# Difficult lessons learned from QM & $pK_a$ calculations in SAMPL5

Frank C. Pickard IV D3R Meeting 11 March 2016



A "high energy" conformation of molecule 92.

#### SAMPL5 Description

A good proxy measurement for drug availability.

This is a "broad" definition of cosolvation, it includes ionic species, microsolvation, tautomers, snorkeling, *etc.* 

$$\log D_{\text{chex/aq}}(x) = \log_{10} \left( \frac{[x]_{\text{chex}}}{[x]_{\text{aq}} + [x']_{\text{aq}} + [x'']_{\text{aq}} + \dots} \right)$$
$$= (\Delta G_{\text{aq}} - \Delta G_{\text{chex}}) \frac{\log_{10}(e)}{kT}$$

 $1 \log D = 1.36 \text{ kcal/mol}$ 

- MM BAR
- QM Optimization
- QM NBB
- QM/MM Zwanzig
- Semi-Empirical NBB (in progress)

$$\log P_{\text{chex/aq}}(x) = (\Delta G_{\text{aq}} - \Delta G_{\text{chex}}) \frac{\log_{10}(e)}{kT}$$

Non-Boltzmann Bennett Method

$$\Delta A = k_{\rm B} T \ln \left( \frac{\langle f(U_0 - U_1 + C) \rangle_1}{\langle f(U_1 - U_0 - C) \rangle_0} \right) + C \xrightarrow{V^b}$$

$$\langle X \rangle_{\text{unbiased}} = \frac{\langle X \exp(V^b/k_{\text{B}}T) \rangle_{\text{biased}}}{\langle \exp(V^b/k_{\text{B}}T) \rangle_{\text{biased}}}$$

$$\Delta A = k_{\rm B} T \ln \left( \frac{\langle f(U_0 - U_1 + C) \exp(V_1^b / k_{\rm B} T) \rangle_1 \langle \exp(V_0^b / k_{\rm B} T) \rangle_0}{\langle f(U_1 - U_0 - C) \exp(V_0^b / k_{\rm B} T) \rangle_0 \langle \exp(V_1^b / k_{\rm B} T) \rangle_1} \right) + C$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(x/k_{\rm B}T)}$$

König and Boresch J. Comp. Chem. (2010) 32, 1082.

QM/MM Non-Boltzmann Bennett

$$V^b = U_{\rm MM} - U_{\rm QM}$$

$$\Delta A = k_{\rm B} T \ln \left( \frac{\langle f(U_{0,\rm QM} - U_{1,\rm QM} + C) \rangle_{1,\rm MM}}{\langle f(U_{1,\rm QM} - U_{0,\rm QM} - C) \rangle_{0,\rm MM}} \right) + C$$
  
$$\Delta A = k_{\rm B} T \ln \left( \frac{\langle f(U_{0,\rm QM} - U_{1,\rm QM} + C) \exp(V_1^b/k_{\rm B}T) \rangle_{1,\rm MM} \langle \exp(V_0^b/k_{\rm B}T) \rangle_{0,\rm MM}}{\langle f(U_{1,\rm QM} - U_{0,\rm QM} - C) \exp(V_0^b/k_{\rm B}T) \rangle_{0,\rm MM} \langle \exp(V_1^b/k_{\rm B}T) \rangle_{1,\rm MM}} \right) + C$$

König, Pickard, Mei and Brooks J. Comput. Aided Mol. Des. (2014) 28, 245.

- CGenFF
- HREX Simulations, LD NVT
- 36 lambda points (6 electrostatic, 30 vdw)
- 1 fs timestep, 5 ns total
- 5000 QM or QM/MM calculations

- QM Optimization (our "control" submission)
  - w/ SMD Implicit Solvent (Vertical or Relaxed Solvation)
  - M06-2X/6-311++G\*\*/6-31+G\* with SMD
- QM NBB (optimized from SAMPL4 data)
  - w/ SMD Implicit Solvent
  - M06-2X/6-31+G\* **or** OLYP/DZP
- QM/MM Zwanzig
  - w/ TIP3P Explicit Solvent
  - BLYP/6-31G\*

# SAMPL5 Methods: log D correction

- p*K*<sub>a</sub> corrections
  - absolute/relative
  - vertical/relaxed solvation
- tautomerization (we only looked at aqueous)
- dimerization (in progress), trimerization, etc.
- wet cyclohexane

$$\log D_{\text{chex/aq}}(x) = \log P_{\text{chex/aq}}(x) + \Delta \mathbf{G}_{\text{corr}} \frac{\log_{10}(e)}{kT}$$

$$\Delta G_{\rm corr} = \Delta G_{\rm pK_a} + \Delta G_{\rm taut} + \Delta G_{\rm dimer} + \Delta G_{\mu-\rm solv} + \dots$$

# SAMPL5 Methods: pKa correction

Deprotonation Thermocycle:



Convert to p*K*<sub>a</sub>:

$$\Delta G_{\rm aq}^{\circ}(AH^+) = \ln(10)RTpK_{\rm a} + \Delta G^{\circ \to *}$$

Convert to populations at pH = 7.4:

$$pH = pK_a + \log_{10} \left( \frac{[A_{(aq)}]}{[A_{(aq)}^+]} \right)$$

Convert to free energy of protonation...

# SAMPL5 Methods: pKa correction



#### Absolute $pK_a$ calculations:

- Proton solvation free energy from experiment (265.9 kcal/mol)
  - Small experimental errors can yield **big** p*K*<sub>a</sub> errors!
- Robustly treat molecules with coupled protonation/tautomerization
- Shouldn't use with vertical solvation (expensive)

# SAMPL5 Methods: pKa correction

$$pK_{a} = \widetilde{pK_{a}} + \left[G(A_{(aq)}) - G(AH_{(aq)}^{+}) - \underline{G(L_{(aq)}) + G(LH_{(aq)}^{+})}\right] / \left[\ln(10)RT\right]$$
Analogue
experiment
Analogue
calculation

#### Relative $pK_a$ calculations:

- Experimental proton solvation free energy term drops out.
  - Uncertainty from analogue experiment
  - Results sensitive to analogue choice
- Can be more accurate than absolute calculations
- Can be used with vertical solvation (cheap)

## Test Set: CohortO





,OH





çн,

















## Test Set: Cohort1

































## Test Set: Cohort2































HN

# Test Set: pKa Baddies (simple)





























# Test Set: pKa Baddies (less simple)





















QM Control: M06-2X/6-31+G\*/SMD

















#### SAMPL5 Results: The Baddies



























Large differences between  $pK_a$  methods might indicate tautomerization issues.

# SAMPL5 Results: Conclusions

- Predicting log D values is *difficult*.
- Lessons learned from SAMPL4 have carried over (choice of density functional and basis set).
- NBB QM calculations with implicit solvent are among the best options (RMSE rank 2<sup>nd</sup>) but have poor correlation.
- Our predictions are too hydrophilic, we ignored the wetness in cyclohexane
- Accounting for tautomers is very important, and universally improves our correlation (but reduces RMSE).