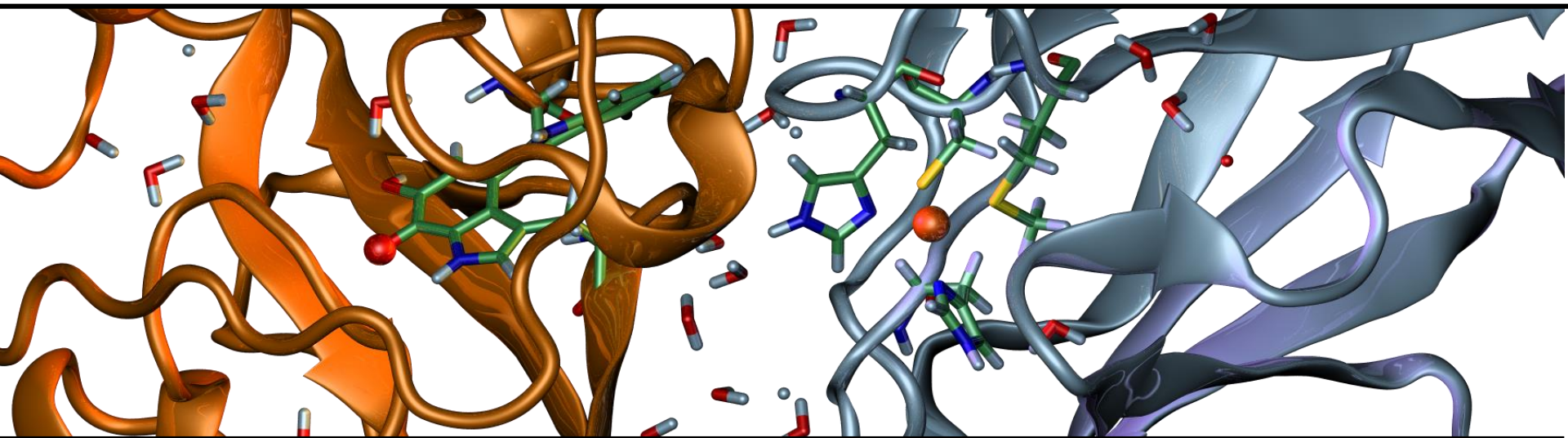


# Physicochemical models to rationalize charge transfers between electron donors and acceptor?

*From attosecond to microsecond time scales*



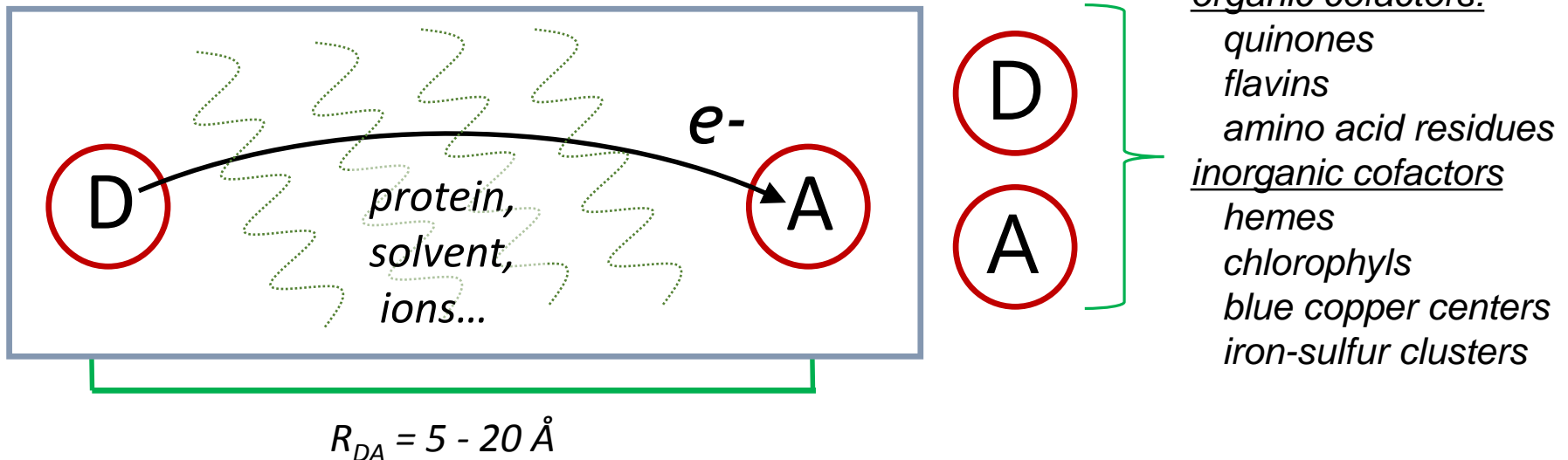
Aurélien de la Lande,

Université Paris Sud - CNRS - Université Paris Saclay



# WHY GETTING INTERESTED BY ET IN BIOLOGY ?

- Respiratory chain (bacteria, mitochondria)
- Photosynthesis (photoreactive centers)
- Enzymatic catalysis (oxidoreductases)
- Bio-electrochemical system and bioinspired artificial systems
- Damages to biomolecules (e.g. DNA) by ionizing radiations



# A very few papers from the incommensurable electron transfers literature

## Marcus Theory:

- ❖ R. A. Marcus, N. S. Sutin, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, **1984**, 811, 265.
- ❖ N. R. Kestner, J. Logan and J. Jortner, *J Phys Chem*, 1974, **78**, 2148
- ❖ G. King and A. Warshel, Investigation of the free energy functions for electron transfer reactions JCP, 1990, 93, 8682,
- ❖ A. de la Lande, F. Cailliez, D.R. Salahub, *Seven Things that Might Break Down in Vanilla Marcus Theory and How to Fix them if they Do ?* in *Simulating Enzymatic Reactions*, Ed. V. Moliner, I. Tunon, RSC, 2017.

## ET in biology:

- ❖ H. B. Gray, J. R. Winkler *Quat. Rev. Biophys.* **2003**, 36, 3
- ❖ J. R. Winkler, H. B. Gray, *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* **2010**, 1797, 1563 (advanced)
- ❖ A. Warshel, W. W. Parson Dynamics of biochemical and biophysical reactions : insight from computer simulations. *Quat. Rev. Biophys*, **2001**, 34, 563.

## Tunneling in proteins:

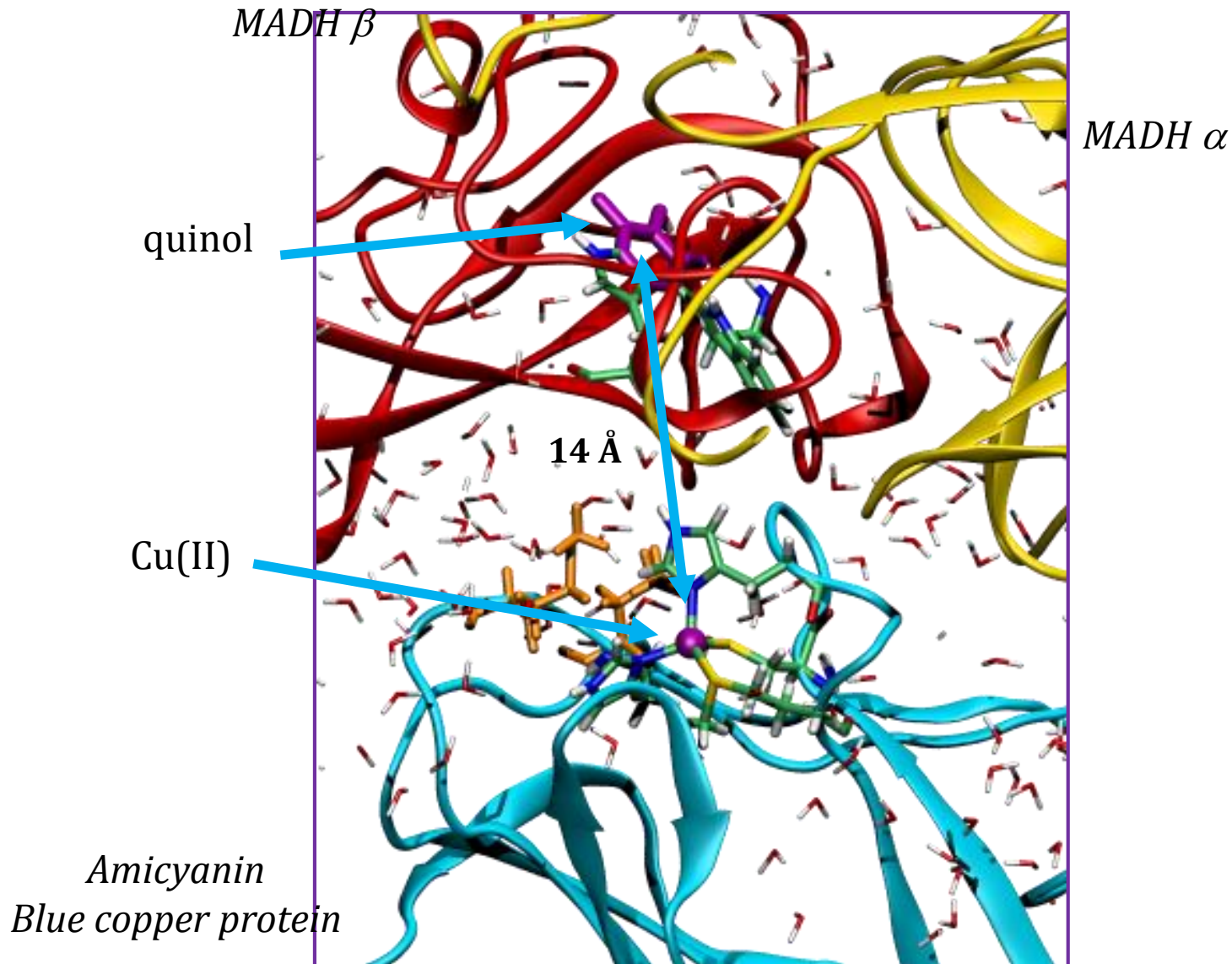
- ❖ D. N. Beratan, et al. , *Acc. Chem. Res.*, **2015**, 48, 474-481
- ❖ Literature from the groups of David N Beratan and Spiro Skourtis !

## Computational approaches

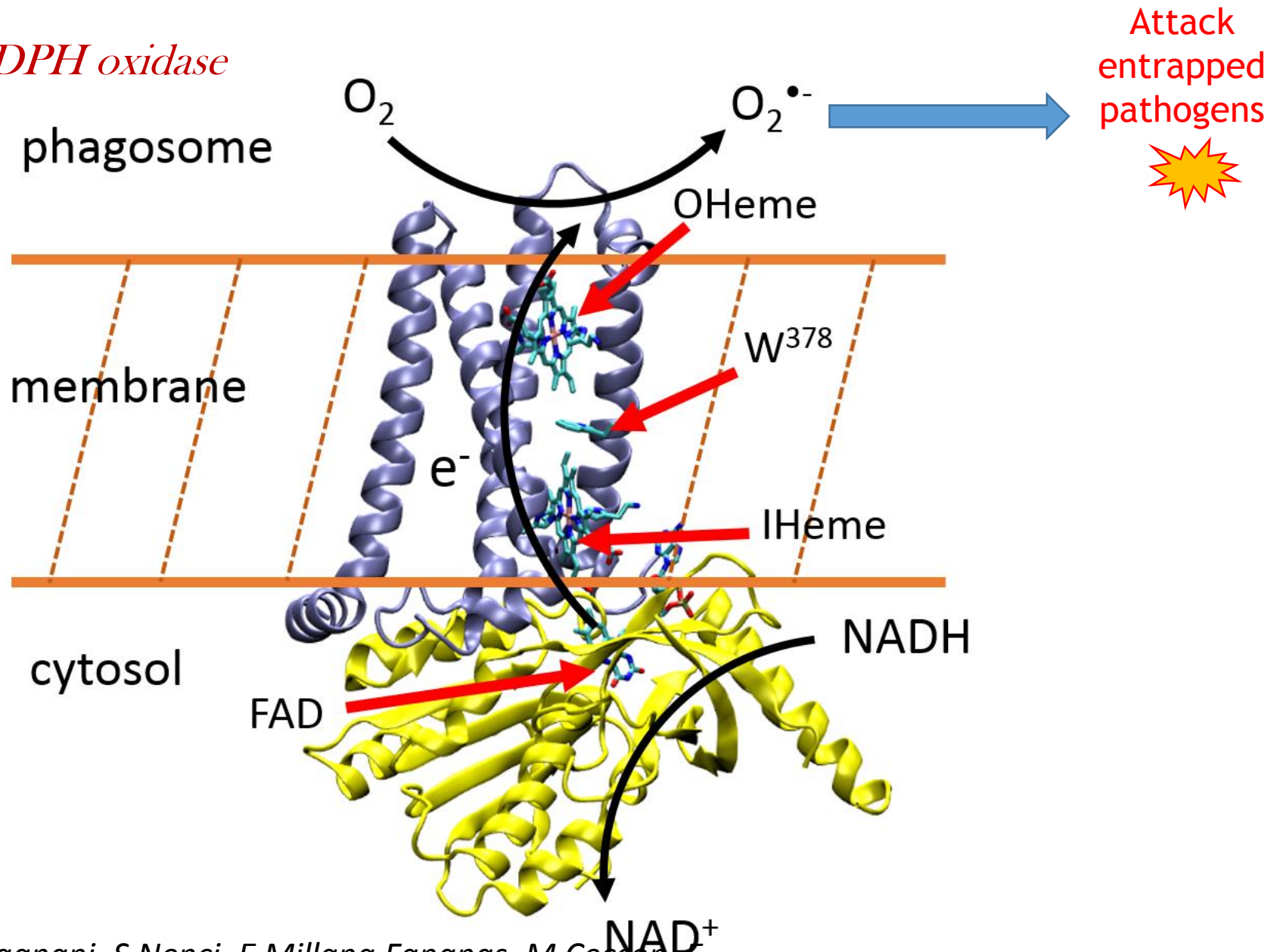
- ❖ J Blumberger Recent Advances in the Theory and Molecular Simulation of Biological Electron Transfer Reactions, *Chem. Rev.* **2015**, 115.
- ❖ J Blumberger. Free energies for biological electron transfer from QM/MM calculation:
  - ❖ method, application and critical assessment. *PCCP*, **2008**, 10, 5651
  - ❖ A de la Lande, S. Chen, DR. Salahub. Progress and challenges in simulating and understanding electron transfer in proteins. *Arch. Biochem. Biophys.* **2015**, 582, 28–41

*Respiratory chain*  
*Methylamine Dehydrogenase – Amicyanin*  
*Paracoccus denitrificans*

