

# The PLUMED plugin and free energy methods in electronic-structure-based molecular dynamics

Davide Branduardi,  
Theoretical Molecular Biophysics Group  
Max Planck for Biophysics, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

- What is free energy and why is important
- Traditional QC approach
- Explicit sampling
- Enhanced sampling
- PLUMED plugin for free energy calculations

- **What is free energy and why is important**
- Traditional QC approach
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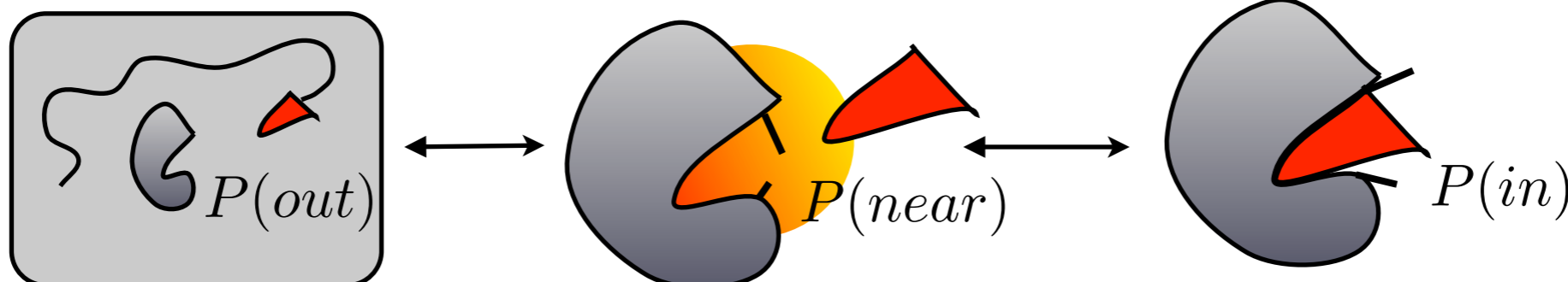
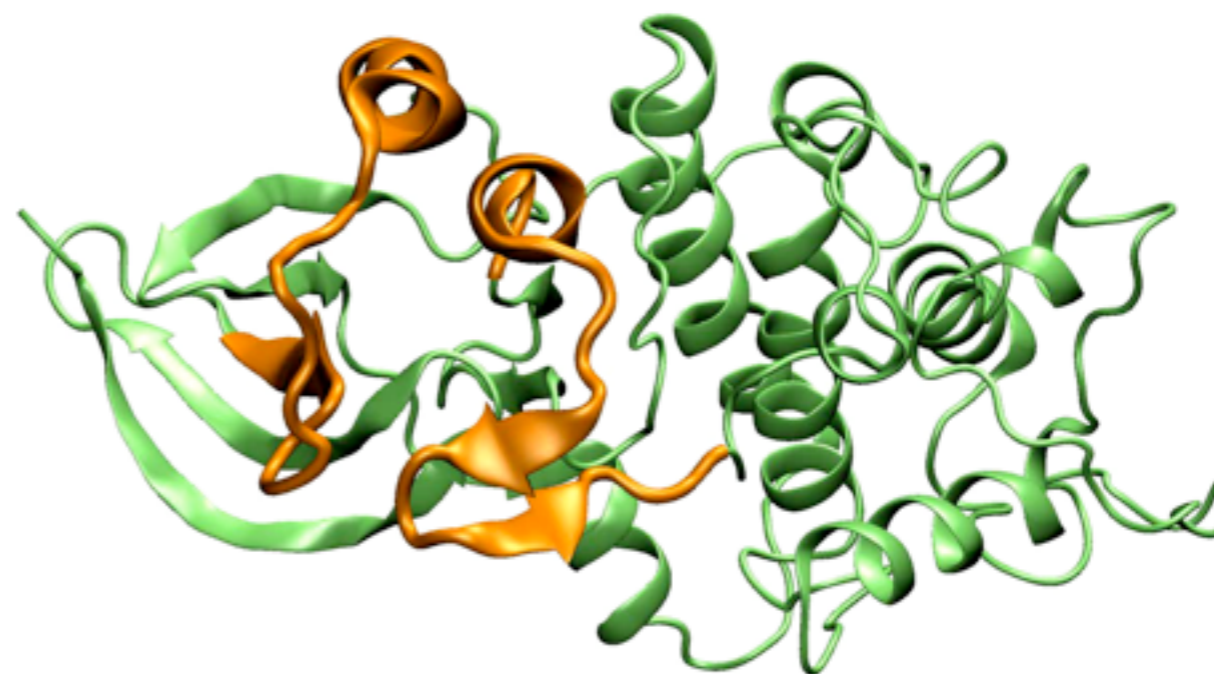
# What is free energy and why is important

$$F(s) = -k_B T \ln P(s)$$

s = state descriptor (bound/unbound, reactant/products, phaseA/phaseB)

$$P(s) = \frac{\int e^{-\frac{V(x)}{k_b T}} \delta(s'(x) - s) dx}{Q}$$

- \* conformational transitions and equilibria
- \* ligand binding
- \* mechanism of transporters or channels
- \* chemical reactions and catalysis
- \* phase transitions
- \* .....



- What is free energy and why is important
- **Traditional QC approach**
- Explicit sampling
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# Traditional QC approach

- \* Rigid rotor/ harmonic approximation is well known [1]

$$F(s) = H(s) - TS(s)$$

$$S(s) = R + R \ln(q_t(s)q_e(s)q_r(s)q_v(s)) + RT \left( \frac{\partial \ln(q_t(s)q_e(s)q_r(s)q_v(s))}{\partial T} \right)$$

transl, elect, rot, vib partition functions

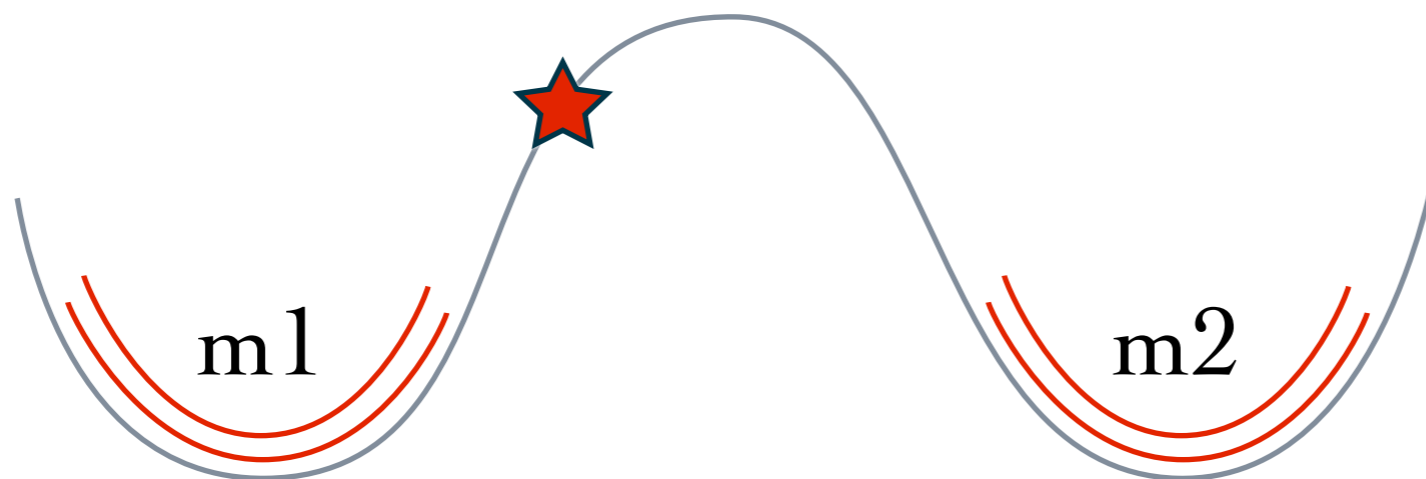
where the partition functions are obtained from the calculated vibrational spectrum (Hessian), moments of inertia, electronic structure

$$H(s) = H_{el}(s) + H_t(s) + H_v(s) + H_r(s)$$

- \* It requires electronic structure and Hessian in the local minima and transition states: 1 single conformation per state.

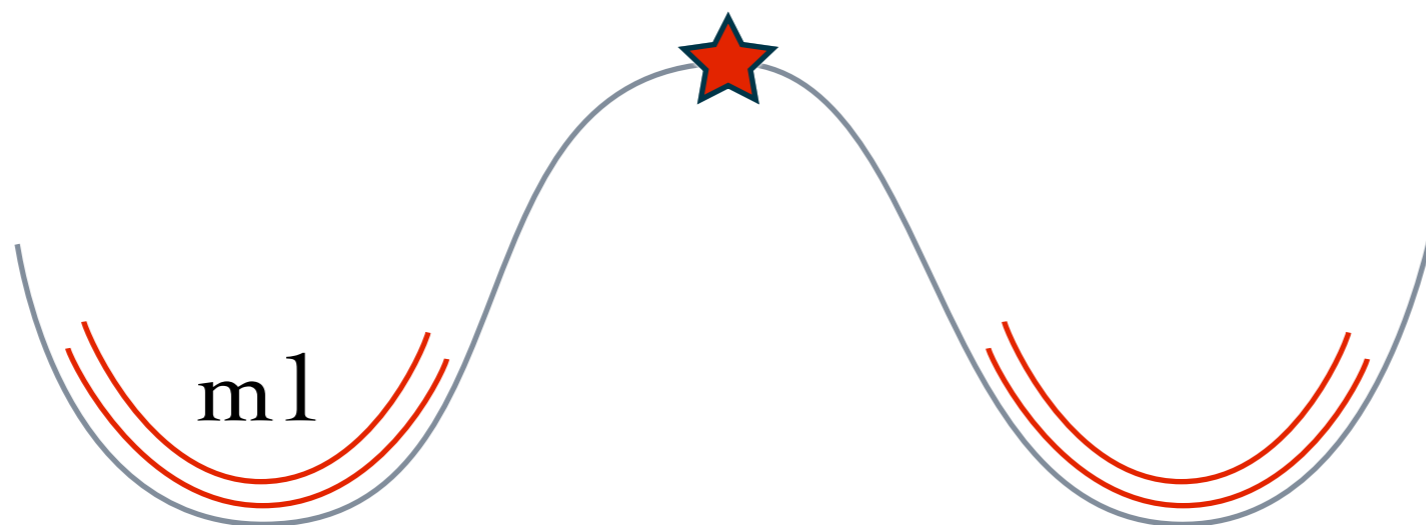
# Finding the RC (I)

- Static approach: look for saddle points by using chemical intuition and TS optimization.



# Finding the RC

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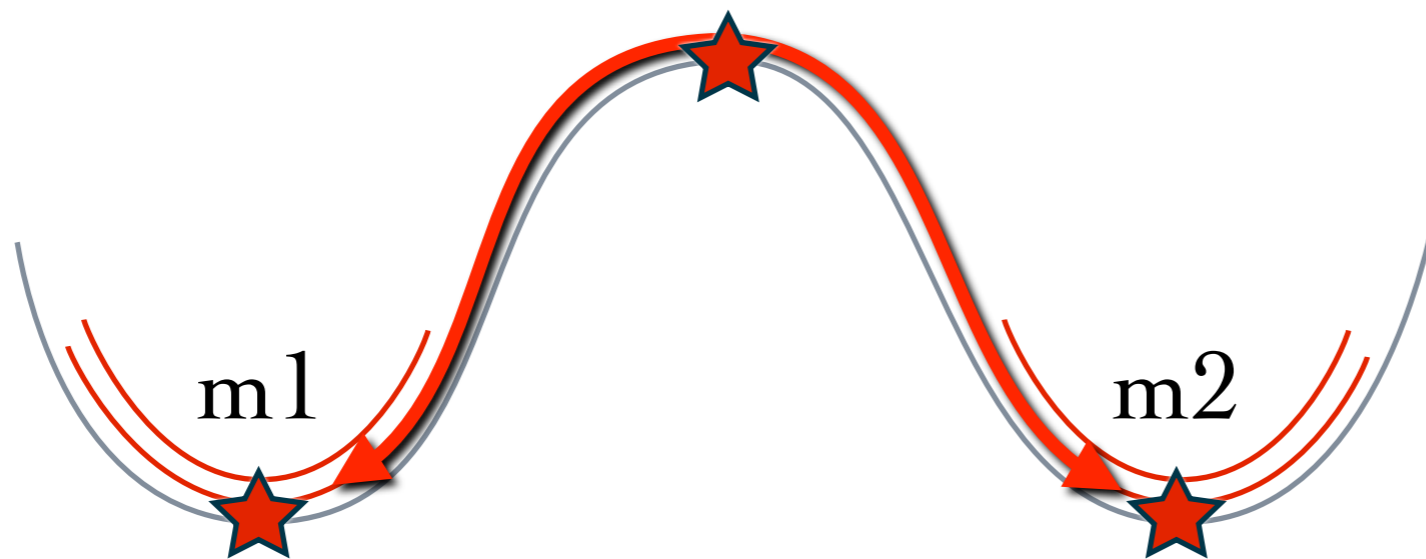


- Verify then by IRC: move forward and backward to verify to end in minima.



# Finding the RC

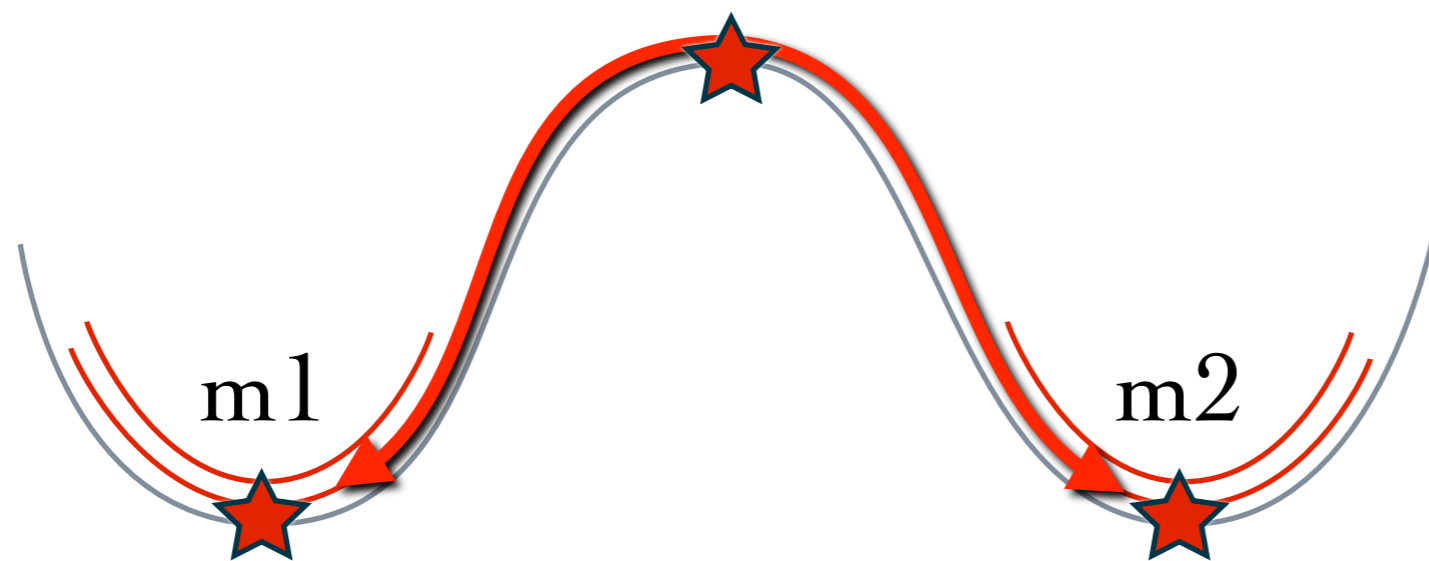
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# Finding the RC

- Static approach: look for saddle points by using chemical intuition and TS optimization.



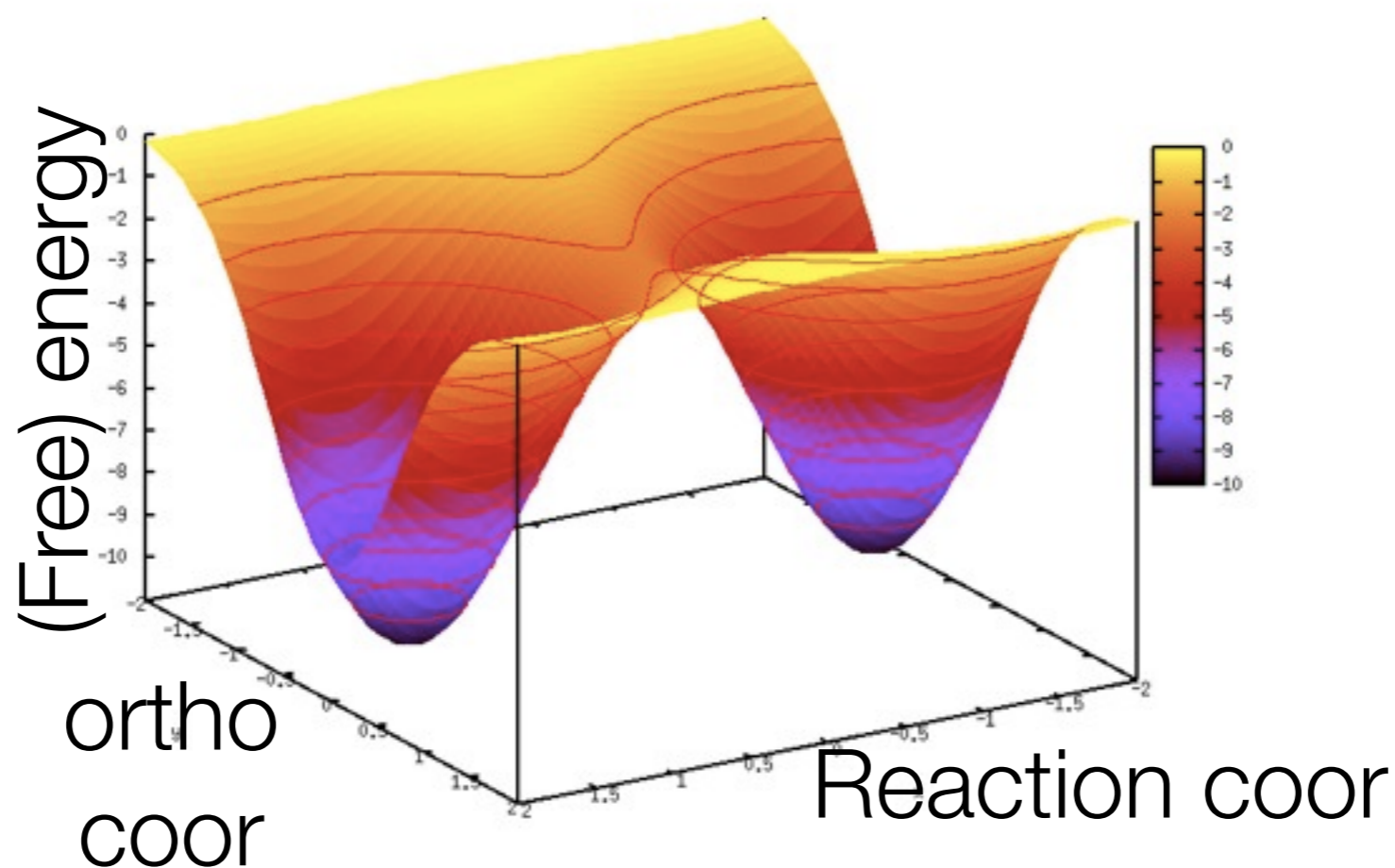
- Verify then by IRC: move forward and backward to verify to end in minima.

$$\Delta^\ddagger G = \Delta^\ddagger H - T\Delta^\ddagger S$$

- Rates may be derived from Eyring equation<sup>[2]</sup>:  $k(T) = \frac{k_b T}{h c^0} e^{-\Delta^\ddagger G / RT}$

# Traditional QC approach

- \* PRO: one calculation per point (3 single points calculations per rate and free energy differences)
- \* CONS: optimizing TS is not trivial (redundant coordinates), the landscape must be very simple



