

Isabela Quintela Matos

**Partition Coefficient Calculations of  
Molecules Mimicking Asphaltenes Through  
Molecular Simulation Using The  
Coarse-Grained SAFT- $\gamma$  Mie Force Field**

Rio de Janeiro

2018

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Dissertação de Mestrado apresentada ao  
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de Processos Químicos e Bioquímicos,  
Escola de Química, Universidade Federal  
do Rio de Janeiro, como requisitos parcial à  
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Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

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Programa de Pós-Graduação em Tecnologia de Processos Químicos e Bioquímicos

Supervisor: Charlles Rubber de Almeida Abreu

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Folha	Linha	Onde se lê	Leia-se
1	10	auto-conclavo	autoconclavo

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**Charles Rubber de Almeida Abreu**  
Orientador

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**Professor**  
Convidado 1

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**Professor**  
Convidado 2

Rio de Janeiro  
2018

*Este trabalho é dedicado às crianças adultas que,  
quando pequenas, sonharam em se tornar cientistas.*

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<sup>1</sup> Os nomes dos integrantes do primeiro projeto *abnT<sub>E</sub>X* foram extraídos de <<http://codigolivres.org.br/projects/abntex/>>

<sup>2</sup> <<http://www.cpai.unb.br/>>

<sup>3</sup> <<http://groups.google.com/group/latex-br>>

<sup>4</sup> <<http://groups.google.com/group/abntex2>> e <<http://www.abntex.net.br/>>

*“Não vos amoldeis às estruturas deste mundo,  
mas transformai-vos pela renovação da mente,  
a fim de distinguir qual é a vontade de Deus:  
o que é bom, o que Lhe é agradável, o que é perfeito.  
(Bíblia Sagrada, Romanos 12, 2)*



# Abstract

Segundo a ??, 3.1-3.2), o resumo deve ressaltar o objetivo, o método, os resultados e as conclusões do documento. A ordem e a extensão destes itens dependem do tipo de resumo (informativo ou indicativo) e do tratamento que cada item recebe no documento original. O resumo deve ser precedido da referência do documento, com exceção do resumo inserido no próprio documento. (...) As palavras-chave devem figurar logo abaixo do resumo, antecidas da expressão Palavras-chave:, separadas entre si por ponto e finalizadas também por ponto.

**Palavras-chave:** latex. abntex. editoração de texto.

# Abstract

This is the english abstract.

**Keywords:** latex. abntex. text editoration.

# List of Figures

Figure 2.2.1—Thermodynamic cycle for solvation free energy calculations with molecular dynamics (Adapted from Klimovich, Shirts e Mobley (2015))	20
Figure 3.1.1—Values for parameter $\chi$ according to the ring geometry (MÜLLER; MEJÍA, 2017) . . . . .	27
Figure 4.1.1—Geometry for $m_s = 5$ . . . . .	35

# List of Tables

Table 1 – SAFT- $\gamma$ Mie Force Field for each substance used in this work . . . . .	38
Table 2 – Calculated and experimental values for the Gibbs energy of solvation (kcal/mol) of solutes in non aqueous solvents . . . . .	38
Table 3 – Calculated values for the Gibbs energy of solvation (kcal/mol) of phenanthrene in toluene+ $CO_2$ . . . . .	40
Table 4 – Binary interaction parameters employed . . . . .	40
Table 5 – Calculated and experimental values for the Gibbs energy of solvation (kcal/mol) of solutes in water . . . . .	40

# List of symbols

$\Gamma$	Letra grega Gama
$\Lambda$	Lambda
$\zeta$	Letra grega minúscula zeta
$\in$	Pertence

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>16</b>
2.1	Coarse Grained Force Fields	16
2.2	Solvation Free Energies Based on Molecular Dynamics	18
2.3	Post simulation methods	21
2.3.1	Thermodynamic integration	21
2.3.2	Free energy of Pertubation (FEP)	21
2.3.3	Bennet Acceptance Ratio (BAR)	22
2.3.4	Multistate Bennet Acceptance Ratio (MBAR)	23
<b>3</b>	<b>FUNDAMENTALS OF THE COMPUTATIONAL METHODS</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>SAFT-<math>\gamma</math> Mie Force Field</b>	<b>24</b>
3.1.1	SAFT-VR Mie EoS	24
3.1.1.1	Ideal Contribution	24
3.1.1.2	Monomer Contribution	25
3.1.1.3	Chain Contribution	25
3.1.1.4	Ring Contribution	26
3.1.1.5	Combining rules for the intermolecular potential parameters	26
3.1.2	Parameter Estimation for the SAFT- $\gamma$ Mie Force Field	27
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Expanded Ensemble Method</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Gibbs Ensemble Monte Carlo (GEMC)</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Phenanthrene Parameterization</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Solvation Free energy Calculations</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>38</b>
5.0.1	Phenanthrene Parameterization	38
5.0.2	Solvation free energies	38
5.0.3	Hydration free energies	39
<b>6</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>41</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>42</b>

<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>APPENDIX A – QUISQUE LIBERO JUSTO . . . . .</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>ANNEX</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>ANNEX A – MORBI ULTRICES RUTRUM LOREM. . . . .</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>ANNEX B – FUSCE FACILISIS LACINIA DUI . . . . .</b>	<b>52</b>

# 1 Introduction

MD(molecular dynamics)



## 2 Literature Review

### 2.1 Coarse Grained Force Fields

Molecular simulations can be carried out at different levels of description. The detailed atomistic level or *ab initio* level is described by the laws of quantum mechanics. The system consists of a set of subatomic particulars in which Schrodinger's equation is solved for all of them. The next level is the atomistic description. It considers that the system is made up of atoms following the laws of statistical mechanics. Force fields at this level are based on pair potentials with Coulombic charged sites, which account for the molecular interactions. The contributions due to intramolecular interactions like bond-stretching, angle-bending and torsion are also usually accounted by these kind of force fields. When the scale of the simulations needs to be increased and the atomistic simulations become too computationally expensive, the coarse-grained (CG) description is more suited. It considers that the system is made up of pseudo atoms or beads that contain multiple atoms or an entire molecule.

There is a obvious loss of information in grouping atoms, hence it is necessary to assure that the process of eliminating unnecessary or unimportant information ('coarse graining') doesn't affect the system's physical behavior. Ideally, the coarse grained model needs to have accuracy, transferability, robustness, and computational efficiency. In order to achieve these goals, the coarse grained force fields are usually developed by mapping the atomistic model to define the pseudo atoms which are formed similar functional groups. The level of coarse-graining also needs to be defined, up to 6 heavy atoms (non-hydrogen atoms) per bead in order to not lose important details and maintain isotropic representations of the beads (SHINODA; DEVANE; KLEIN, 2007; MARRINK *et al.*, 2007; HADLEY; MCCABE, 2012). The CG force field can be parametrized following two different approaches: bottom up and top down. The bottom up approach uses information of a more detailed scale such as the *ab initio* description or the atomistic description to obtain the information necessary to the parametrization. This method depends highly of the quality of the detailed model to succeed. Meanwhile, the top down methodology obtains the parameters from larger scales, like experimental thermodynamic properties or native-structure based properties.

One of the first applications of coarse grained models is the study of protein folding (LEVITT; WARSHE, 1975; LEVITT, 1976). These earlier protein CG models were based on the structure of the molecule and they contributed for the knowledge of the physicochemical forces associated with protein folding and protein interactions (KOGA; TAKADA, 2001). More recent, models focused on retaining the protein's chem-

ical specificity. The Bereau and Deresmo model (BEREAU; DESERNO, 2009) has a up to four-bead representation and was used in studies of protein folding and aggregation. However, this model still needs tuning to improve protein stability (BEREAU; BACHMANN; DESERNO, 2010). The OPEP (Optimized Potential for Efficient Protein Structure Prediction) model (STERPONE *et al.*, 2014; STERPONE; DERREUMAUX; MELCHIONNA, 2015) has up to six-bead representation. It was used to investigate a variety of phenomena, ranging from protein folding to *ab initio* peptide structure prediction (BARDUCCI; BONOMI; DERREUMAUX, 2011; CHEBARO *et al.*, 2009b; CHEBARO *et al.*, 2009a). Other CG protein models used in the literature are the Scorpion (solvated coarse-grained protein interaction) (BASDEVANT; BORGIS; HA-DUONG, 2013), the UNRES (united residue) (ADAM *et al.*, 2014) and the MARTINI model (LARS *et al.*, 2013). The later one is the most popular model for the CG modeling of membrane proteins (MARRINK; TIELEMAN, 2013). The MARTINI model is also extensively used as CG model for water. This model represents four water molecules as one bead using a shifted Lennard Jones potential for the non bonded interactions. Though its extensive use, the MARTINI water model doesn't properly represent properties as interfacial tension and compressibility (HE *et al.*, 2010) and can freeze at room temperature (WINGER *et al.*, 2009; MARRINK *et al.*, 2007), what makes necessary the use of anti-freeze agents during the simulations. This behavior can be explained by the high level of coarse graining (4:1), the lack of explicit charges and the use of the 12-6 potential. With the idea of improving the MARTINI model, Chiu, Scott e Jakobsson (2010) used the Morse Potential, which is softer than the LJ potential. Meanwhile, Shinoda, Devane e Klein (2007) used different forms of the Mie potential. They concluded that a 12-4 Mie Potential was ideal for the all water cross interactions and a 9-6 Mie Potential was suited for all the solute-solute interactions.