(PDB : 2MTA )  
Chen et al. Science 1994, **264**, 86



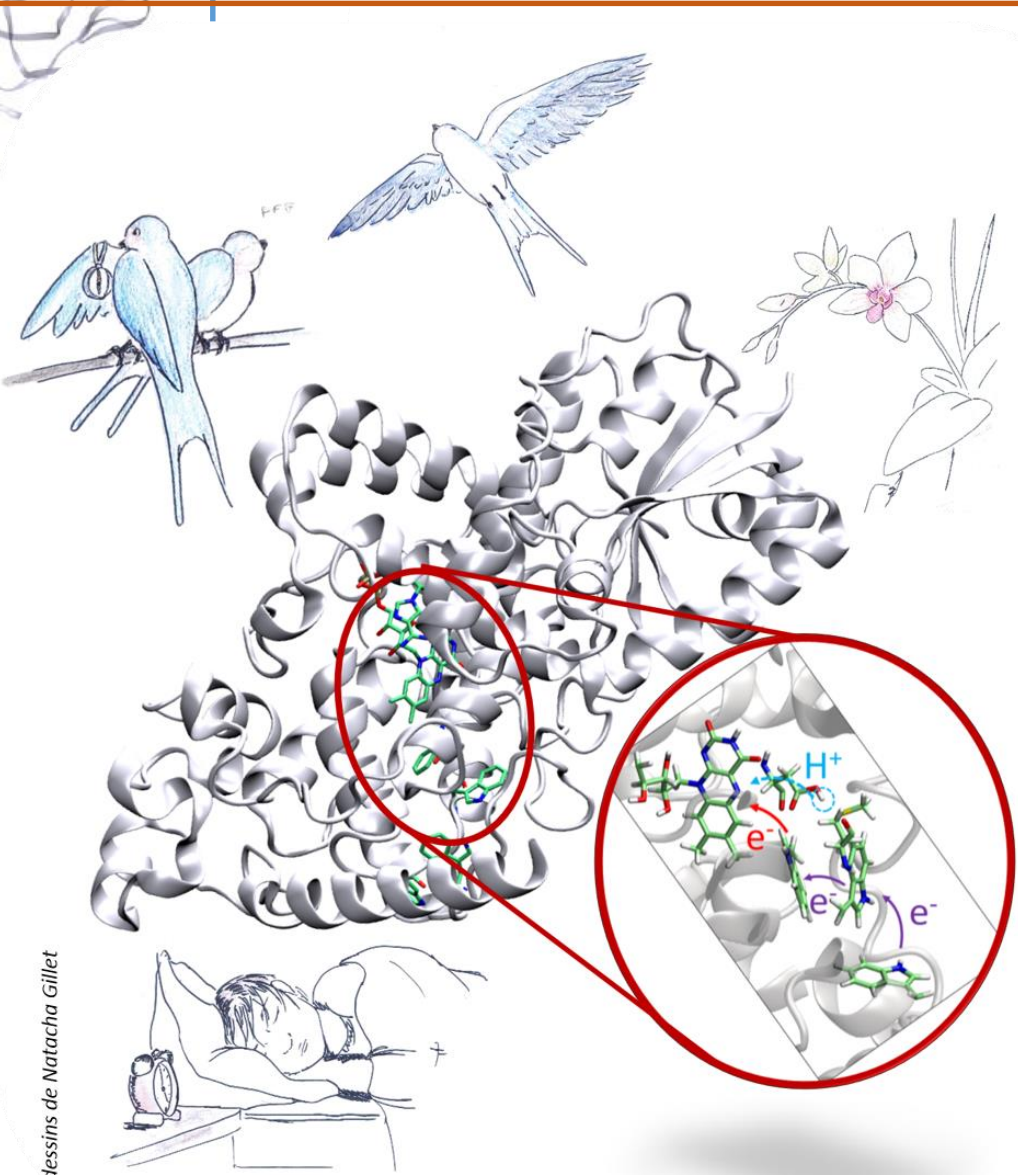
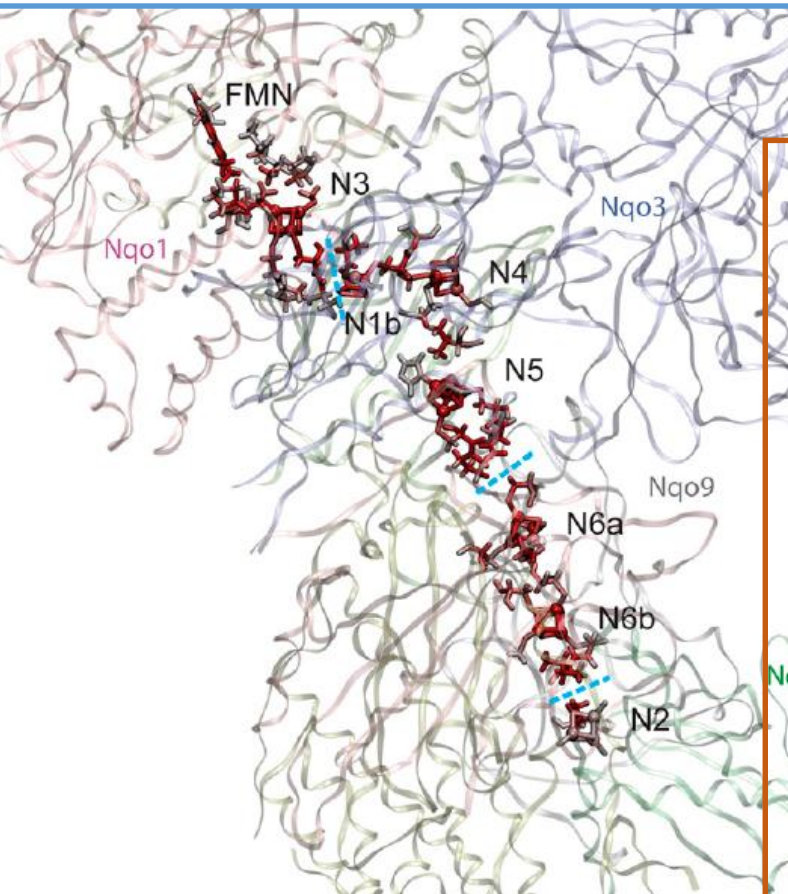
*NADPH oxidase*



*F Magnani, S Nenci, E Millana Fananas, M Ceccon, E Romero, M W. Fraaije, A Mattevi, PNAS 2017*

# Complex I of respiratory chain

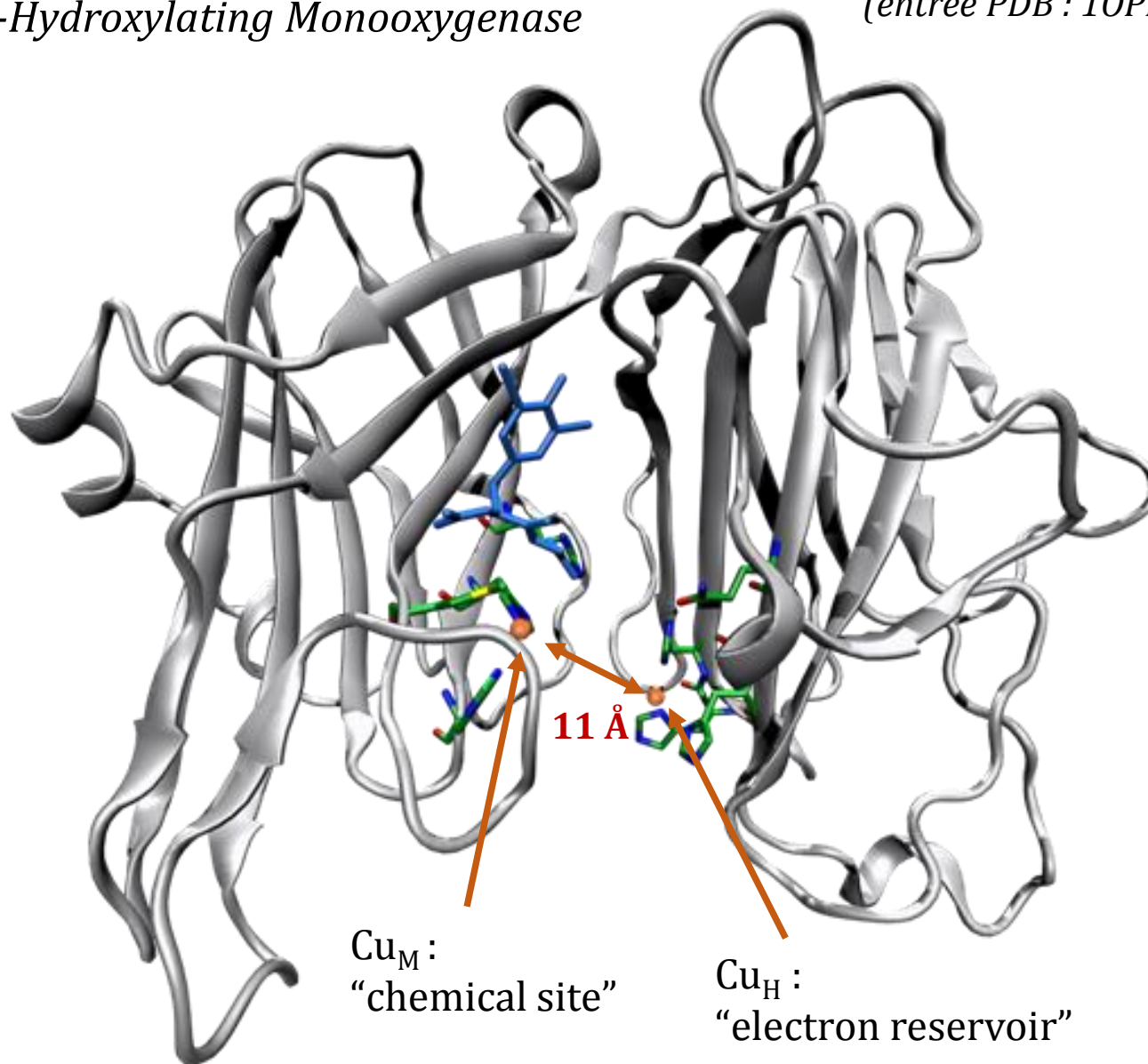
Hayashi, Stuchebrukhov;  
*Proc. Nat. Acad. Soc.* **2010**, 107, 19157



dessins de Natacha Gillet

courtesy of Natacha Gillet

*K. Brettel and coll., Nature* **2000**  
*Chaves et al. Annu. Rev. Plant Biol.* **2011**, 62, 335-364.  
*Hore et al. Annu. Rev. Biophys.* **2016**.  
 45, 299-344

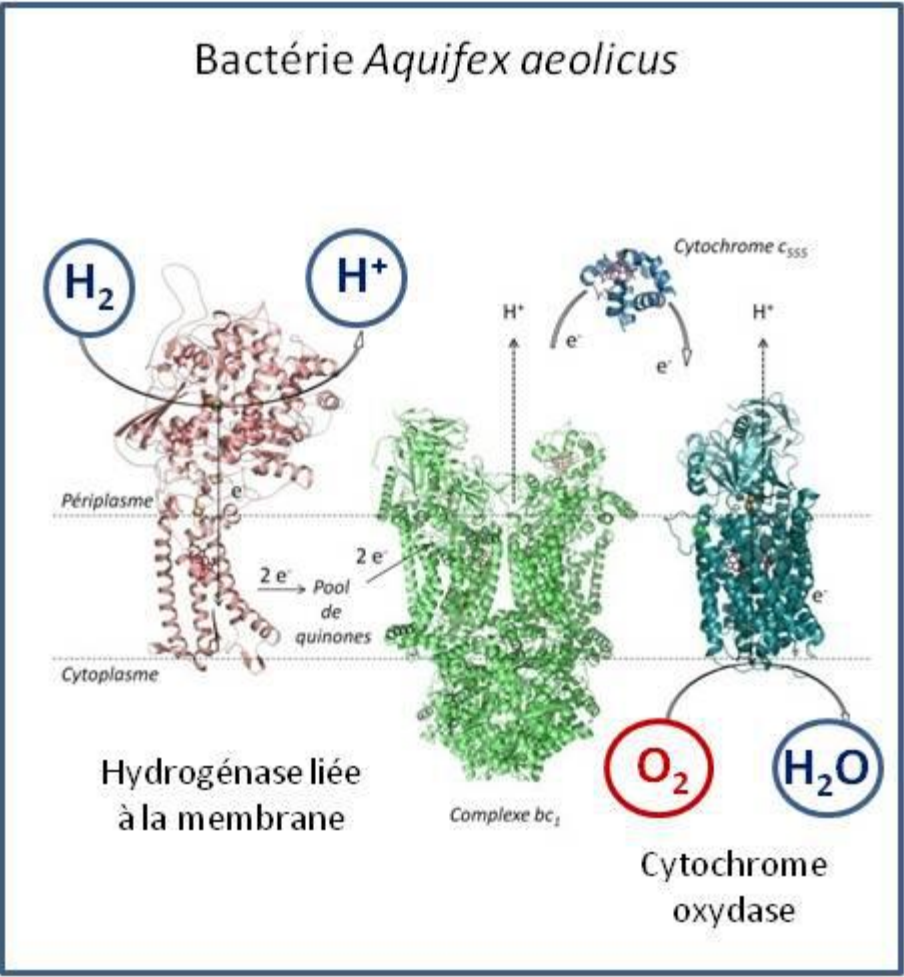


A de la Lande, O. Parisel, V. Moliner, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2007, 129, 11700

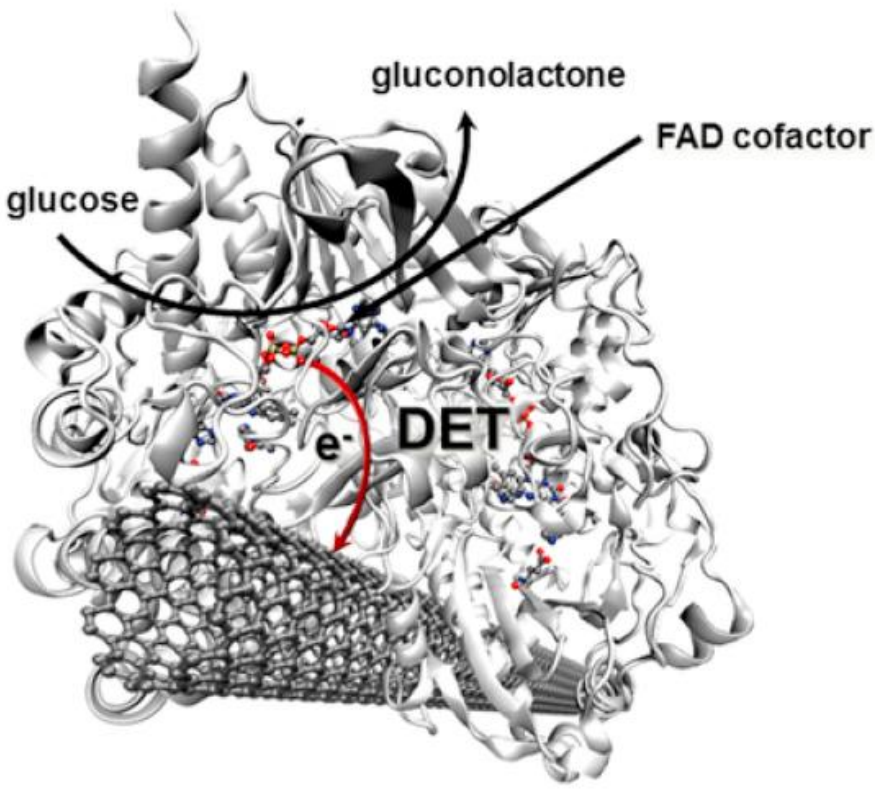
C. Melía, S. Ferrer, J. Řezáč, O. Parisel, O. Reinaud, V. Moliner, A. de la Lande

*Chem. Eur. J.* 2013, 19, 17328

*biological fuel cells*



From Lojou and co-workers, *Anal. Bioanal. Chem.* 406 (2014) 1011.



