

Molecular Modeling with Ghemical

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What is/are Ghemical?

- A molecular modeling tool with a GUI that allows Molecular Mechanics and Quantum Mechanics simulations
- <http://bioinformatics.org/ghemical/>
 - Molecular Mechanics/Dynamics (Tripos FF)
 - Semi-empirical QC (Mopac): mopac7.sf.net
 - *Ab initio* QC (MPQC) www.mpqc.org
- Windows version with GAMESS-US support
 - www.uiowa.edu/~ghemical/

Avogadro

- Avogadro.openmolecules.net
- A derivative of Ghemical
 - Cross-platform
 - Fast
 - Extensible
 - Support for other QM packages as plugins

Overview

- Perform MD simulations using built-in engine
- Perform semi-empirical calculations
 - Dinucleotide
 - Tetraloop
 - Unfold alpha helix
- Perform *ab initio* calculations
 - aspirin
- Visualize results

Dinucleotide

- Launch Ghemical
- With right mouse button bring pop-up menu
 - File → **Import**
 - Open is only for ghemical files!
 - Open adenyladenylate.pdb
- Run Molecular Dynamics simulation
 - Right mouse button → context menu → Compute → Molecular Dynamics

MD simulation

- Default simulation covers all standard steps:
 - Heating (5000 steps)
 - Equilibration (5000 steps)
 - Simulation (18000 steps)
 - Cooling (2000 steps)
- Default time step is 0.5 femtoseconds
- Default T is 300 K
- Default P is 1 bar
- Choice of Constant-T, P or both
- Only explicit solvent (Build → Solvate Box/Sphere)

Tretaloop Hairpin

- Open gcaa.pdb
 - Right mouse button → Build → Zap all
 - Right mouse button → File → **Import**
- Run a molecular dynamics simulation
 - How long does it take?
- Cancel when you are tired of waiting
- For large simulations it is better to use specialized tools
 - GROMACS

Unfold alpha helix

- Open polyala10helix.pdb
 - Right mouse button → Build → Zap all
 - Right mouse button → File → Import
- Run simulation at 1000 C
- Reload molecule and run simulation at 300 K
- Reload molecule and run simulation at 6000K
 - Did you see anything abnormal? No?
 - The default time step of 0.5fs is good enough for most simulations.

A saucerful of secrets

- Set the controls for the heart of the sun (Pink Floyd, 1968)
- Molecular dynamics does not handle bond-breaking or forming. I. e. it does not handle Chemistry.
- To deal with Chemistry we need a Quantum Mechanics approach
 - Analyze electronic structure
 - Analyze dynamical behaviour

Aspirin

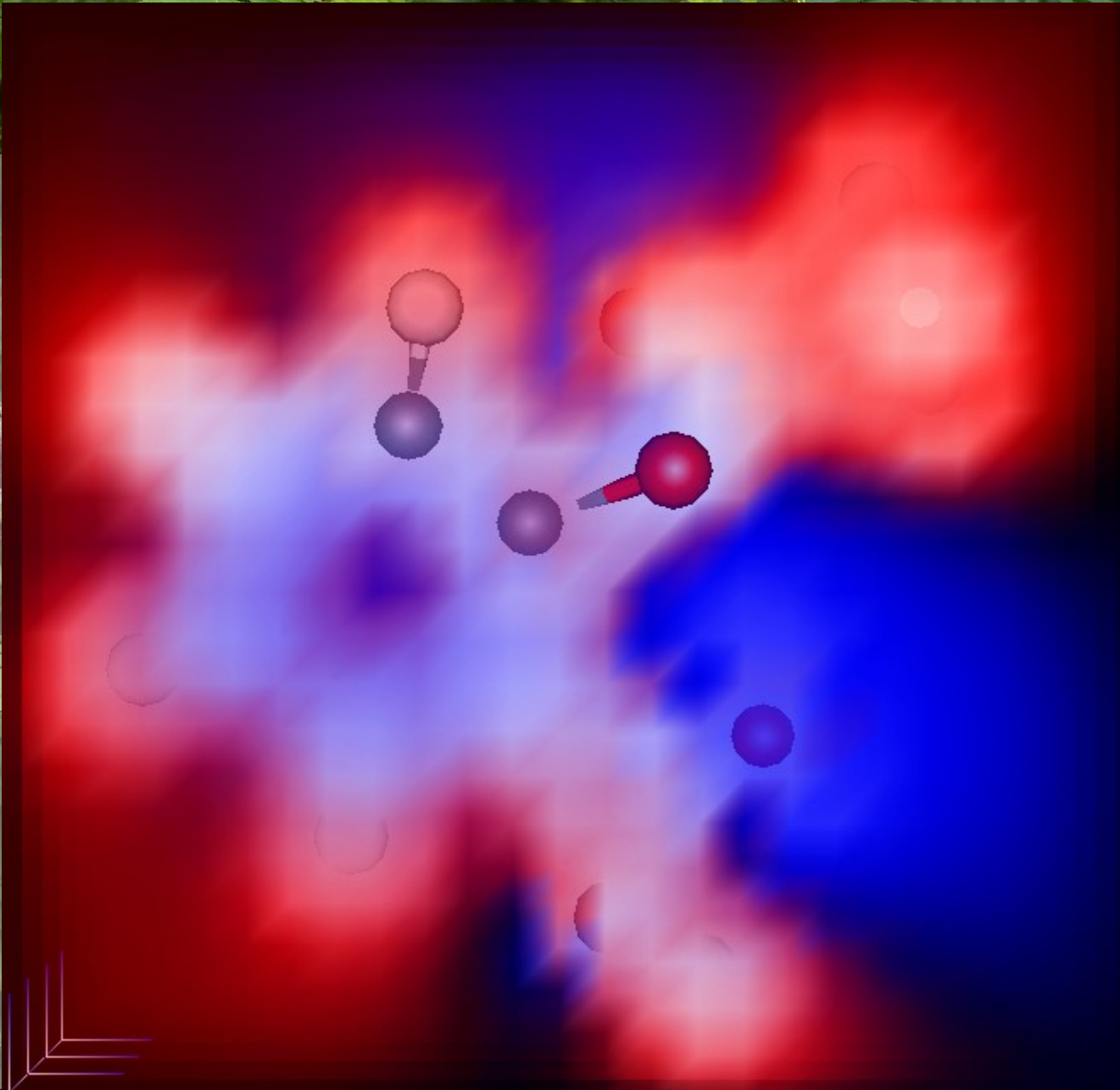
- Load Wikipedia:aspirin in your browser
- Load aspirin.pdb
 - Right mouse button → Build → Zap all
 - Right mouse button → File → Import
- Set up computation method
 - Right mouse button → Compute → Setup...
 - All QM...
 - Mopac MP3