Outside of the Martini framework, He *et al.* (2010) studied different levels of coarse-graining for water ranging for one to 4 molecules per bead using different Mie and Morse potentials. Other works also assessed the use of Soft-core potentials to study aqueous solutions of surfactants (SHINODA; DEVANE; KLEIN, 2007), ionic liquids (BHARGAVA; KLEIN, 2009), lipids (SHINODA; DEVANE; KLEIN, 2010) and membranes (PANTANO; KLEIN, 2009). Other CG force field for water based on the Mie Potential is the SAFT- $\gamma$  Mie (LOBANOVA *et al.*, 2015). In this model, the water molecule can be represented by two different one isotropic bead interacting via a 8-6 Mie Potential models. The CGW1-vle model was parametrized using saturated-liquid density and vapor pressure data, and should be used for simulations of aqueous systems' fluid-phase equilibrium at high temperatures and pressures. This model still suffers from premature freezing with a triple point at 343 K. The other model, CGW1-ift, was parametrized using saturated-liquid density and vapor-liquid interfacial tension, hence it is best suited for interfacial properties calculations. Both models have temperature-dependent

size and energy parameters and performed well for these properties over the entire temperature range of the liquid. The SAFT- $\gamma$  Mie force field have also been applied to other compounds with satisfactory results. Müller e Mejía (2017) parametrized the force field for aromatic compounds and tested it with simulations of fluid phase equilibrium. Herdes, Totton e Müller (2015) carried out simulations of alkanes and light gases with this force fields. Binary and ternary mixtures of water, carbon-dioxide and water (LOBANOVA *et al.*, 2016), thermodynamic and transport properties of carbon dioxide and methane (AIMOLI; MAGINN; ABREU, 2014a; AIMOLI; MAGINN; ABREU, 2014b) and water/oil interfacial tension (HERDES *et al.*, 2017) were also studied with this force field.

## 2.2 Solvation Free Energies Based on Molecular Dynamics

Free energies can be expressed as averages over ensembles of atomic configurations generated using Monte Carlo or molecular dynamics techniques. In the canonical ensemble, the free energy is given by:

$$F(N, V, T) = -\kappa_b T \ln Q(N, V, T) \quad (2.1)$$

where  $Q(N, V, T)$  is the partition function of the canonical ensemble:

$$Q(N, V, T) = \int d^n p d^n r \exp \left[ -\beta \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} + U(r_1, \dots, r_n) \right) \right] \quad (2.2)$$

where  $\beta = 1/k_b T$ . Meanwhile, the average over the isothermal-isobaric ensemble gives the Gibbs free energy:

$$G(N, P, T) = -\kappa_b T \ln \Delta(N, P, T) \quad (2.3)$$

where  $\Delta(N, P, T)$  is the partition function of the isothermal-isobaric ensemble:

$$\Delta(N, P, T) = \frac{1}{V_0} \int_0^\infty dV \int d^n p d^n r \exp \left[ -\beta \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} + U(r_1, \dots, r_n) + PV(r_1, \dots, r_n) \right) \right] \quad (2.4)$$

Since it is only possible to obtain free energy differences, solvation free energy calculations based on molecular dynamics estimate the difference between the Gibbs

free energies of end states:

$$\Delta G_{AB} = G_B - G_A = -\kappa_b T \ln \left( \frac{\Delta_B}{\Delta_A} \right) = -\kappa_b T \ln \left( \frac{Z_B}{Z_A} \right) \quad (2.5)$$

Since both states are at the same temperature, the moment integrals in the ratio  $\Delta_B/\Delta_A$  can be simplified. Hence this ratio becomes equal to the ratio of configuration partition functions:

$$\frac{Z_B}{Z_A} = \frac{\int_0^\infty dV \int d^n r \exp [-\beta (U(r_1, \dots, r_n) + PV(r_1, \dots, r_n))]_B}{\int_0^\infty dV \int d^n r \exp [-\beta (U(r_1, \dots, r_n) + PV(r_1, \dots, r_n))]_A} \quad (2.6)$$

The Gibbs free energy difference between end states  $A$  and  $B$  are, more specifically, the difference between the solute alone in the gas phase and the solute interacting with the solvent. In order to these differences be accurate, the states' phase integral must have sufficient overlap (KLIMOVICH; SHIRTS; MOBLEY, 2015). This can be achieved by calculating the free energy difference between a series of intermediates states. The result of these differences are independent of the path chosen since the free energy is a state function. That's why the states used typically don't have a physical sense, they are alchemical states which are only linking the physical states of interest. The strategy for solvation free energy calculations follows a thermodynamic cycle to gradually insert the solute molecule into the solvent as illustrated in the [Figure 2.2.1](#). According to this cycle, the free energy of solvation can be expressed as:

$$\Delta G_{solv} = \Delta G_{1 \rightarrow 4} = \Delta G_{1 \rightarrow 2} + \Delta G_{2 \rightarrow 3} + \Delta G_{3 \rightarrow 4} \quad (2.7)$$

The solvation free energy between states 1 and 2 in the cycle is the one associated with turning off the molecule's non bonded interactions in the gas phase. The following transformation,  $\Delta G_{2 \rightarrow 3}$ , is the free energy of moving the non-interacting molecule in the gas phase to the solvent and is equal to zero since the transformation of a non interacting molecule doesn't depend on the environment. Lastly,  $\Delta G_{3 \rightarrow 4}$  is the free energy required to the non-interaction molecule in the aqueous phase regain its non-bonded interactions. The solvation free energy calculation can be classified according to the types of the non bonded interactions that are turned of in the  $1 \rightarrow 2$  and  $3 \rightarrow 4$  parts of the cycle. If both the non-bonded interactions with the environment and the internal interactions are turned of, this is the annihilation free energy. Meanwhile, if only the non-bonded interactions with the environment are turned off, this is the decoupling free energy. In this later case,  $\Delta G_{1 \rightarrow 2} = 0$  and the  $\Delta G_{solv} = \Delta G_{3 \rightarrow 4}$ . The methods used to carry out theses transformations scale the solute charges to zero and then turn of the interactions corresponding to the Lennard Jones potential. In order to carry out the later process, a modified potential with a coupling parameter  $\lambda$  is used. Each  $\lambda$  represent an