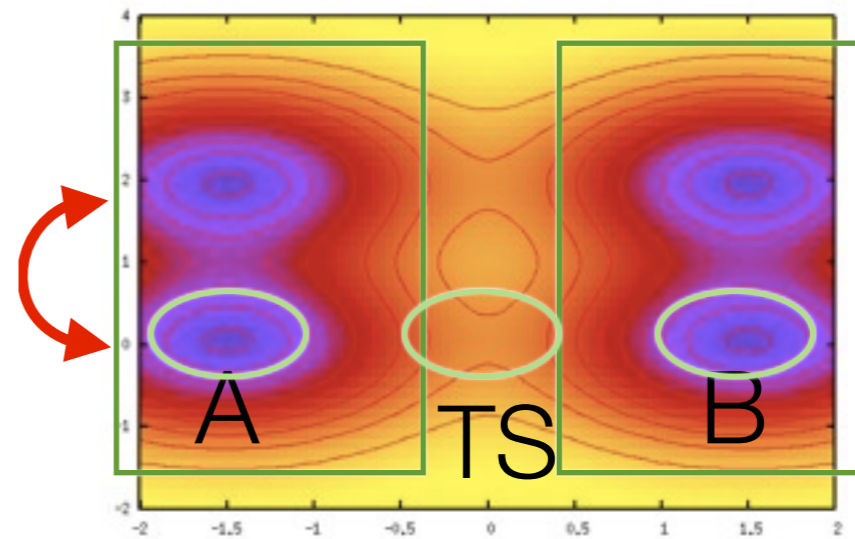
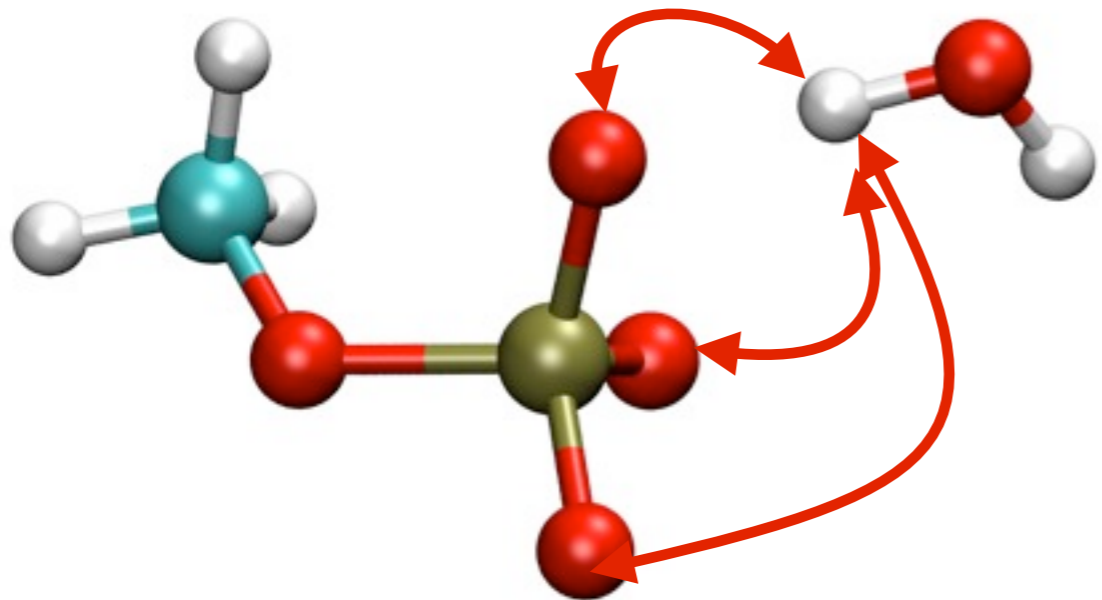
# Problems with traditional QC approach



- \* Many problems are not smooth as before: many parallel valleys (conformers), solvent induced roughness

# Problems with traditional QC approach

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Perfectly parallel basins,  
Not too bad  
(small correction over  
static approaches).  
Typical case of symmetry  
in a reaction

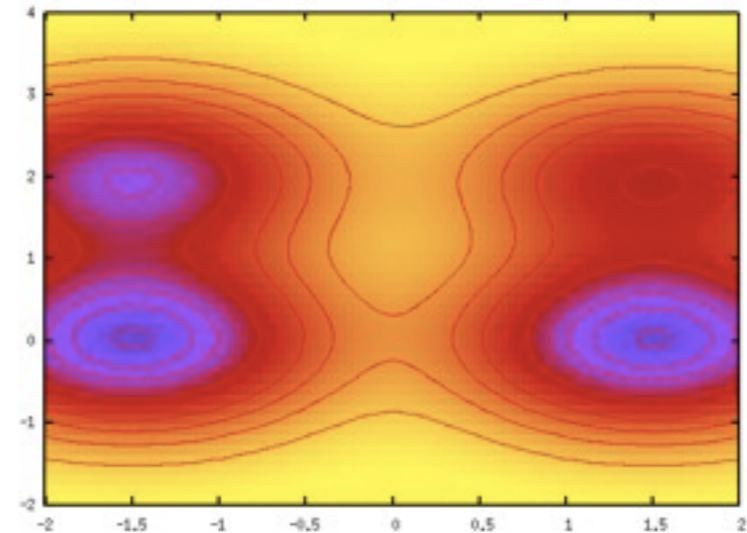
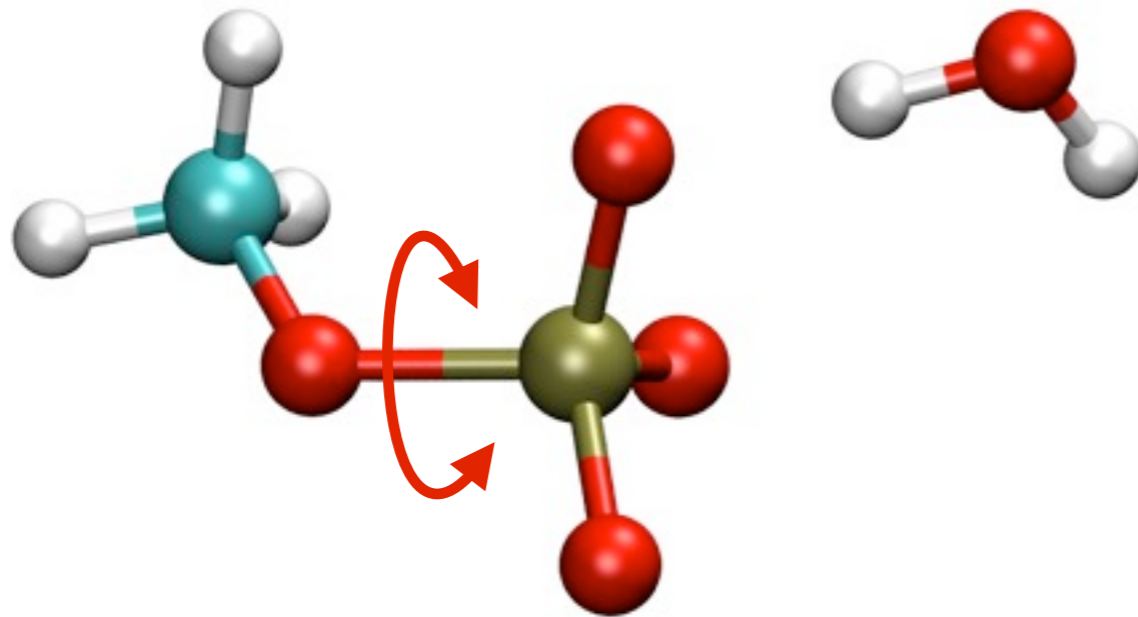
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# Problems with traditional QC approach

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Perfectly parallel basins  
but energetically  
asymmetric,  
Can be done with static  
QC but need to sample  
all the paths

# Problems with traditional QC approach

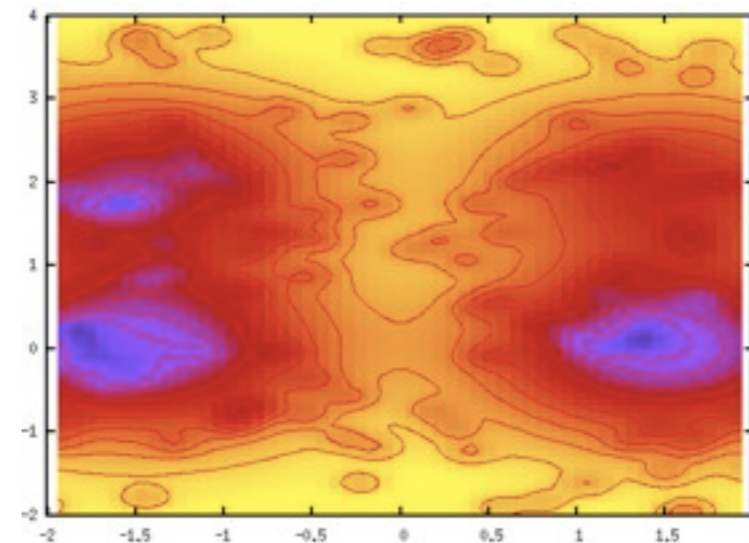
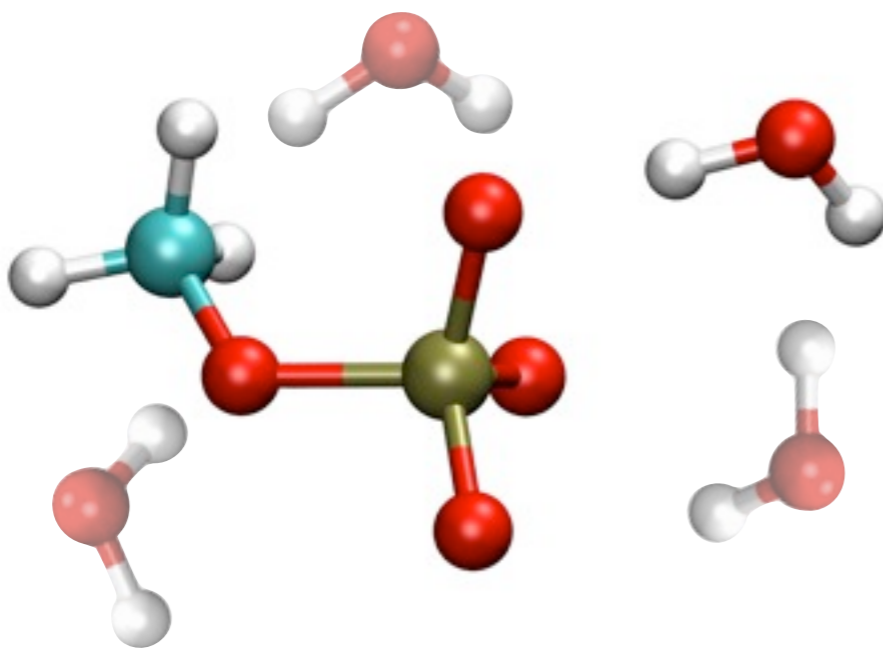


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# Problems with traditional QC approach

- \* Many problems are not smooth as before: many parallel valleys (conformers), solvent induced roughness



Rough paths:  
vibrations are  
meaningless, paths from  
IRC are not  
representative of  
reactions:

**USE MD BASED  
METHODS**

# Problems with traditional QC approach



- \* Many problems are not smooth as before: many parallel valleys (conformers), solvent induced roughness

- What is free energy and why is important
- Traditional QM approach
- **Explicit sampling**
- Enhanced sampling
- PLUMED plugin for free energy calculations

# The ingredients of the probability picture

- \* Free energy is connected to the probability of a given state to occur in a single measurement

$$F(s) = -k_B T \ln P(s)$$

Probability

$$P(s) = \frac{\int e^{-\frac{V(x)}{k_B T}} \delta(s'(x) - s) dx}{\int e^{-\frac{V(x)}{k_B T}} dx}$$

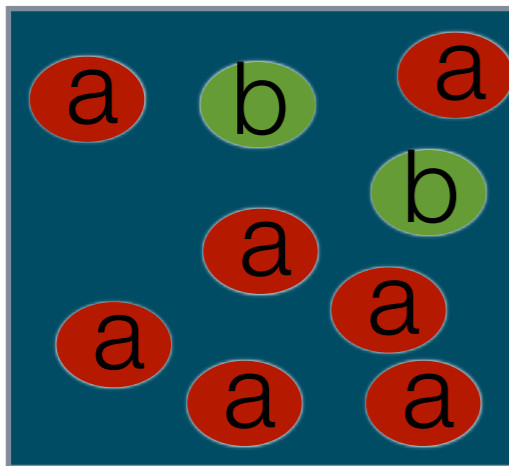
State descriptor

(bond length, folded/  
unfolded descr., liquid/  
crystal/amorphous)

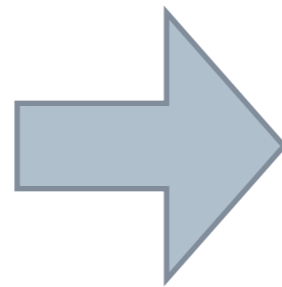
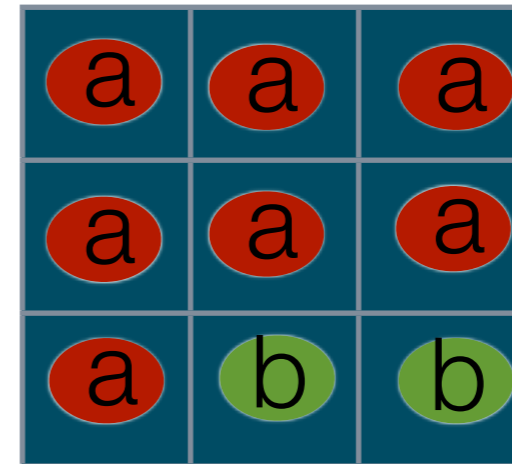
# Explicit sampling via molecular dynamics

$$F(s) = -k_B T \ln P(s)$$

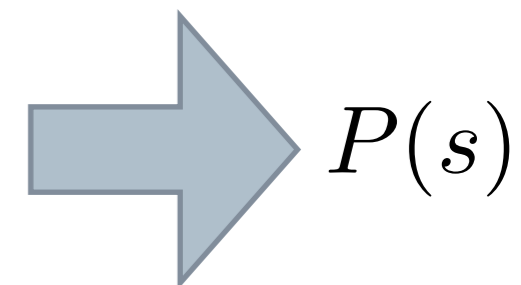
a real system  
(cuvette)



a set of independent  
objects (ensemble)



MD: evolve in time with Newton's eq. of motion  
use ergodic hypothesis

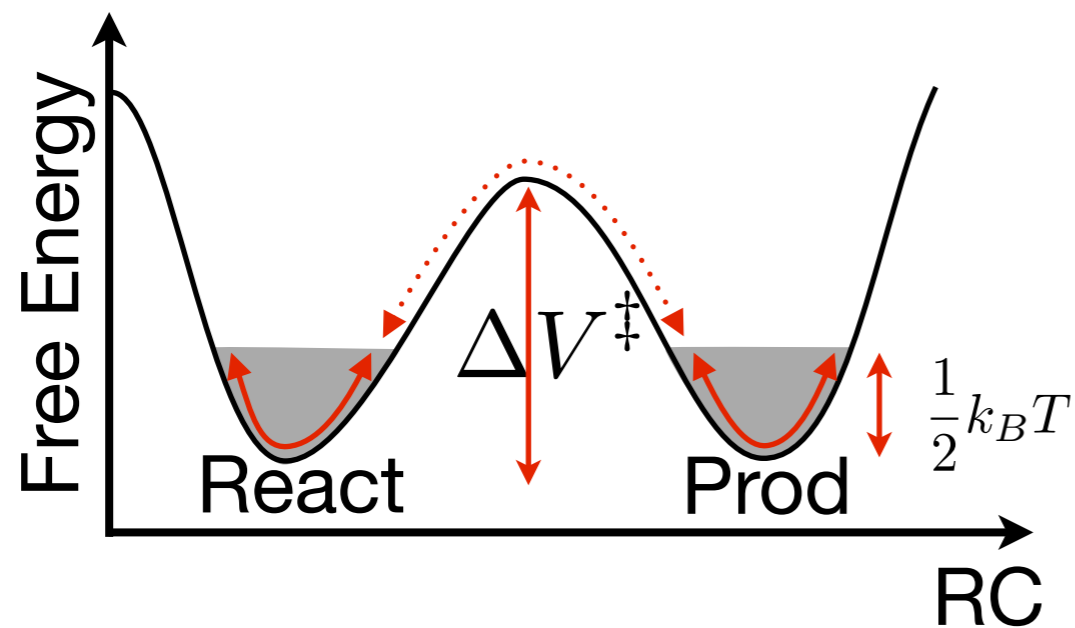


$P(s)$

all the available states can be sampled with  $t \rightarrow \infty$

# Limitations

- \* Transition of 8 kcal/mol can take up to milliseconds at 300K

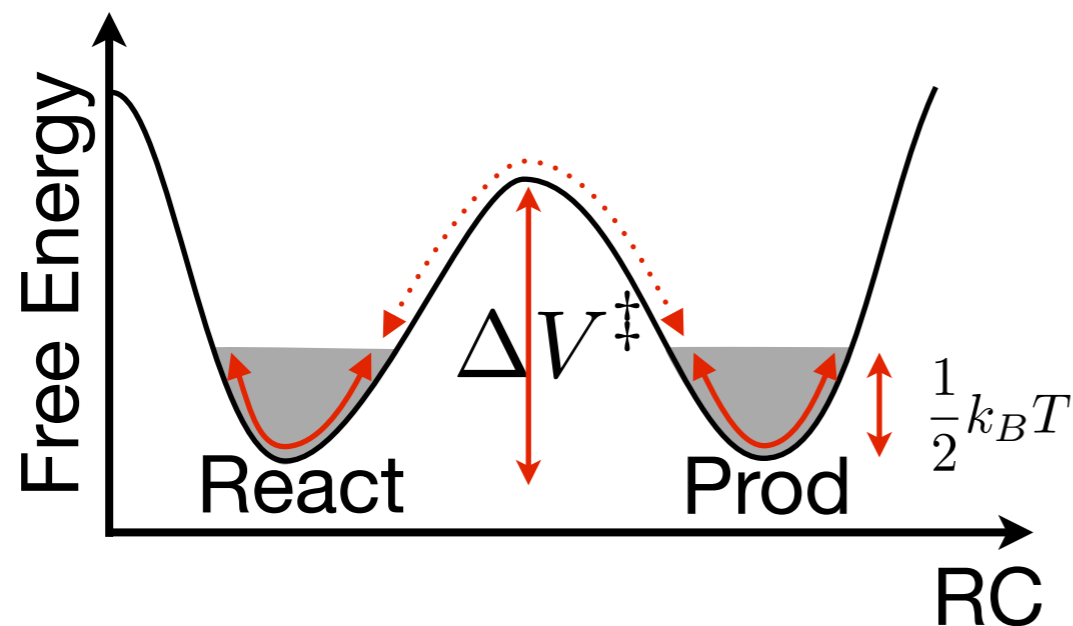


$$\nu = \nu_0 \exp(-\beta \Delta V^\ddagger)$$

$$\nu_0 = 5 \cdot 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

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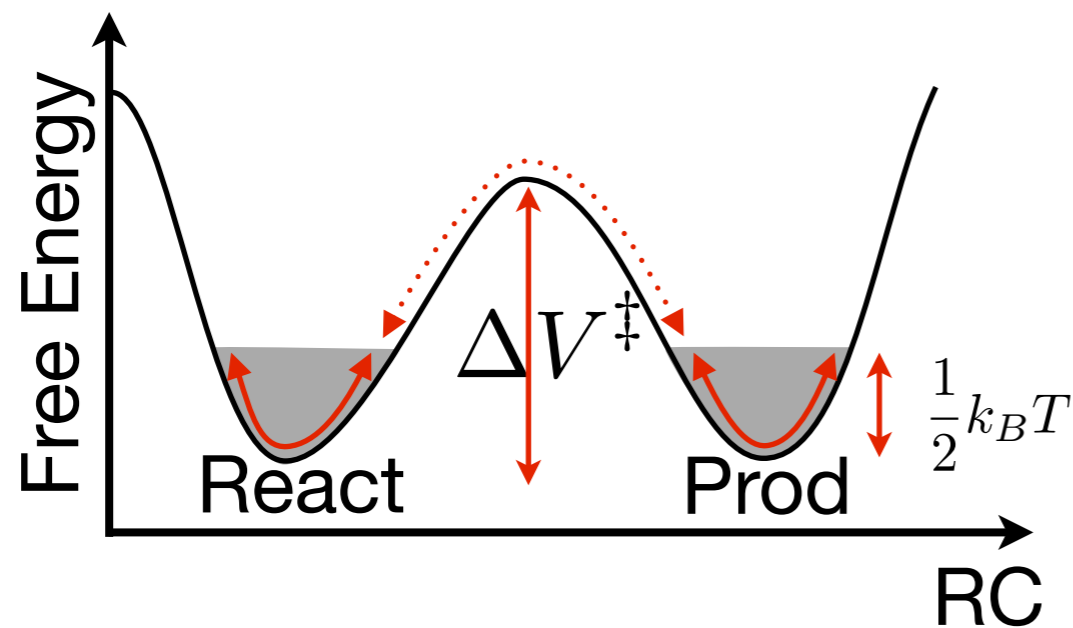
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- \* MD (DFT) can reach hundreds of ps.  
Lucky if you see one single event!

