution



HBond distance distribution





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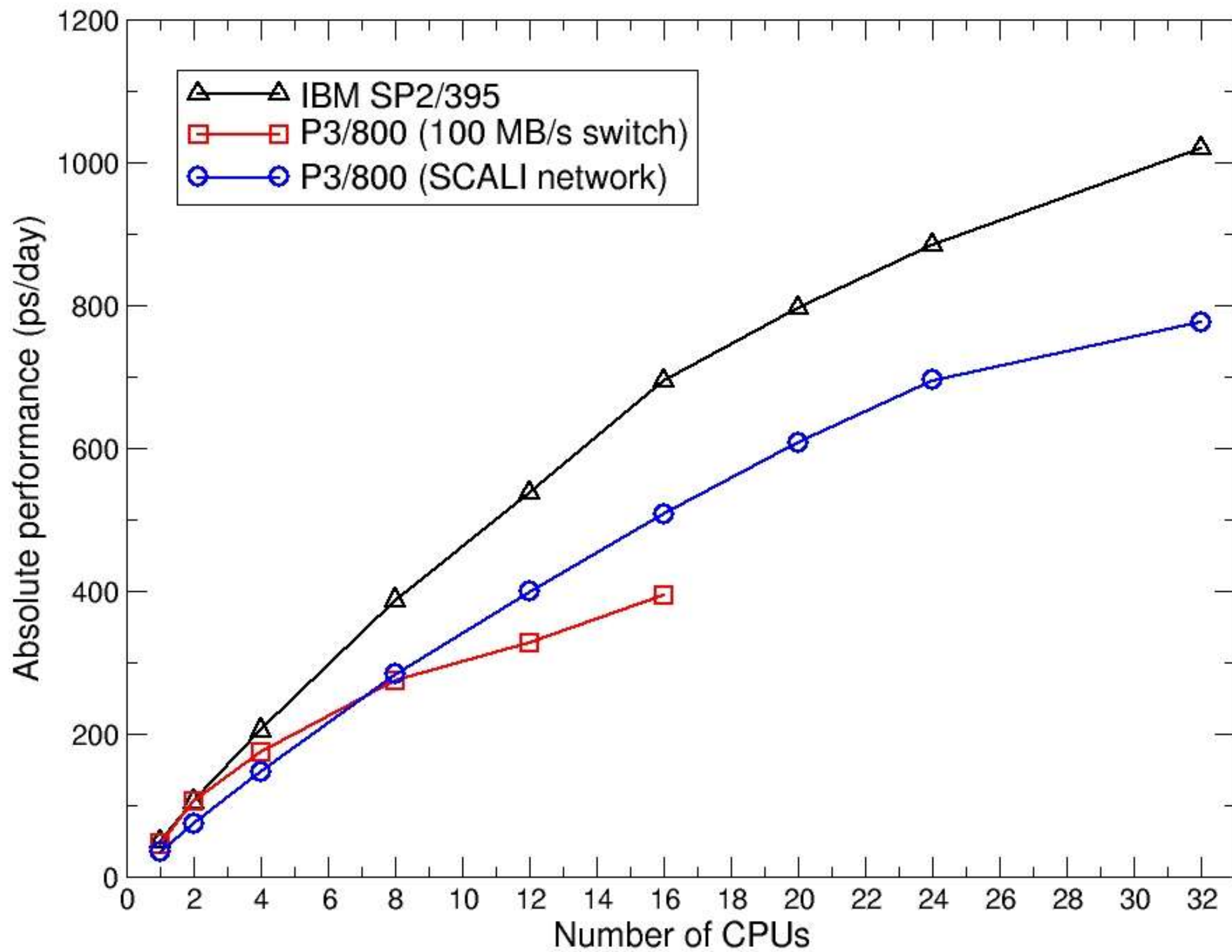