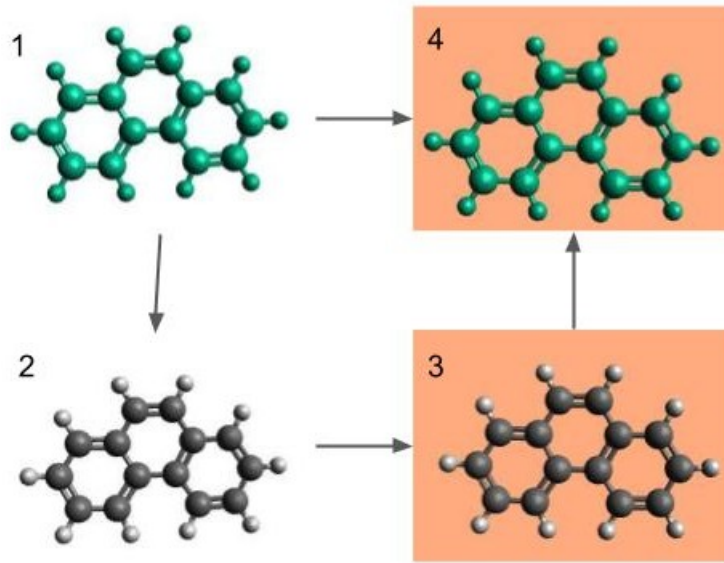


Figure 2.2.1 – Thermodynamic cycle for solvation free energy calculations with molecular dynamics (Adapted from Klimovich, Shirts e Mobley (2015))

alchemical state and, when  $\lambda = 0$ , there is no interaction with the solvent and, when  $\lambda = 1$ , the interactions are fully activated. The coupling of the  $\lambda$  parameter could be linear, but it could generate numerical problems related to the exponential part of the Potential. That's why the non-linear soft-core scheme (BEUTLER *et al.*, 1994) is usually used, the generalized soft core potential is given by:

$$U^{sc}(r) = \lambda \epsilon \frac{\lambda_r}{\lambda_r - \lambda_a} \left( \frac{\lambda_r}{\lambda_a} \right)^{\left( \frac{\lambda_a}{\lambda_r - \lambda_a} \right)} \left\{ \frac{1}{[\alpha(1 - \lambda) + (r/\sigma)^{\lambda_a}]^{\lambda_r/\lambda_a}} - \frac{1}{\alpha(1 - \lambda) + (r/\sigma)^{\lambda_a}} \right\} \quad (2.8)$$

Using the Lennard Jones exponents, Eq. (2.8) becomes:

$$U_{LJ}^{sc}(r) = 4\lambda\epsilon \left\{ \frac{1}{[\alpha(1 - \lambda) + (r/\sigma)^6]^2} - \frac{1}{\alpha(1 - \lambda) + (r/\sigma)^6} \right\} \quad (2.9)$$

where  $\alpha$  is a constant in which the value of 0.5 is normally assumed to it. The  $\Delta G_{3 \rightarrow 4}$  can be then obtained by doing independent simulations in different values of  $\lambda$  or by doing expanded ensemble simulations (LYUBARTSEV *et al.*, 1992) which samples all state in a single simulation. This method allows a faster sampling across the alchemical states considering that the kinetic barriers are not substantial.

## 2.3 Post simulation methods

The data obtained with molecular dynamics simulations method explained in the section above contain the potential energies correspondent to each  $\lambda$ . These potential energies obtained then needs to be post processed and analyzed in order to calculate the solvation free energies. Some of the widely used method for these calculations are going to be briefly describe below.

### 2.3.1 Thermodynamic integration

The thermodynamic integration method (KIRKWOOD, 1935) uses equilibrium averages to evaluate the derivative of the potential energy with respect to the coupling parameter. Then, the free energies are obtained as the integration of the derivatives of the initial and final state:

$$\Delta G_{solv} = \int_0^1 \frac{\partial U}{\partial \lambda} d\lambda \quad (2.10)$$

The integration in Eq. (2.10) is obtained by interpolating the output data form the simulations in different ways. Some examples of methods for the interpolations are the trapezoidal rule or natural cubic spline (PALIWAL; SHIRTS, 2011). There are also other more complex schemes that are usually system specific as the works of Jorge *et al.* (2010) and Shyu e Ytreberg (2010) and that use fitting functions to interpolate the data.

### 2.3.2 Free energy of Pertubation (FEP)

The free energy of perturbation method (ZWANZIG, 1954) is the oldest and one of the most general purpose strategy to calculate free energy differences. In this method, the difference between two thermodynamic states A and B is given by:

$$\Delta G_{AB} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \langle e^{-\beta(U_B - U_A)} \rangle_A \quad (2.11)$$

According to the equation above, the free energy difference is calculated by doing an average over the potential energies of state A and B obtained during the simulation of state A. This method requires a great overlap between states, the state B needs to represent a small perturbation in state A, in order to obtain a rapid convergence of the free energy difference. To assure the overlap, it is possible to carry out simulations in N intermediate sates between A and B, so Eq. (2.11) becomes:

$$\Delta G_{AB} = -\frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N+1} e^{-\beta(U_{i+1} - U_i)} \right)_i \quad (2.12)$$

The way of calculating  $\Delta G$  of Eq. (2.12) is called Exponential Averaging (EXP) (ZWANZIG, 1955; PALIWAL; SHIRTS, 2011). The direction of the transformation is also important in this method. If the direction is of decreasing entropy, the step is of insertion ( $\Delta G_{AB}$ ) and method is called insertion exponential averaging (IEXP). The direction of increasing entropy is called a deletion step ( $\Delta G_{BA}$ ) and the method is labeled as deletion exponential averaging (DEXP). These directions can yield different values of free energy differences due the under sampling in the tail regions of the  $\Delta G_{AB}$  distribution (KLIMOVICH; SHIRTS; MOBLEY, 2015; POHORILLE; JARZYNSKI; CHIPOT, 2010). These problems makes the EXP methods not suited to calculate free energy differences when the system hasn't a sufficient a overlap. For these cases, the Bennet Acceptance Ratio or the Multi-State Bennet Acceptance Ratio is more indicated.

### 2.3.3 Bennet Acceptance Ratio (BAR)

The BAR method (BENNETT, 1976) was developed with the intent of eliminating the bias in the free energy estimation. It uses the uncorrelated samples of the potential energy in both directions ( $A \rightarrow B$  and  $B \rightarrow A$ ) to obtain the free energy differences using the information in a statically optimal way. The free energy difference between two intermediate states (i and j) is calculated by the self-consistence solution of the following equations:

$$\Delta G_{ij} = \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left( \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N_j} \frac{1}{1 + \exp[-\beta(\Delta U_k^j - C)]}}{\sum_{l=1}^{N_i} \frac{1}{1 + \exp[-\beta(\Delta U_l^i - C)]}} \right) + C - \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left( \frac{N_j}{N_i} \right) \quad (2.13)$$

$$C = \Delta G_{ij} + \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \left( \frac{N_j}{N_i} \right) \quad (2.14)$$

The total free energy difference between end states is then given by the sum over the differences of consecutive intermediate states. This method also provides a function to obtain the minimum variance for the free energy difference. The variance equation for any value of C is given by:

$$s_{ij}^2 = \frac{1}{\beta^2 N_i} \left[ \frac{\langle f^2(x) \rangle_i}{\langle f(x) \rangle_i^2} - 1 \right] + \frac{1}{\beta^2 N_j} \left[ \frac{\langle f^2(x) \rangle_j}{\langle f(x) \rangle_j^2} - 1 \right] \quad (2.15)$$

where  $f(x) = 1/(1 + x)$  is the Fermi equation and  $x = \exp[\beta(\Delta U - C)]$ . The variance of the free energy difference between end sates can be calculated by assuming independent errors and summing over the variance of consecutive intermediate states. However, this assumption is not correct and there is no general formula to obtain a statistically



unbiased estimate of an entire transformation with the BAR method (PALIWAL; SHIRTS, 2011).

There are two other methods related to the BAR method that don't solve the Eqs. (2.13) and (2.14) self consistently. By doing that, the free energy difference will not have minimum variance, but significant space and disk memory can be saved since the averages of Eqs. (2.13) - (2.15) are accumulated. The two methods are the Unoptimized Bennett Acceptance Ratio (UBAR) and Range-Based Bennett Acceptance Ratio (RBAR). The first one avoids the self consistently resolution of the BAR equations by defining  $C = \beta^{-1} \ln(N_j/N_i)$ . The UBAR method requires that the intermediate free energies differences are approximately equal to zero to obtain optimal estimations. Meanwhile, the RBAR method selects a range initial guesses of the constant  $C$  in order to calculate a range of  $\Delta G_{ij}$ . The value of free energy difference correspondent to the minimum variance is then used as input in Eq. (2.14) to calculate the value of  $C$ . Hence, this method requires a good estimation of the initial range of the values of  $C$ . In terms of accuracy, the UBAR method can be as accurate as the BAR method, but it may end up being as computational costly (PALIWAL; SHIRTS, 2011).