From Cosnier and co-workers, *Journal of Power Sources.* (2016) 1011.



- Biological systems are very complex (multiscale systems by nature)
- Interpretation of experimental data (redox potentials, rates, ...) very delicate
- Theory and simulations are essential
- Marcus theory is an equilibrium theory for ET in liquids; why should it work in biology ?
- Actually stimulating to challenge MT in biology

# I – The Marcus theory: concepts, theory and computer simulations

## *I.1 Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...*

## *I.2 The Marcus theory in the era of supercomputers*

I.2.a. Linear Response Approximation

I.2.b. A very simple example to set ideas

I.2.c. Nanosecond ET in cytochrome c oxydase

## *I-3. Quantum and semi-classical formulations*

I.2.a. Fermi golden rule and spin-boson model

I.2.b. Mixed quantum-classical, application to inverted region

I.2.c. Recent example of application in cryptochromes

# II – Beyond "Vanilla Marcus theory"

## *II.1 Breakdown of the linear response approximation*

II.1.a. High polarizability of redox cofactor

II.1.b. Non-ergodic systems

## *II.2 Beyond the two-state model*

II.2.a. Flickering resonance model

II.2.b. Recent example of application in photolyases

# III – The mystery of electron tunneling through proteins

## *III.1 Interpretative models for tunneling*

III.1.a. Hopfield model

III.1.b. Pathway model

III.1.c. Interatomic tunneling currents

## *I.2 Dynamical effects on tunneling*

III.2.a. Inelastic tunneling

III.2.b. Recent example of application in cryptochromes

III.2.c. Coherence loss in slow coupling regime

# I The Marcus theory of electron transfer

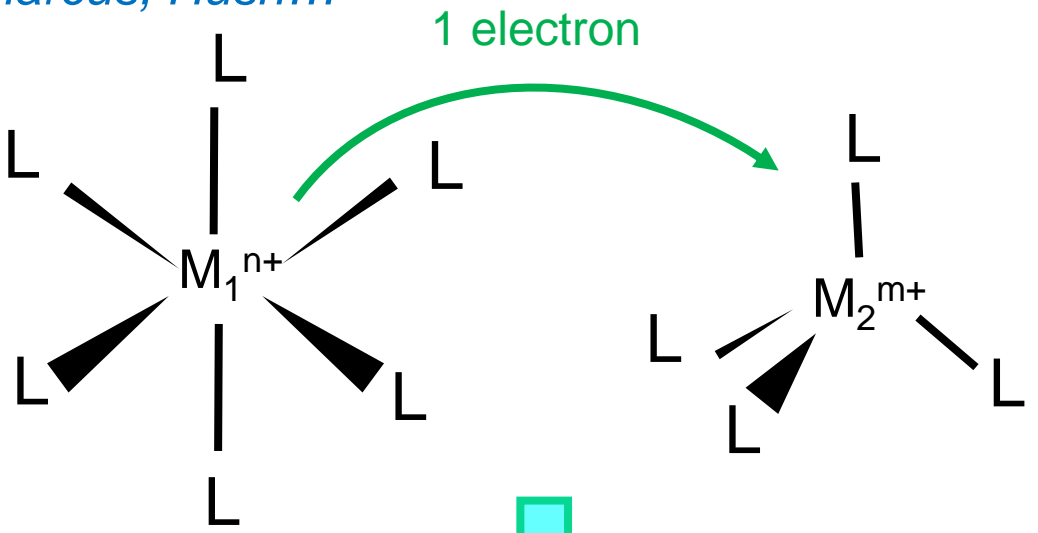
Reaction	$\log K_{12}$	$k_{12,\text{obsd}}$ ( $\text{M}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ )
$\text{Ru}(\text{NH}_3)_6^{2+} + \text{Ru}(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{py}^{3+}$	4.40	$1.4 \cdot 10^6$
$\text{Ru}(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{py}^{2+} + \text{Ru}(\text{NH}_3)_4(\text{bpy})^{3+}$	3.39	$1.1 \cdot 10^8$
$\text{Ru}(\text{NH}_3)_6^{2+} + \text{Co}(\text{phen})_3^{3+}$	5.42	$1.5 \cdot 10^4$
$\text{Ru}(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{py}^{2+} + \text{Co}(\text{phen})_3^{3+}$	1.01	$2.0 \cdot 10^3$
$\text{V}_{\text{aq}}^{2+} + \text{Co}(\text{en})_3^{3+}$	0.25	$5.8 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$\text{V}_{\text{aq}}^{2+} + \text{Ru}(\text{NH}_3)_6^{3+}$	5.19	$1.3 \cdot 10^3$
$\text{V}_{\text{aq}}^{2+} + \text{Fe}_{\text{aq}}^{3+}$	16.90	$1.8 \cdot 10^4$
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From Marcus' Nobel lecture

I-1. Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...

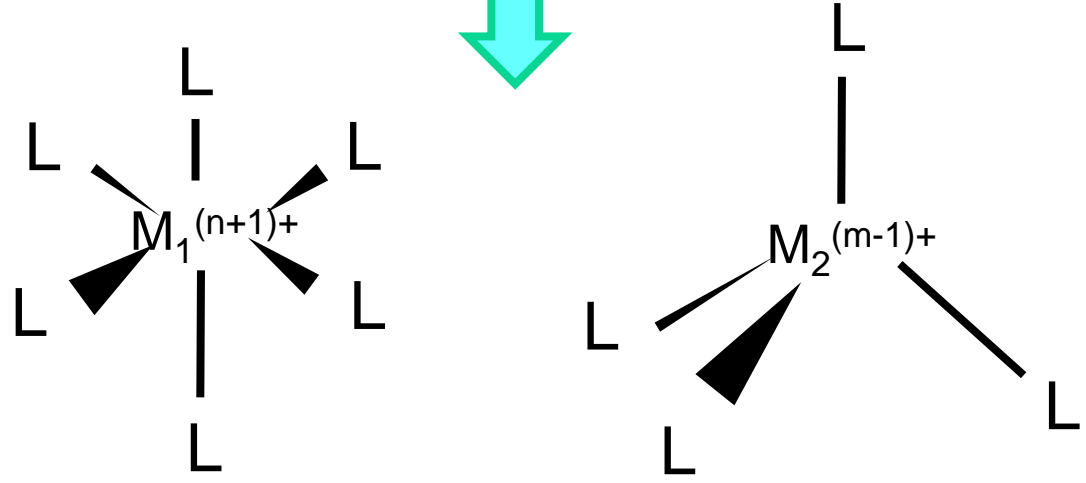
Libby imports the Franck-Condon principle to chemical reactivity !!

Williard Libby



Noël Hush

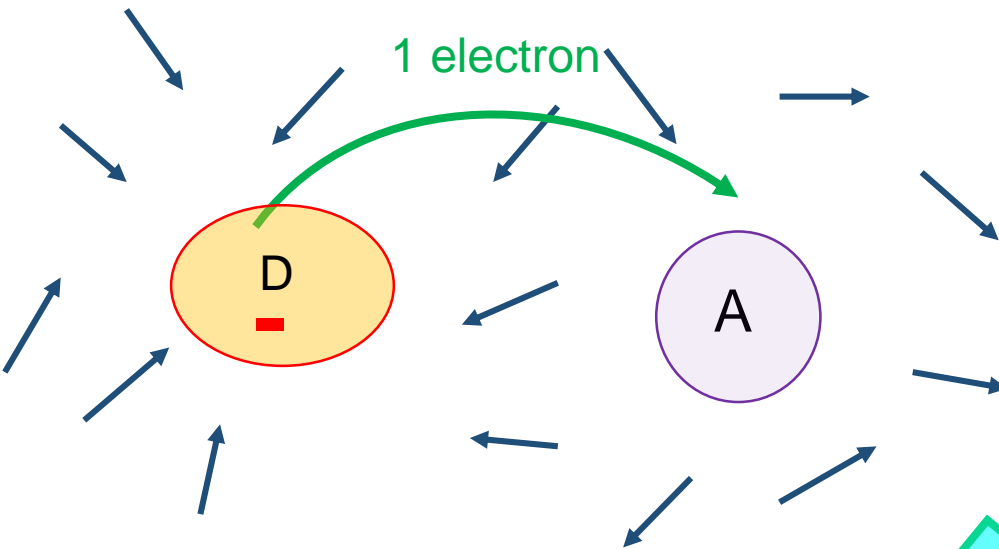
Rudy Marcus



Electrons are fast, nuclei are more massive, therefore much slower

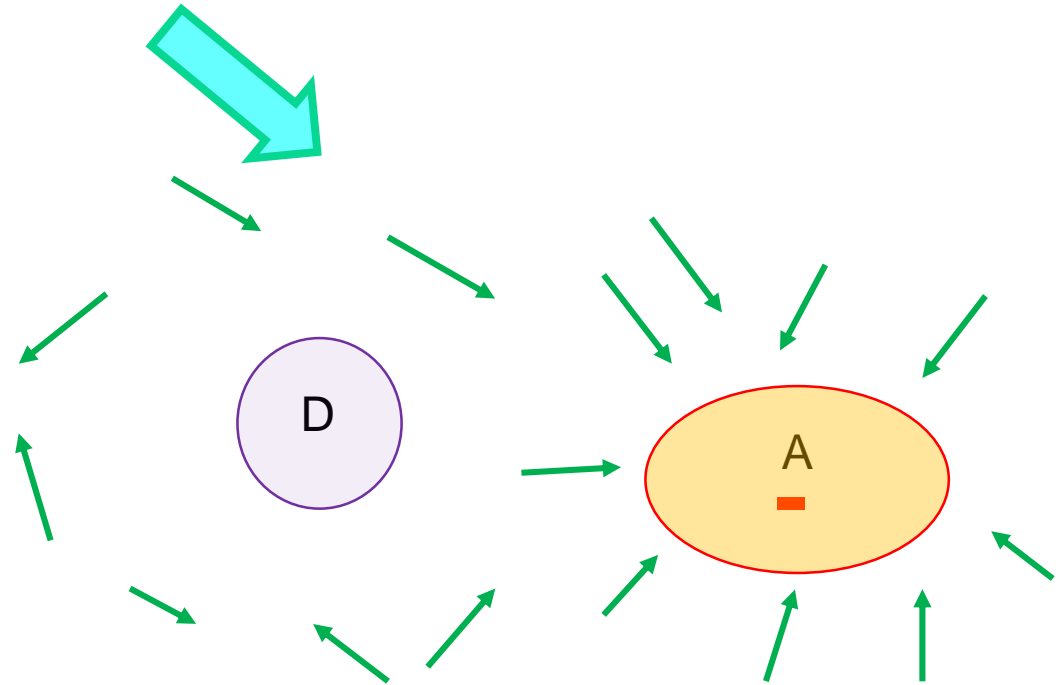
the electron "jumps" at fixed nuclear positions

I-1. Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...

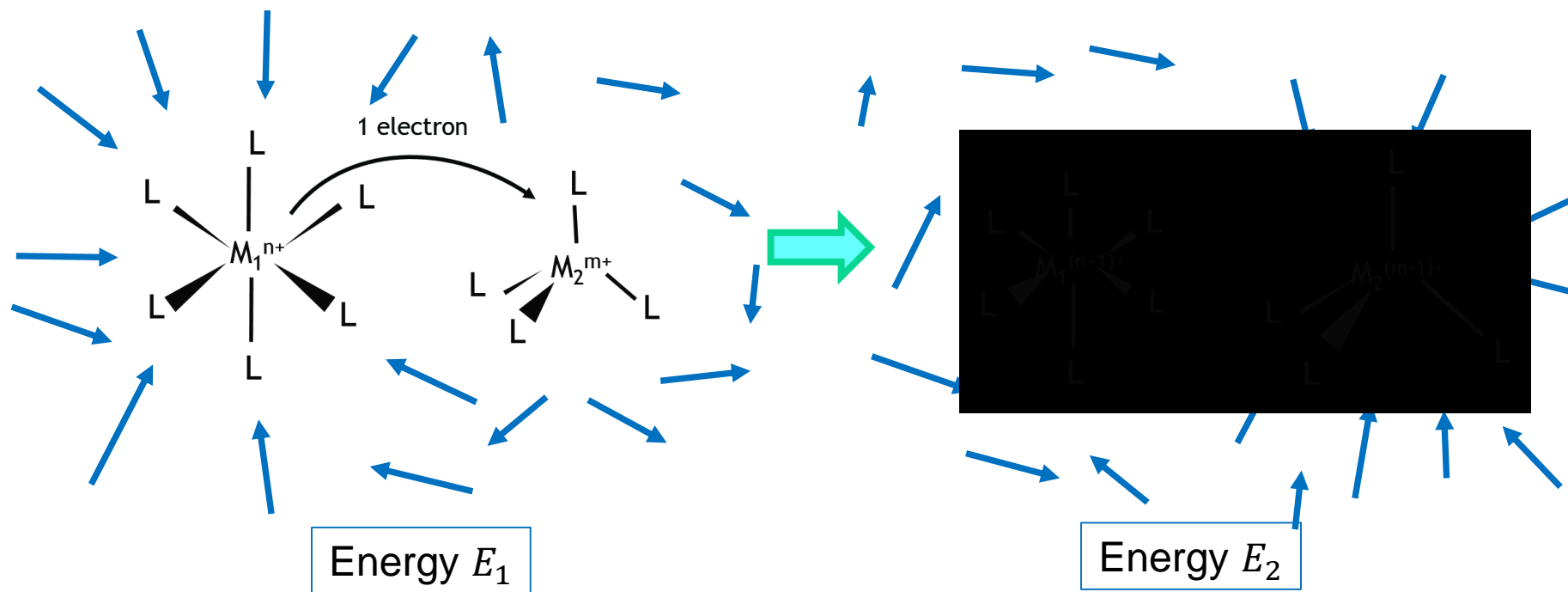


An electric charge is displaced  
electrostatic interactions with  
solvent are *different*

Molecules of the  
environment have to adapt  
to the new redox states of  
D and A



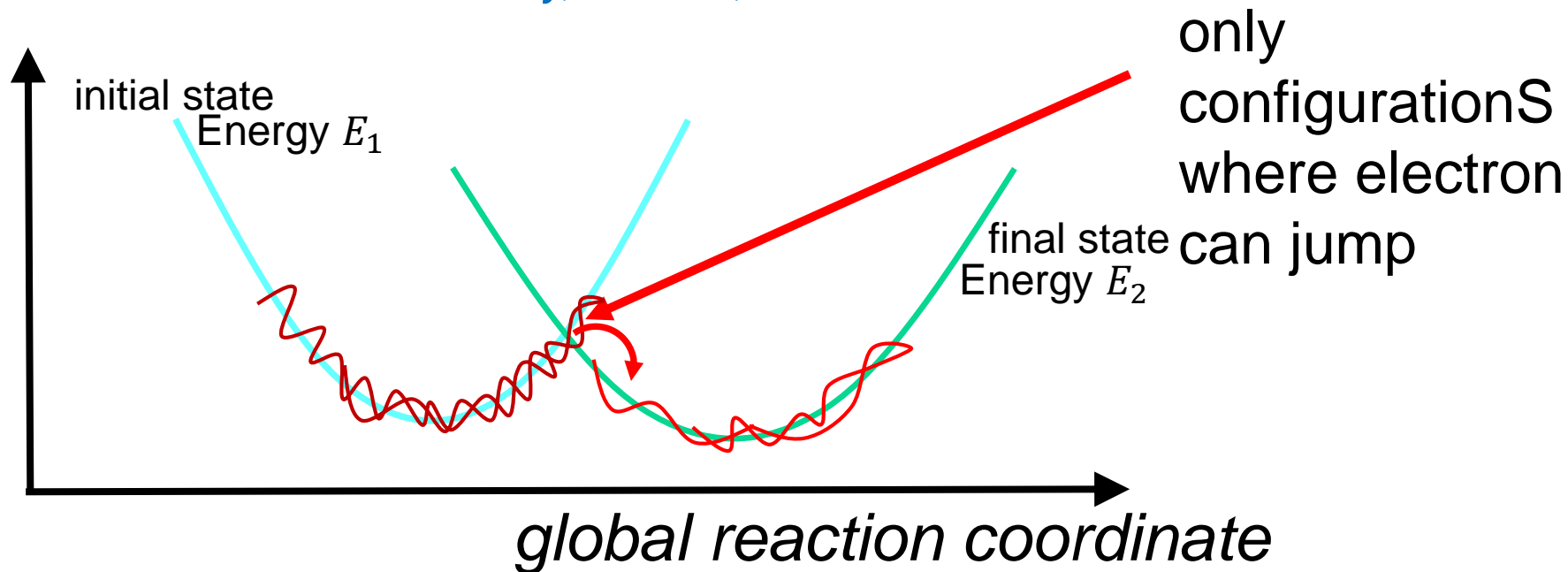
## I-1. Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...