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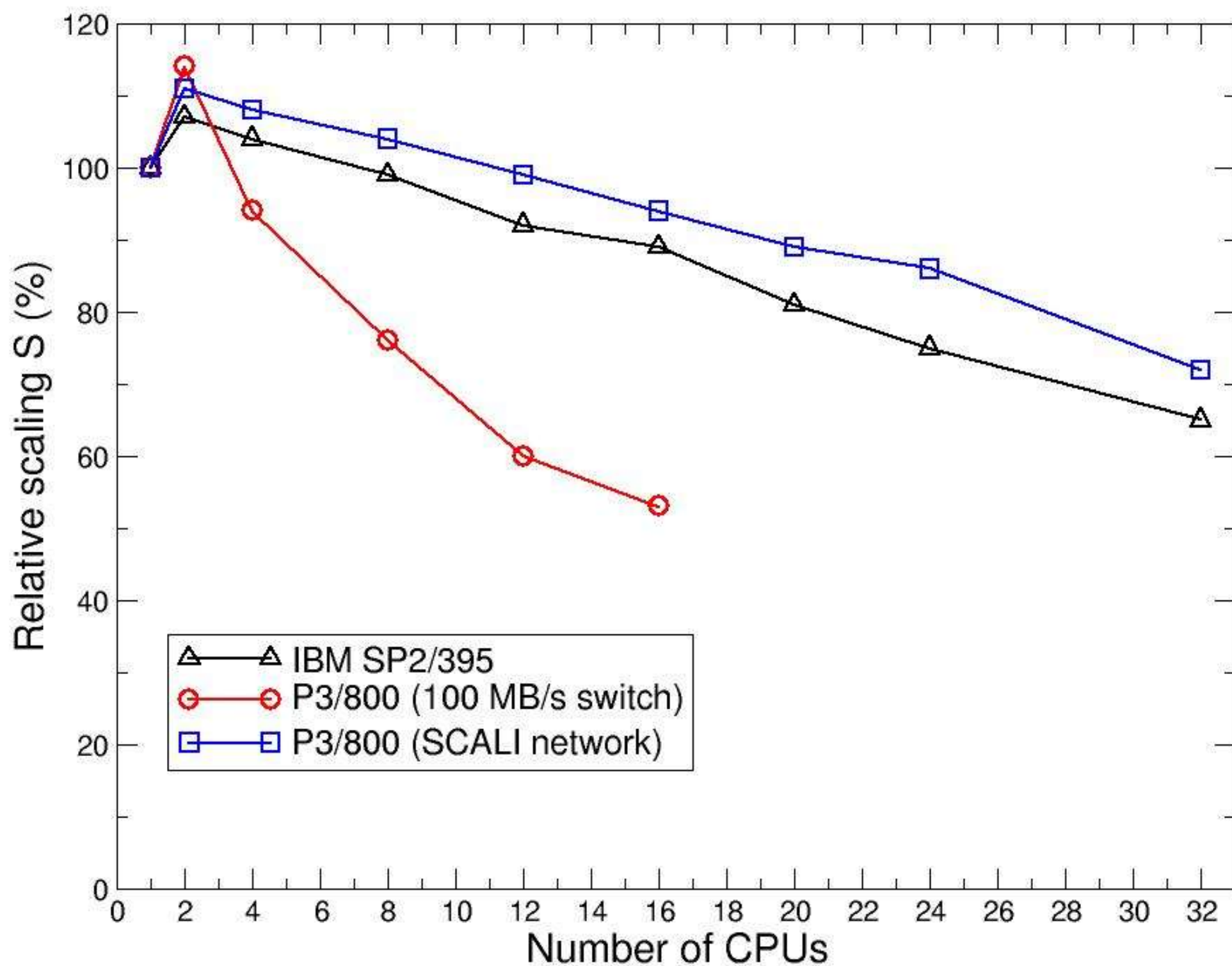
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Parallelization