### 2.3.4 Multistate Bennet Acceptance Ratio (MBAR)

The MBAR method (SHIRTS; CHODERA, 2008) is a further development of the BAR method. The method proposes a estimator that computes free energies and their uncertainties of all the  $K$  states by minimizing the  $K \times K$  matrix of variances simultaneously. The estimator solves self consistently for each  $G_i$  the following equation:

$$G_i = \frac{1}{\beta} \ln \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{n=1}^{N_k} \frac{\exp[-\beta U_i(x_{kn})]}{\sum_{l=1}^K N_l \exp[\beta(G_l - U_l(x_{kn}))]} \quad (2.16)$$

The equation above requires that the potential energy of uncorrelated configuration  $n$  to be evaluated for all  $K$  states ( $U_i(x_{kn})$ ) and for all the uncorrelated configuration snapshots ( $N_k$ ) from state  $k$ . The free energy change between the states is given then by  $\Delta G_{ij} = G_j - G_i$ . The statistical variance of  $S_{ij}^2 \Delta G_{ij}$  is given by the matrix covariances:

$$s_{ij}^2 \Delta G_{ij} \equiv \text{cov}(-\ln \hat{Z}_j / \hat{Z}_i, -\ln \hat{Z}_j / \hat{Z}_i) \quad (2.17)$$

where  $\hat{Z}_j$  and  $\hat{Z}_i$  are the partition functions of states  $i$  and  $j$ . The MBAR method can be considered as limit case of the weighted histogram analysis method (WHAM) (KUMAR *et al.*, 1992) for computing free energies. The Eq. (2.16) becomes equal to the WHAM equations if the histogram width tend to zero. Despite this, the MBAR is still more suited because it doesn't have the bias associated with the discretization and it allows to calculate an error estimate.



## 3 Fundamentals of the Computational Methods

### 3.1 SAFT- $\gamma$ Mie Force Field

#### 3.1.1 SAFT-VR Mie EoS

The SAFT-VR Mie equation of state (LAFITTE *et al.*, 2013) is the basis for the SAFT- $\gamma$  Mie coarse grained force field (AVENDAÑO *et al.*, 2011). This EoS was initially developed to describe chain molecule formed from fused Mie segments using the Mie attractive and repulsive potential. The Mie potential is a type of generalized Lennard-Jones potential that can be used to describe explicitly repulsive interactions of different hardness/softness and attractive interactions of different ranges, and is given by:

$$U_{Mie}(r) = \epsilon \frac{\lambda_r}{\lambda_r - \lambda_a} \left( \frac{\lambda_r}{\lambda_a} \right)^{\left( \frac{\lambda_a}{\lambda_r - \lambda_a} \right)} \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{\lambda_r} - \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{\lambda_a} \right] \quad (3.1)$$

where  $\epsilon$  is the potential well depth,  $\sigma$  is the segment diameter,  $r$  is the distance between the spherical segments,  $\lambda_r$  is the repulsive exponent and  $\lambda_a$  is the attractive exponent. This equation uses the Barker e Henderson (1976) high perturbation expansion of the Helmholtz free energy up to third order and an improved expression for the radial distribution function (RDF) of Mie monomers at contact to obtain a equation able to give an accurate theoretical description of the vapor-liquid equilibrium and second derivative properties (LAFITTE *et al.*, 2013). For a non-associating fluid, the Helmholtz free energy is:

$$\frac{A}{N\kappa_b T} = a = a^{IDEAL} + a^{MONO} + a^{CHAIN} \quad (3.2)$$

##### 3.1.1.1 Ideal Contribution

The ideal contribution for a mixture is given by:

$$a^{IDEAL} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} x_i \ln (\rho_i \Lambda_i^3) - 1 \quad (3.3)$$

where  $x_i = N_i/N$  is the molar fraction of component  $i$ ,  $\rho_i = N_i/V$  is the number density,  $N_i$  is the number of molecules of each component and  $\Lambda_i^3$  is de Broglie wavelength.

### 3.1.1.2 Monomer Contribution

The monomer contribution describes the interactions between Mie segments and can be expressed for a mixture as:

$$a^{MONO} = \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} x_i m_{s,i} \right) a^M \quad (3.4)$$

In the equation above,  $m_{s,i}$  is the number of spherical segments making up the molecule  $i$  and  $a^M$  is the monomer dimensionless Helmholtz free energy and it is expressed as a third order perturbation expansion in the inverse temperature (BARKER; HENDERSON, 1976):

$$a^M = a^{HS} + \beta a_1 + \beta a_2^2 + \beta a_3^3 \quad (3.5)$$

where  $\beta = \kappa_b T$  and  $a^{HS}$  is the hard-sphere dimensionless Helmholtz free energy for a mixture :

$$a^{HS} = \frac{6}{\pi \rho_s} \left[ \left( \frac{\zeta_2^3}{\zeta_3^2} - \zeta_0 \right) \ln(1 - \zeta_3) + \frac{3\zeta_1\zeta_2}{1 - \zeta_3} + \frac{\zeta_2^3}{\zeta_3(1 - \zeta_3)^2} \right] \quad (3.6)$$

The variable  $\rho_s = \rho \sum_i^{N_c} x_i m_{s,i}$  is the total number density of spherical segments and  $\zeta_l$  are the moments of the number density:

$$\zeta_l = \frac{\pi \rho_s}{6} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} x_{s,i} d_{ii}^l \right), l = 0, 1, 2, 3 \quad (3.7)$$

where  $x_{s,i}$  is the mole fraction of the segments and is related through the mole fraction of component  $i$  ( $x_i$ ) by:

$$x_{s,i} = \frac{m_{s,i} x_i}{\sum_{k=1}^{N_c} m_{s,k} x_k} \quad (3.8)$$

The effective hard-sphere diameter  $d_{ii}$  for the segments is:

$$d_{ii} = \int_0^{\sigma_{ii}} (1 - \exp(-\beta U_{ii}^{Mie}(r))) dr \quad (3.9)$$

The integral in Eq. (3.9) is normally obtained by means of Gauss-Legendre with a 5-point quadrature (PAPAIIOANNOU *et al.*, 2014). The detailing of terms of Eq. (3.4) can be found in Lafitte *et al.* (2013).

### 3.1.1.3 Chain Contribution

The chain formation of  $m_s$  tangentially bonded Mie segments contribution is based on the first-order perturbation theory (TPT1) (PAPAIIOANNOU *et al.*, 2014) and can be expressed as:

$$a^{CHAIN} = - \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} x_i (m_{s,i} - 1) \ln(g_{ii}^{Mie}(\sigma_{ii})) \quad (3.10)$$

The  $g_{ij}^{Mie}(\sigma_{ij})$  term correspond to the value of the radial distribution function (RDF) of the hypothetical Mie system evaluated at the effective diameter and can be obtained with the perturbation expansion:

$$g_{ij}^{Mie}(\sigma_{ij}) = g_{d,ij}^{HS}(\sigma_{ij}) \exp[\beta \epsilon g_{1,ij}(\sigma_{ij})/g_{d,ij}^{HS}(\sigma_{ij}) + (\beta \epsilon)^2 g_{2,ij}(\sigma_{ij})/g_{d,ij}^{HS}(\sigma_{ij})] \quad (3.11)$$

The other terms in the equations above are explicitly exposed in the original article (LAFITTE *et al.*, 2013).

#### 3.1.1.4 Ring Contribution

There are two forms for the Helmholtz free energy for rings formed from  $m_s$  tangentially bonded segments in the literature. The first one (LAFITTE *et al.*, 2012) considered that the difference between a chain and a ring molecule is that the latter has one more bond that is connecting the first segment to the last. With this assumption, the Eq. (3.10) can be adapted to rings by:

$$a^{RING} = - \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} x_i m_{s,i} \ln(g_{ii}^{Mie}(\sigma_{ii})) \quad (3.12)$$

According to Lafitte *et al.* (2012), Eq. (3.12) needs an additional parametrization with molecular simulation data so the EoS can be used in molecular simulations, but this procedure is not the necessary for chain molecules. Recently Müller e Mejía (2017) tried to correct this inconsistency by means of developing the ring free energy based on the work of Müller e Gubbins (1993) who obtained rigorous expressions for hard fluids with molecular geometries of rings of  $m_s = 3$ . The final expression developed for the ring dimensionless Helmholtz free energy is:

$$a^{RING} = - \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} x_i (m_{s,i} - 1 + \chi_i \eta_i) \ln(g_{ii}^{Mie}(\sigma_{ii})) \quad (3.13)$$

$\eta_i = m_{s,i} \rho_i \sigma_{ii}^3 / 6$  is the packing fraction and  $\chi_i$  is a parameter which depends on  $m_{s,i}$  and on the geometry of the ring of each component i. For a value of  $\chi = 0$  Eq. (3.13) is equal to Eq. (3.10). Meanwhile, the equation corresponds to a hard sphere system of triangles when  $\chi = 1.3827$ . Müller e Mejía (2017) also calculated values of  $\zeta$  for  $m_s = 3, m_s = 4, m_s = 5, m_s = 7$  with pseudo-experimental data from molecular dynamics (MD) for a defined pure fluid. The values of  $\chi$  for each geometry estimated can be seen in the Figure 3.1.1.

