

L6

Free energy calculations

1) Important: they are the driving forces of molecular processes

(Dill, MDF)

Stat. Therm.
in Chemistry
and Biology)

2) Process definition
Transition



$\Delta F \rightarrow$ Free energy associated to the transition

$W \rightarrow$ Work done

Examples



A) Folded



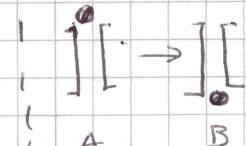
B) Untfolded



A) Protein complex



B) Protein dissociation: ion permeation



3) How to calculate ΔF ?

Let's define a reaction coordinate λ between A and B:



Hamiltonian: $H(x, p; \lambda)$

$$H(x, p; \lambda=0) = H_A$$

$$H(x, p; \lambda=1) = H_B$$

4) $F = -k_B T \ln Z$

↳ Partition function

$$Z = \iint e^{-\beta H} dx dp$$

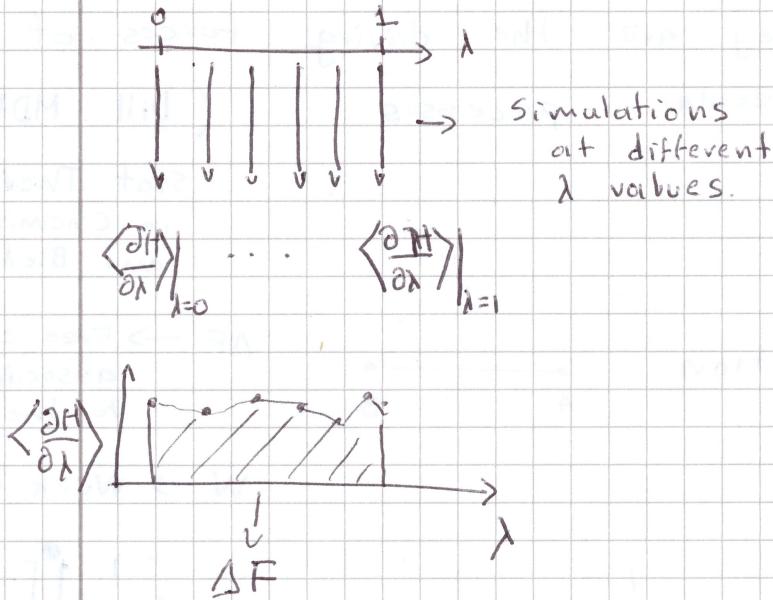
One can demonstrate that

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial \lambda} = \left\langle \frac{\partial H}{\partial \lambda} \right\rangle$$

↓ Ensemble average

$$\Rightarrow \Delta F = F_B - F_A = \int_{\lambda=0}^{\lambda=1} \left\langle \frac{\partial H}{\partial \lambda} \right\rangle d\lambda$$

How to do it in sims:



⑤ Non-equilibrium

(Chap 5. Free-energy Calculations. Ed. Springer)

- From eq: only inequality:

$$W \geq \Delta F$$

- Jarzynski (Equality):

$$\left\langle e^{-\beta W} \right\rangle = e^{-\beta \Delta F}$$

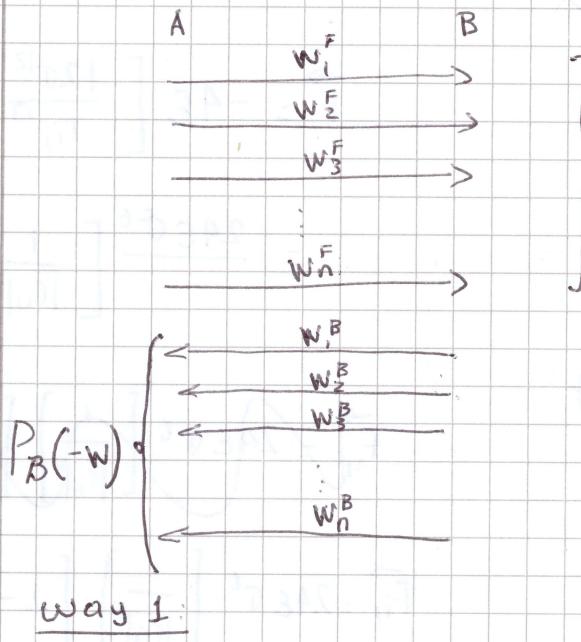
$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & & B \\ \xrightarrow{w_1} & & e^{-\beta w_1} \\ \xrightarrow{w_2} & & e^{-\beta w_2} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \xrightarrow{w_n} & & e^{-\beta w_n} \end{array}$$

$\left\langle e^{-\beta W} \right\rangle \xrightarrow{-\frac{k_B T}{\beta} \ln} \Delta F$

Not practical because only small work values contribute.

- Crooks (Consider Forward and Backwards):

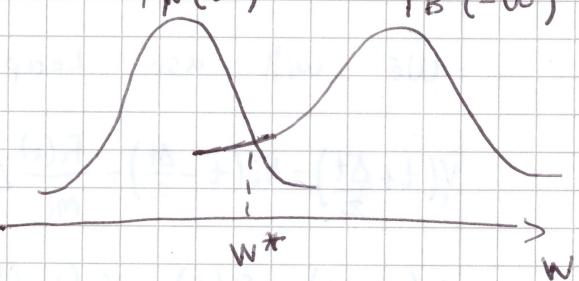
$$\frac{P_F(w)}{P_B(-w)} = e^{\beta (w - \Delta F)}$$



$$P_F(w)$$

$$P_F(w)$$

$$P_B(-w)$$



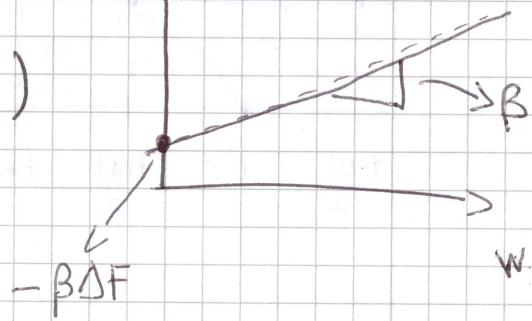
$$\text{For } w^* \quad P_F(w^*) = P_B(-w^*) \Rightarrow w^* = \Delta F$$

way 2:

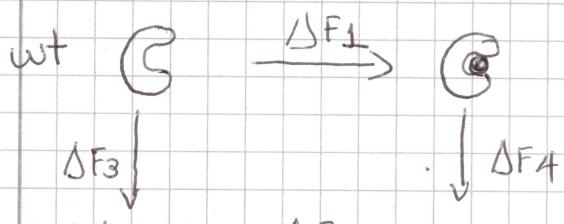
take logarithm:

$$\ln\left(\frac{P_F}{P_B}\right) = \beta (w - \Delta F)$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{P_F}{P_B}\right)$$



⑥ Thermodynamic cycles:



Perturbed
e.g. mutation

$$\Delta F_1 + \Delta F_2 = \Delta F_3 + \Delta F_4$$

$$\Delta DF = \underbrace{\Delta F_3 - \Delta F_4}_{\text{Calculated}} = \Delta F_1 - \Delta F_2$$

$$\Delta DF > 0 \Rightarrow \Delta F_1 > \Delta F_2$$

ΔF_1 & ΔF_2 are often difficult to calculate directly.

Alternative: Calculate ΔF_3 & ΔF_4 minimal changes

$$\Delta DF < 0 \Rightarrow \Delta F_1 < \Delta F_2$$

wt route more favourable

Perturbed route more favourable