As a rule

CNDO < MNDO < AM1 < PM3 < PM6

Optimize Geometry

- Select Geometry Optimization
 - Right mouse button → Compute → Geometry Optimization...
- Watch as energy decreases and structure is refined
- Compute molecule energy
 - Right mouse button → Compute → Energy
- Display Electron Density
 - Right mouse button → Objects → Volume rendered ESP



Predicting reactivity

Electrostatic potential planes can be used to predict the location of an electrophilic attack. An electrophile will typically attack in areas near an electrostatic potential minimum, which are colored blue.

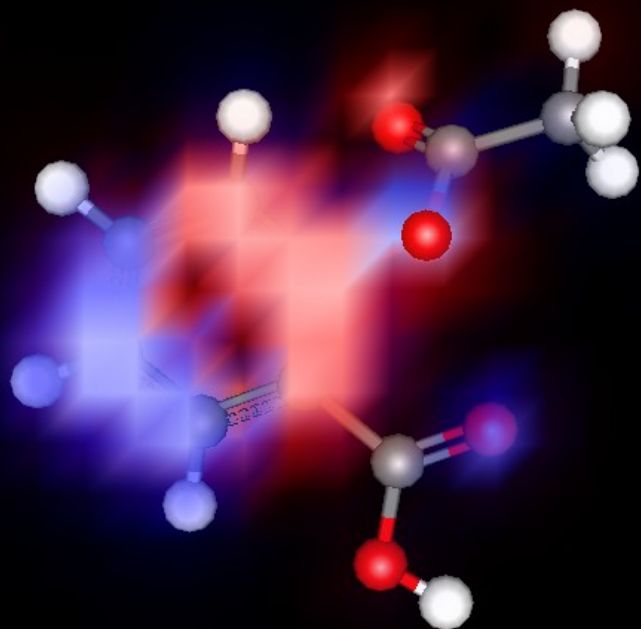
- Does it match what you'd expect?

HOMO/LUMO theory

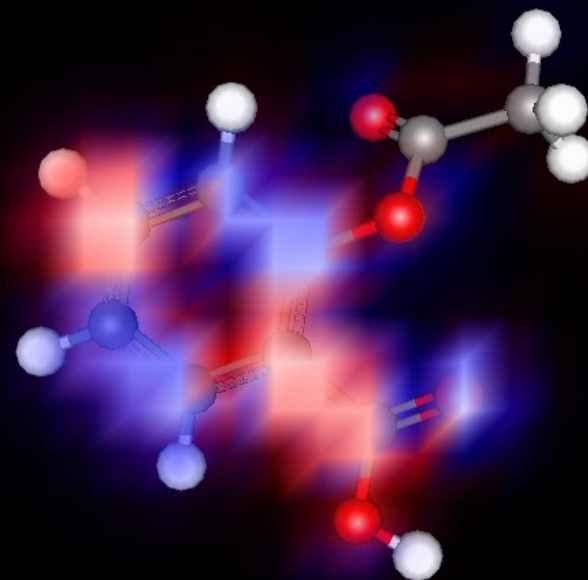
- HOMO can give electrons
- LUMO can take electrons