#### 3.1.1.5 Combining rules for the intermolecular potential parameters

Lafitte *et al.* (2013) also suggested mixing rules for the potential parameters based on Lorentz-Berthelot combining rules (ROWLINSON; SWINTON, 1982):

$$\sigma_{ij} = \frac{\sigma_{ii} + \sigma_{jj}}{2} \quad (3.14)$$

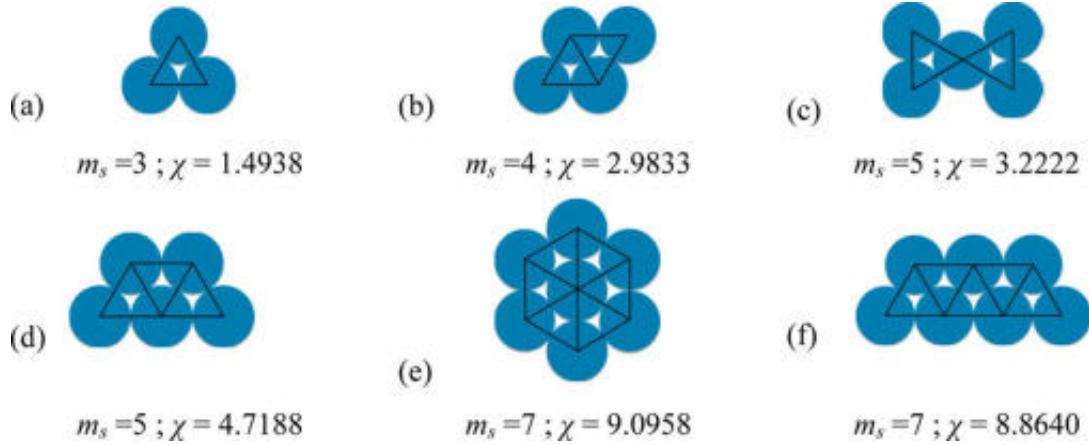


Figure 3.1.1 – Values for parameter  $\chi$  according to the ring geometry (MÜLLER; MEJÍA, 2017)

$$\lambda_{k,ij} - 3 = \sqrt{(\lambda_{k,ii} - 3)(\lambda_{k,jj} - 3)}, k = r, a \quad (3.15)$$

$$\epsilon_{ij} = (1 - k_{ij}) \frac{\sqrt{\sigma_{ii}^3 \sigma_{jj}^3}}{\sigma_{ij}^3} \sqrt{\epsilon_{ii} \epsilon_{jj}} \quad (3.16)$$

The  $k_{ij}$  is a binary interaction parameter to correct the deviations of the Lorentz-Berthelot rule for chemically distinct compounds. This parameter can also be fitted to experimental data or pseudo experimental data.

### 3.1.2 Parameter Estimation for the SAFT- $\gamma$ Mie Force Field

The SAFT- $\gamma$  Mie Force Field uses a coarse graining top down methodology in its parameterization. This methodology aims to obtain the intermolecular parameters from macroscopic experimental data like fluid-phase equilibrium or superficial tension data. The idea is that the force field's parameters estimated with the the SAFT-VR Mie EoS can be used on molecular simulations since both the equation of state and the force field use the same explicit intermolecular potential model (Mie potential). This correspondence between models has already been seem for a variety of fluids in which this force field was parameterized and this success in the representation of the properties of real fluids can be imputed to the degrees of freedom of Mie Potential (HERDES; TOTTON; MÜLLER, 2015). This flexibility also provides an exploration of a very large parameter space without using a iterative simulation scheme (AVENDAÑO *et al.*, 2011).

Each substance has initially five parameters to be estimated ( $m_s, \sigma, \epsilon, \lambda_r$  and  $\lambda_a$ ) according to Eq. (3.1). The number of segments are usually fixed in an integer value so it can be used in the coarse grained simulations. The attractive parameter can also be

fixed since there is a high correlation between the attractive and repulsive parameter. Usually, the parameter is fixed in the London value of 6, which is expected to be a good representation of the dispersion scale of most simple fluids that don't have strong polar interactions (RAMRATTAN *et al.*, 2015; HERDES; TOTTON; MÜLLER, 2015). There are two strategies to obtain the parameters of each substance: one is by fitting the Saft-Vr Mie EoS to experimental data as vapor pressure and liquid density and the other one is using correspondent state parametrization. The first, generally, minimizes the following unweighted least-squares objective function:

$$\min_{\sigma, \epsilon, \lambda_r} F_{obj}(\sigma, \epsilon, \lambda_r) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \left( \frac{P_v^{SAFT}(T_i, \sigma, \epsilon, \lambda_r) - P_v^{exp}(T_i)}{P_v^{exp}(T_i)} \right)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \left( \frac{\rho_l^{SAFT}(T_i, \sigma, \epsilon, \lambda_r) - \rho_l^{exp}(T_i)}{\rho_l^{exp}(T_i)} \right)^2 \quad (3.17)$$

where  $N_p$  is the number of experimental points,  $P_v$  is the vapor pressure and  $\rho_l$  is the saturated liquid density. The minimized properties can also change and other possible ones as superficial tension and speed of sound can also be taken into account. These multiple parameters make it necessary the use of a wide range of experimental data since multiple solutions can be found for the fit. So one need to be careful in deciding the level of coarse graining (i.e. the parameter  $m_s$ ) and subsequent parameter space that will not result in some physical inconsistencies like a premature freezing fluid.

Lafitte *et al.* (2012) suggested that the two corrections factors ( $c_\sigma$  and  $c_\epsilon$ ) should be estimated with simulation data when using Eq. (3.12) for the ring contribution. They are related to the EoS parameters by scaled parameters:

$$\sigma^{scaled} = c_\sigma \sigma^{SAFT} \quad (3.18)$$

$$\epsilon^{scaled} = c_\epsilon \epsilon^{SAFT} \quad (3.19)$$

According to Lafitte *et al.* (2012), these corrections are necessary because the approximations employed in the EoS theory generate discrepancies between molecular simulations and the EoS results for ring molecules modeled with Eq. (3.12). The objective function for this second estimation is given by:

$$\min_{c_\sigma, c_\epsilon} F_{obj}(c_\sigma, c_\epsilon) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \left( \frac{P_v^{sim}(T_i, \sigma^{SAFT}, \epsilon^{SAFT}) - P_v^{SAFT}(T_i, \sigma^{scaled}, \epsilon^{scaled})}{P_v^{sim}(T_i, \sigma^{SAFT}, \epsilon^{SAFT})} \right)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \left( \frac{\rho_{liq}^{sim}(T_i, \sigma^{SAFT}, \epsilon^{SAFT}) - \rho_{liq}^{SAFT}(T_i, \sigma^{scaled}, \epsilon^{scaled})}{\rho_{liq}^{sim}(T_i, \sigma^{SAFT}, \epsilon^{SAFT})} \right)^2 \quad (3.20)$$

The repulsive parameter is maintained in the value found on the minimization of Eq. (3.17), so the refined values for the force field are:

$$\sigma^{sim} = \sigma^{SAFT} / c_\sigma \quad (3.21)$$

$$\epsilon^{scaled} = \epsilon^{SAFT} / c_\epsilon \quad (3.22)$$

It is interesting to point out that this new parametrization is not necessary when using Eq. (3.13) as the ring contribution. The other method to obtain the force field parameters is the correspondent state parametrization for the EoS SAFT-VR Mie (MEJÍA; HERDES; MÜLLER, 2014). This method considers that the unweighted volume average of the attractive contribution to the Mie intermolecular potential,  $a_1$ , can be given a mean field approximation:

$$a_1 = 2\pi\rho\sigma^3\epsilon\alpha \quad (3.23)$$

The van der Waals constant,  $\alpha$ , considering  $\lambda_a = 6$  is related by the Mie exponents by:

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{\epsilon\sigma^3} \int_{\sigma}^{\infty} \phi(r)r^2 dr = \frac{\lambda_r}{3(\lambda_r - 3)} \left( \frac{\lambda_r}{6} \right)^{6/(\lambda_r - 6)} \quad (3.24)$$

The parametrization in this method starts by using the experimental acentric factor,  $\omega$ , for each molecule with a fixed value of  $m_s$  to obtain the value of the repulsive exponent with the following Padé series:

$$\lambda_r = \frac{\sum_{i=0} a_i \omega^i}{1 + \sum_{i=1} b_i \omega^i} \quad (3.25)$$

$a_i$  and  $b_i$  are dependent parameters of the number of segments and a table with its values is presented in the original paper (MEJÍA; HERDES; MÜLLER, 2014). Substituting  $\lambda_r$  into Eq. (3.24), the van der Waals constant can be found. The reduced critical potential  $T_c^*$  can also be related to  $\alpha$  by a Padé series:

$$T_c^* = \frac{\sum_{i=0} c_i \alpha^i}{1 + \sum_{i=1} d_i \alpha^i} \quad (3.26)$$

The values of  $c_i$  and  $d_i$  are also available in the original paper. The reduced temperature of the equation above is used in conjunction with the experimental critical

temperature,  $T_c$ , to find the energy parameter with the relation below:

$$T_c^* = \frac{\kappa_b T_c}{\epsilon} \quad (3.27)$$

The diameter parameter, however, is not obtained with the critical properties, but with the reduced liquid density,  $\rho_{T_r=0.7}$ , at the reduced temperature,  $T_r$ , of 0.7. This density is also obtained with a Padé series using parameters by [Mejía, Herdes e Müller \(2014\)](#):

$$\rho_{T_r=0.7}^* = \frac{\sum_{i=0} j_i \alpha^i}{1 + \sum_{i=1} k_i \alpha^i} \quad (3.28)$$

The relation among the equation above,  $\sigma$  and the experimental density is given by:

$$\rho_{T_r=0.7}^* = \rho_{T_r=0.7} \sigma^3 N_{av} \quad (3.29)$$

where  $N_{av}$  is The Avogadro number. This correspondent state method has the advantage of only requiring critical data, that it is available for a great range of fluids, and one liquid density point. In addition to that, there is an on line parameter database obtained with this strategy ([ERVIK; MEJÍA; MÜLLER, 2016](#)).

The binary interaction parameter  $k_{ij}$  of Eq. (3.16) is necessary to adjust the mixture behavior of chemically distinct components. Normally, it is estimated minimizing the difference between experimental binary vapor liquid equilibrium or superficial tension data and the SAFT-VR Mie EoS output data ([MÜLLER; MEJÍA, 2017](#); [LOBANOVA et al., 2016](#)). The objective function is similar to:

$$\min_{k_{ij}} F_{obj}(k_{ij}) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} \left( \frac{P_v^{SAFT}(T_k, x, k_{ij}) - P_v^{exp}(T_k, x)}{P_v^{exp}(T_k, x)} \right)^2 + \sum_{k=1}^{N_p} \left( \frac{\rho_l^{SAFT}(T_k, x, k_{ij}) - \rho_l^{exp}(T_i)}{\rho_l^{exp}(T_i)} \right)^2 \quad (3.30)$$

However, [Ervik et al. \(2016\)](#) used molecular simulation results to fit the parameter to the superficial tension data of the mixture water-toluene. The strategy followed by them was to do simulations in three values of  $k_{ij}$  and then refine the parameter until a value in good agreement with the experimental data was found.

## 3.2 Expanded Ensemble Method

Instead of doing various simulations in different values of  $\lambda$ , expanded ensemble simulations ([LYUBARTSEV et al., 1992](#)) were developed to allow a non-Boltzmann

sampling scheme of different states in only one simulation. The statistical expanded ensemble,  $Z^{EE}$  can be defined as a sum of sub ensembles  $Z_i$  in different values of  $\lambda$ :

$$Z^{EE} = \sum_{i=1}^N Z_i(\lambda_i) \exp(\eta_i) \quad (3.31)$$

where  $N$  is the number of alchemical states and  $\eta_i$  is the arbitrary weight of the sub ensemble  $Z_i$  at each state. In the application of this method for solvation energy calculations with molecular dynamics,  $\lambda$  corresponds to the coupling parameter of the soft-core potential (Eq. 2.8) and the expanded ensemble is sampled in the MD simulations by performing an arbitrary number of steps followed by a state transition. Chodera e Shirts (2011) proved that the sampling of the expanded ensemble are similar to the Gibbs sampling method (GEMAN; GEMAN, 1984; LIU, 2002). Following the Gibbs method, the sampling of the configuration space  $x$  for one state  $\lambda_k$  during the MD steps is done using the conditional distribution:

$$\pi(x|\lambda_k) = \frac{\exp[-\beta u(x, \lambda_k)]}{\int dx \exp[-\beta u(x, \lambda_k)]} \quad (3.32)$$

Meanwhile, the state transition in the MD simulation uses the following conditional distribution:

$$\pi(\lambda_k|x) = \frac{\exp[-\beta u(x, \lambda_k) + \eta_k]}{\sum_{k=1}^K \exp[-\beta u(x, \lambda_k) + \eta_k]} \quad (3.33)$$

where  $u(x, \lambda_k) = U(x, \lambda_k) + PV(x, \lambda_k)$  is the reduced potential function for the NPT ensemble. There are a variety of proposal or acceptance schemes to do the expanded sampling using the Eq. (3.33), but Chodera e Shirts (2011) suggested that the independence sampling (LIU, 2002) is the best strategy to increase the number of uncorrelated configurations. The implementation suggested by them updates the state index from  $i$  to  $j$  by first generating a uniform random number  $R$  on the interval  $[0, 1)$  and then selecting the smallest new value of  $j$  that satisfies the relation below:

$$R < \sum_{i=1}^j \pi(\lambda_i|x) \quad (3.34)$$

The sampling strategy above depends on the weights above in order to assure an adequate sampling of the states. If there isn't a sufficient number of states sampled, the expanded ensemble becomes deficient in obtaining input data to estimate free energy differences with the methods exposed in Chapter 2. Here, the weights can be calculated following the flat-histogram approach (BERG; NEUHAUS, 1992; LEE, 1993; DAYAL *et al.*, 2004). This strategy aims to obtain adequate sampling by sampling all the states



in a equal number of ways, i. e. the ratio of the probability of sampling state ( $\pi_i$ ) to the probability of sampling state  $j$  ( $\pi_j$ ) is equal to one. Given that  $\pi_i$  has the following equation:

$$\pi_i = \frac{Z_i(\lambda_i) \exp(\eta_i)}{Z^{EE}} \quad (3.35)$$

and using Eqs. 2.5 and 2.6, the following relation can be obtained for  $\pi_i/\pi_j = 1$ :

$$(\eta_i - \eta_j) = \beta(G_i - G_j) \quad (3.36)$$

The Eq. (3.36) is solved iteratively with trial simulations. For the first simulation, the values of  $\eta$  are chosen or set to zero and the histogram of the states visited is obtained. With this histogram is possible to estimate the free energy differences and, since the weights are related to the free energies by Eq. (3.36), the next values of  $\eta$  can be calculated from the previous result. This iteration goes on until a uniform distribution is secured. The weights found can then be used in a longer simulation to obtain the final solvation free energy differences.