- Particle decomposition (particles are allocated to processors, which is simple algorithmically)
- In principle SIMD
- Gromacs runs quite efficient with a cut-off, if the system is large enough
- Not with PME







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Future parallelization

- Domain decomposition (chunks of space are given to each processors, more complex to program)
- PME on a few dedicated processors: real MIMD



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Future technology

- XML for file formats



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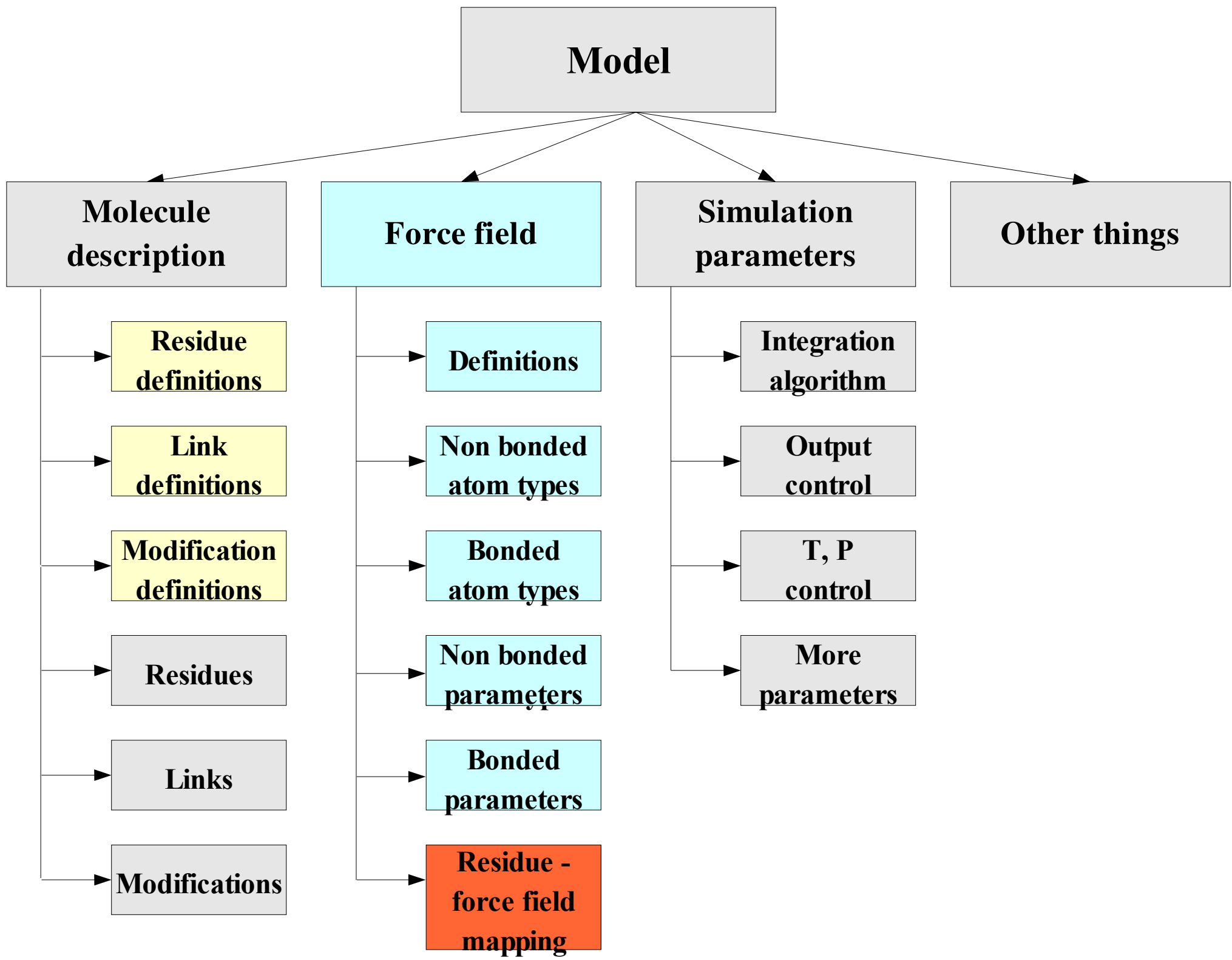
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Why use XML?