Two electronic states are involved, before and after electron transfer  
Each electronic state has its own potential energy  
Both energies are rapidly changing because of thermal motion

To conserve the energy the electron can jump **ONLY** when the electronic states are degenerated

# I-1. Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...

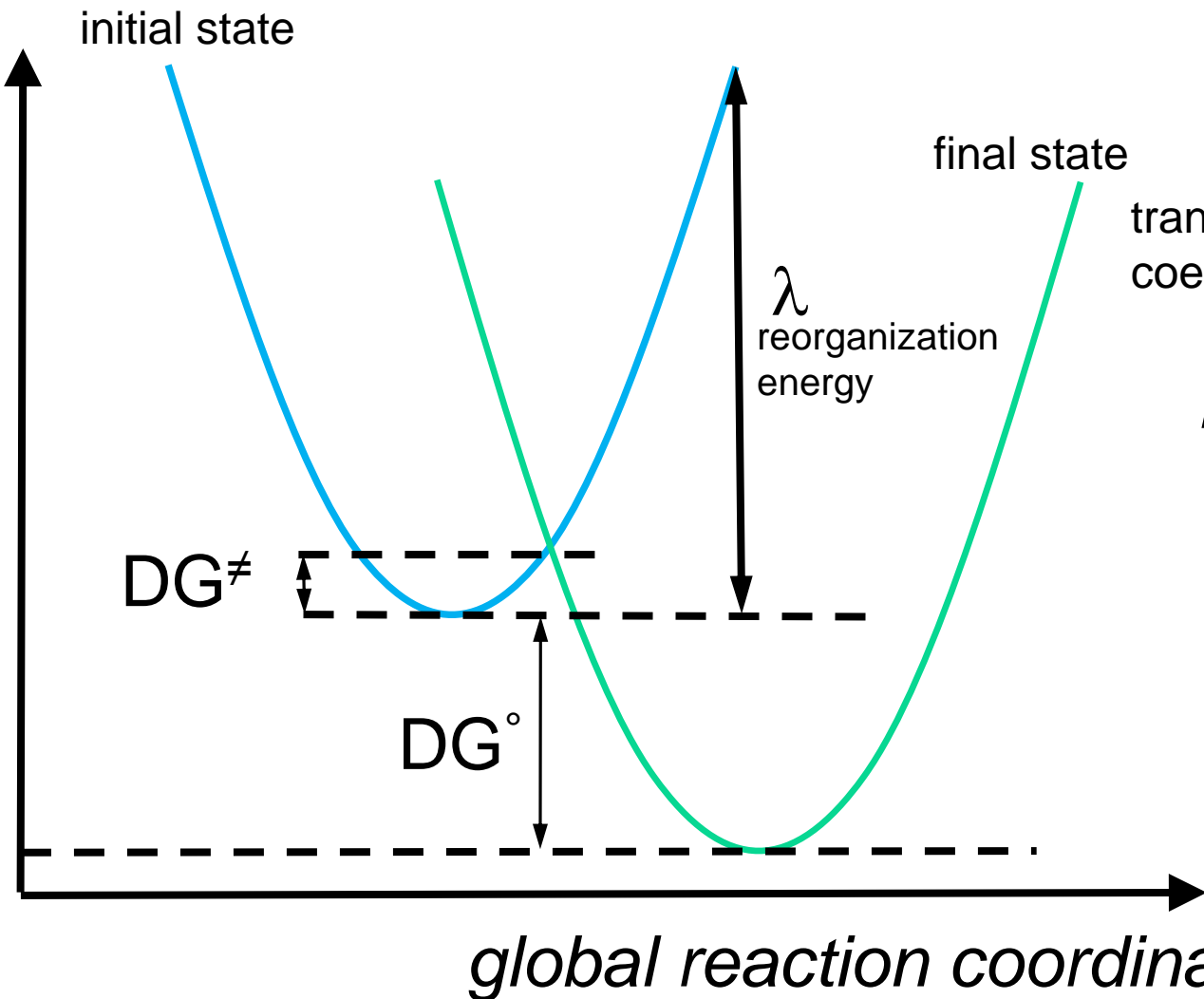


This 2D representation is an  
**OVERSIMPLIFICATION**

There are tons of nuclear configurations associated to degeneracy

One needs to know the probability to reach each of them

I-1. Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...



transmission coefficient

collision frequency

$$k = \kappa \cdot A\sigma^2 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G^\ddagger}{k_B T}\right)$$

$$\Delta G^\ddagger = \frac{(\Delta G^0 + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda}$$

assume the two free energy curves are parabolas with the same curvature



I-1. Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...

$$\Delta G^\circ = -nFE_{redox}$$

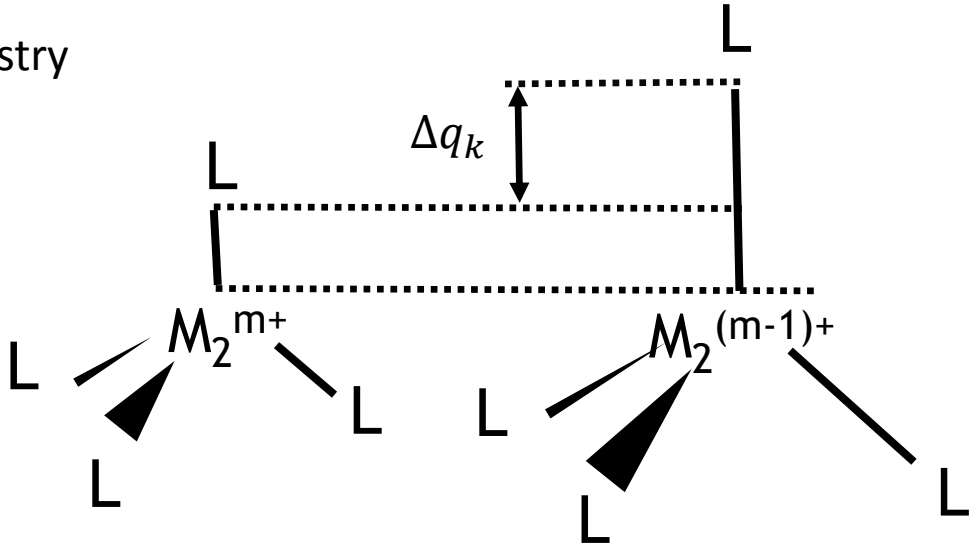
from electrochemistry

$$E_k^1(q) = \frac{1}{2} f_k^1 (q - q_{eq})^2$$

$$\lambda = \lambda_i + \lambda_o$$

inner-sphere

outer-sphere



$$\lambda_i = \sum_{\text{nuclear vibrations } k} \frac{f_k^1 f_k^2}{f_k^1 + f_k^2} (\Delta q_k)^2$$

I-1. Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...

$$\lambda = \lambda_i + \lambda_o$$

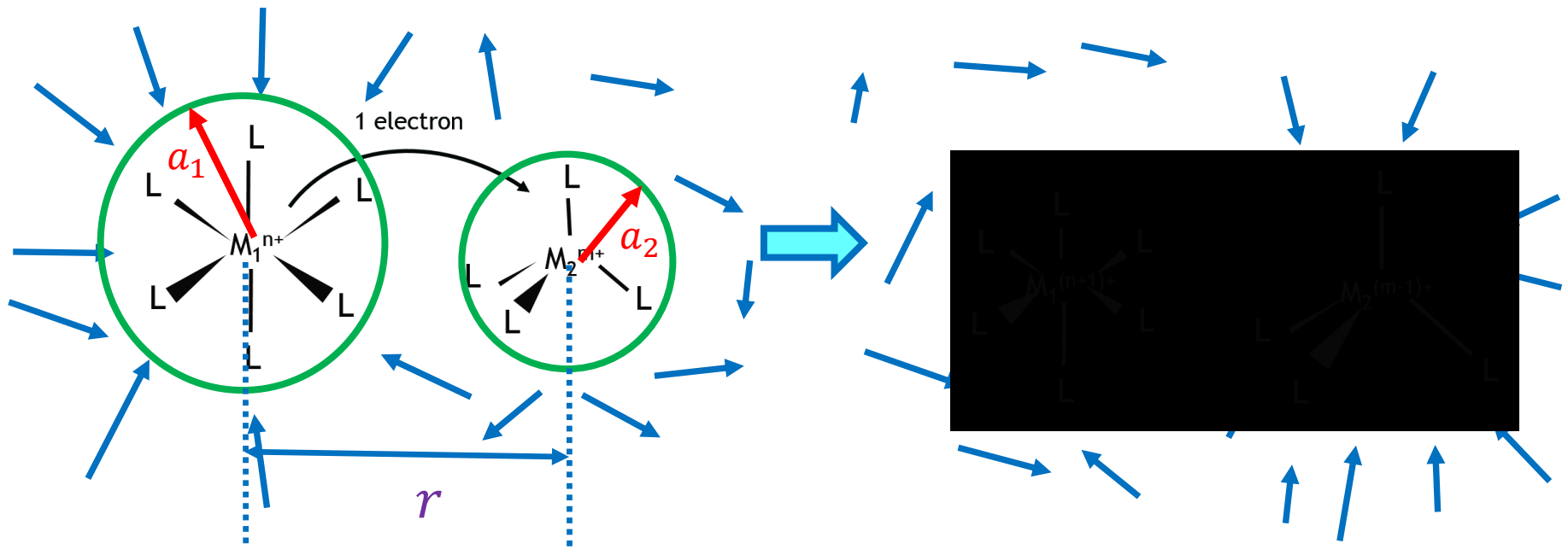
inner-sphere

outer-sphere

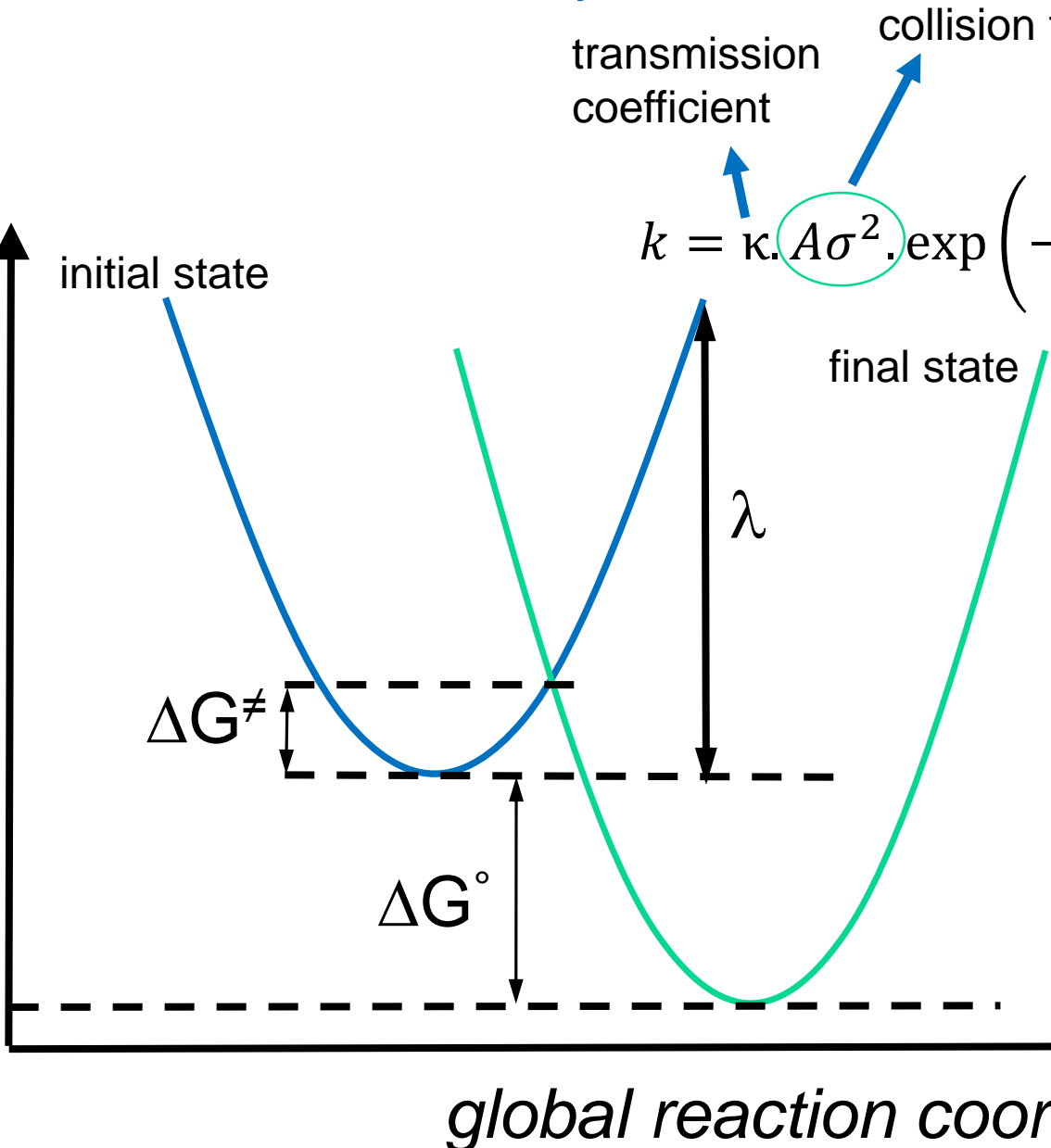
optical dielectric constant  
square of refractive index

static dielectric constant

$$\lambda_o = \left( \frac{1}{2a_1} + \frac{1}{2a_2} - \frac{1}{r} \right) \left( \frac{1}{D_{op}} - \frac{1}{D_s} \right)$$