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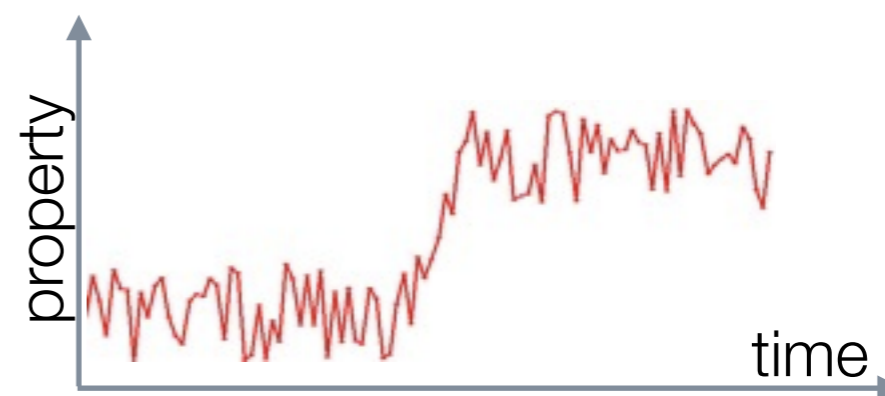
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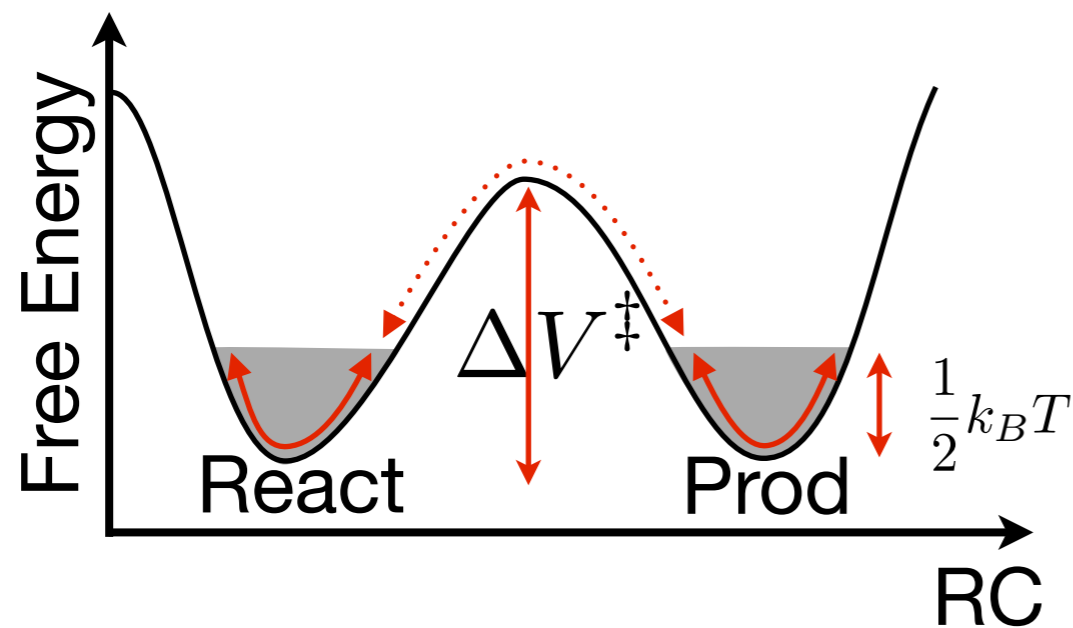
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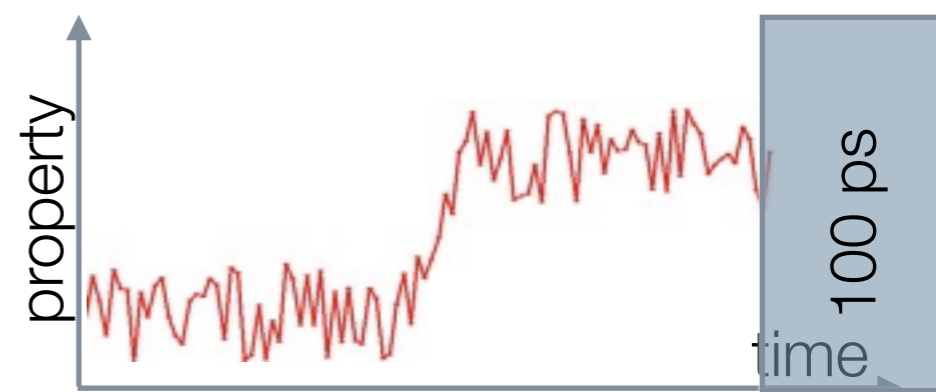
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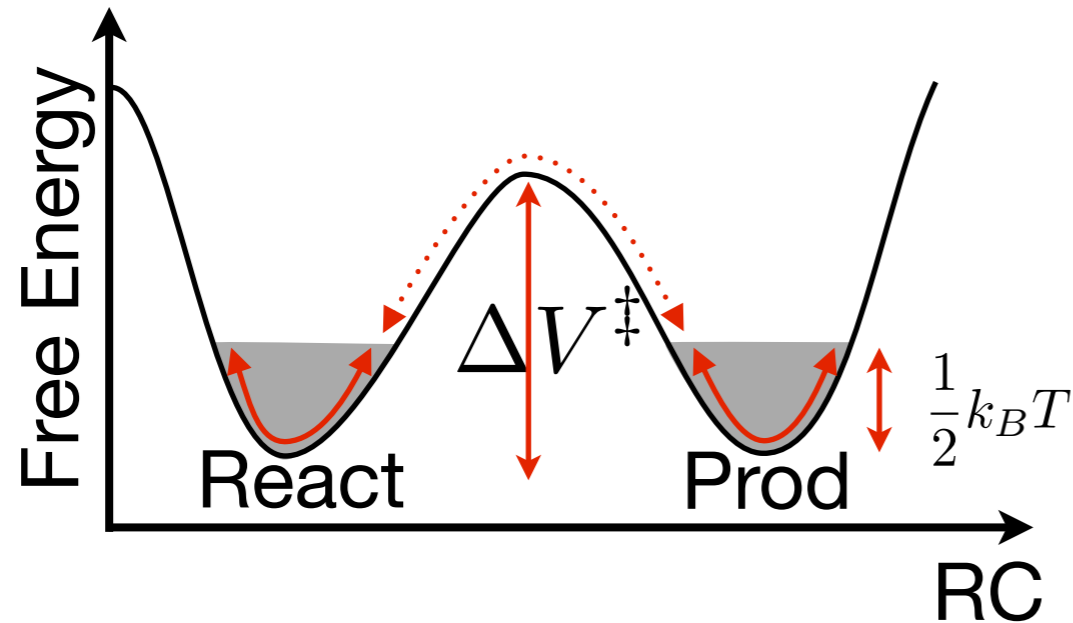
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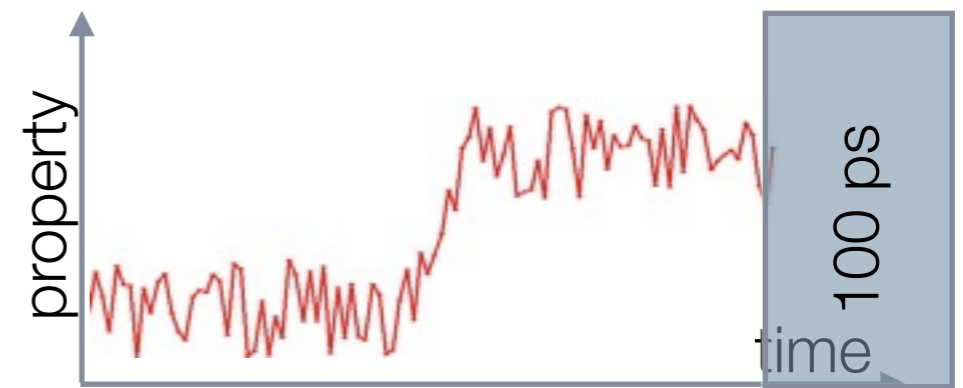
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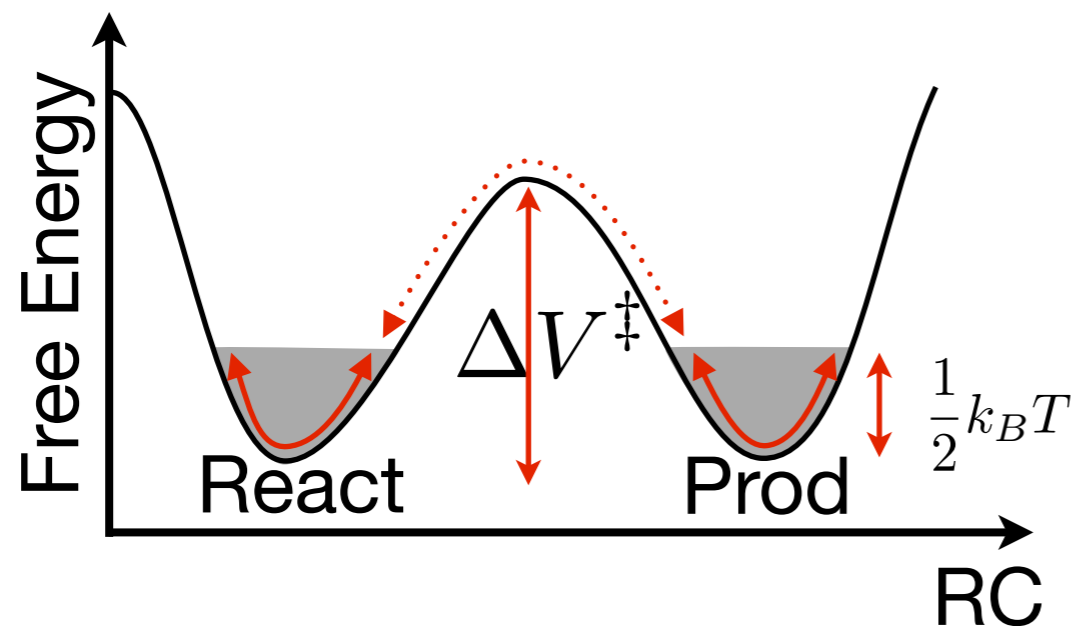
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- \* If you want thermodynamics you must average over events

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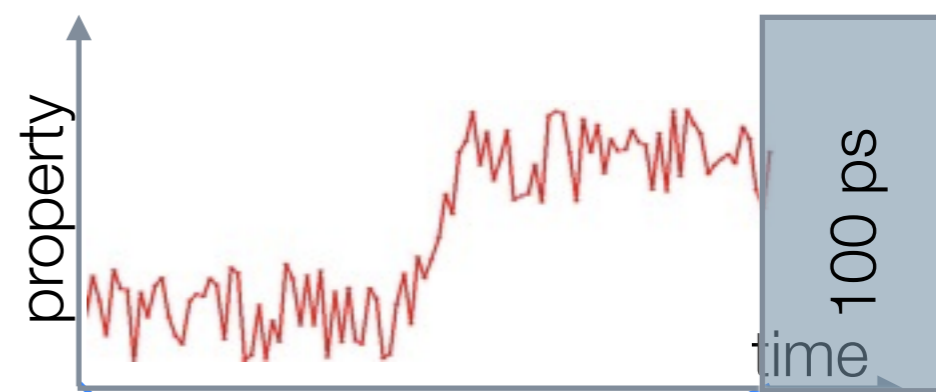
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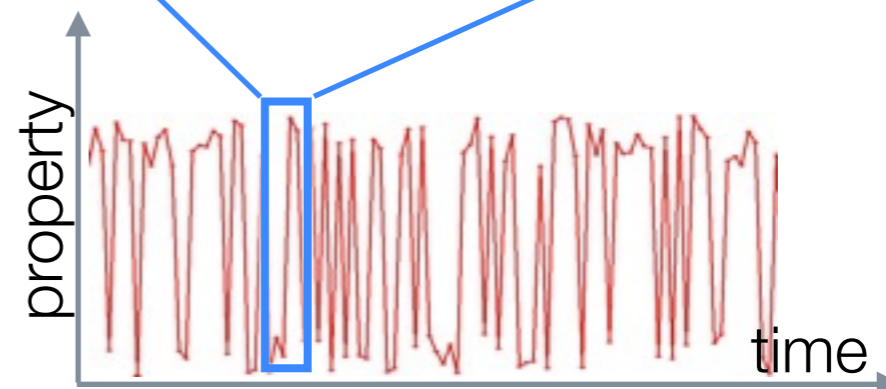
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# Limitations

\*

300K



†)

**This is not your solution**

\* M  
L

time 100 ps

\* If y  
m



- What is free energy and why is important
- Traditional QM approach
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- **Enhanced sampling**
- PLUMED plugin for free energy calculations

# The ancestor: Torrie & Valleau<sup>[3]</sup>

Free energy:

$$\begin{aligned} F(s_0) &= -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln P(s_0) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \frac{\int e^{-\beta V(x)} \delta(s(x) - s_0) dx}{Q} \end{aligned}$$

Free energy for a biased system:

$$\begin{aligned} F_b(s_0) &= -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln P_b(s_0) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \frac{\int e^{-\beta(V(x)+V_b(s(x)))} \delta(s(x) - s_0) dx}{Q_b} \\ &= V_b(s_0) - \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \frac{\int e^{-\beta V(x)} \delta(s(x) - s_0) dx}{Q_b} \end{aligned}$$

use biasing potential to overcome barriers and retrieve free energies

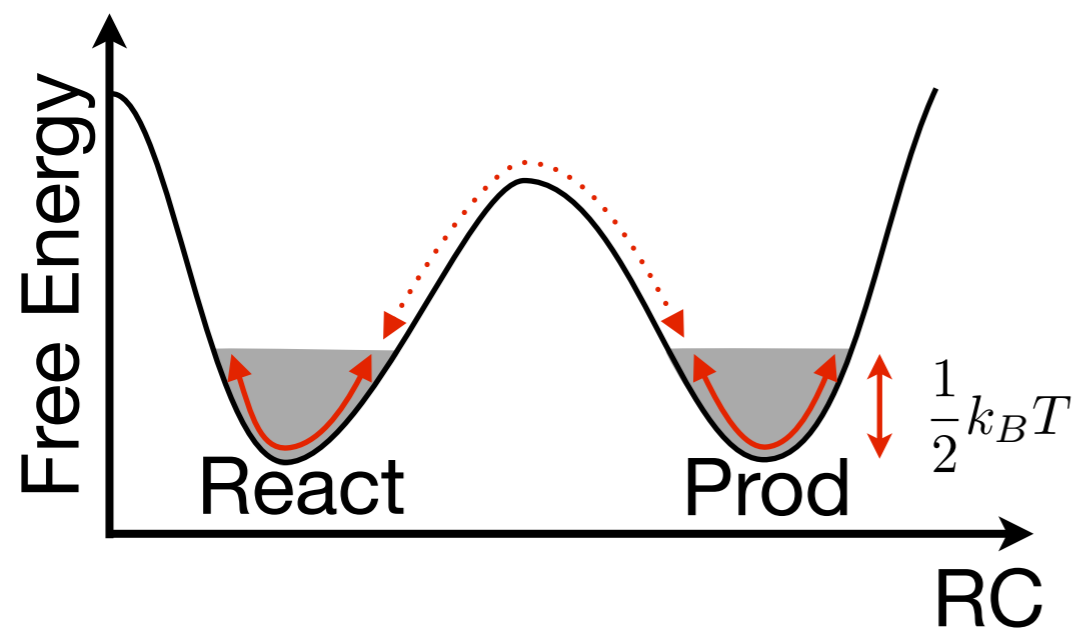
$$F_b(s_0) = V_b(s_0) - \frac{1}{\beta} \ln P(s) \frac{Q}{Q_b}$$

$$F(s_0) = F_b(s_0) - V_b(s_0) + C$$

[3] Torrie, Valleau J. Comp. Phys, 1977 vol. 23, pp 187

# Lessons from Torrie & Valleau

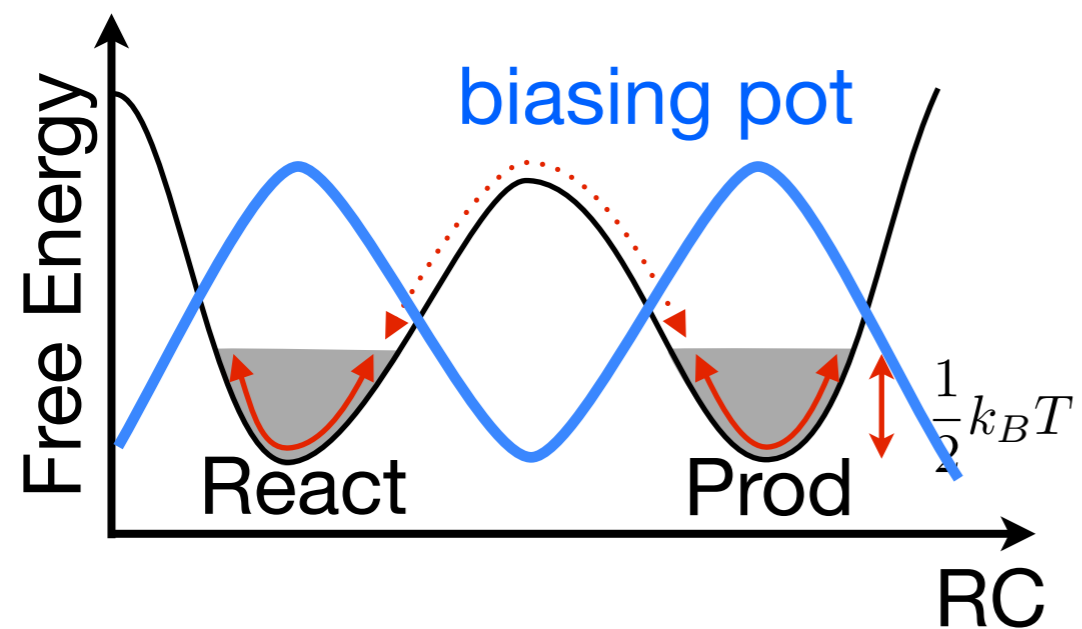
Biassing potentials:



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Biassing potentials:

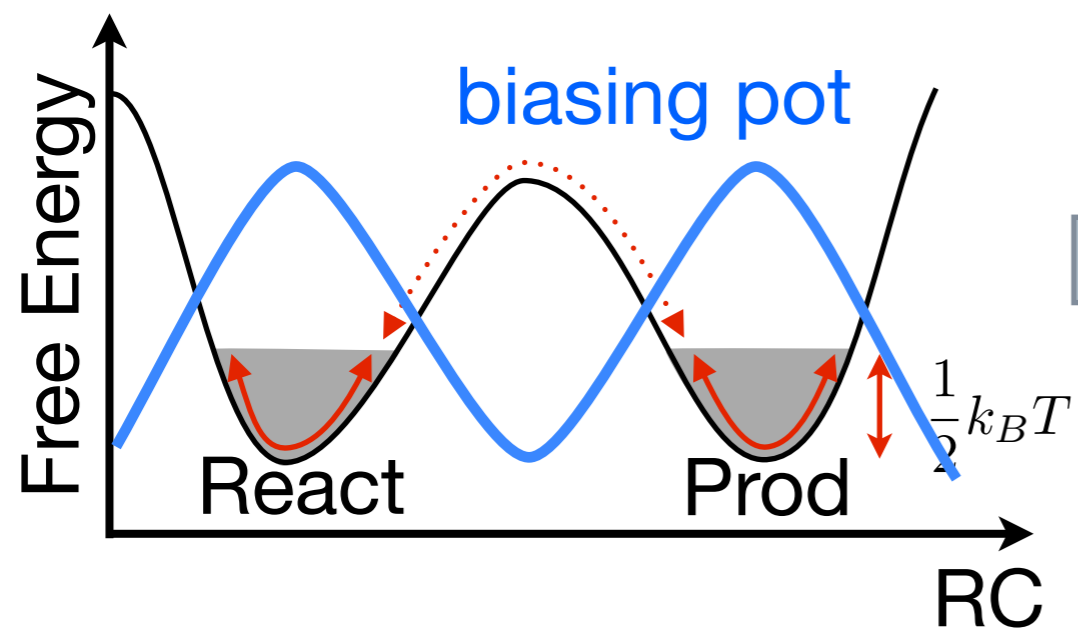


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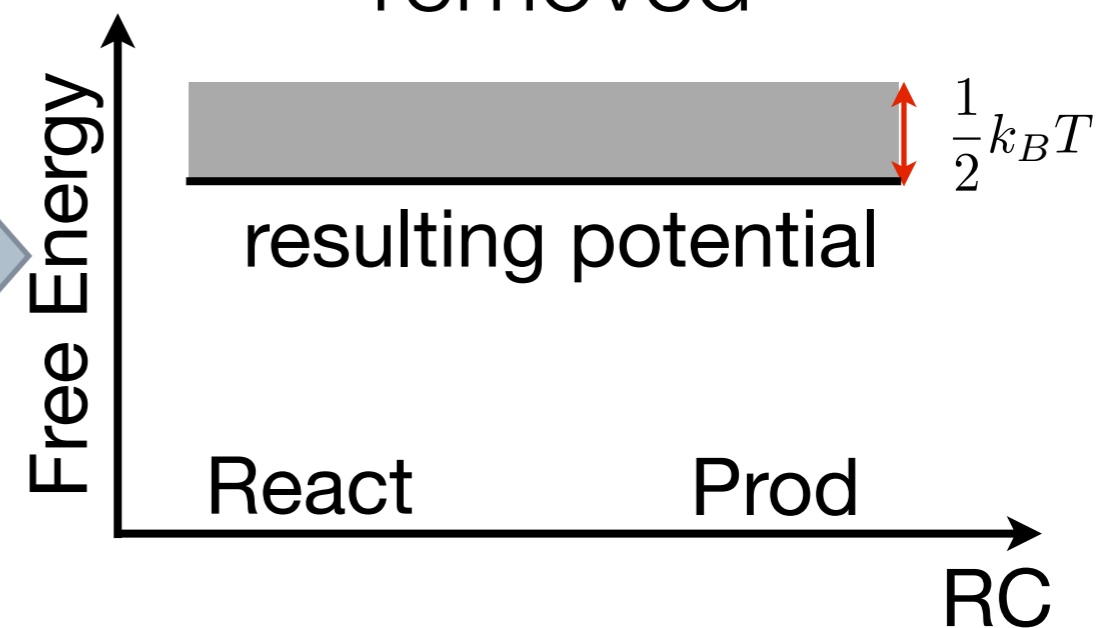