- Growing complexity of input files
- Self contained file format which can/could be validated
- Separate data from algorithms (anti object oriented!)
- Extensible?
- Machine readable (using e.g. libxml2)





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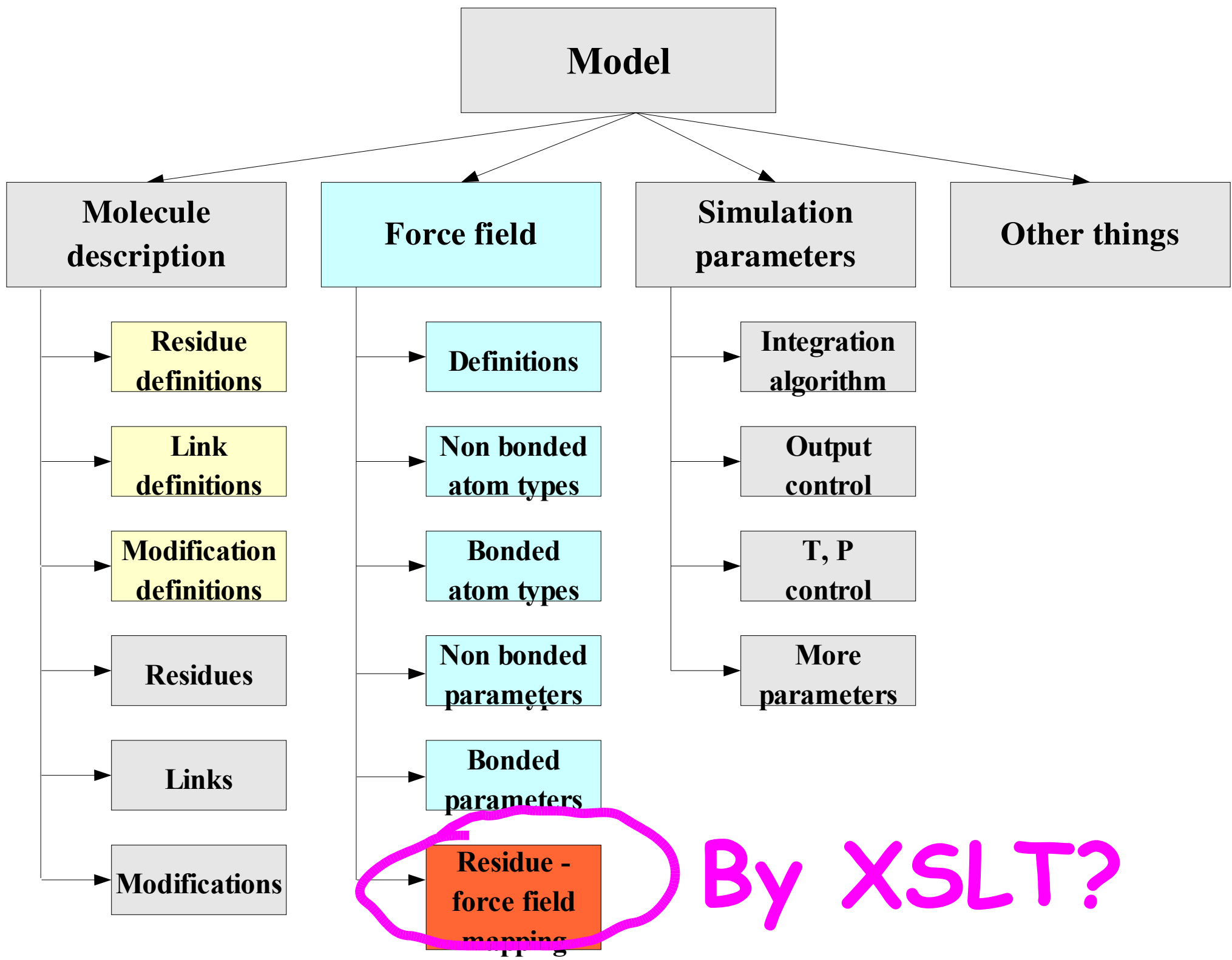
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Is this the right approach?

- DTD versus Schema
- Storing information in attributes
- Transformations using XSLT?
- Use CML?



By XSLT?



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Why use Python?

- Easy to program
- Portable
- Can be used for GUI design using several underlying libraries (wxWindows, FLTK, PyGTK, Qt-Python etc.)
- Can be used as a generic scripting language (rather than a dedicated scripting language)

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Python in **GROMACS...**

- In the first hand for developing a GUI
- Using tools/libraries in a simple manner (NetCDF/XML)
- Interfacing with other programs (MMTK, pymol, VMD)



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Python in GROMACS...