I-1. Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...



transmission coefficient  
collision frequency

$$k = \kappa \cdot A \sigma^2 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G^\ddagger}{k_B T}\right) \quad \Delta G^\ddagger = \frac{(\Delta G^0 + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda}$$

some formal analogies with transition state theory



the Marcus theory  
≠  
transition state theory

## AND IT WORKED !!

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I.2.b. A very simple example to set ideas

I.2.c. Nanosecond ET in cytochrome c oxydase

## *I-3. Quantum and semi-classical formulations*

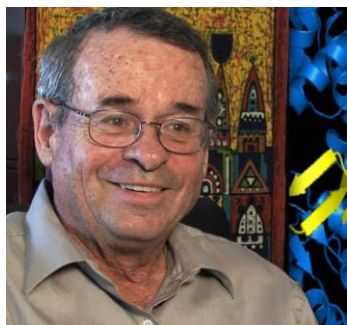
I.2.a. Fermi golden rule and spin-boson model

I.2.b. Mixed quantum-classical, application to inverted region

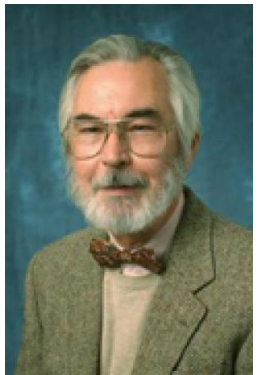
I.2.c. Recent example of application in cryptochromes

# 1.2 The Marcus theory in the era of supercomputers

- Microscopic (atomistic/molecular scale)
- Test hypotheses of MT
- Provide atomistic details inaccessible to experiments

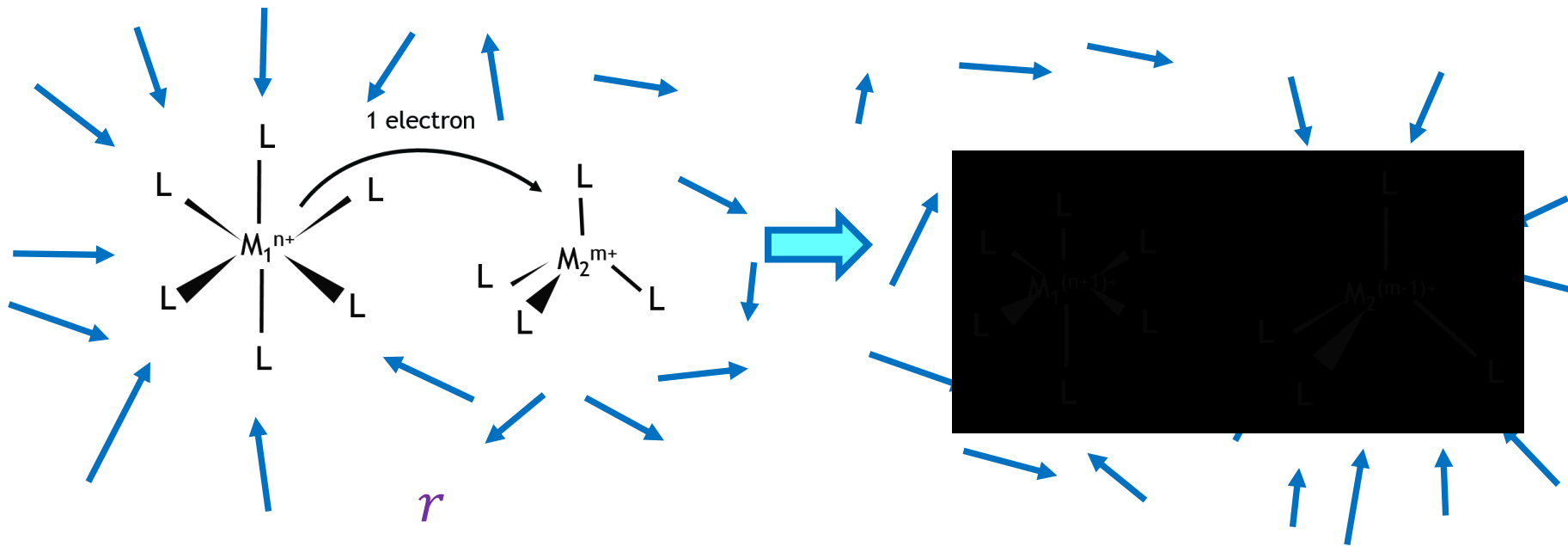


Arieh Warshel



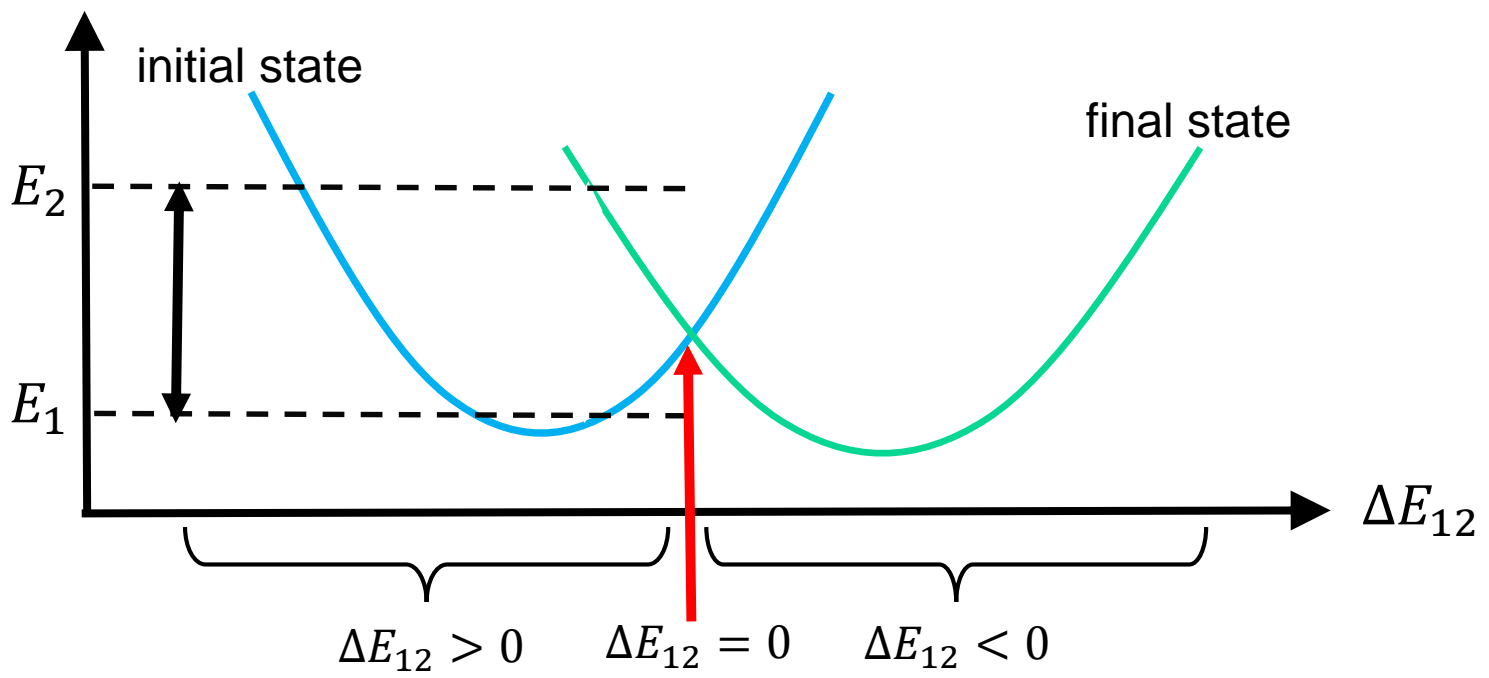
Casey Hynes

*see also Tachiya, Schulten, Chandler and many others*



# 1.2 The Marcus theory in the era of supercomputers

initial state  $\rightarrow$  Energy  $E_1$   
final state  $\rightarrow$  Energy  $E_2$   
Vertical energy gap  $\Delta E_{12} = E_2 - E_1$



The vertical energy gap is a good reaction coordinates

- 1) it collects all nuclear motion affecting the energies of the two states
- 2) it reflects how the reaction progresses

# FREE ENERGIES

$$G_x(\varepsilon) = -\beta \ln(p_x(\varepsilon)) + G_x^0 \quad \beta = 1/k_B T$$

$$G_x^0 = -k_B T \ln Z_x = -k_B T \ln \left( \int \exp(-\beta E_x) d\Gamma \right)$$

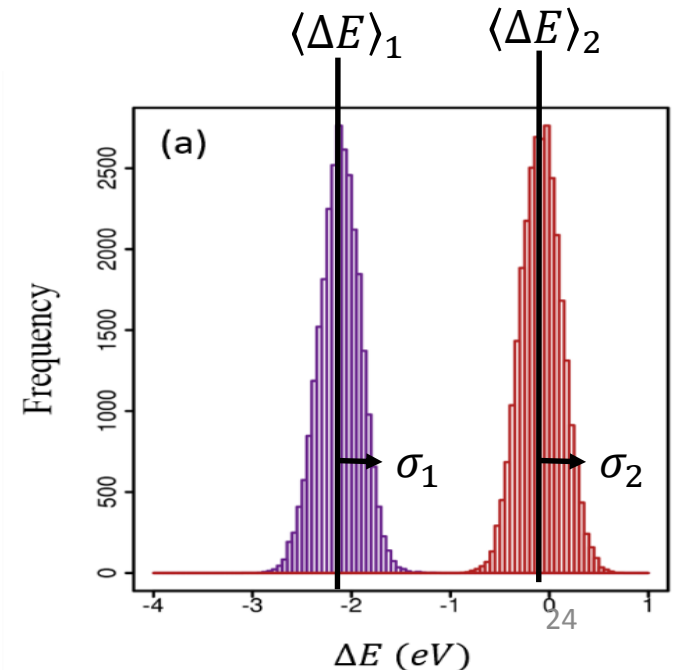
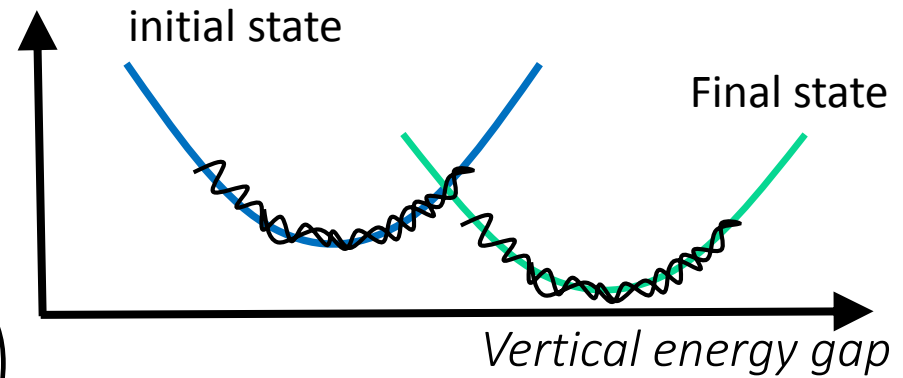
$$p_x(\varepsilon) = \frac{\int \exp(-\beta E_x) \delta(\Delta E - \varepsilon) d\Gamma}{\int \exp(-\beta E_x) d\Gamma} = \frac{\int \exp(-\beta E_x) \delta(\Delta E - \varepsilon) d\Gamma}{Z_x}$$

probability to  
have  $\varepsilon = \Delta E_{12}$

If assume normal distribution of  $p_x$

$$p_x(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{\sigma_x \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left( -\frac{(\varepsilon - \langle \Delta E \rangle_x)^2}{2\sigma_x^2} \right)$$

**LINEAR RESPONSE APPROXIMATION**





# Gibbs free energy curves

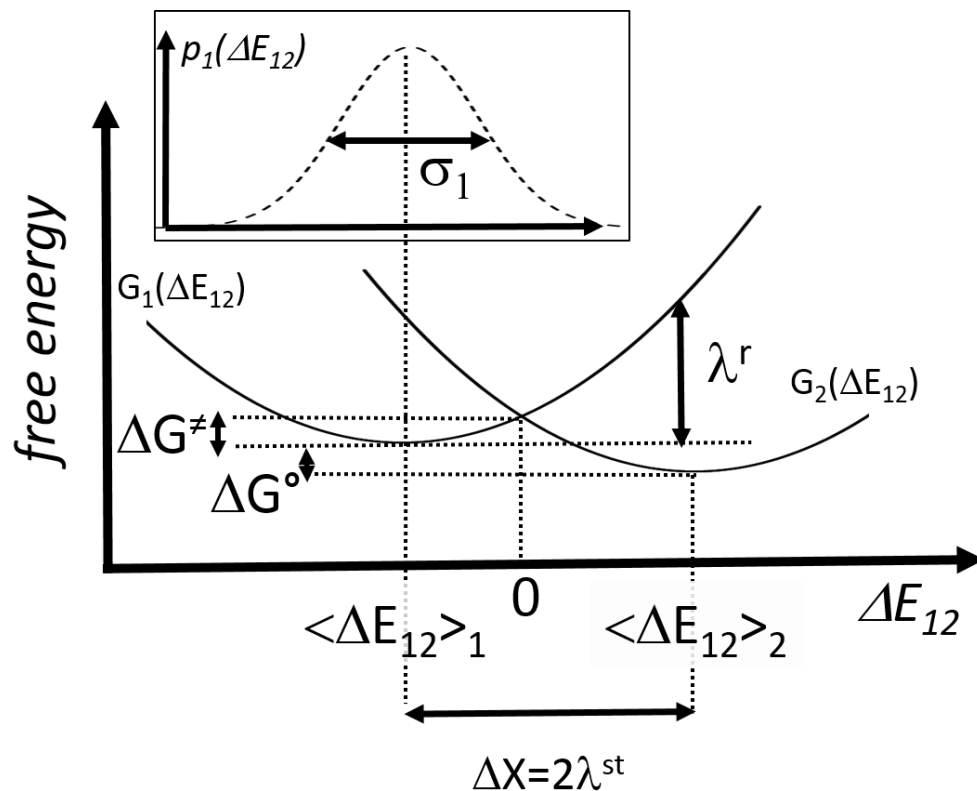
$$G_x(\varepsilon) = G_x^0 + \frac{(\varepsilon - \langle \Delta E \rangle_x)^2}{4\lambda_x^{var}} + \frac{k_B T}{2} \ln(4\pi k_B T \lambda_x^{var})$$

$$\lambda_x^{var} = \beta \sigma_x^2 / 2$$

$$\Delta G^0 = G_2^0 - G_1^0 = \frac{\langle \Delta E \rangle_1 + \langle \Delta E \rangle_2}{2}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\langle \Delta E \rangle_1 - \langle \Delta E \rangle_2}{2} = \lambda^{st}$$

$$\lambda^{st} = \lambda_1^{var} = \lambda_2^{var} = \lambda^r$$



At the microscopic level, the Marcus theory is equivalent to the Linear Response Approximation