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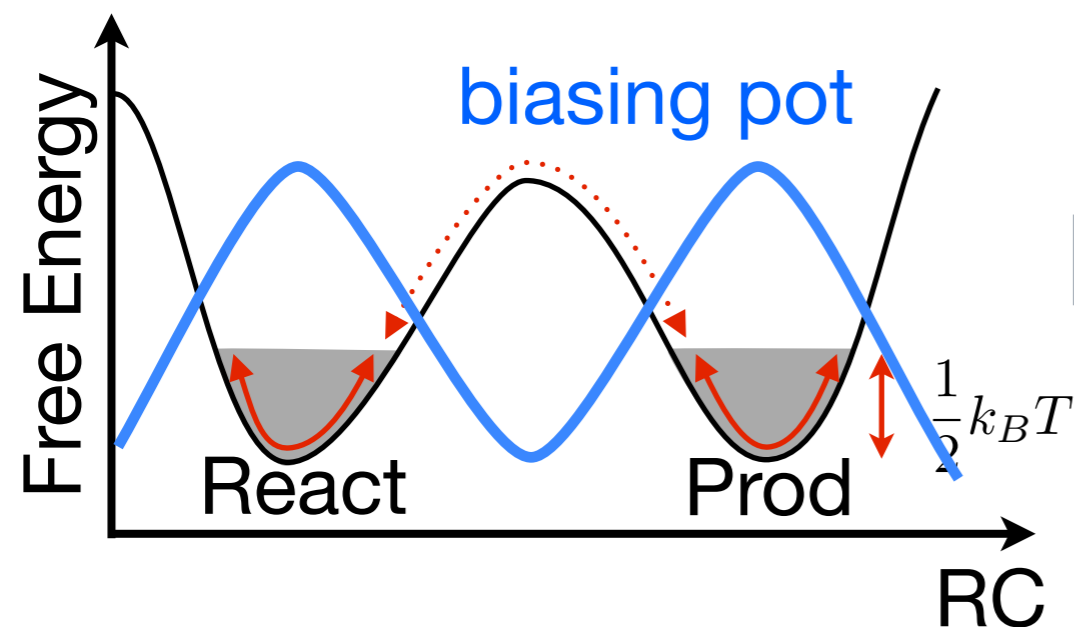


Metastabilities are removed

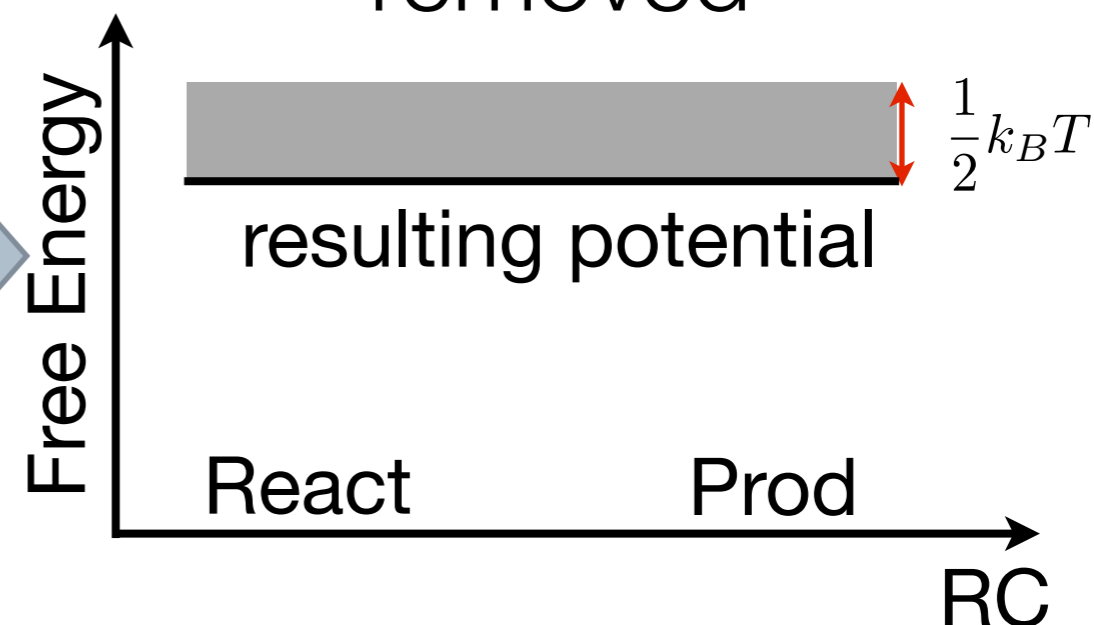


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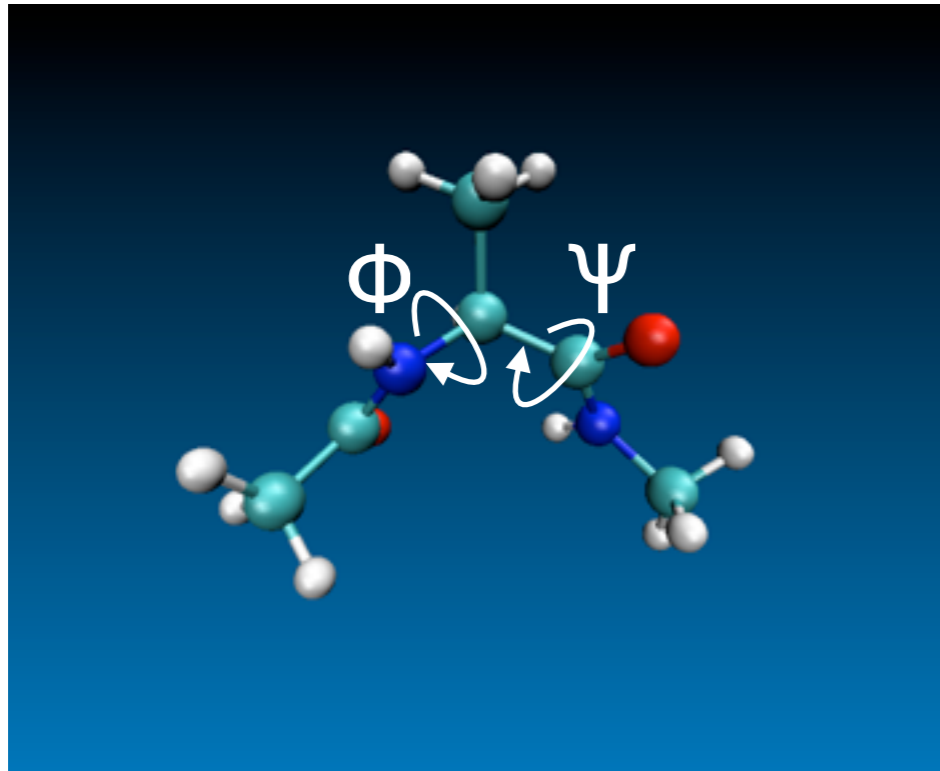
- \* allow to measure free energies: useful
- \* allow to overcome barriers: cheap
- \* need only an additional term to standard DFT forces: easy

# Adaptive sampling methods

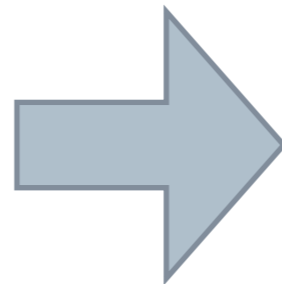
- \* Adaptive Biasing Force Darve & Pohorille, J. Chem. Phys. 2001, vol. 115, pp. 9169.
- \* Adaptive Umbrella Sampling Mezei, M. J Comput Phys 1987, vol. 68, pp. 237.
- \* Self Healing Umbrella Sampling Marsili et. al J. Chem. Phys. B vol. 110, pp. 14011.
- \* Metadynamics Laio & Parrinello, PNAS 2002, vol. 20, pp. 12562.
- \* Conformational Flooding Grubmüller, Phys Rev E 1995, vol. 52, pp. 2893.
- \* ...

# Adaptive sampling methods (e.g. metadynamics)

without ES

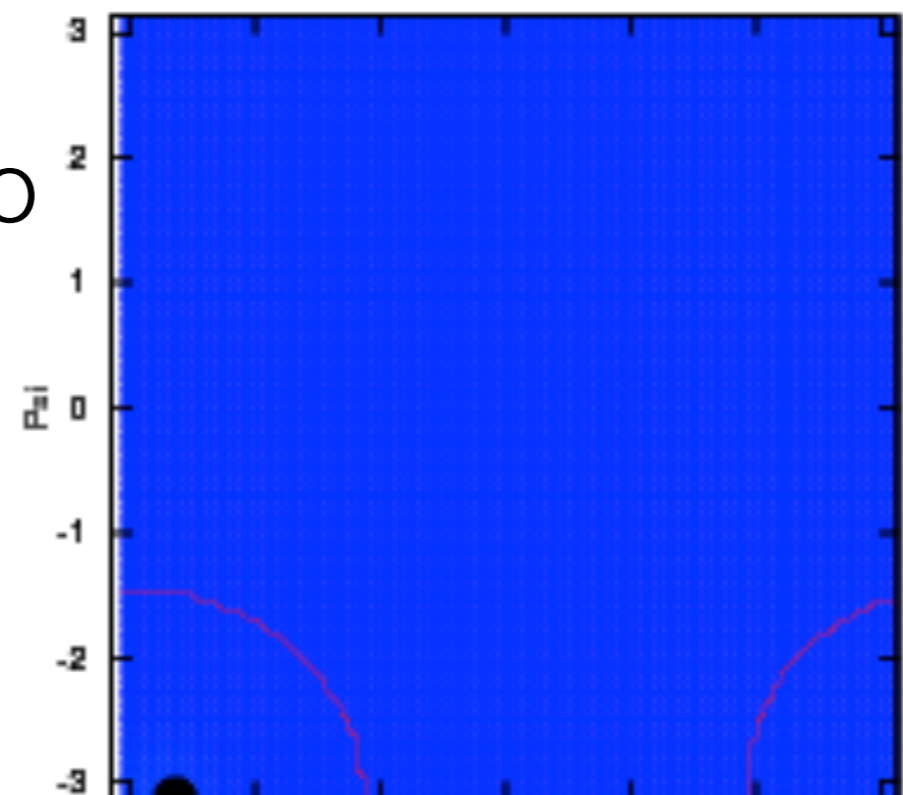
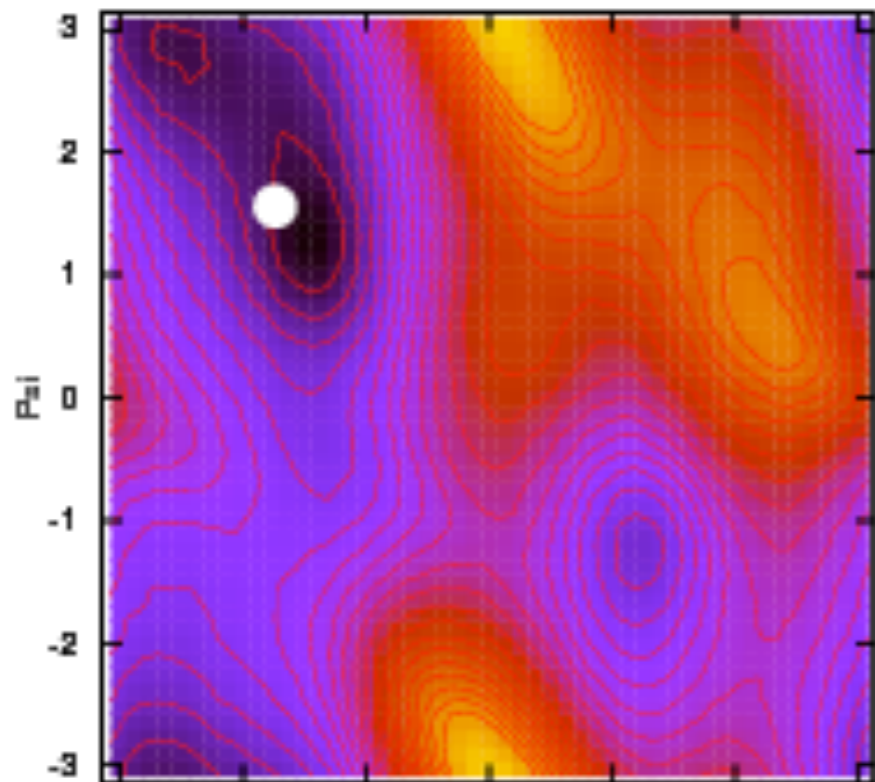
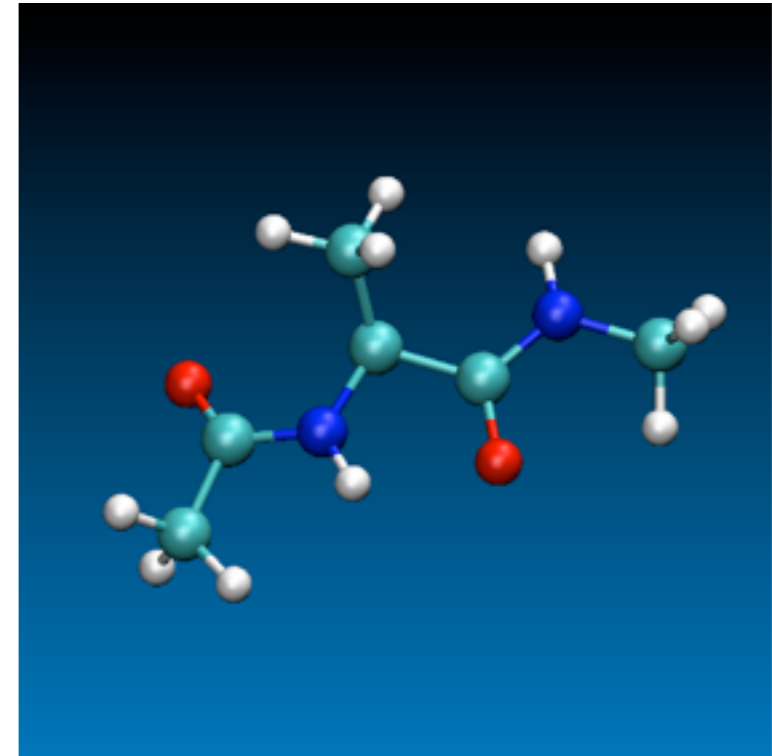


from  
milli  
secs...



to nano  
secs!

with ES



# Thermodynamic-Integration-like approaches

- \* The ancestor is mean force calculation through harmonic potential

$$F(s) = -k_B T \ln P(s)$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial F(s)}{\partial s} \right|_{s_0} = -k_B T \frac{1}{\int e^{-\frac{V(x)}{k_B T}} \delta(s'(x) - s) dx} \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \int e^{-\frac{V(x)}{k_B T}} \delta(s'(x) - s) dx \right|_{s_0}$$

- \* Dirac delta function  $\approx$  Gaussian function (I like this trick!)

$$\left. \frac{\partial F(s)}{\partial s} \right|_{s_0} \simeq -k_B T \frac{1}{\int e^{-\frac{V(x)}{k_B T}} e^{-\frac{k}{2k_B T} (s'(x) - s)^2} dx} \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \int e^{-\frac{V(x)}{k_B T}} e^{-\frac{k}{2k_B T} (s'(x) - s)^2} dx \right|_{s_0}$$

- \* It is an average of a biased simulation!

$$\left. \frac{\partial F(s)}{\partial s} \right|_{s_0} \simeq - \frac{1}{\int e^{-\frac{V(x) + k/2(s'(x) - s_0)^2}{k_B T}} dx} \int k(s'(x) - s_0) e^{-\frac{V(x) + k/2(s'(x) - s_0)^2}{k_B T}} dx$$

$$= -k \langle s'(x) - s_0 \rangle_{bias, s_0} \quad (\text{opposite of the "mean force"})$$

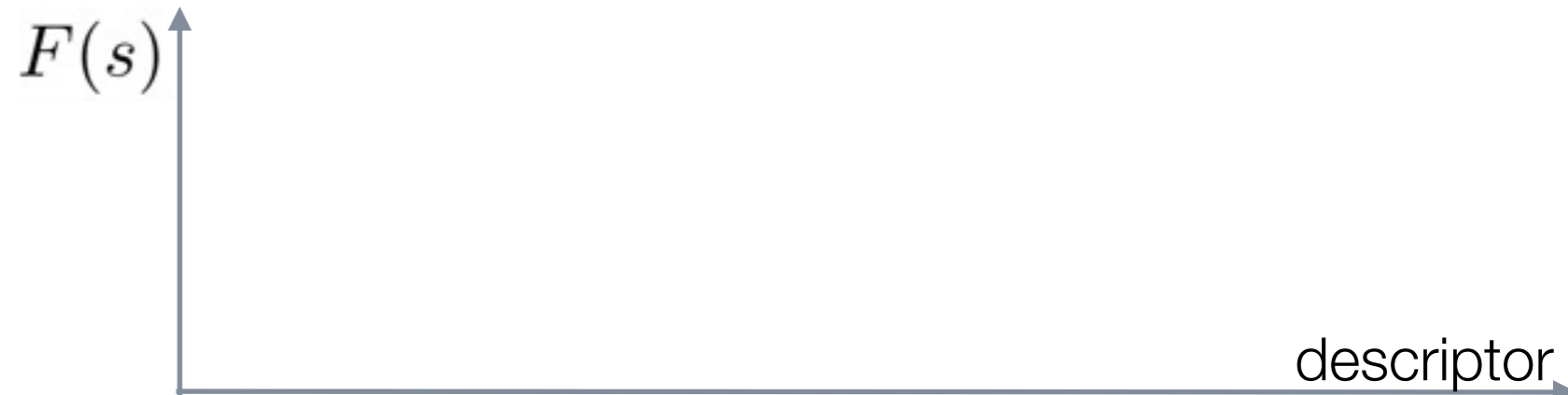
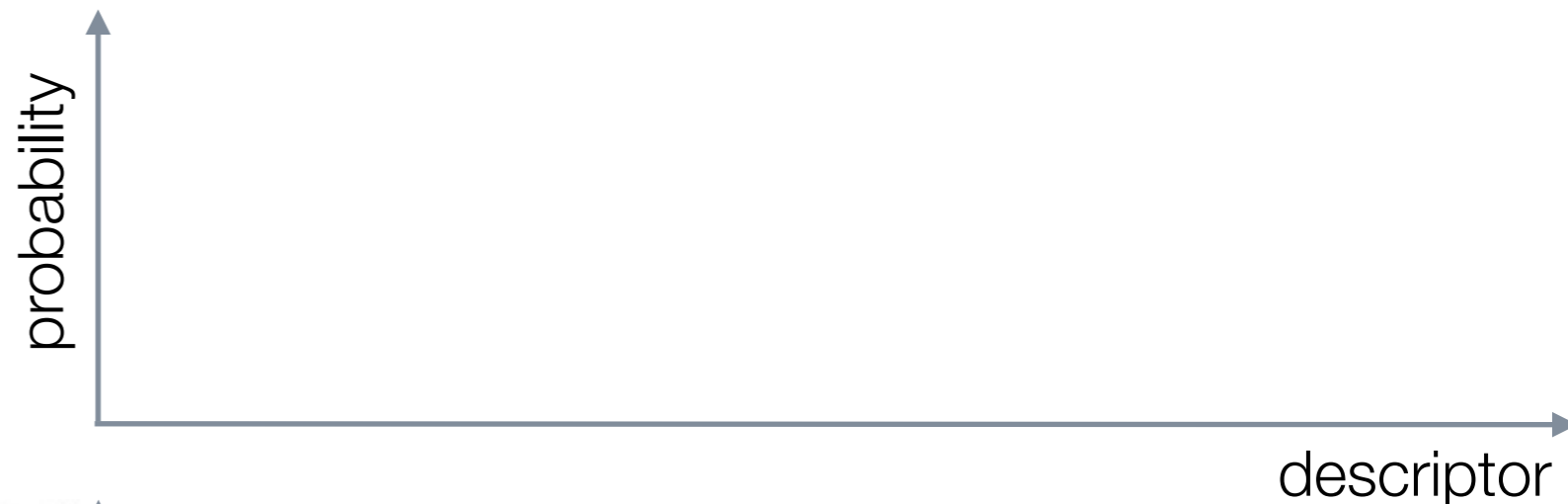
# Thermodynamic Integration 101

- \* Make a constrained simulation (go over barrier!)
- \* Acquire mean force
- \* Integrate



Sloping, slatted, wooden platforms are preferable for sheep dragging.