The choice of the  $\lambda$  set correspondent to overlapping alchemical states are crucial to acquire accurate energy differences. The method chosen in this work to obtain the optimal stage of the  $\lambda$  domain is the one developed by Escobedo e Martinez-Veracoechea (2007) with basis in the one developed by Trebst, Huse e Troyer (2004). In this method, the  $\lambda$ s are optimized with the minimization of the number of round trips per CPU time between the lowest  $\lambda$  ( $= 0$ ) and highest  $\lambda$  ( $= 1$ ). This is done by maximizing the steady-state stream  $\phi$  of the simulation which "walks" among the values of  $\lambda$ . This stream is estimated form Fick's diffusion type of law:

$$\phi = D(\Lambda) \Pi(\Lambda) \frac{dx(\Lambda)}{d\Lambda} \quad (3.37)$$

In the equation above,  $\Lambda$  is the actual continue value of the coupling parameter. This continue function of  $\lambda$ s may be obtained by interpolating them linearly.  $D(\Lambda)$  is the diffusivity at the state  $\Lambda$  and  $x(\Lambda)$  is the fraction of times that the trial simulation at state  $\Lambda_i$  has most recently visited the state  $\lambda = 1$  as opposed to state  $\lambda = 0$ . The derivative  $dx(\Lambda)/d\Lambda$  can be approximated with the central finite differences. Finally,  $\Pi(\Lambda)$  represents the probability of visiting  $\Lambda$ .

$$\Pi(\Lambda) = \frac{C' \bar{\Pi}(\lambda)}{\Lambda_{i+1} - \Lambda_i} \quad (3.38)$$

The  $C'$  term in the equation above represents a constant and  $\bar{\Pi}(\lambda)$  is the arithmetic average of visiting the  $\Lambda$  states:

$$\bar{\Pi}(\lambda) = \frac{\pi_{i+1} - \pi_i}{2} \quad (3.39)$$

The  $\phi$  is maximum when the the probability  $\Pi'(\Lambda_i)$  is proportional to  $1/\sqrt{D(\Lambda)}$ . With that information is possible to estimate the diffusivity using one trial simulation with the equation bellow:

$$D(\Lambda) = \frac{\Lambda_{i+1} - \Lambda_i}{\bar{\Pi}(\lambda)dx(\Lambda)/d\Lambda} \quad (3.40)$$

Hence, it is possible to calculate  $\bar{\Pi}$  and, consequently, the cumulative probability, which is used to calculate the new  $\lambda$  states:

$$\Phi = \int_{\lambda=0}^{\lambda=1} \Pi'(\Lambda_i)d\Lambda = \frac{i}{K} \quad (3.41)$$

where,  $K$  is the total number of  $\lambda$  states.

### 3.3 Gibbs Ensemble Monte Carlo (GEMC)

The Gibbs Ensemble Method ([PANAGIOTOPOULOS, 1987](#)) is used to study phase coexistence with simultaneous Monte Carlo simulations of two boxes, representing a two phase system, with periodic conditions. The boxes exchange molecules, energy and volume between them. The boxes equilibrium is obtained through MC steps that consist of translation and rotation moves, volume exchange and randomly exchanges of molecules between the boxes. For the phase equilibrium of multi-component systems, the GEMC simulations should be carried out at the NPT (constant number of particles, pressure and temperature) ensemble to obey the requirement of an additional degree of freedom for mixtures. Meanwhile, the simulation of single component systems is carried out at constant number of particles, temperature and volume (NVT) since the two phase region would be a line for a system at constant pressure and temperature. The constant volume GEMC ensemble is rigorously equivalent to the canonical ensemble in the thermodynamic limit as demonstrated by [Frenkel e Smit \(2001\)](#). The partition function of the GEMC-NVT ensemble is obtained considering that the particles in both boxes are subjected to the same intermolecular interactions and that the boxes volumes and number of particles ( $N_1, N_2, V_1$  and  $V_2$ ) can vary while the total volume ( $V$ ) and total

number of particles ( $N$ ) remain constant ( $N = N_1 + N_2, V = V_1 + V_2$ ):

$$Q(NVT) \equiv \sum_{N_1}^N \frac{1}{V \Lambda^{3N} N_1! (N - N_1)!} \int_0^V dV_1 V_1^{N_1} V_2^{N_2} \int dx_1^{N_1} \exp[-\beta U(x_1^{N_1})] \int dx_2^{N_2} \exp[-\beta U(x_2^{N_2})] \quad (3.42)$$

In order to define the acceptance rules for the MC moves, it is necessary to know the probability of finding the configuration with  $N_1$  particles in box 1 with volume  $V_1$  and positions  $x_1^{N_1}$  and  $x_2^{N_2}$ . This probability is given by:

$$\pi(x_1^{N_1}, x_2^{N_2}, N_1, N_2, V_1, V_2) \propto \frac{V_1^{N_1} V_2^{N_2}}{N_1! N_2!} \exp[-\beta U(x_1^{N_1}) - \beta U(x_2^{N_2})] \quad (3.43)$$

The acceptance criterion for the translation and rotation moves of configuration A to B is similar to the the conventional NVT MC ensembles and is equal to:

$$acc_{A \rightarrow B} = \min(1, \exp[-\beta U(x_A^{N_1}) - \beta U(x_B^{N_1})]) \quad (3.44)$$

The exchange volume moves happen by exchanging an amount  $\Delta V$  between the boxes to achieve pressure equilibrium.  $\Delta V$  can be chosen from a uniform distribution based on one defined maximum variation of volume ( $\delta V_{max}$ ) with probability  $1/\delta V_{max}$ . The acceptance rules for these moves is:

$$acc_{A \rightarrow B} = \min \left( 1, \left( \frac{V_1^B}{V_1^A} \right)^{N_1-1} \left( \frac{V_2^B}{V_2^A} \right)^{N_2+1} \exp[-\beta U(x_A^N) - \beta U(x_B^N)] \right) \quad (3.45)$$

Particle exchange moves are carried out to obtain the equality of chemical potential the two boxes. One particle from one box is removed and then added to a random location in the other box. The criteria to accept or reject this type of move is:

$$acc_{A \rightarrow B} = \min \left( 1, \frac{N_1 V_2}{N_2 V_1} \exp[-\beta U(x_A^N) - \beta U(x_B^N)] \right) \quad (3.46)$$

This method has been widely used to calculate phase equilibrium, but underperforms for the region near the critical point due to large density fluctuations. The GEMC also has a poor performance for dense systems since the particle exchange moves have a low acceptance ratio for these dense systems.

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Phenanthrene Parameterization

The two parameterization strategies for ring molecules described in section 3.1.2 were followed for phenanthrene. For both of them, only vapor pressure data (MORTIMER; MURPHY, 1923) was used due to the unavailability of saturated liquid density and the attractive parameter was set to six to avoid correlation with repulsive parameter. The parameterization with the ring equation of Müller e Mejía (2017) was made with the number of segments fixed in 5 since this level of coarse graining was also used for the similar molecule anthracene in the original article:

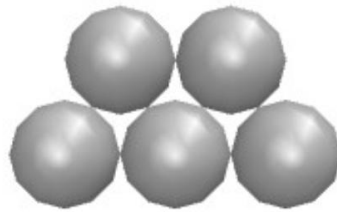


Figure 4.1.1 – Geometry for  $m_s = 5$

The minimization was done using the Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO) method with the following objective function:

$$\min_{\sigma, \epsilon, \lambda_r} F_{obj}(\sigma, \epsilon, \lambda_r) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \left( \frac{P_v^{SAFT}(T_i, \sigma, \epsilon, \lambda_r) - P_v^{exp}(T_i)}{P_v^{exp}(T_i)} \right)^2 \quad (4.1)$$

The  $P_v^{exp}$  is the experimental vapor pressure and  $P_v^{SAFT}$  is the vapor pressure obtained with SAFT-VR Mie EoS. The method used to calculate the bubble point was the one proposed by Smith, Ness e Abbot (2007). The parameters  $\sigma$ ,  $\epsilon$  and  $\lambda_r$  resulted from this minimization are the final force field parameters to be used in molecular simulations. The parameterization with the Lafitte *et al.* (2012) ring equation requires was done with  $m_s = 3$  so every bead would represent one ring. The first part of the estimation followed the same procedure of the one described above. As explained in section 3.1.2, the Lafitte *et al.* (2012) equation requires the estimation of the correction factors  $c_\sigma$  and  $c_\epsilon$  (Eqs. (3.18) and (3.19)). The PSO method was also used and the objective function is the one in Eq. (3.20). The vapor pressures and saturated liquid densities from molecular simulations was obtained with the GEMC method (section 3.3).