# THE REVOLUTION OF NUMERICAL SIMULATIONS

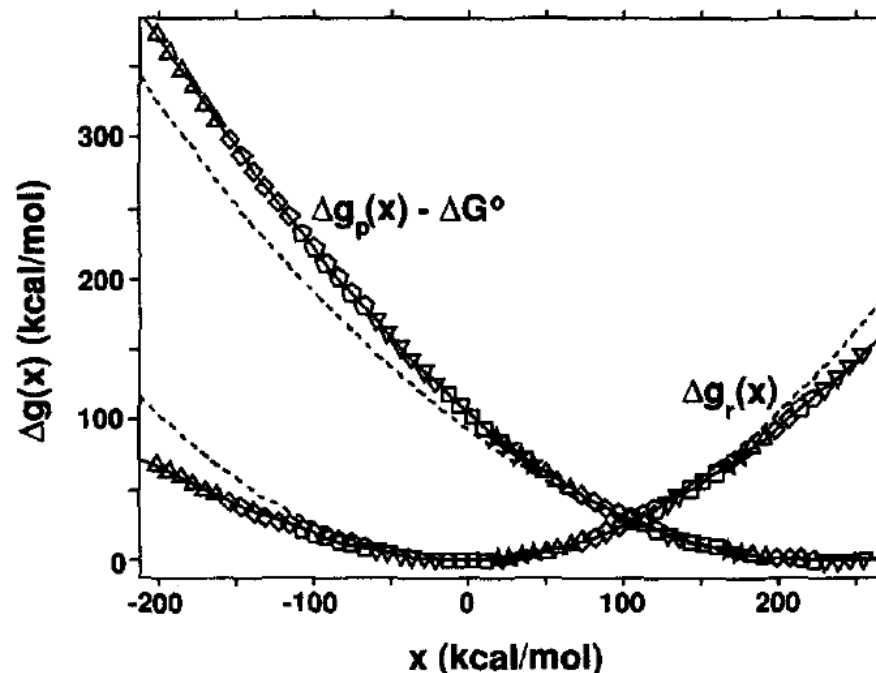
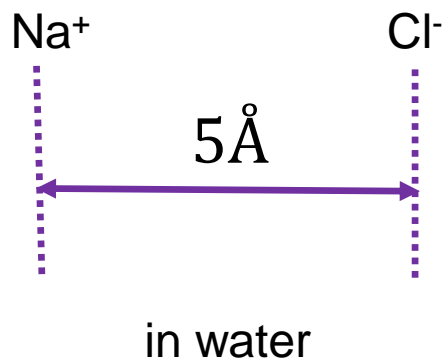
- Possibility to assess validity of Marcus theory and its underlying hypothesis
- Bring insights not achievable by experimental approaches
- Numerical approaches are not constrained by MT hypothesis  
--> applicable to biological systems

# A very simple example to set ideas

King and Warshel, JCP, 1990, 93, 8682

## Investigation of the free energy functions for electron transfer reactions

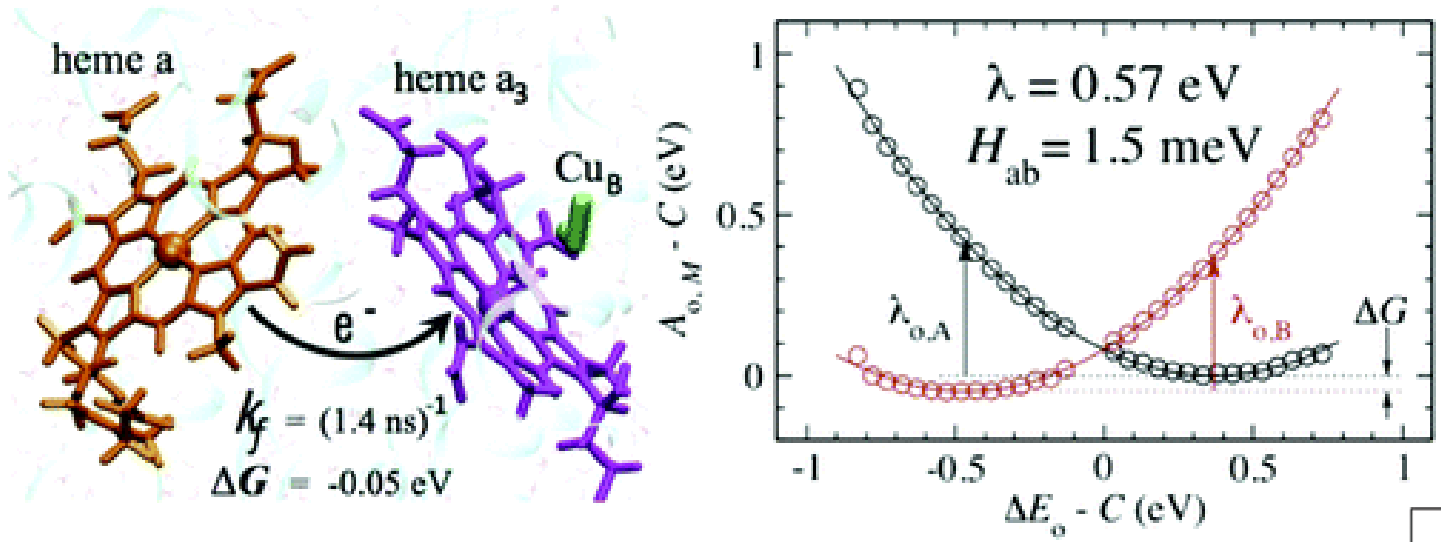
- Evaluate  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  (QM; QM/MM; MM...), then  $\Delta E_{12}$
- Sample **as extensively as possible** nuclear configurations for the two redox states to access  $\langle \Delta E \rangle_1$  and  $\langle \Delta E \rangle_2$ , then  $\Delta G^0$ ,  $\lambda$  and the free energies of activations (rates)



$\lambda = 105.6 \text{ kcal/mol}$  with non-polarizable Force field

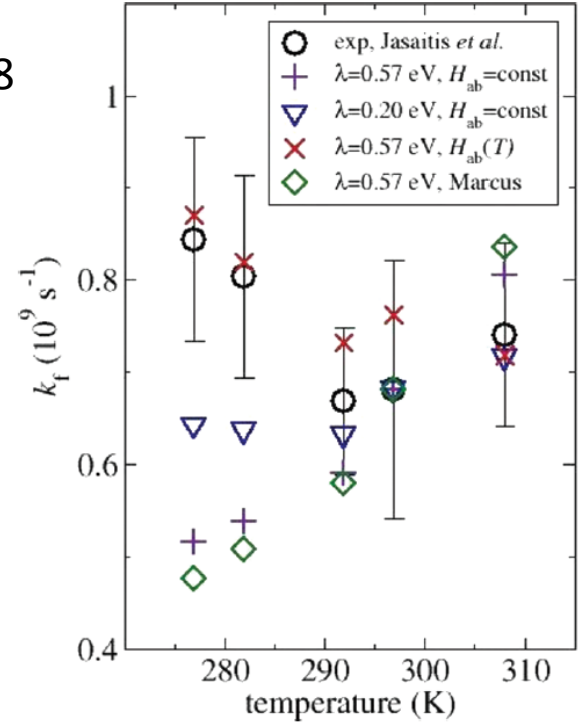
$\lambda = 70 \text{ kcal/mol}$  with polarizable Force field

# Kinetics of the Terminal Electron Transfer Step in Cytochrome c Oxidase



V. Tipmanee, J. Blumberger, *J. Phys. Chem. B*, 2012, 1166, 1876-18

Redox cofactors: DFT (IP and EA)  
 Environment : Molecular Mechanics Force Fields



QM+MM approaches  
 J Blumberger, *Chem. Rev.* 2015, 115.  
 J Blumberger, *PCCP* 2008, 10, 5651

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I-3. Quantum and semi-classical formulations

Levich and co-workers, 1960'  
 Kubo, *Prog Theor Phys*, 1955, **13**, 160-182.  
 Lax, *J Chem Phys*, 1952, **20**, 1752-1760.

transition probability for vibronic state  $1\nu$  to  $2w$

$$W_{1\nu} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \sum_w |H_{1\nu,2w}|^2 \delta(E_1 + \epsilon_\nu - E_2 - \epsilon_w)$$

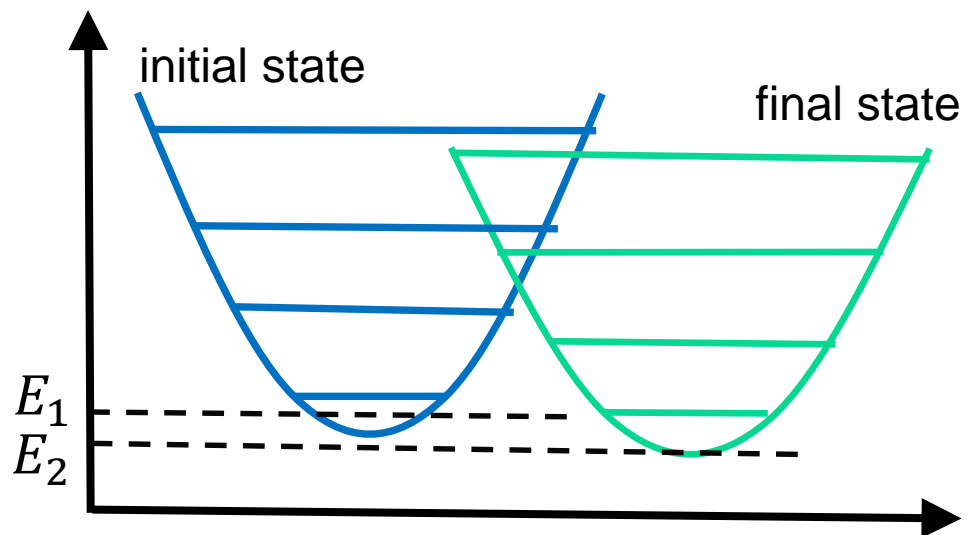


coupling between vibronic states

$$H_{1\nu,2w} = \langle \nu | \langle 1 | H | 2 \rangle | w \rangle$$

$$|\langle 1 | H | 2 \rangle| |\langle \nu | w \rangle| \equiv |H_{DA}| |\langle \nu | w \rangle|$$

Condon approximation



Sum over all possible vibronic states

$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |H_{DA}|^2 \underbrace{\sum_\nu \sum_w P(\epsilon_\nu) |\langle \nu | w \rangle|^2}_{\text{FCWD}} \delta(E_1 + \epsilon_\nu - E_2 - \epsilon_w)$$

Frank Condon Weighted Density of States (FCWD)

## I-2. Quantum and semi-classical formulations

$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |H_{DA}|^2 FCWD$$

$$FCWD \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda k_B T}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda k_B T}\right)$$

valid in the high temperature limit

$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |H_{DA}|^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda k_B T}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda k_B T}\right)$$

*Marcus Theory non-adiabatic rate expression*

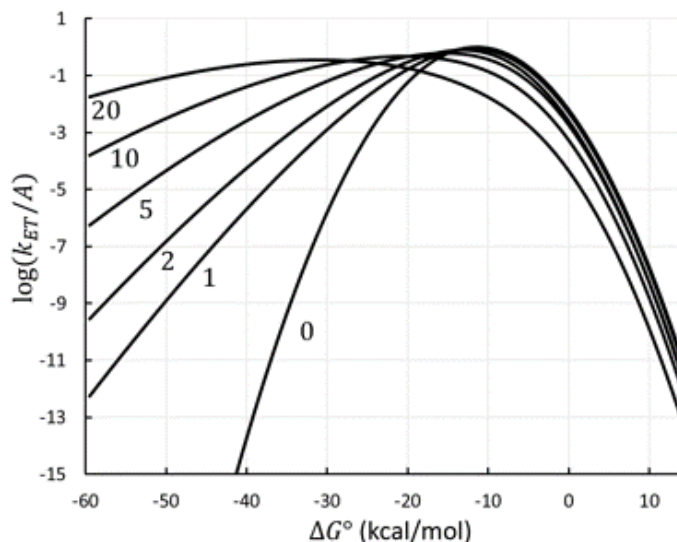
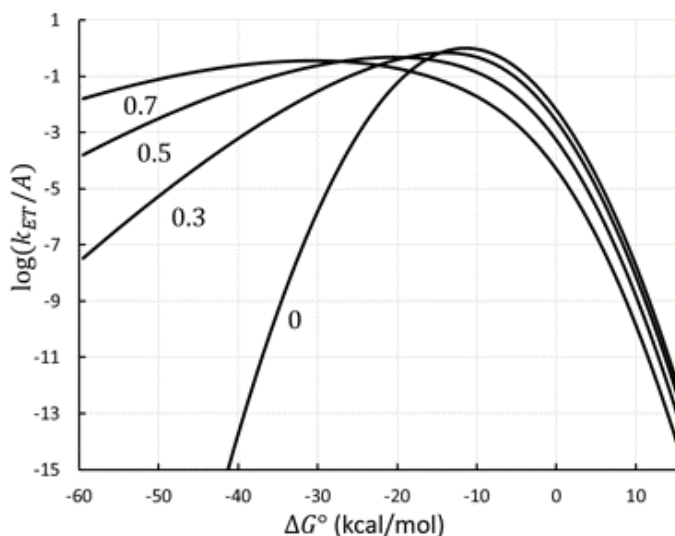
inner-sphere: Vibrational modes above 500 cm<sup>-1</sup> should be quantized

outer-sphere : Slow reorganization upon ET, no quantum effects, standard Marcus OK

Inner and outer-spheres are decoupled (hypothesis)

$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda_o k_B T}} H_{DA}^2 \sum_{v,w} |\langle v|w \rangle|^2 \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta E + \Delta E_{vib} + \lambda_o)^2}{4\lambda_o k_B T}\right)$$

$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda_o k_B T}} H_{DA}^2 \exp(-2NS) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{N^k}{k!} S^k \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta E + \hbar\omega k + \lambda_o)^2}{4\lambda_o k_B T}\right)$$





*Spin-boson and dispersed polaron model*

Warshel, Schulten, Chandler ... 1980'

$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} |H_{DA}|^2 FCWD$$

Assume a set of harmonic oscillators to describe protein and solvent vibrational modes



$$k_{ET} = \frac{H_{DA}^2}{\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dR \exp \left\{ -[1/2k_B T + iR/k_B T] \Delta G^\circ \right\}$$

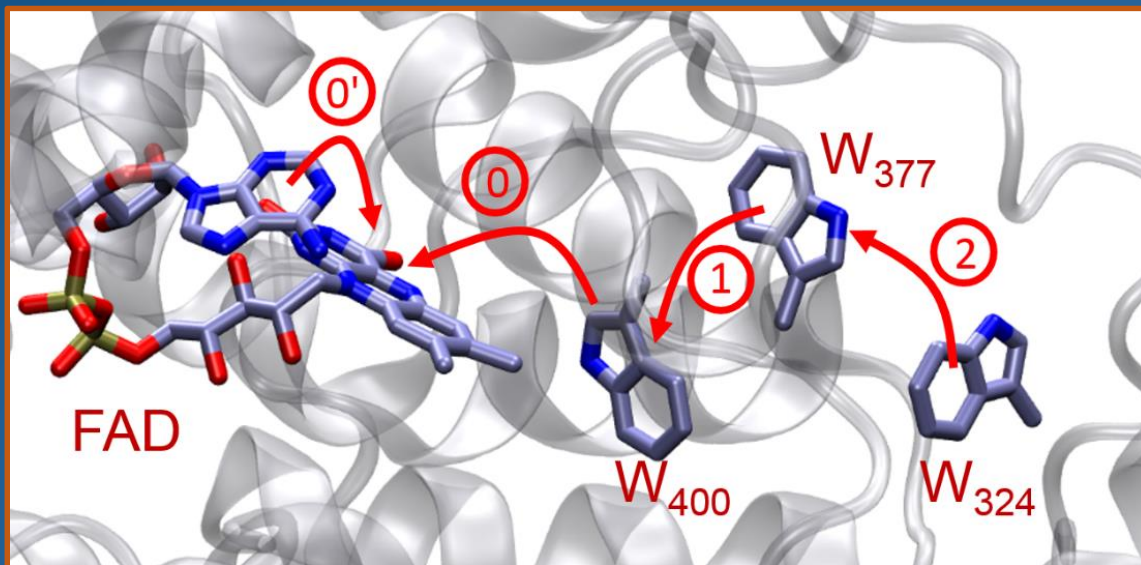
$$J(\omega) = \left| \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \langle \delta\Delta E(0) \delta\Delta E(t) \rangle \exp i\omega t dt \right|$$