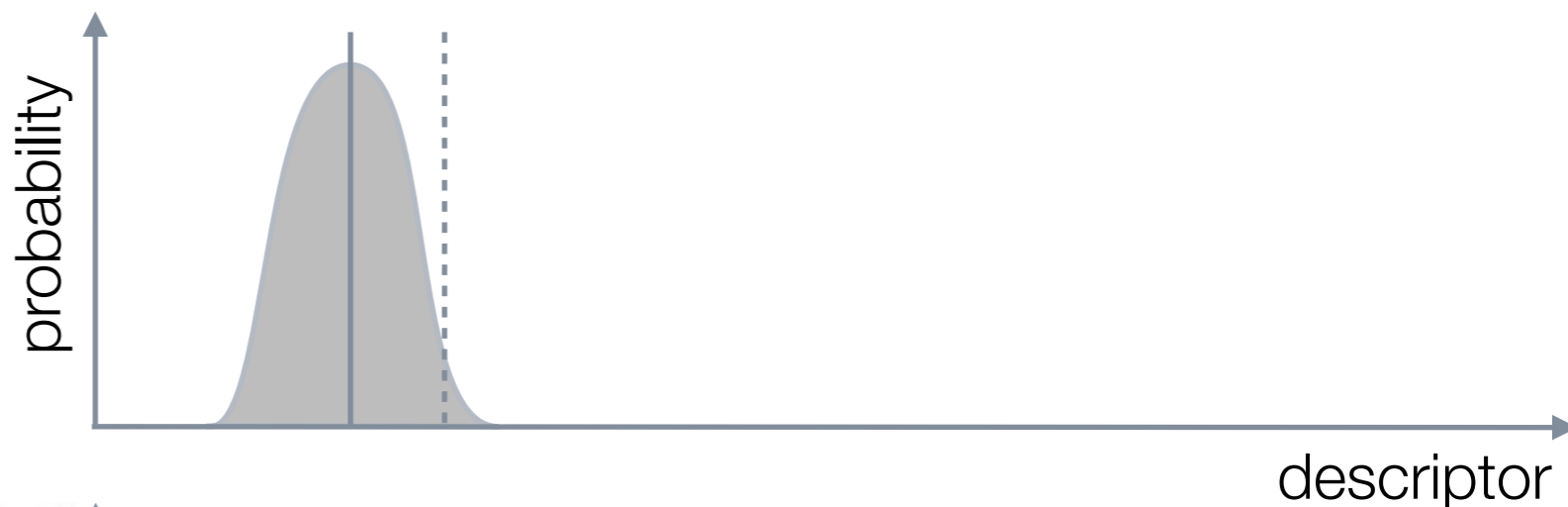
© J. Culvenor



+WHAM etc...

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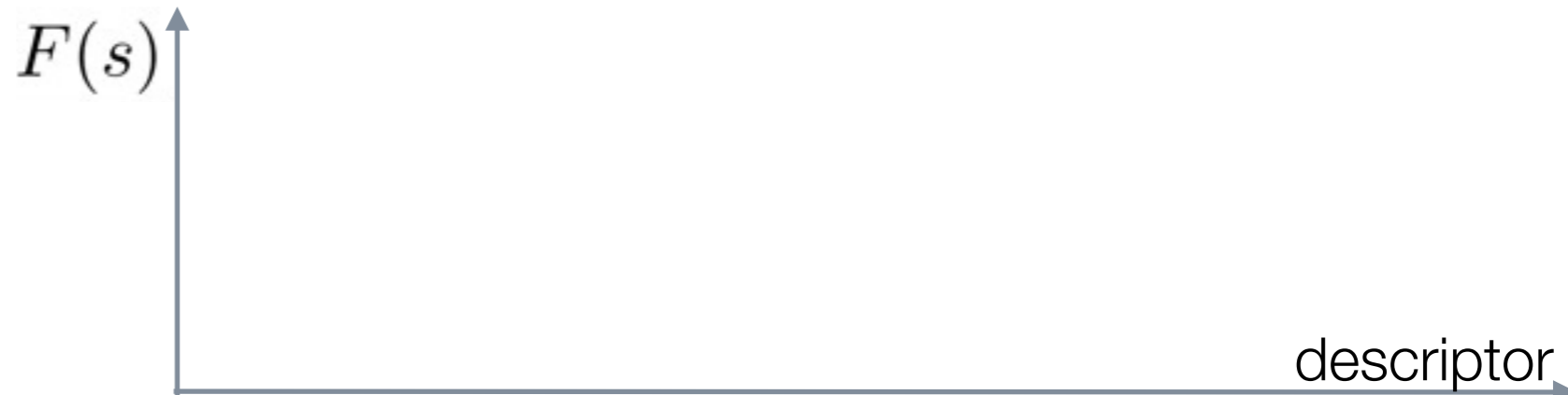


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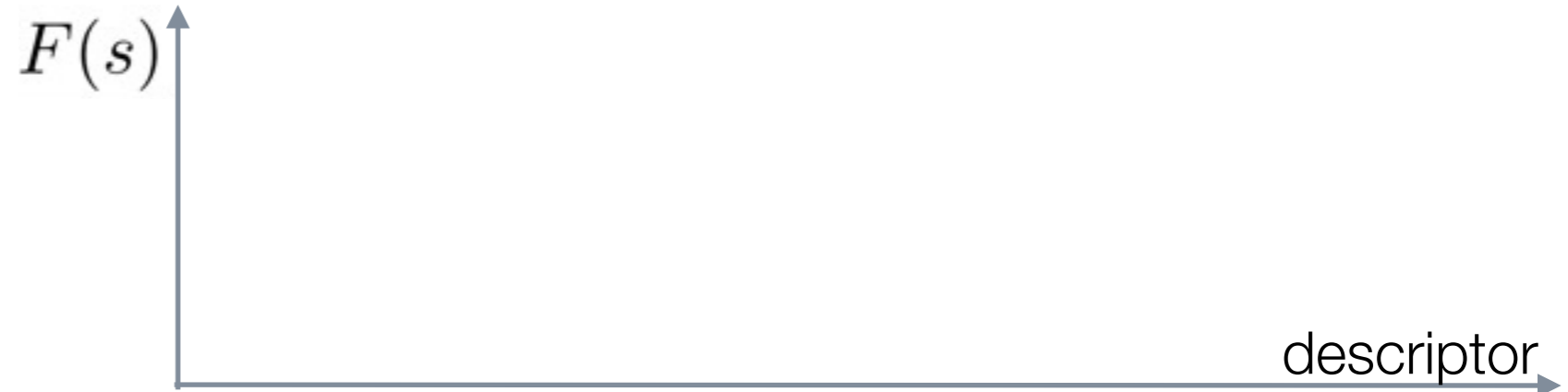
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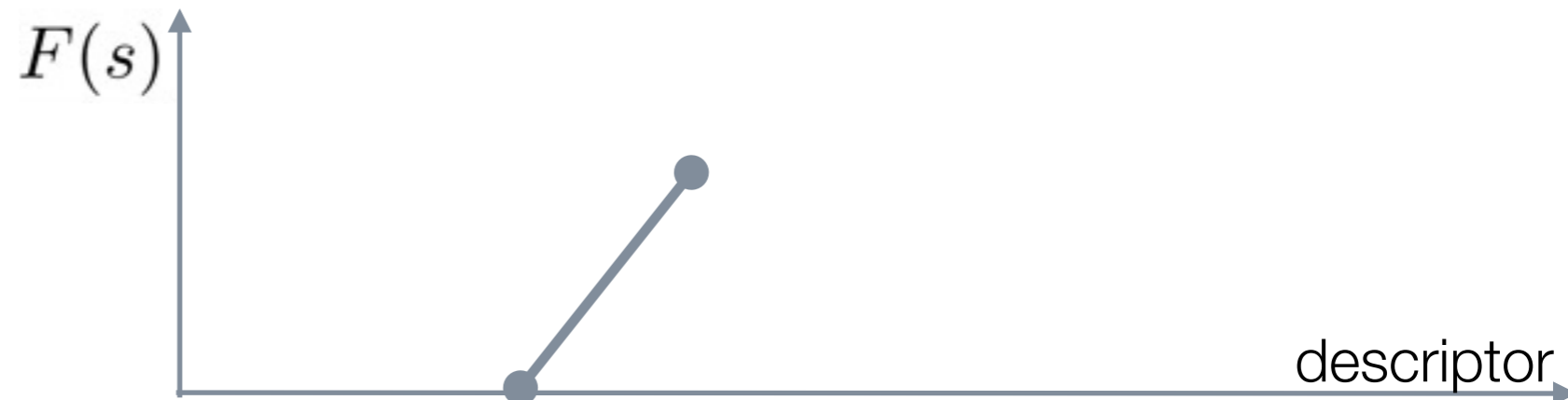


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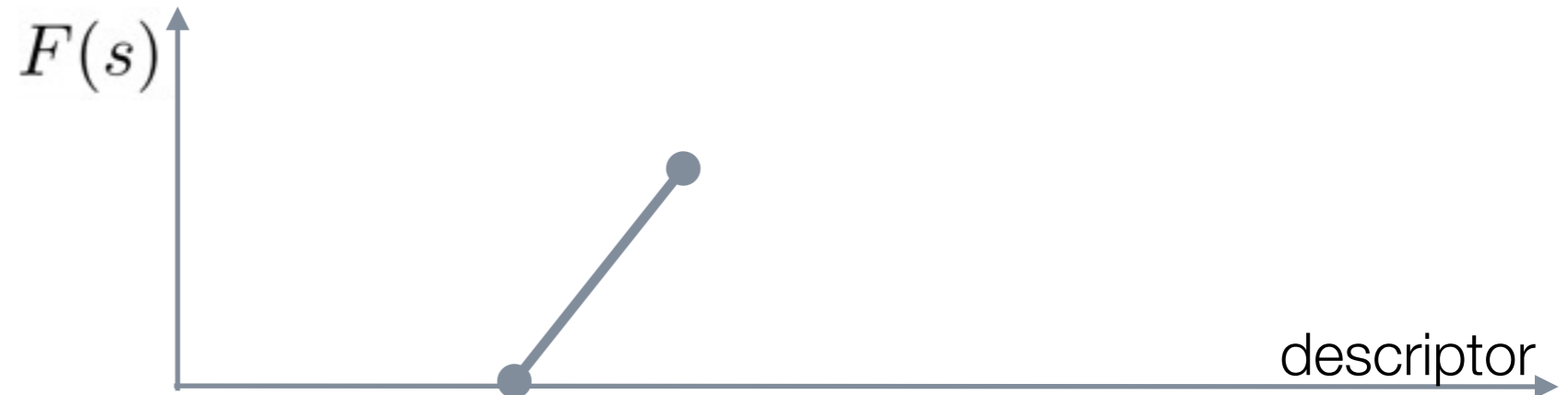
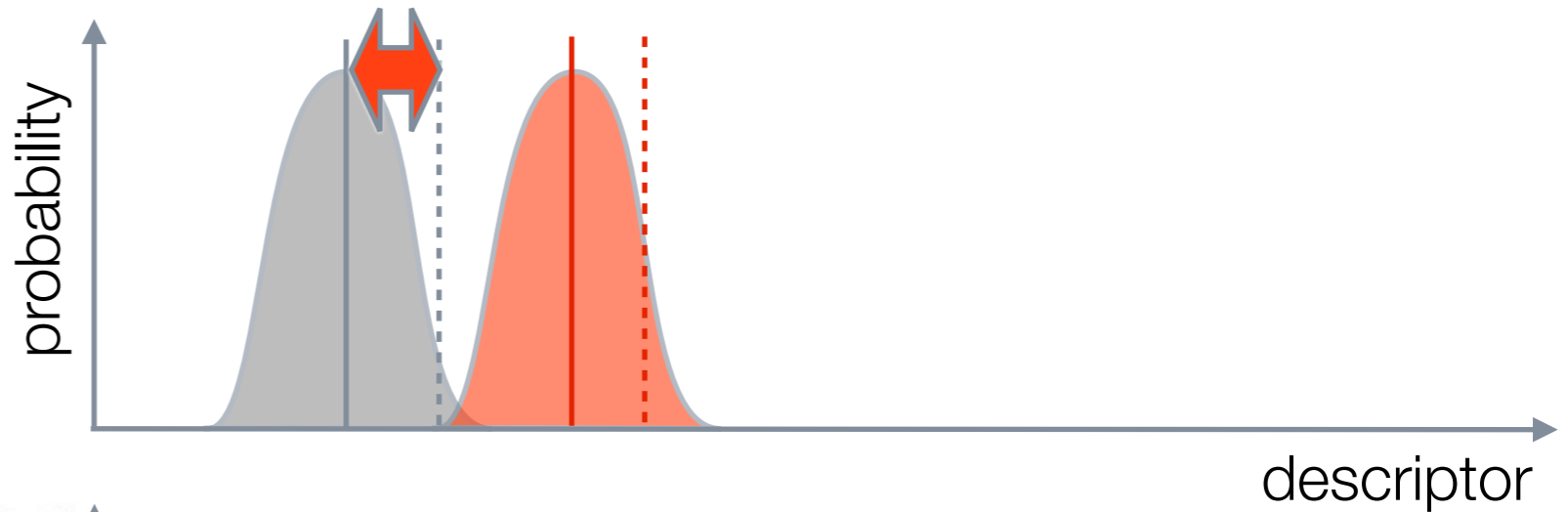


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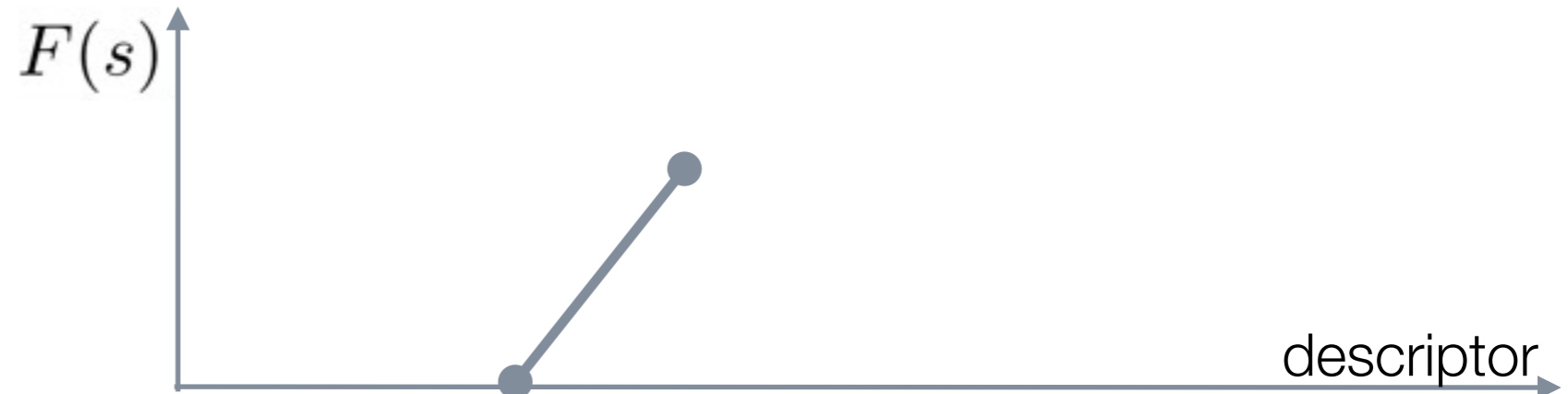
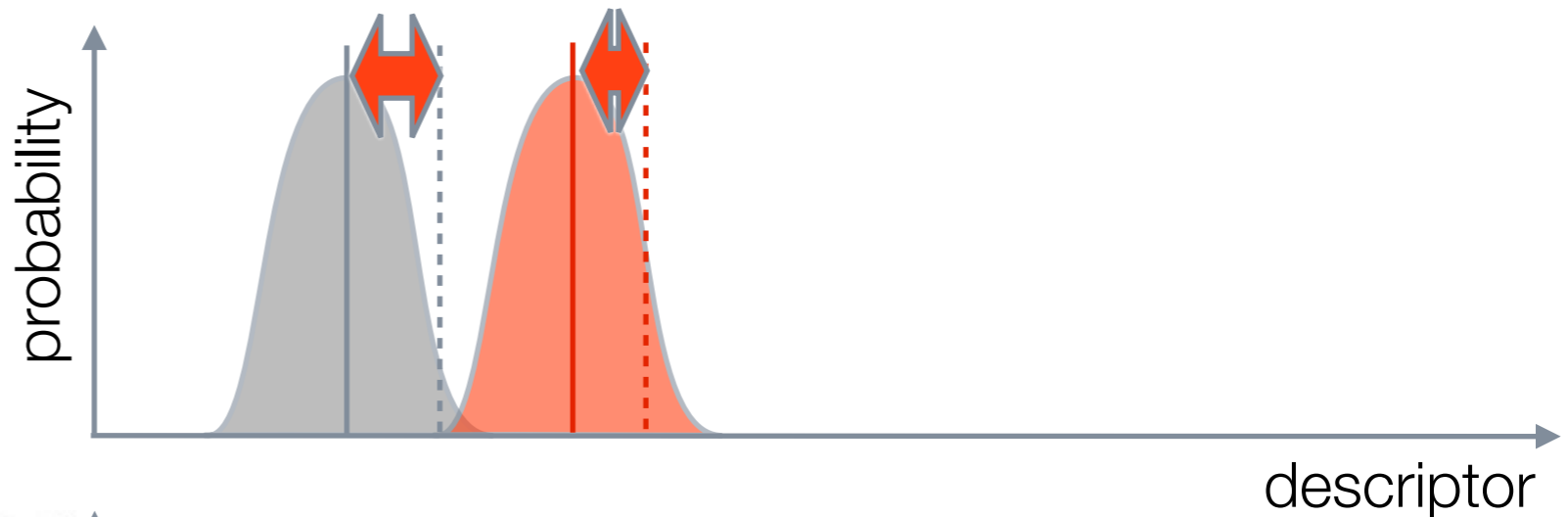