HOMO/LUMO

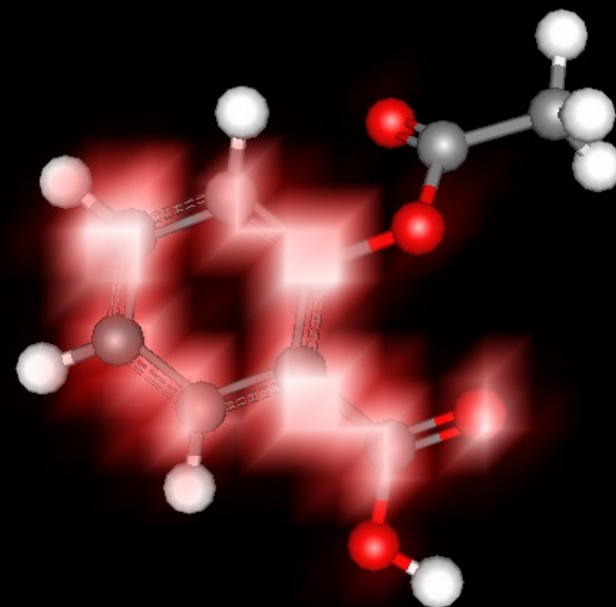
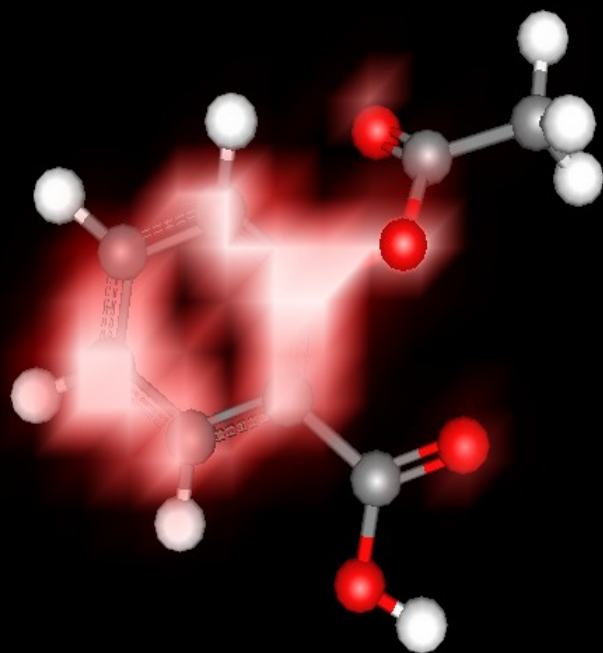
- Orbital count in Gchemical starts at zero
- HOMO is orbital 33
 - Right mouse button → Objects → Delete current object
 - Right mouse button → Set current orbital
 - Change X to 33
 - Right mouse button → Objects → Molecular orbital volume / MO density volume
- LUMO is orbital 34
 - Same as above but change X to 34



HOMO



LUMO



Increasing precision

- Semi-empirical calculations often result in “approximate results”
- Semi-empirical calculations cannot work with non-parametrized atoms
- For increased accuracy use full *ab-initio* methods
 - STO-3G: minimal basis set
 - 6-311G**: standard basis set
 - Corrections for e-e interactions (MP2, CI, CC,...)

As a general rule

**HF << MP2 < CISD < MP4(SDQ) ~ CCSD < MP4
< CCSD(T) < CCSDT**

Comparing results

- Reference ground state
 - *Ab initio*: all electrons and nuclei separated by infinite distance
 - Semi-empirical: consider only valence shell electrons, separate atoms an infinite distance
 - Should yield heat of formation
 - Equivalent to semi-empirical minus a constant
- Differential results can be compared
- Direct results cannot be directly compared

Simulating reactions

- Find transition state
- Work out transition state, reactants and products
 - Intrinsic Reaction Coordinate (IRC)
 - Transition State Search
 - Follow IRC forward and backward
 - Dynamic Reaction Coordinate
 - Molecular Dynamics with energy conservation
- Build energy landscape
- Carr-Parrinello Molecular Dynamics

Method

Time

Molecular Mechanics

N

Molecular Dynamics

N^2

Hartree-Fock (HF)

$N^2 - N^4$ (depending on symmetry and cutoff use)

MP2

N^5

MP3, MP4

N^6

MP5

N^8

CC2

N^5

CCSD

N^6

CISD

N^6

CASSF

$A!$ (depends on the number of orbitals)

CI complete

$N!$

Semiempirical methods

N^2 (for small systems)

Semiempirical methods

N^3 (for large systems)

DFT

N^3

DFT with linear scaling algorithms

N

Note: adapted from *Computational Chemistry: A Practical Guide for applying Techniques to Real-World Problems* David C. Young, Wiley & Sons, 2001

Increasing speed

- Use Semi-empirical methods
- Use DFT
- Use parallel programs on clusters
 - MPQC
 - NWchem
- Use modern methods
 - MOPAC/MOZYME
 - Siesta
- Combine QM/MM
 - NWchem, Gromacs, Ego VIII, etc...

The magic recipe

- Quantum Chemistry is computationally intensive
- Be careful when preparing data
- Pay attention to detail
- Document everything minutely
- Be patient
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- Be patient



Questions?