Spectral density (can be evaluated from classical MD simulations)

*Applied in ultrafast charge separation in photoreactive center, in DNA, heme proteins ...*

# A recent example of numerical simulations of ET

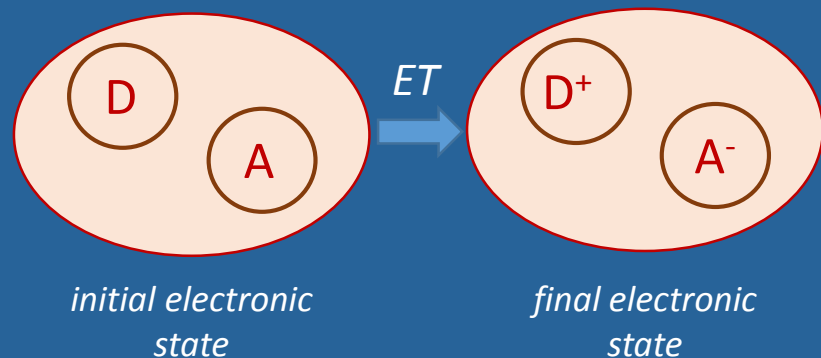
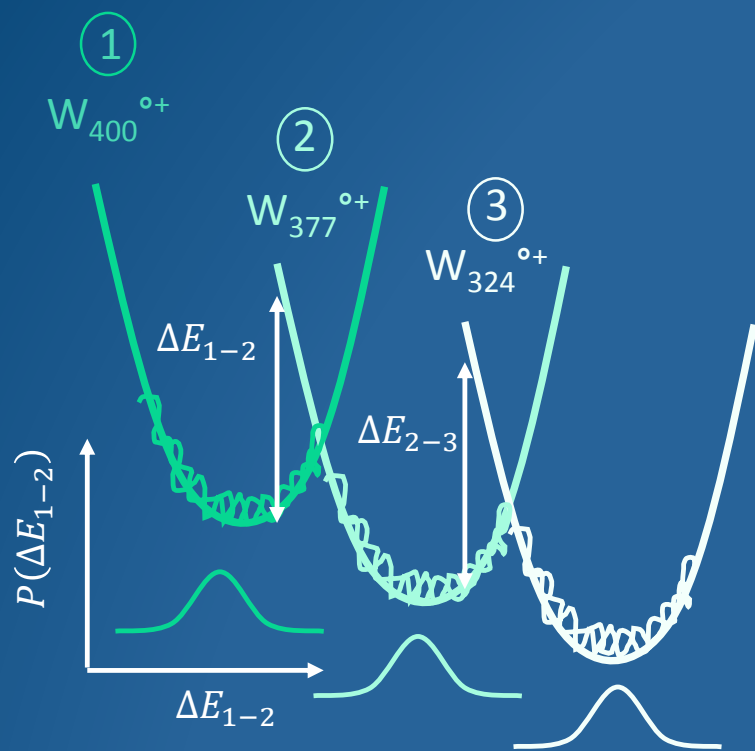
## Successive ET in cryptochromes



Steps 1-2: Th. Firmino, E. Mangaud, F. Cailliez, A. Devolter, D. Mendive-Tapia, F. Gatti, C. Meier, M. Desouter-Lecomte, A. de la Lande, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 2016, 18, 21442

Steps 0/0': F Cailliez, P Müller, M Gallois, A de la Lande, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2014, 136, 12974-12986.

# THE DIABATIC DESCRIPTION OF ET



## LINEAR RESPONSE APPROXIMATION

G. King, A. Warshel *J. Chem. Phys.* **1990**, *93*, 8682

*free reaction energy*

$$\Delta G_{i \rightarrow j}^{\circ} = \frac{1}{2} (\langle \Delta E_{j-i} \rangle_i + \langle \Delta E_{j-i} \rangle_j)$$

*Stokes reorganization energy*

$$\lambda_{i \rightarrow j}^{St} = \frac{1}{2} (\langle \Delta E_{j-i} \rangle_i - \langle \Delta E_{j-i} \rangle_j)$$

*Variance reorganization energy*

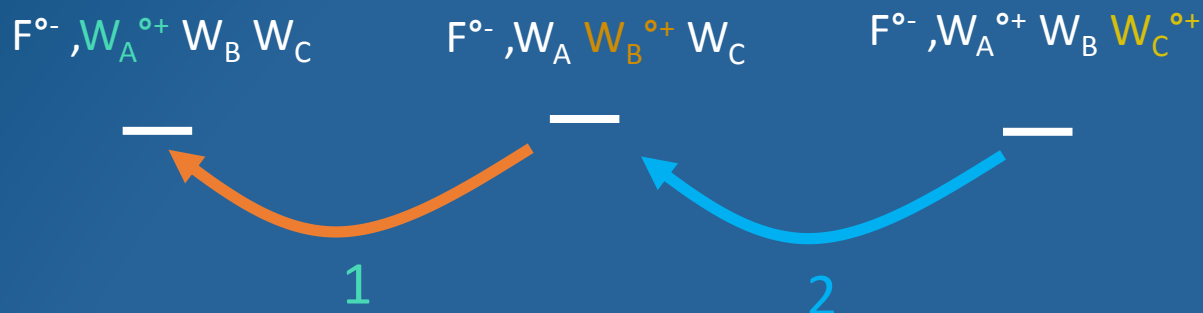
$$\lambda_{i \rightarrow j}^{var} = \frac{1}{4k_B T} (\sigma^2(\Delta E_{j-i})_i + \sigma^2(\Delta E_{j-i})_j)$$

The vertical energy gap  $\Delta E$  is a key quantity

# DEFINING DIABATIC STATES AT DFT LEVEL

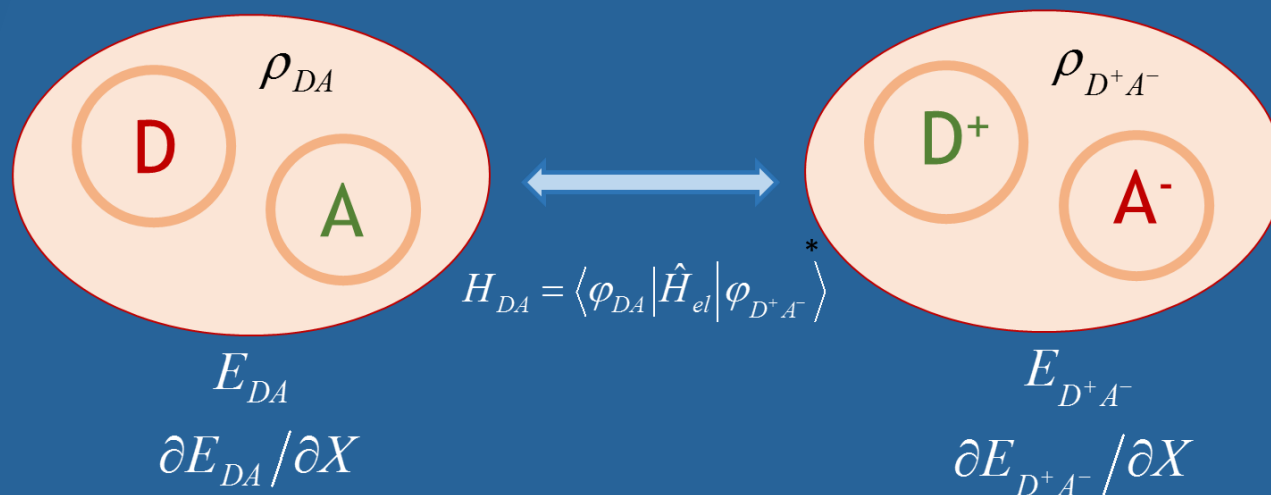
Dederichs *et al. Phys. Rev. Lett.* **1984**, *53*, 2512

Q Wu, T Van Voorhis, *Phys. Rev. A.* **2005**, *72*, 024502



The Kohn-Sham equations are solved under the additional constraint(s) that the integrated density on specific groups of atoms equals  $N_c$

$$E_{cDFT}[\rho] = \min_{\rho} \max_{\lambda_c} \left[ E_{DFT}[\rho] + \lambda_c \left( \int \rho(r)w(r)dr - N_c \right) \right]$$





*Robust and efficient implementation*

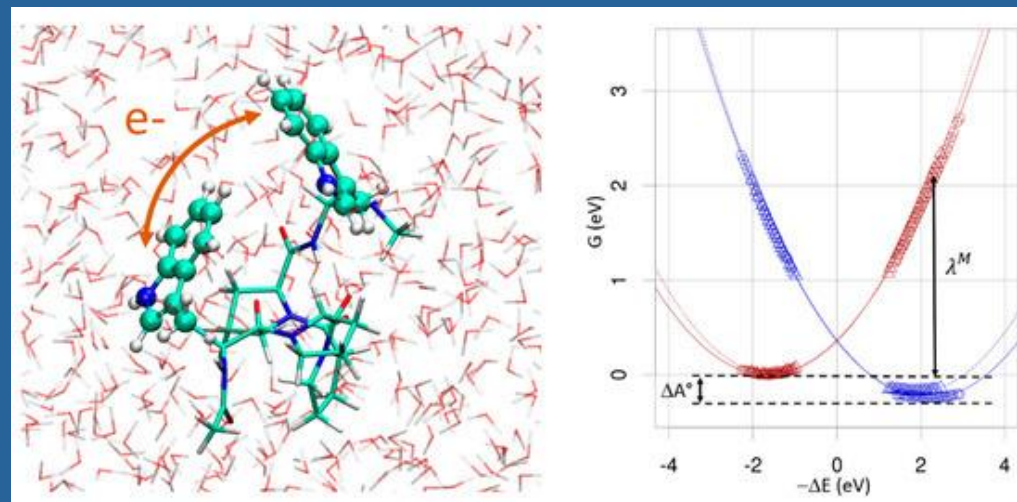
*Compatible with QM/MM schemes*

*--> extended systems*

*Energy gradients available*

*--> Ab initio MD simulations*

*Electronic coupling*



*Molecules* **2019**, 24, 1653

- A de la Lande, DR Salahub *J. Mol. Struct. THEOCHEM*, **2010**, 943, 115

J Řezáč, B Lévy, I Demachy, A de la Lande, *J. Chem. Theor. Comput.* **2012**, 8, 418.

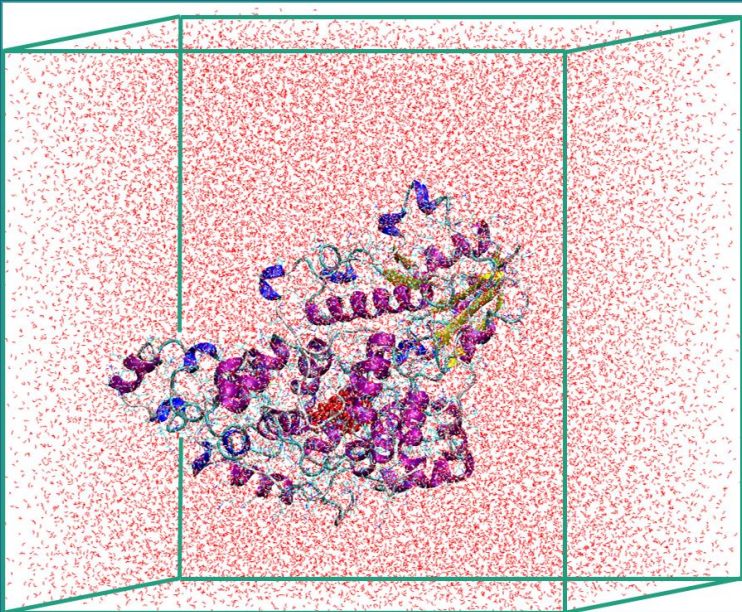
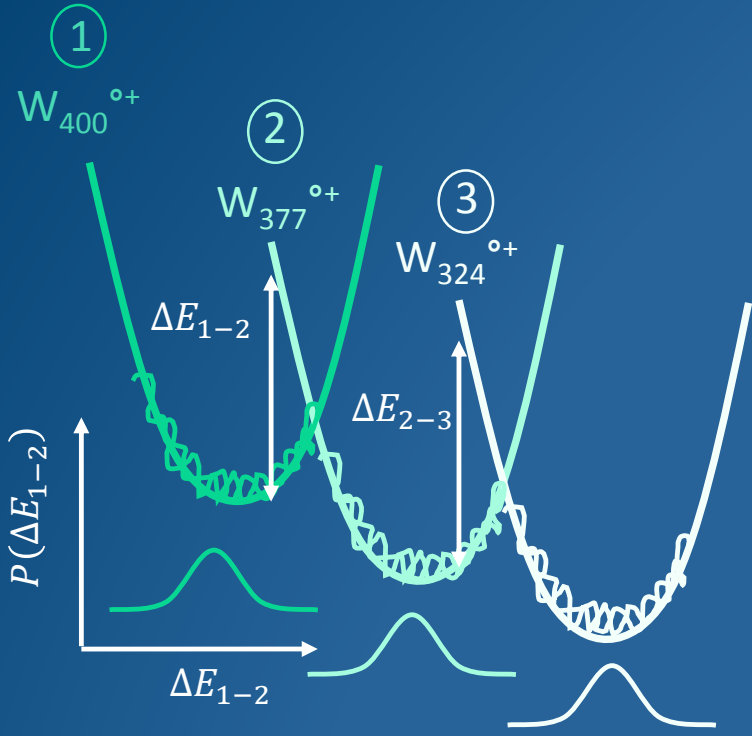
- A de la Lande, D Salahub, A Köster **2013**. Ed. CRC Press. **2013**

*"Extending the domain of application of constrained density functional theory to large molecular systems"*

- N Gillet, L Berstis, X Wu, F Gajdos, A Heck, A de la Lande, Blumberger, Elstner, *J. Chem. Theor. Comput.* **2016**, 12, 4793

- de la Lande, A.; Alvarez-Ibarra, A.; Hasnaoui, K.; Cailliez, F.; Wu, X.; Mineva, T.; Cuny, J.; Calaminici, P.; López-Sosa, L.; Geudtner, G.; Navizet, I.; Garcia Iriepa, C.; Salahub, D.R.; Köster, A.M. *Molecules* **2019**, 24, 1653

# COMPUTATIONAL DETAILS



600 ps of cDFT/MM MD simulation in total

QM: deMon2k (Constrained DFT)  
 PBE functional  
 DZVP-GGA basis set  
 GEN-A2 auxiliary basis set

QM/MM: ONIOMM scheme  
 MM: CHARMM Force field  
 electrostatic embedding

MD simulations on PES of states ①, ② and ③

$$\Delta E(t) = E_f(t) - E_i(t)$$

$$H_{DA}(t)$$

} recorded every fs

# ENERGETICS OF ET STEPS

$$\Delta G_{i \rightarrow j}^{\circ} = \frac{1}{2} (\langle \Delta E \rangle_i + \langle \Delta E \rangle_f)$$

*inner – sphere* = tryptophans

*outer – sphere* = protein, water, FAD, ions...