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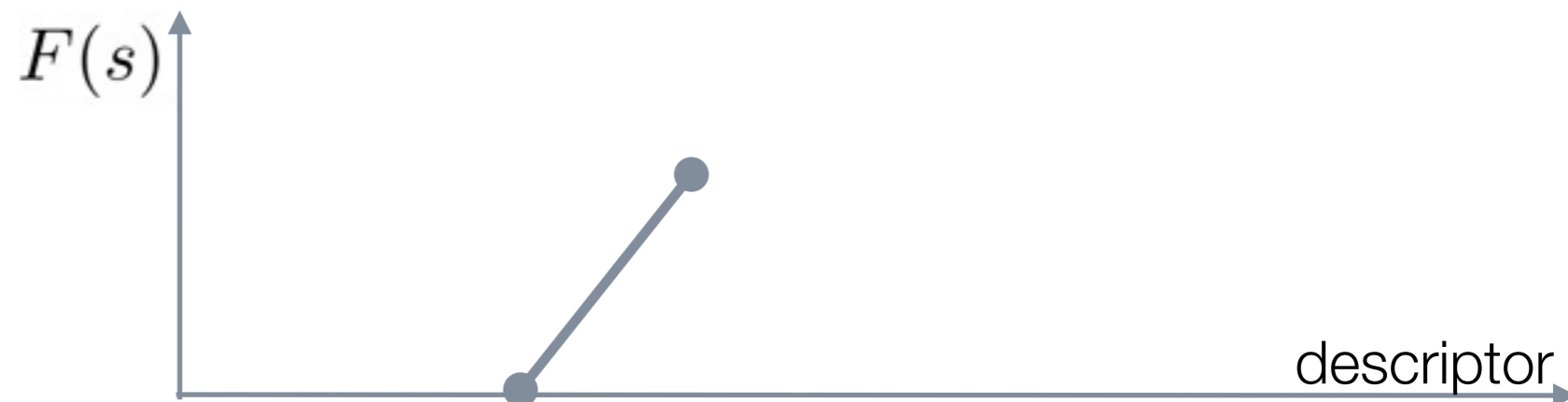
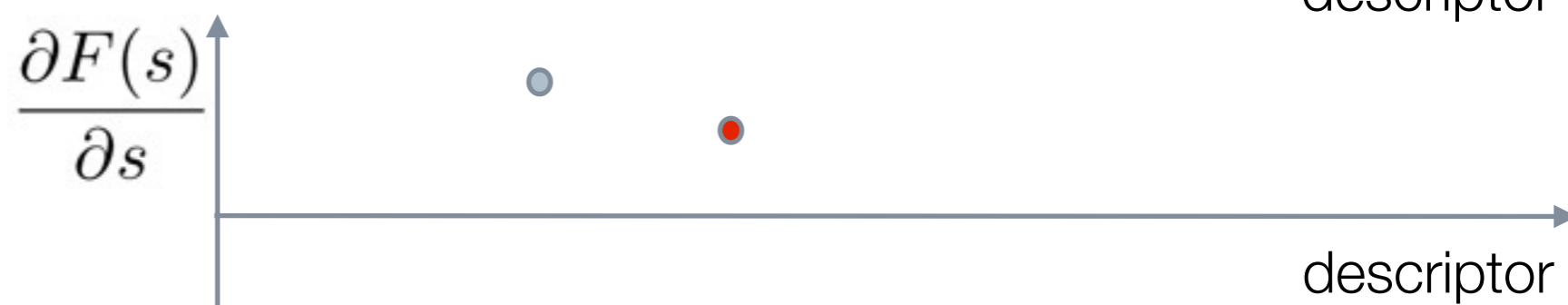
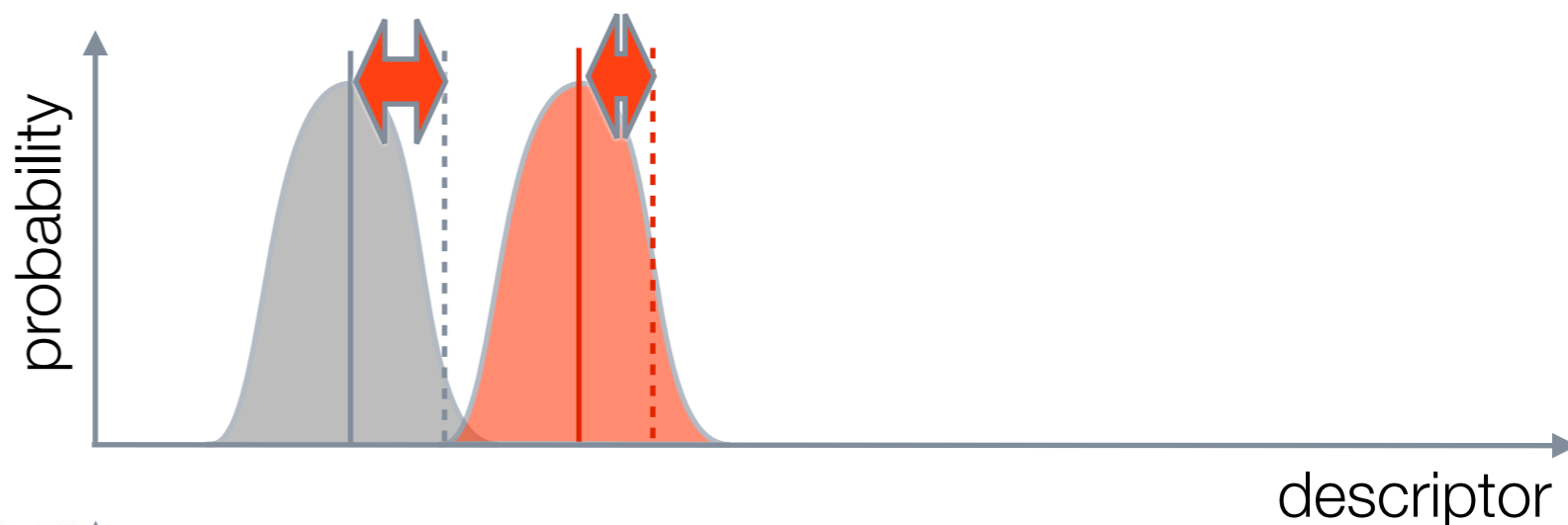


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+WHAM etc...

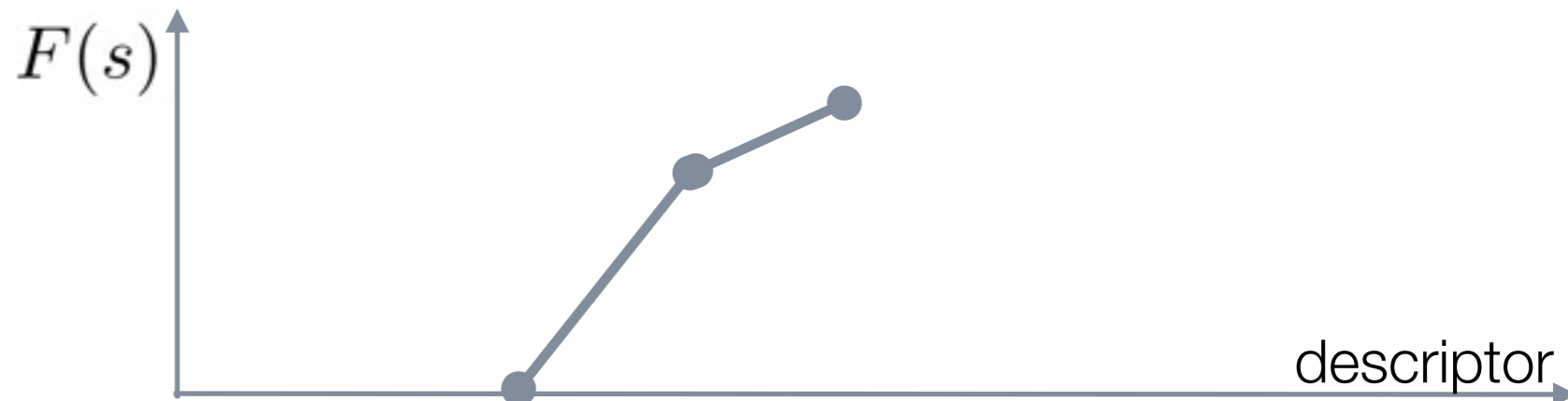
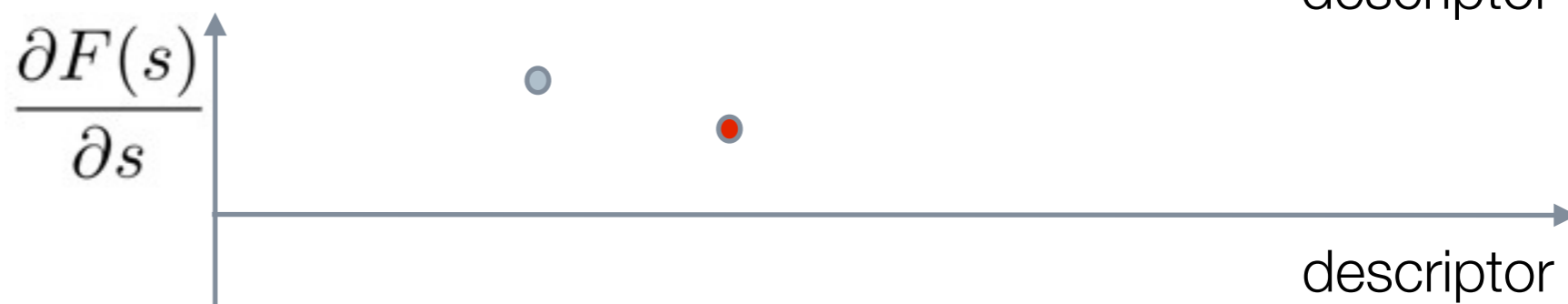
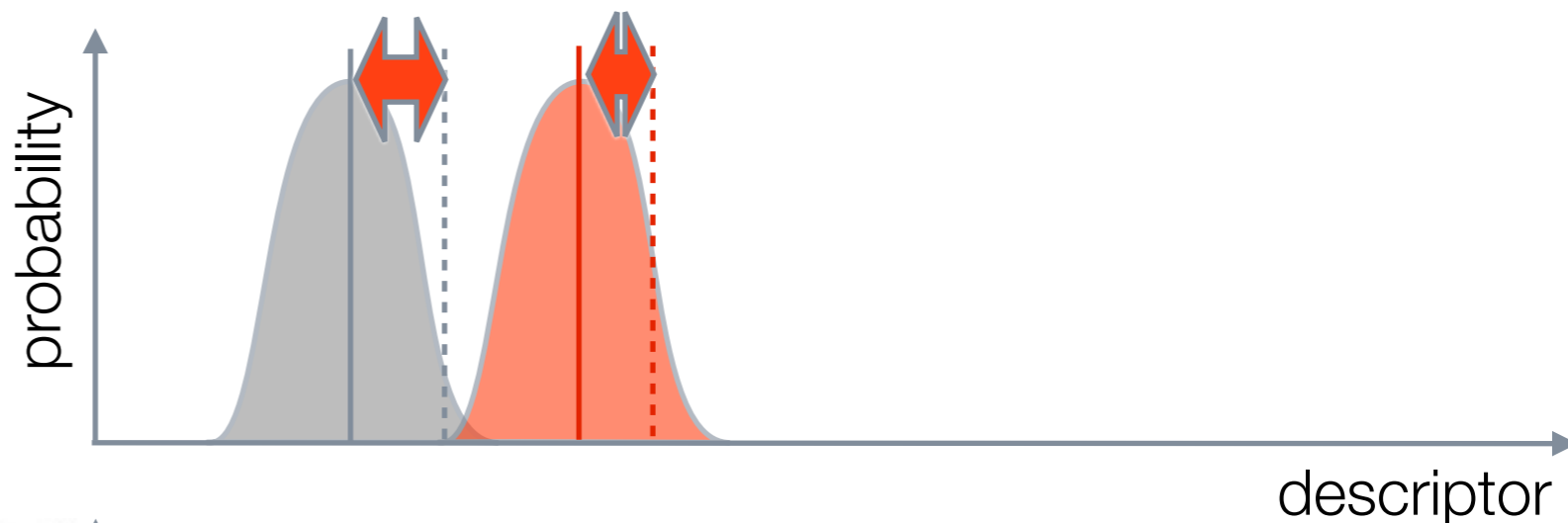


Sloping, slatted, wooden platforms are preferable for sheep dragging.

© J. Culvenor

# Thermodynamic Integration 101

- \* Make a constrained simulation (go over barrier!)
- \* Acquire mean force
- \* Integrate



+WHAM etc...

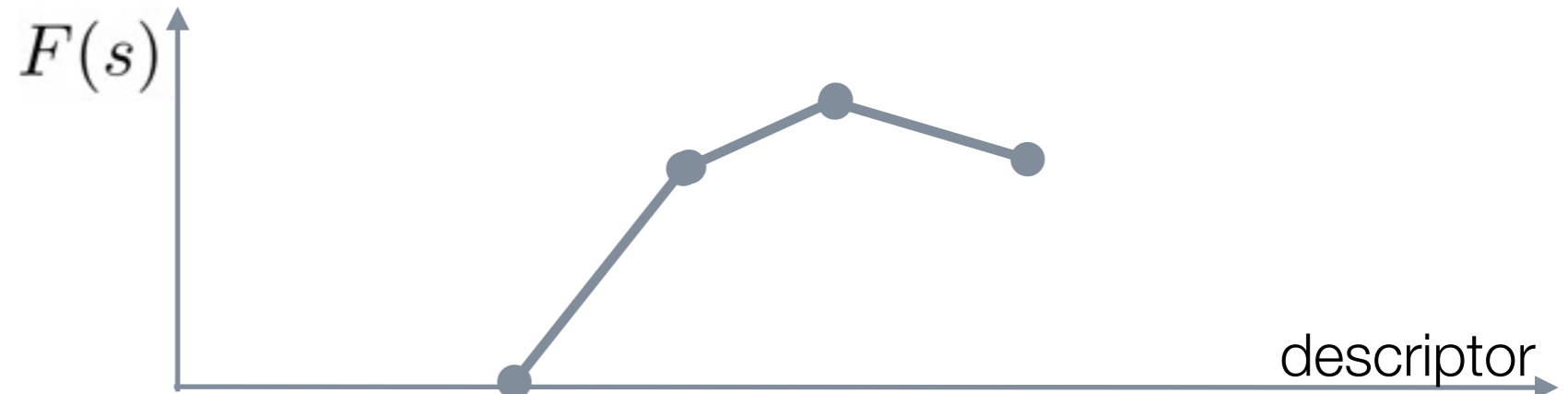
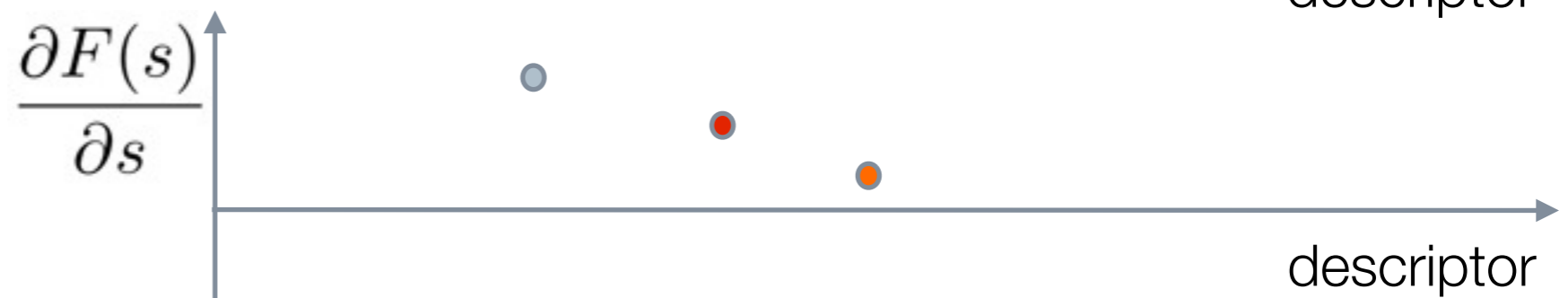
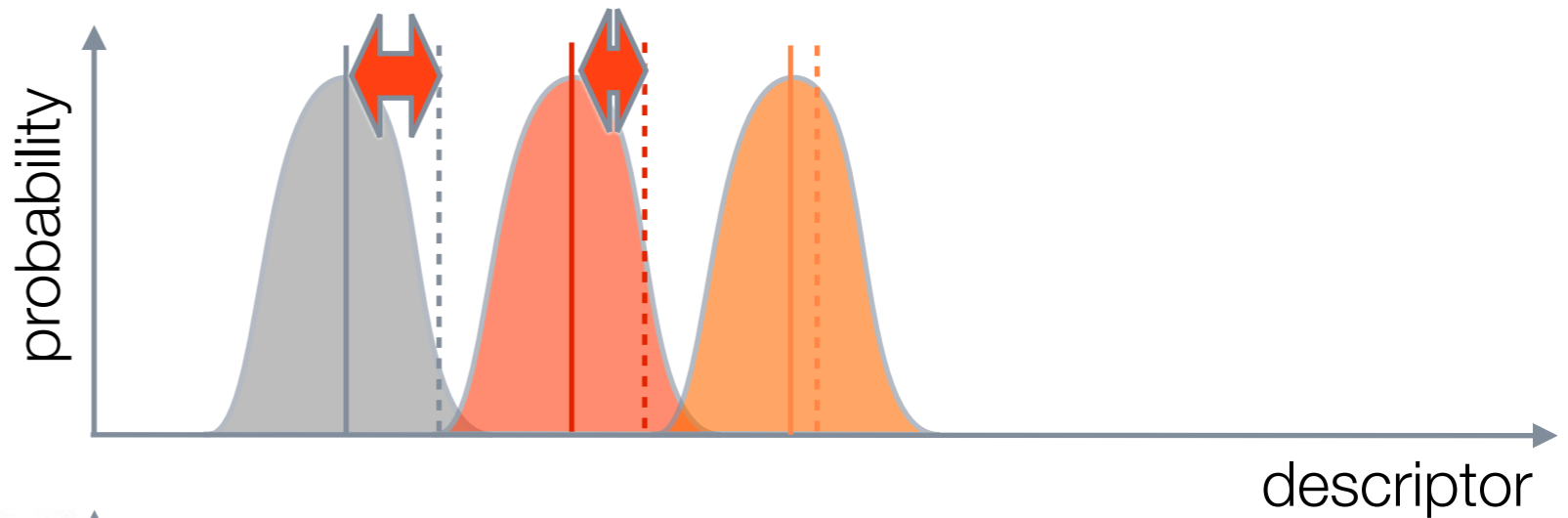


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© J. Culvenor

# Thermodynamic Integration 101

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+WHAM etc...

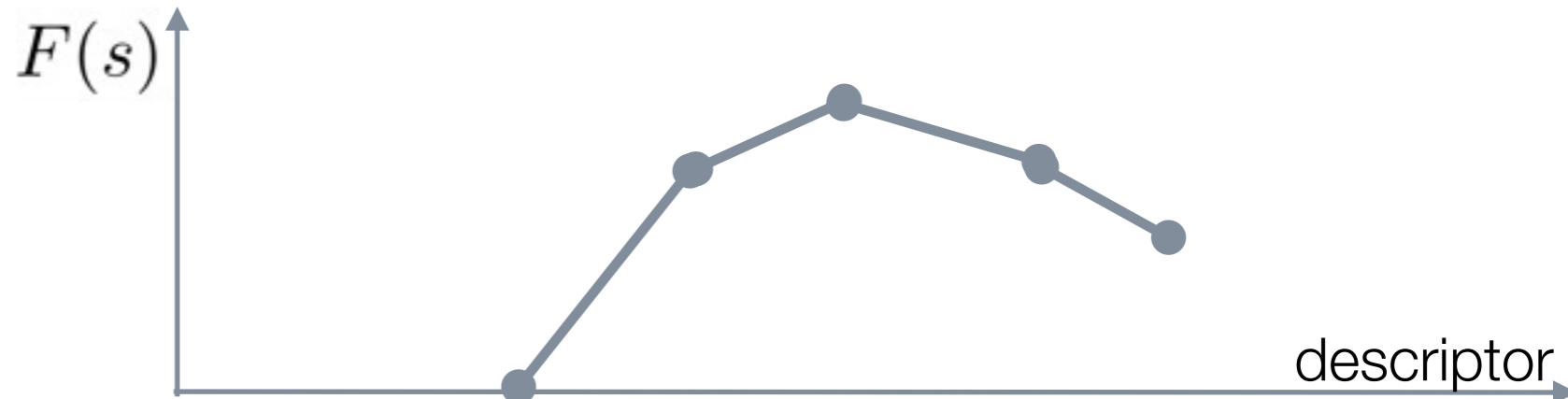
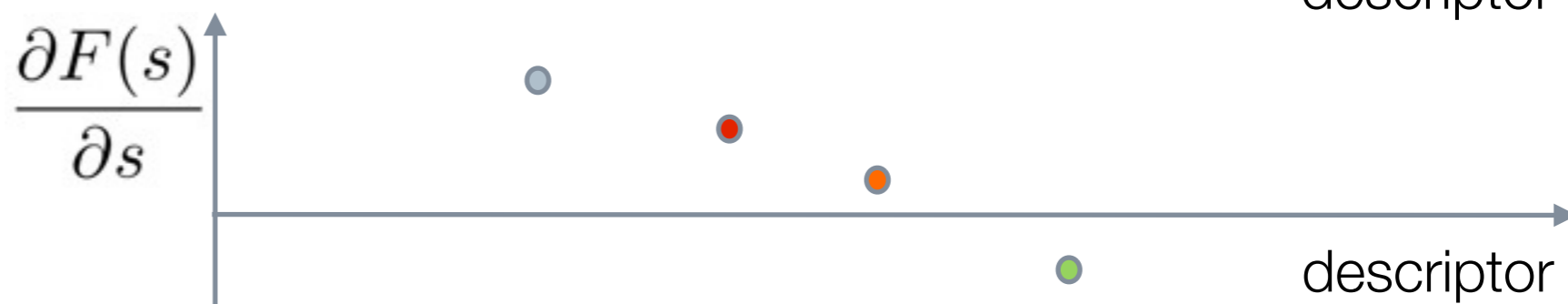
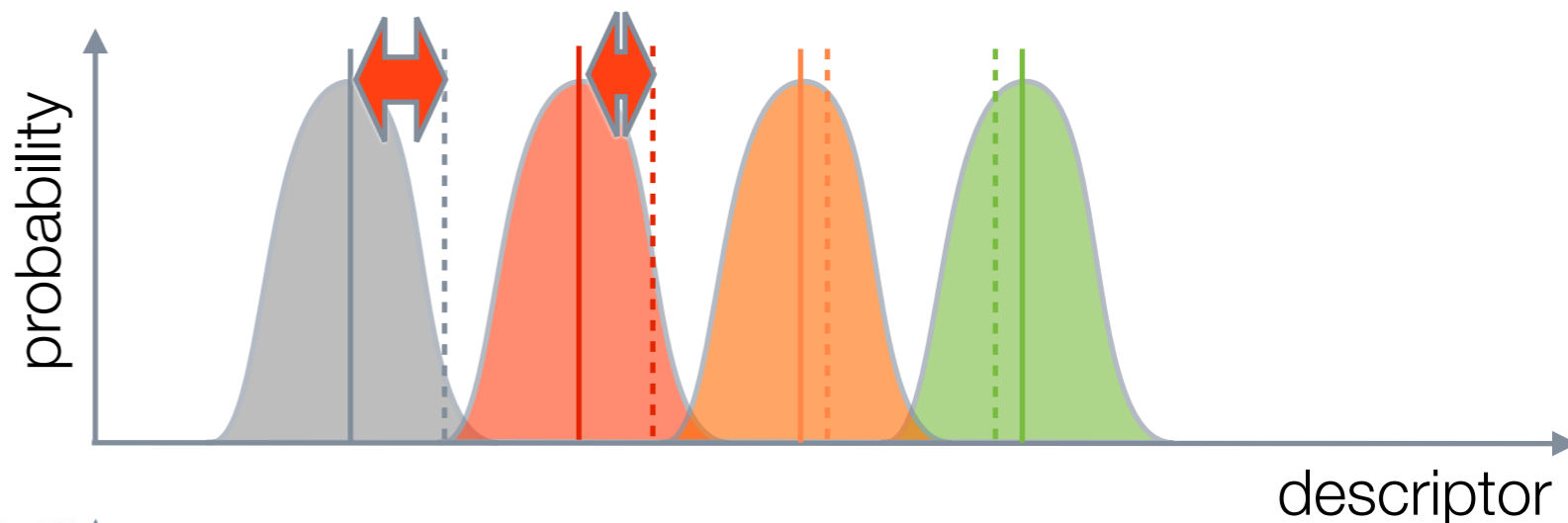


Sloping, slatted, wooden platforms are preferable for sheep dragging.