- Use the GROMACS library function **parse_common_args** to generate python scripts
- A simple generic dialog box routine using Tkinter



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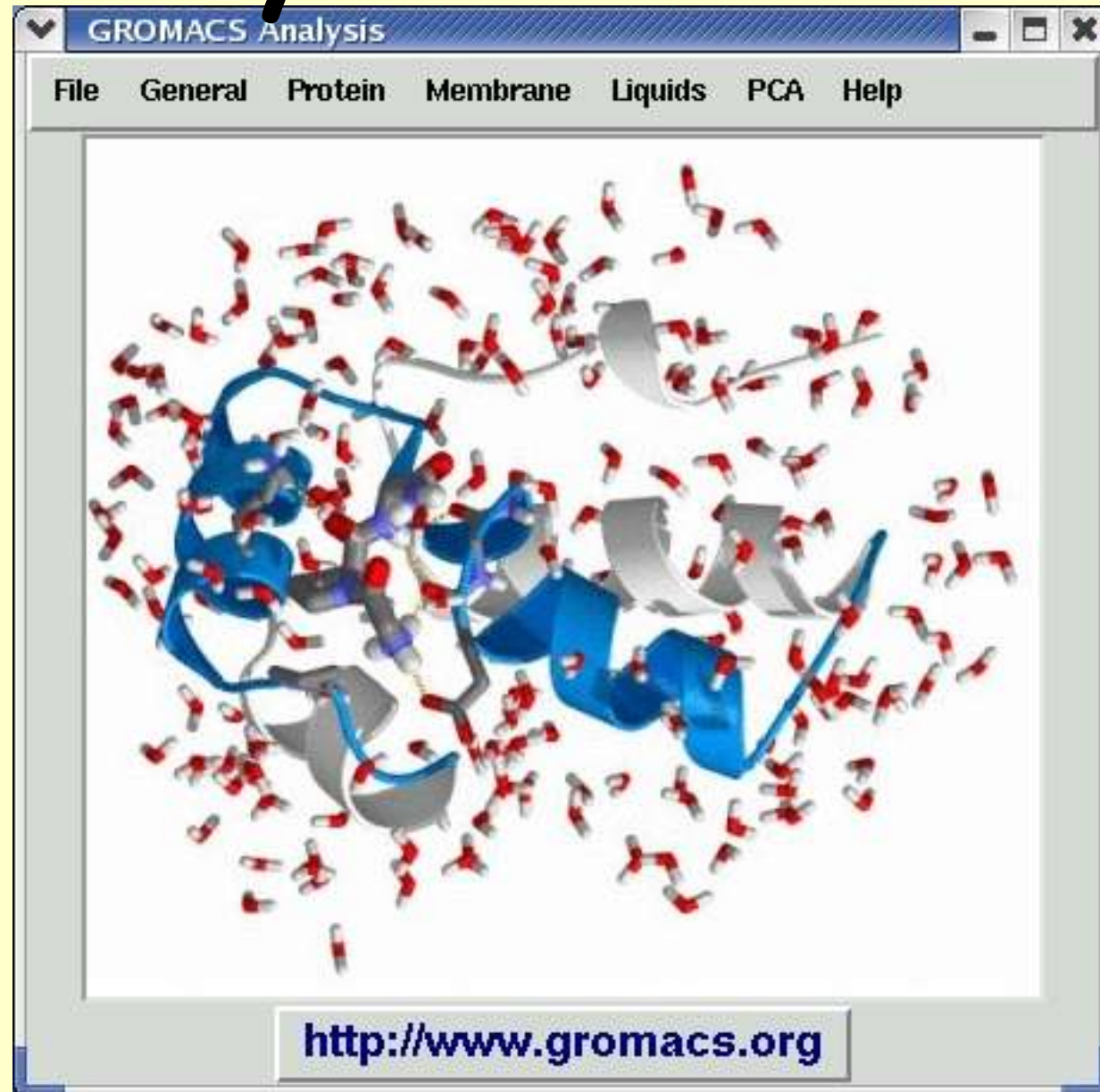
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Analysis front-end





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