## 4.2 Solvation Free energy Calculations

The molecular dynamic simulations to estimate the free energy differences with the SAFT- $\gamma$  Mie force field were performed using the Lammmps package (PLIMPTON, 1995). The motion's equations were integrated with the velocity-Verlet algorithm (VERLET, 1967) with time step of 1 fs. The molecules were treated as rigid bodies, as required by the coarse grained model. The thermostat and the barostat were the Nose/Hoover with chains with a damping factors of 100 and 1000 fs respectively. The SAFT- $\gamma$  Mie model doesn't consider electrostatics interactions explicitly, hence there was no shifting of forces or long range corrections and the potential cutoff was equal to 20 Å with a neighbor skin of 2 Å. The initial configuration of the solvated systems were generated with the Packmol package (MARTÍNEZ *et al.*, 2009). For the binary mixtures, one molecule of solute and a varying number of solvent molecules- 700 molecules for toluene and octanol, 1024 for hexane, 3000 for water - were randomly added to a cubic box. The simulations to study solvation free energy of phenanthrene in a mixture of toluene and carbon dioxide were done with different fractions of carbon dioxide. The system consisted of one molecule of phenanthrene for all the fractions and 123 molecules of  $CO_2$  and 618 molecules of toluene for  $w_{CO_2} = 0.087$ ; 166 molecules of  $CO_2$ ; 589 molecules of toluene for  $w_{CO_2} = 0.119$ ; 232 molecules of  $CO_2$  and 545 molecules of toluene for  $w_{CO_2} = 0.169$  and 380 molecules of  $CO_2$  and 446 molecules of toluene for  $w_{CO_2} = 0.289$ .

All simulations were carried out maintaining the temperature and pressure constant at 298 K and 1 bar, except the ones containing carbon dioxide. These were performed at 298 K and at the pressure of the liquid phase equilibrium correspondent to the  $CO_2$  fraction (CHANG, 1992). Primarily, the initial box was equilibrated at the NPT ensemble for 2 ns and then the resulting configurations were used on the alchemical simulations. These were carried out with the Lammmps user package for alchemical simulations with the Mie Potential developed by our group, available at <https://github.com/atoms-ufrj/USER-ALCHEMICAL>. In the simulations, the sampling of a new state was tried at every 10 MD steps. In order to define the optimal values of  $\lambda$  and  $\eta$  related to each state, short trials simulations, lasting around 10 ns, were carried out. In the first simulation, the group of  $\lambda$  for all the pairs solvent-solute was: (0.0,0.15,0.2,0.25,0.3,0.4,0.45,0.5,0.55,0.7,0.9,1.0) and the  $\eta$ s were set to zero or were given the values of the ones found for similar mixtures. The subsequent groups of  $\eta$  were estimated with the flat histogram approach (Eq. (3.36)) using the solvation free energy values stemming from the previous simulations. The results with the new weights were then utilized to optimize the group of  $\lambda$ s by minimizing the number of round trips as described in section 3.2. The  $\eta$ s correspondent to the newest group of  $\lambda$ s were interpolated from the free energy differences. With the final values of the  $\eta$  and  $\lambda$  defined for

each mixture, larger simulations with a time of 20 ns were performed.

The post processing method used to calculate the free energies was the Multistate Bennet Acceptance Ratio (MBAR) described in section 2.3.4. The software alchemical-analysis (KLIMOVICH; SHIRTS; MOBLEY, 2015) were used to obtain the  $\Delta G_{solv}$  with MBAR and to assess the results quality.

## 5 Results and Discussion

### 5.0.1 Phenanthrene Parameterization

### 5.0.2 Solvation free energies

The force field parameters for phenanthrene were estimated as described above and the ones for the other compounds were retrieved from the literature (LOBANOVA *et al.*, 2016; HERDES; TOTTON; MÜLLER, 2015; ERVIK; MEJÍA; MÜLLER, 2016; MÜLLER; MEJÍA, 2017):

Table 1 – SAFT- $\gamma$  Mie Force Field for each substance used in this work

	$m_s$	$\epsilon/k_B$ (K)	$\sigma(\text{\AA})$	$\lambda_r$
Water	1	305.21	2.902	8.0
Propane	1	426.08	4.871	34.29
Carbon dioxide	2	194.94	2.848	14.65
Hexane	2	376.35	4.508	19.57
Octanol	3	495.71	4.341	28.79
Toluene	3	268.24	3.685	11.80
Benzene	3	230.30	3.441	10.45
Pyrene	4	459.04	4.134	15.79
Anthracene	5	259.68	3.631	9.55
Phenanthrene	5	262.74	4.077	9.55

Table 2 – Calculated and experimental values for the Gibbs energy of solvation (kcal/mol) of solutes in non aqueous solvents

Solvent	Solute	$\Delta G_{solv}^{exp}$	$\Delta G_{solv}^{Mie}$	Absolute Deviation
hexane	benzene	-3.96	$-3.76 \pm 0.01$	0.20
hexane	pyrene	-11.53	$-10.82 \pm 0.02$	0.71
hexane	phenanthrene	-10.01	$-9.16 \pm 0.02$	0.85
toluene	pyrene	-12.86	$-11.74 \pm 0.02$	1.12
toluene	anthracene	-11.31	$-10.03 \pm 0.02$	1.28
1-octanol	propane	-1.32	$-1.36 \pm 0.02$	0.04
1-octanol	anthracene	-11.72	$-8.16 \pm 0.03$	3.56
1-octanol	phenanthrene	-10.22	$-8.34 \pm 0.03$	1.47
RMSE				1.54

Soluto	$\Delta G_{solv}^{exp}$	$\Delta G_{solv}^{Mie}$	Desvio
benzeno	-3.96	$-3.76 \pm 0.01$	-0.20
pireno	-11.53	$-10.82 \pm 0.02$	-0.71
fenantreno	-10.01	$-9.16 \pm 0.02$	-0.85

Soluto	$\Delta G_{solv}^{exp}$	$\Delta G_{solv}^{Mie}$	Desvio
propano	-1.32	$-1.36 \pm 0.02$	0.04
antraceno	-11.72	$-8.16 \pm 0.03$	-3.56
fenantreno	-10.22	$-8.34 \pm 0.03$	-1.47

Soluto	$\Delta G_{solv}^{exp}$	$\Delta G_{solv}^{Mie}$	Desvio
pireno	-12.86	$-11.74 \pm 0.02$	-1.12
antraceno	-11.31	$-10.03 \pm 0.02$	-1.28
fenantreno	-	$-10.55 \pm 0.03$	-

Solute	$\Delta G_{solv}^{exp}$	$\Delta G_{solv}^{Mie}$	Desvio	$\Delta G_{solv}^{GAFF}$
propano	$2.00 \pm 0.20$	$2.01 \pm 0.01$	-0.01	$2.50 \pm 0.02$
benzeno	$-0.86 \pm 0.20$	$-0.88 \pm 0.01$	0.02	$-0.81 \pm 0.02$
tolueno	$-0.83 \pm 0.20$	$-0.92 \pm 0.01$	0.09	$-0.79 \pm 0.03$
fenantreno	$-3.88 \pm 0.60$	$-3.63 \pm 0.03$	-0.25	$-5.26 \pm 0.03$

### 5.0.3 Hydration free energies



Table 3 – Calculated values for the Gibbs energy of solvation (kcal/mol) of phenanthrene in toluene+ $CO_2$ 

$w_{CO_2}$	$\Delta G_{solv}^{Mie}$
0.0	$-10.55 \pm 0.03$
0.087	$-10.73 \pm 0.02$
0.119	$-10.78 \pm 0.02$
0.169	$-10.71 \pm 0.02$
0.289	$-10.69 \pm 0.02$

Table 4 – Binary interaction parameters employed

Pair	$k_{ij}$
water + propane	0.067
water + benzene	0.162
water + toluene	0.152
water + phenanthrene	0.148

Table 5 – Calculated and experimental values for the Gibbs energy of solvation (kcal/mol) of solutes in water

Solute	$\Delta G_{solv}^{exp}$	$\Delta G_{solv}^{Mie}$	Absolute Deviation	$\Delta G_{solv}^{GAFF}$
propane	$2.00 \pm 0.20$	$2.01 \pm 0.01$	0.01	$2.50 \pm 0.02$
benzene	$-0.86 \pm 0.20$	$-0.88 \pm 0.01$	0.02	$-0.81 \pm 0.02$
toluene	$-0.83 \pm 0.20$	$-0.92 \pm 0.01$	0.09	$-0.79 \pm 0.03$
phenanthrene	$-3.88 \pm 0.60$	$3.63 \pm 0.03$	0.25	$-5.26 \pm 0.03$
RMSE			0.13	

## 6 Conclusions

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# Appendix

## APPENDIX A – Quisque libero justo

# Annex

## ANNEX A – Morbi ultrices rutrum lorem.

## ANNEX B – Fusce facilisis lacinia dui