© J. Culvenor

# Thermodynamic Integration 101

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- \* Acquire mean force
- \* Integrate



+WHAM etc...



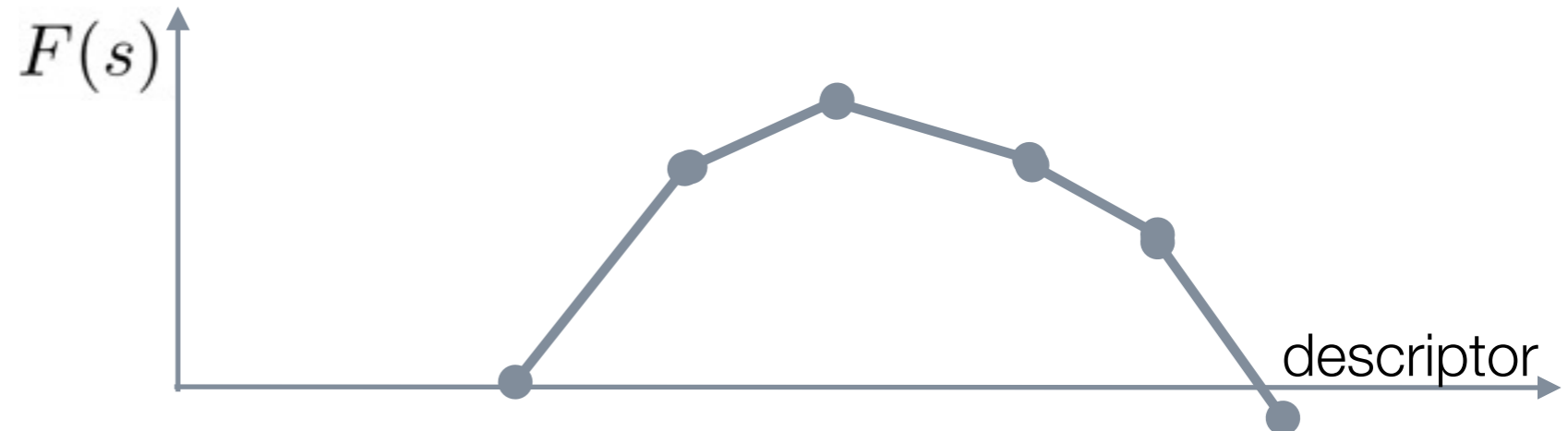
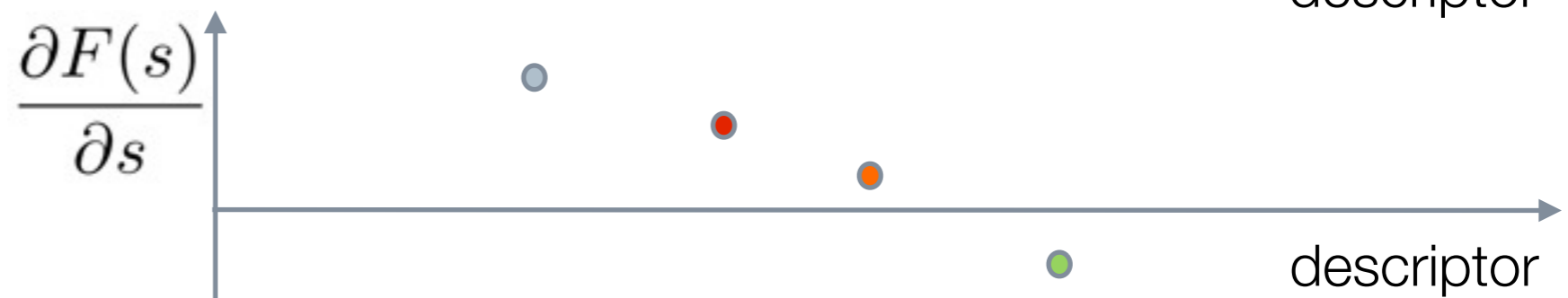
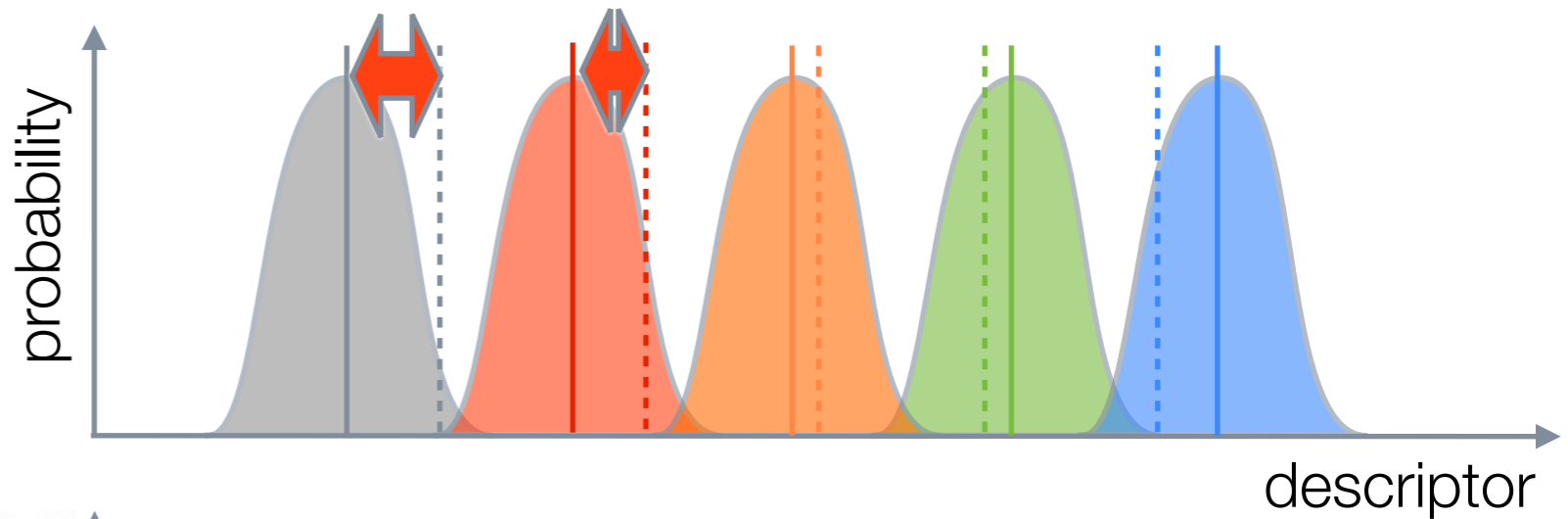
Sloping, slatted, wooden platforms are preferable for sheep dragging.

© J. Culvenor



# Thermodynamic Integration 101

- \* Make a constrained simulation (go over barrier!)
- \* Acquire mean force
- \* Integrate



+WHAM etc...



Sloping, slatted, wooden platforms are preferable for sheep dragging.

© J. Culvenor

# Thermodynamic-Integration-like approaches

- \* Thermodynamic integration

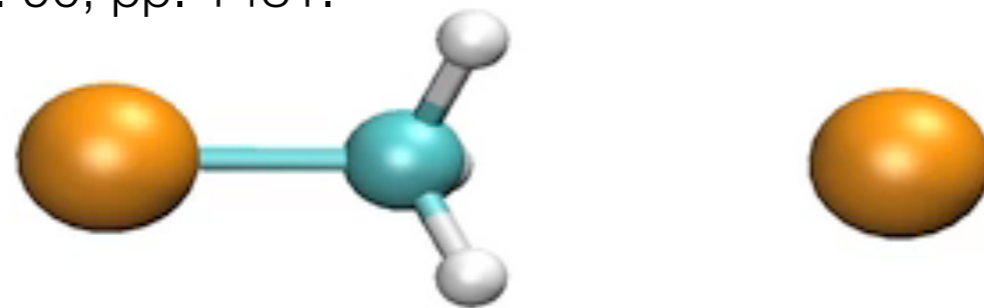
Beveridge, DiCapua, Annu Rev Biophys Biophys Chem 1989, vol 18, pp. 431.

- \* WHAM Roux, Comp Phys Comm 1995, vol. 91, pp. 275.

- \* Free energy perturbation Beveridge, DiCapua, Annu Rev Biophys Biophys Chem 1989, vol 18, pp. 431.

- \* Jarzynski-equation based approaches (steered-MD) Jarzynski Phys Rev Lett 1997, vol. 78, pp. 2690.

- \* Crooks-equation based approaches (two directions steered-MD) Crooks J Stat Phys 1998, vol. 90, pp. 1481.



SN2 reaction: if you like this movie come to the tutorial to see how to make it!

# Adaptive sampling vs TI-like methods

## Adaptive sampling:

- \* The problem is multidimensional but probably the accessible phase space is limited: they explore only what you need
- \* The free energy landscape has competitive, parallel reactive paths (solvent degrees of freedom, rotations) that can be overcome at some point

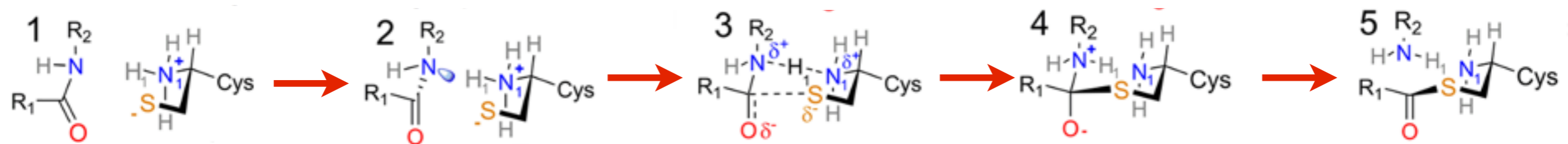
## TI-like:

- \* In 1-d (max 2-d, via WHAM or, better in DFT, rbf fitting schemes) very effective
- \* Sometimes trivially parallel (many umbrellas at same time)

# The problem of the descriptors

$$F(s) = -k_B T \ln P(s)$$

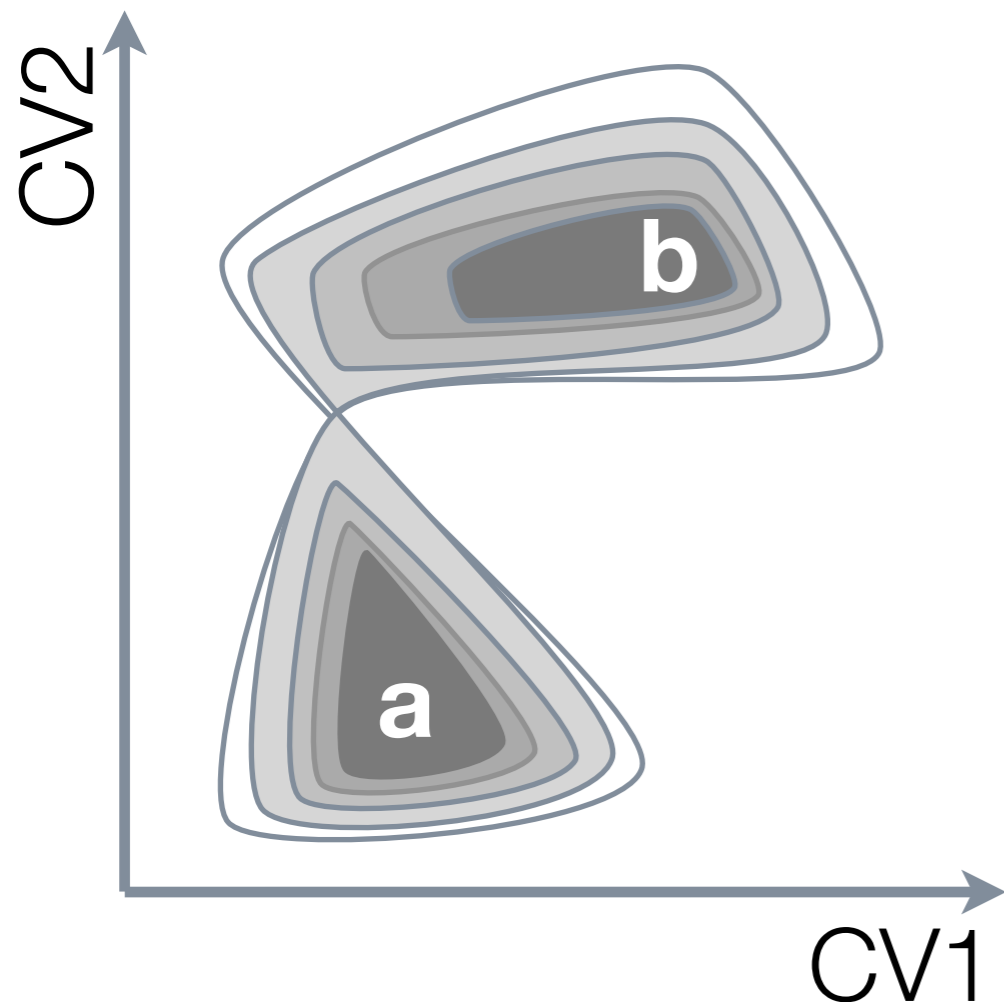
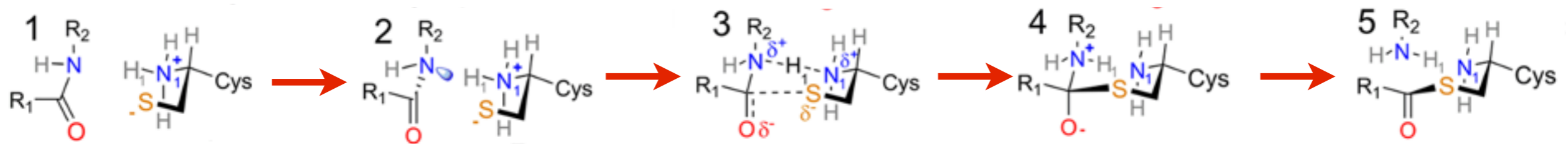
\* A multidimensional landscape: turn into monodimensional



# The problem of the descriptors

$$F(s) = -k_B T \ln P(s)$$

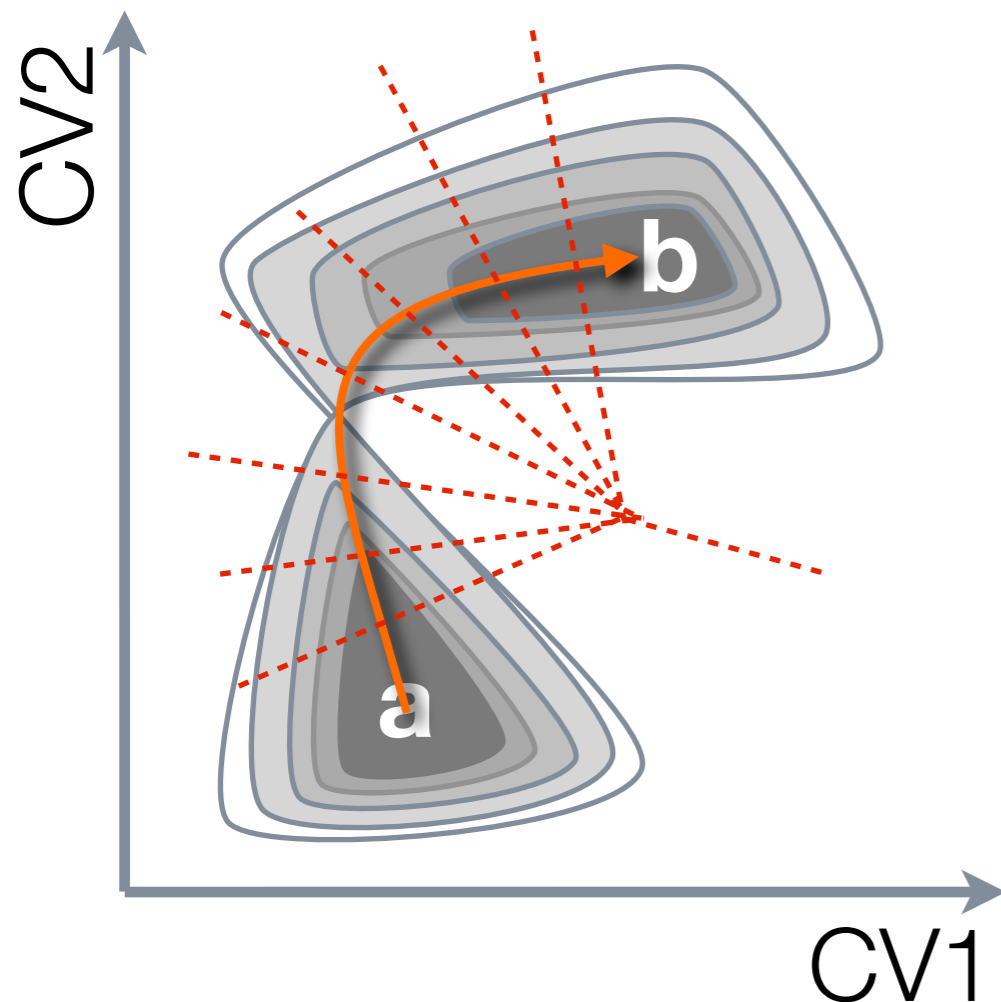
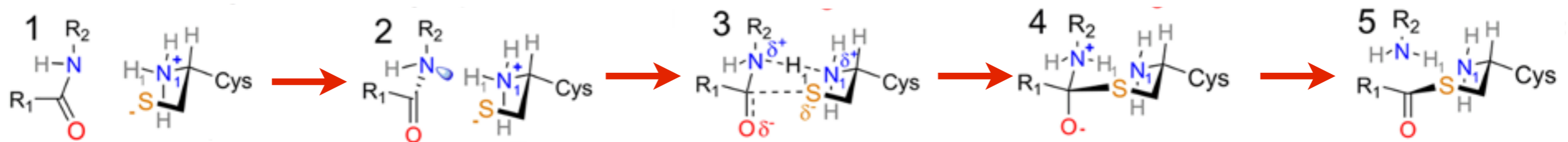
\* A multidimensional landscape: turn into monodimensional



# The problem of the descriptors

$$F(s) = -k_B T \ln P(s)$$

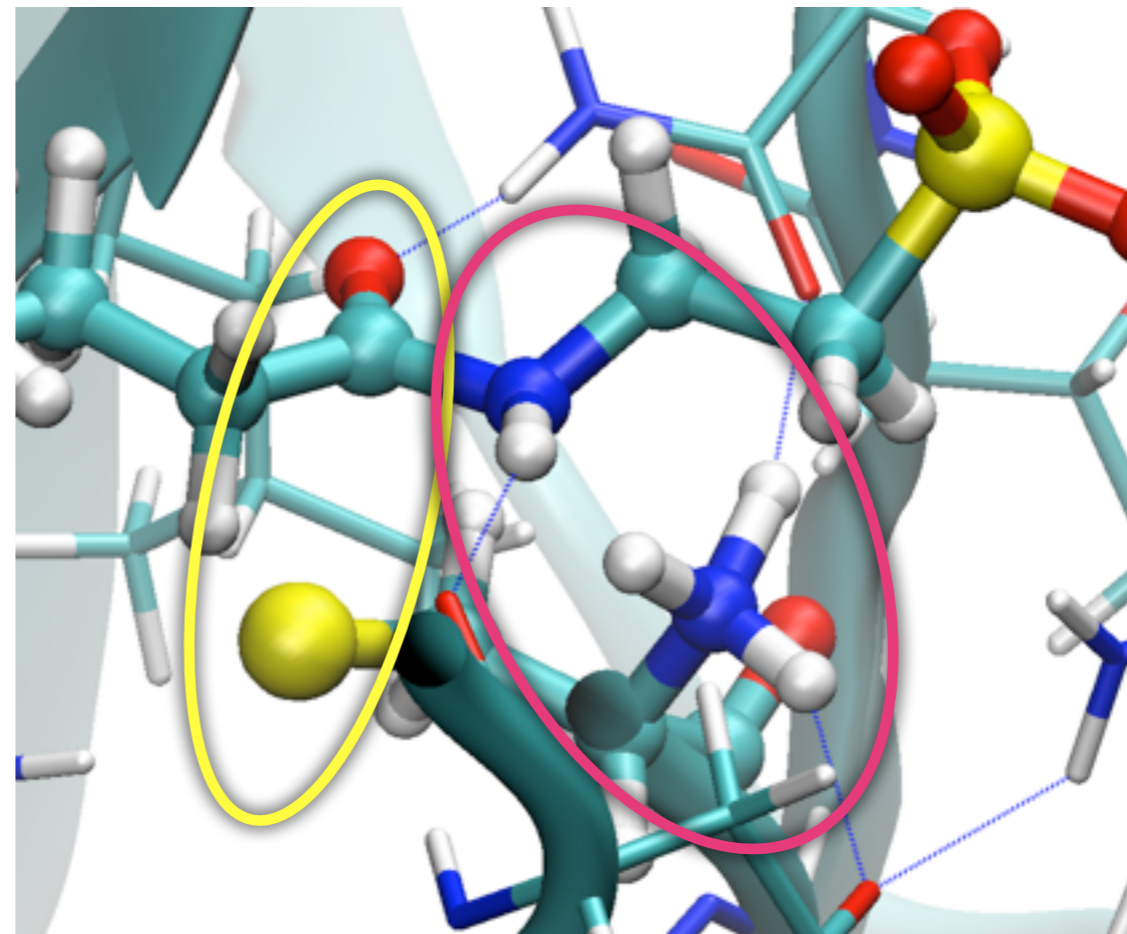
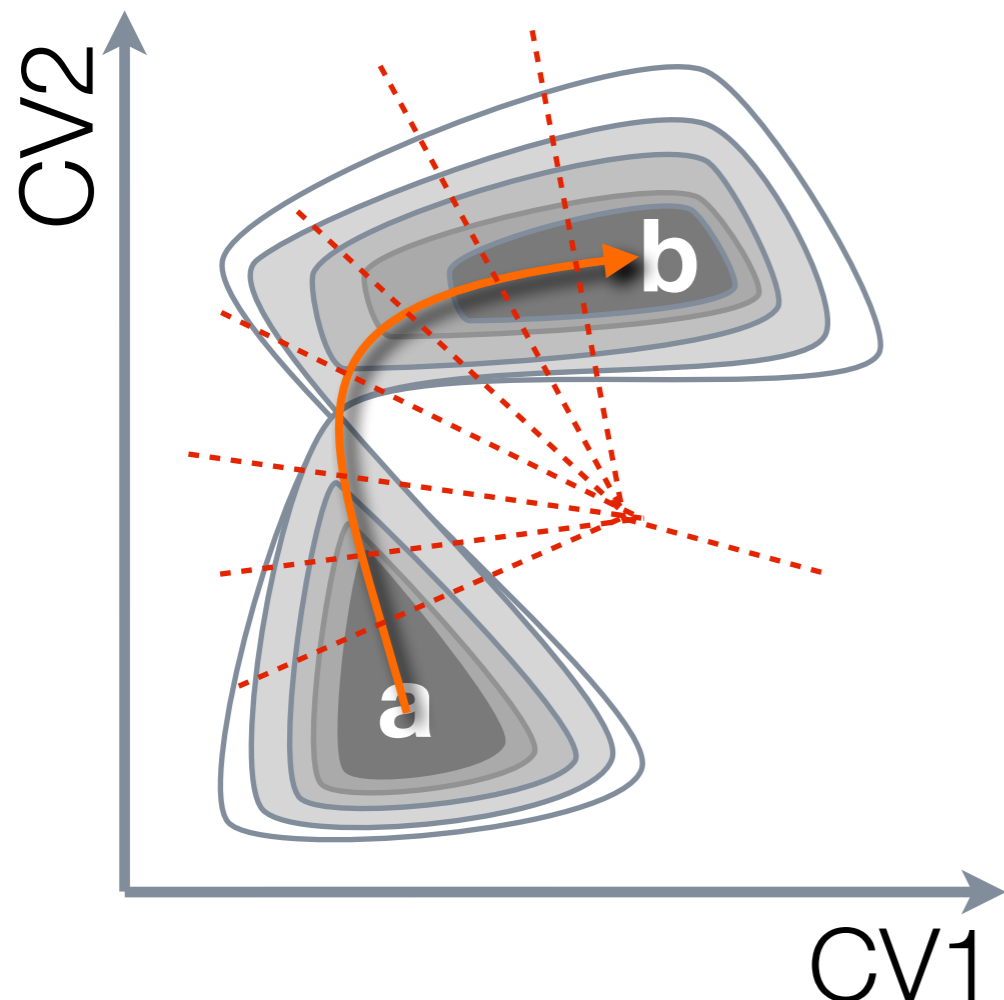
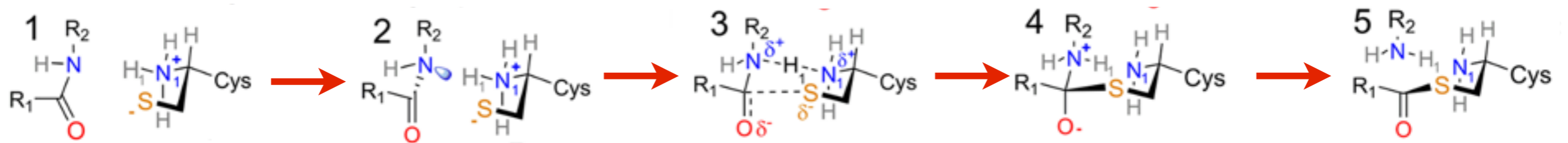
\* A multidimensional landscape: turn into monodimensional



# The problem of the descriptors

$$F(s) = -k_B T \ln P(s)$$

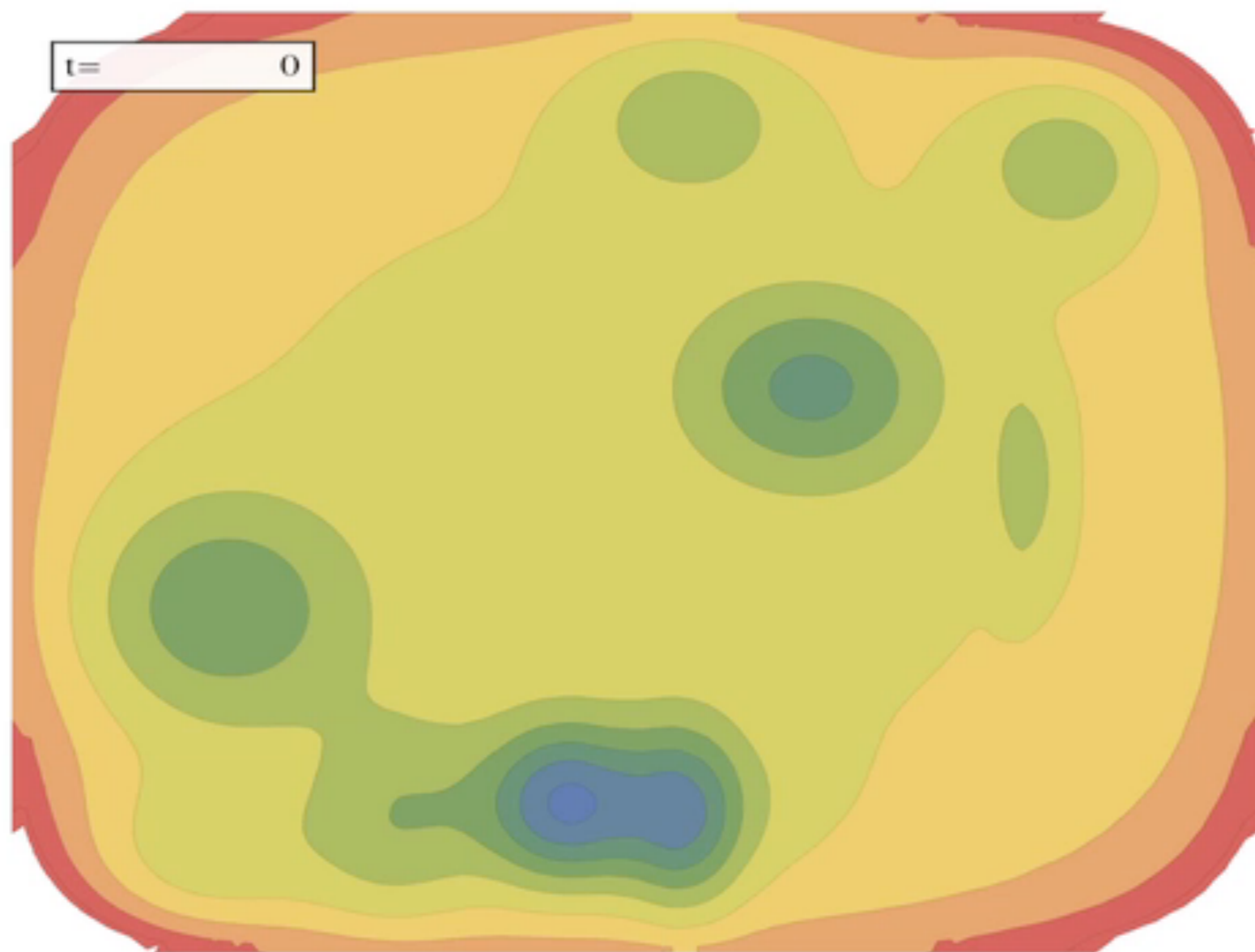
\* A multidimensional landscape: turn into monodimensional



Lodola, Branduardi, De Vivo, Capoferri, Mor, Piomelli, Cavalli, PlosOne, 2012, vol 7, pp. e32397

# The problem of the descriptors

\* Use machine learning approaches Tribello et. al. PNAS 2010, vol. 107, pp. 17509.



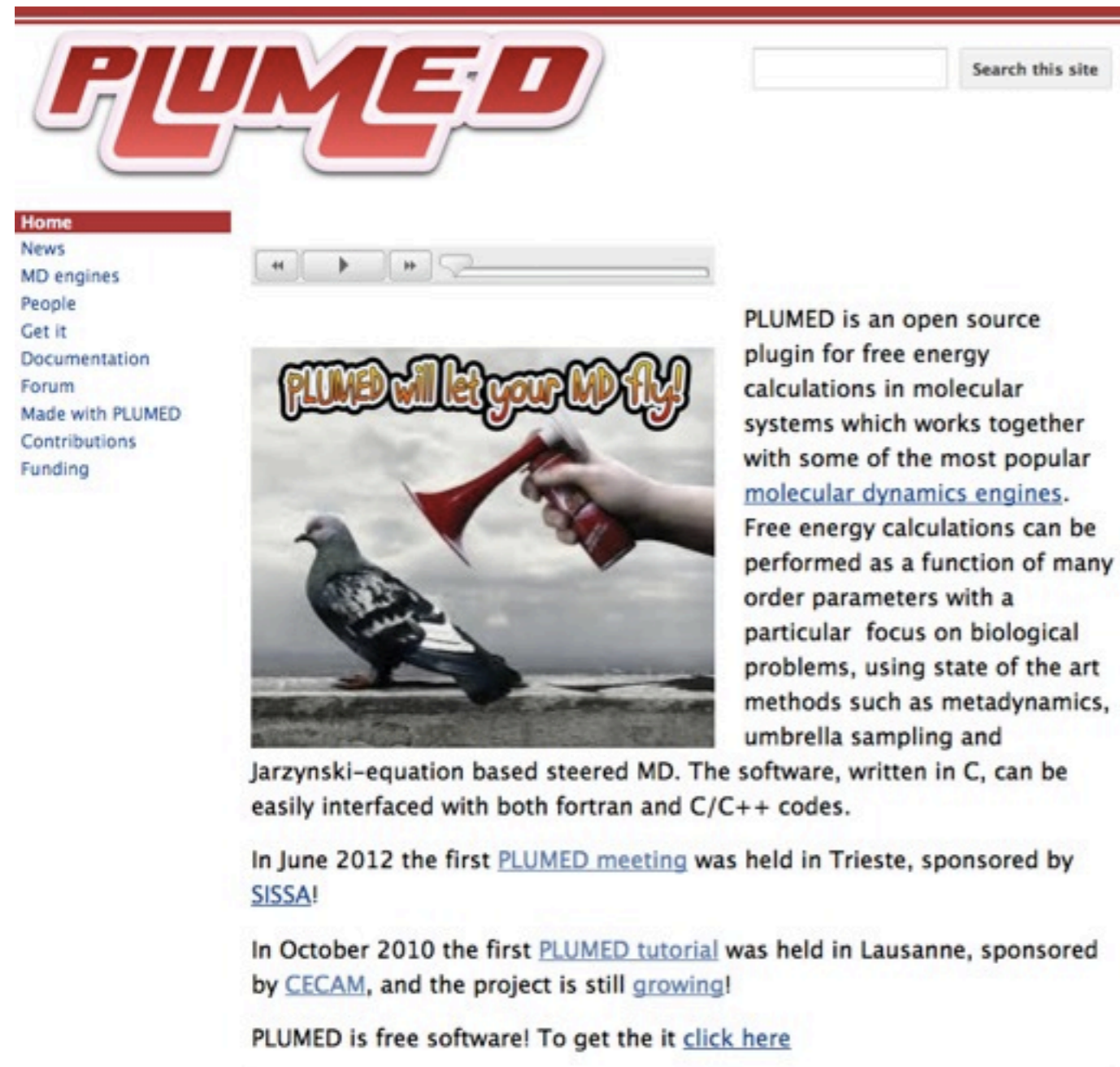


- What is free energy and why is important
- Traditional QM approach
- Explicit sampling
- Enhanced sampling
- **PLUMED plugin for free energy calculations**

# The PLUMED plugin: [www.plumed-code.org](http://www.plumed-code.org)

Bonomi, Branduardi et al., Comp. Phys. Comm. 2009 vol. 180 pp.1961

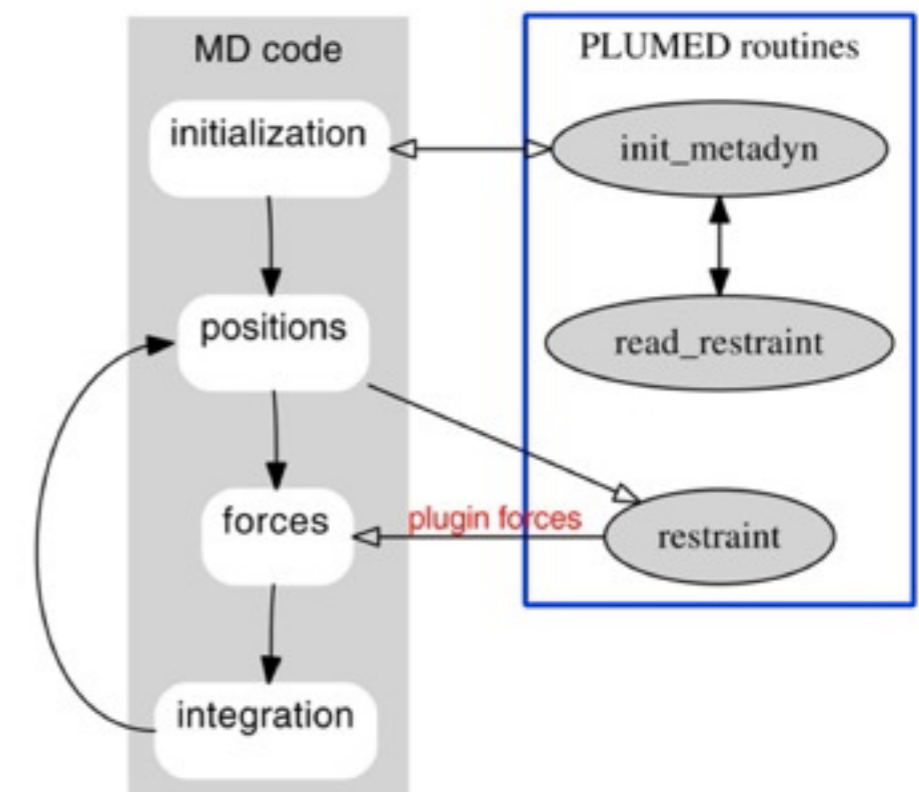
small connection  
with MD code



The screenshot shows the PLUMED website homepage. At the top left is the PLUMED logo in red and white. To its right is a search bar with the text "Search this site". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: Home, News, MD engines, People, Get it, Documentation, Forum, Made with PLUMED, Contributions, and Funding. The main content area features a large image of a hand blowing a red trumpet, with a pigeon in the foreground. The text reads: "PLUMED will let your MD fly!". Below the image, it states: "PLUMED is an open source plugin for free energy calculations in molecular systems which works together with some of the most popular molecular dynamics engines. Free energy calculations can be performed as a function of many order parameters with a particular focus on biological problems, using state of the art methods such as metadynamics, umbrella sampling and Jarzynski-equation based steered MD. The software, written in C, can be easily interfaced with both fortran and C/C++ codes." Further down, it mentions: "In June 2012 the first PLUMED meeting was held in Trieste, sponsored by SISSA!" and "In October 2010 the first PLUMED tutorial was held in Lausanne, sponsored by CECAM, and the project is still growing!". At the bottom, it says: "PLUMED is free software! To get the it click here".

**slow**

**fast**



Already in many classical MD codes (LAMMPS, DLPOLY, SANDER, GROMACS, NAMD) **now in FHI-aims!**

# PLUMED: what it contains

## Methods

- Constrained relaxation
- Umbrella sampling
- Metadynamics (well-tempered)
- d-AFED
- Steered MD
- Harmonic walls
- Ratcheting
- Reweighting schemes
- String method

+ MetaGUI analysis interface and PLUMED preparation GUI in VMD+analysis tools!

## Descriptors (with der.)

- Distances, angles, dihedrals
- Coordination numbers
- Contact maps
- Path collective variables
- Energy
- Function of variables
- SPRINT variables
- .....

\* compile separately: Makefile.meta

\* in control.in

```
MD_run 500.0 NVT_parrinello 300 0.01
MD_time_step 0.002
MD_clean_rotations .true.
MD_restart .false.
output_level MD_light
MD_maxsteps -1
MD_MB_init 300
MD_RNG_seed 12345
```

`plumed .true.` → this enables PLUMED

\* plumed.dat

```
DISTANCE LIST 1 <g1> SIGMA 0.11
```

```
g1->
```

```
3 4 5 6
```

```
g1<-
```

```
DISTANCE LIST 2 <g1> SIGMA 0.11
```

```
UWALL CV 1 LIMIT 7. KAPPA 0.5
```

```
UWALL CV 2 LIMIT 7. KAPPA 0.5
```

```
HILLS HEIGHT 0.00047 W_STRIDE 50
```

```
PRINT W_STRIDE 2
```

```
ENDMETA
```

→ set a distance as descriptor

→ set another distance as descriptor

→ set repulsive boundaries

→ set metadynamics

# Acknowledgements



- \* Luca Ghiringhelli (FHI, Berlin)
- \* The PLUMED developers (ETHZ, USILU, Cambridge, UCSF, SISSA, Mount Sinai, Curtin, EPFL, MPI-BP)
- \* Giovanni Bussi (SISSA, Trieste)
- \* Michele Parrinello (ETHZ/USILU, Lugano)
- \* José Faraldo-Gómez (MPI-BP, Frankfurt/Main)



*Thank you!*