ET STEP	1	2
$\Delta G_{inner-sphere}^{\circ}$	-0.02	0.107
$\Delta G_{outer-sphere}^{\circ}$	-0.50	-0.55
$\Delta G_{total}^{\circ}$	-0.51	-0.44

values in eV

$$\lambda_{i \rightarrow j}^{var} = \frac{1}{4k_B T} (\sigma^2(\Delta E_{j-i})_i + \sigma^2(\Delta E_{j-i})_j)$$

ET STEP	1	2
$\lambda_{inner-sphere}^{var}$	0.26	0.29
$\lambda_{outer-sphere}^{var}$	0.90	1.40
$\lambda_{cross}^{var}$	< 0.01	< 0.01
$\lambda_{total}^{var}$	1.17	1.68

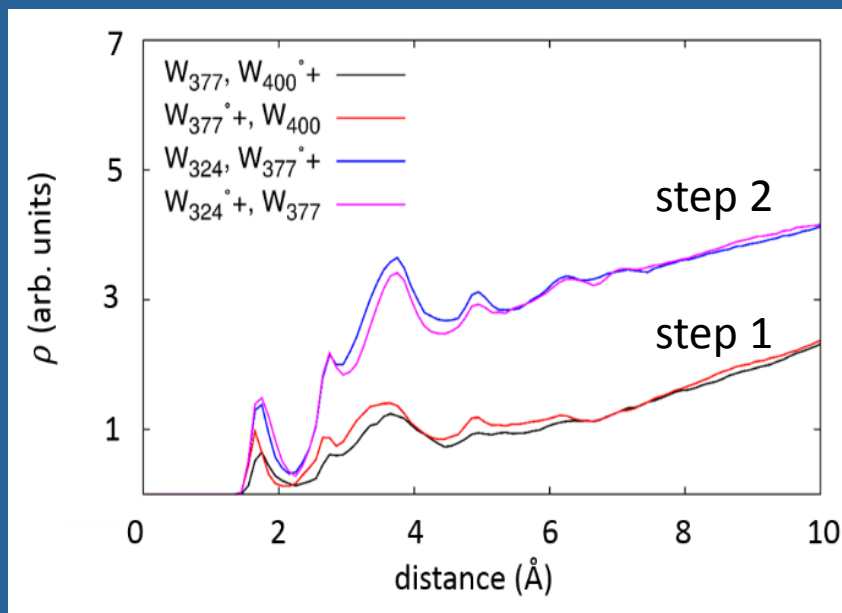
values in eV

# REORGANIZATION ENERGIES

values in eV

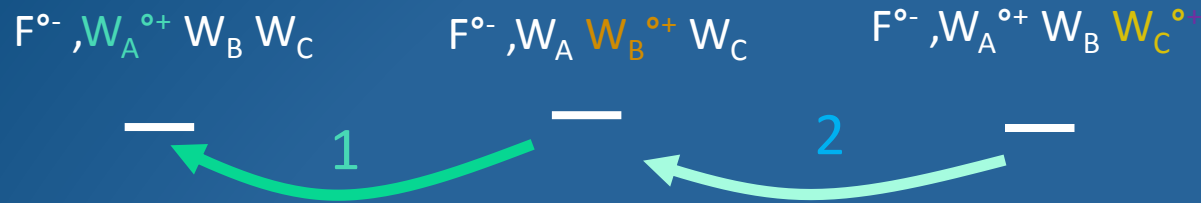
ET STEPS	1	2
$\lambda_{FAD}^{var}$	0.08	0.02
$\lambda_{water}^{var}$	0.76	2.37
$\lambda_{protein}^{var}$	0.76	0.86
$\lambda_{ATP}^{var}$	0.03	0.03
$\lambda_{ions}^{var}$	0.04	0.05
$\lambda_{cross}^{var}$	-0.56	-1.57

*Radial distribution functions of water molecules from the distance of the Trp pair*

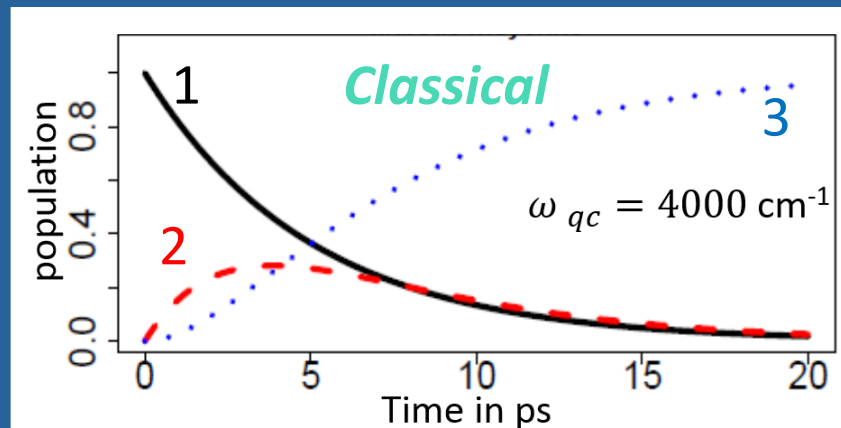




# KINETICS



$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda k_B T}} \langle H_{DA}^2 \rangle \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda k_B T}\right)$$



# NUCLEAR QUANTUM EFFECTS - KINETIC FORMALISM

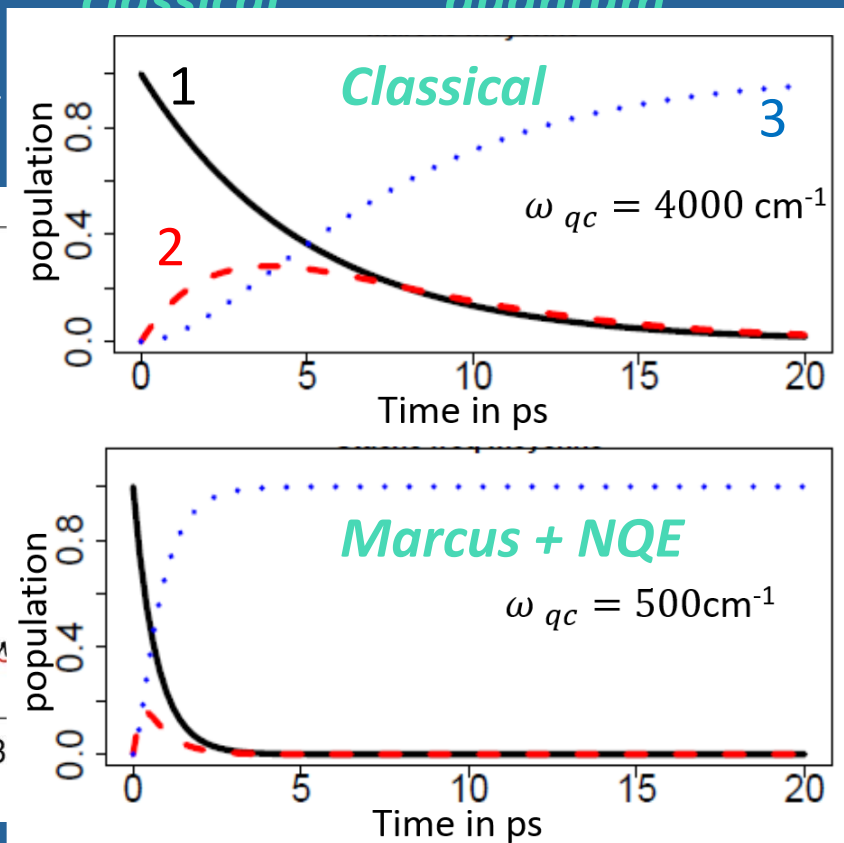
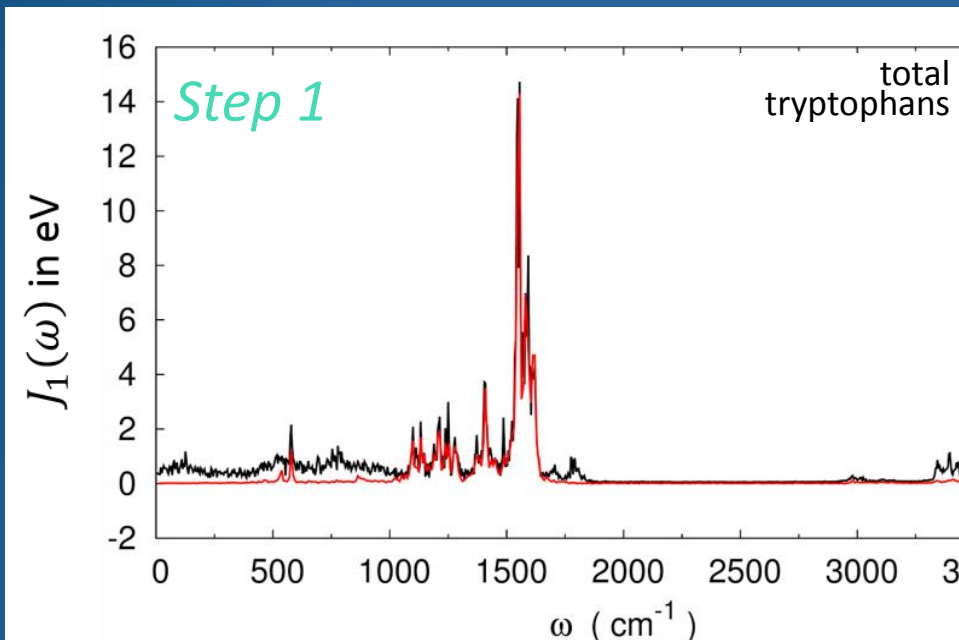
$\omega_{qc}$  : quantum-classical cutting frequency

X. Song and A. A. Stuchebrukhov,  
*J. Chem. Phys.*, **1993**, 99, 969-978.

$$k = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \langle H_{DA}^2 \rangle \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda J(\omega_{qc}) k_B T}} \exp \left( \frac{-(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda^{St})^2}{4\lambda J(\omega_{qc}) k_B T} - \frac{1}{\pi\hbar} \int_{\omega_{qc}}^{\infty} \frac{J(\omega)}{\omega^2} d\omega \right)$$

$\omega < \omega_{qc}$                        $\omega > \omega_{qc}$   
*classical*                              *quantum*

$$J(\omega) = \frac{\beta\omega}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \langle \delta\Delta E(0)\delta\Delta E(t) \rangle \exp i\omega t dt$$



# AN ALTERNATIVE METHODOLOGY

## DISSIPATIVE QUANTUM DYNAMICS

Etienne Mangaud (PhD 2015)

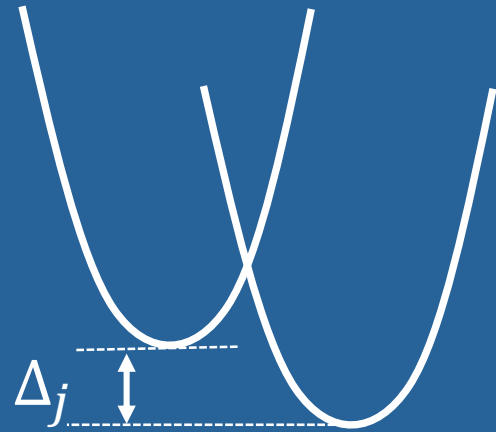
Chris Meier (Toulouse, Fr.)

Michèle Desouter Lecomte (Orsay, Fr.)

$$H_j = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & H_{DA,j} \\ H_{DA,j} & \Delta_j \end{pmatrix}}_{H_{S,j}} + \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}}_{S_j} \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^M \frac{c_{i,j}}{2} q_{i,j}}_{B_j} + H_{B,j} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Electronic coupling

system-bath coupling



Extension to three electronic states  
Strong (system-bath) coupling regime

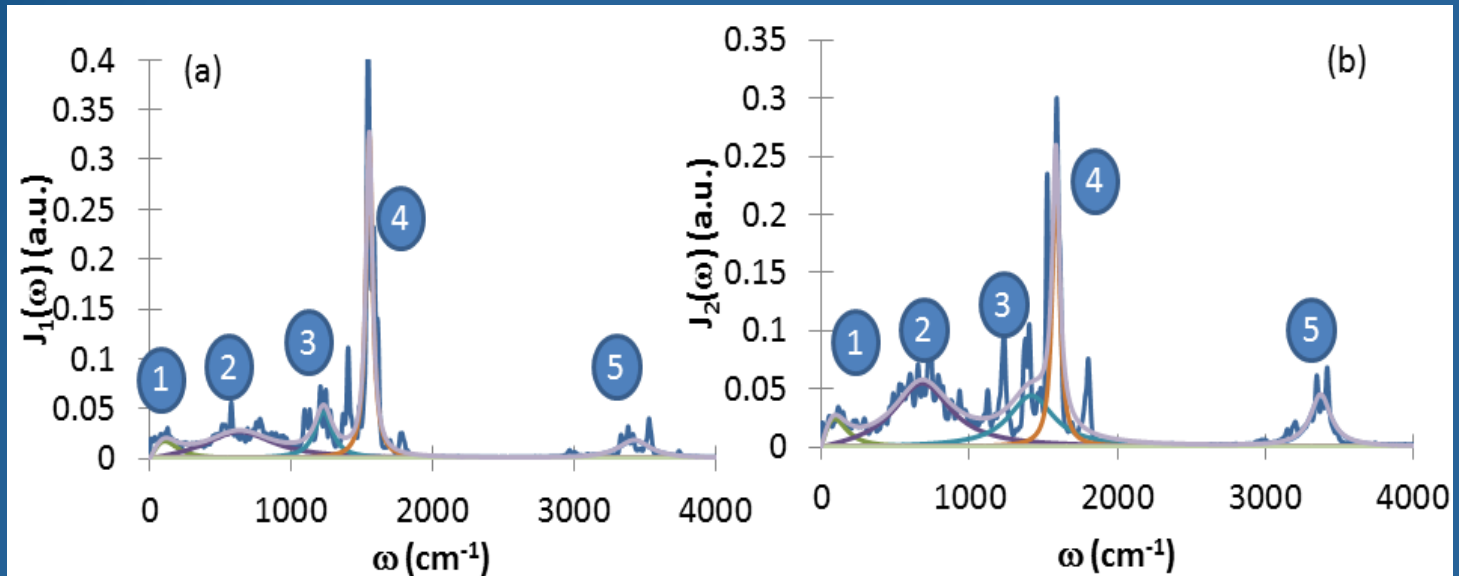


*algorithms based on the Hierarchical Equations of Motion*

# MAPPING THE SD WITH LORENTZIAN FUNCTIONS

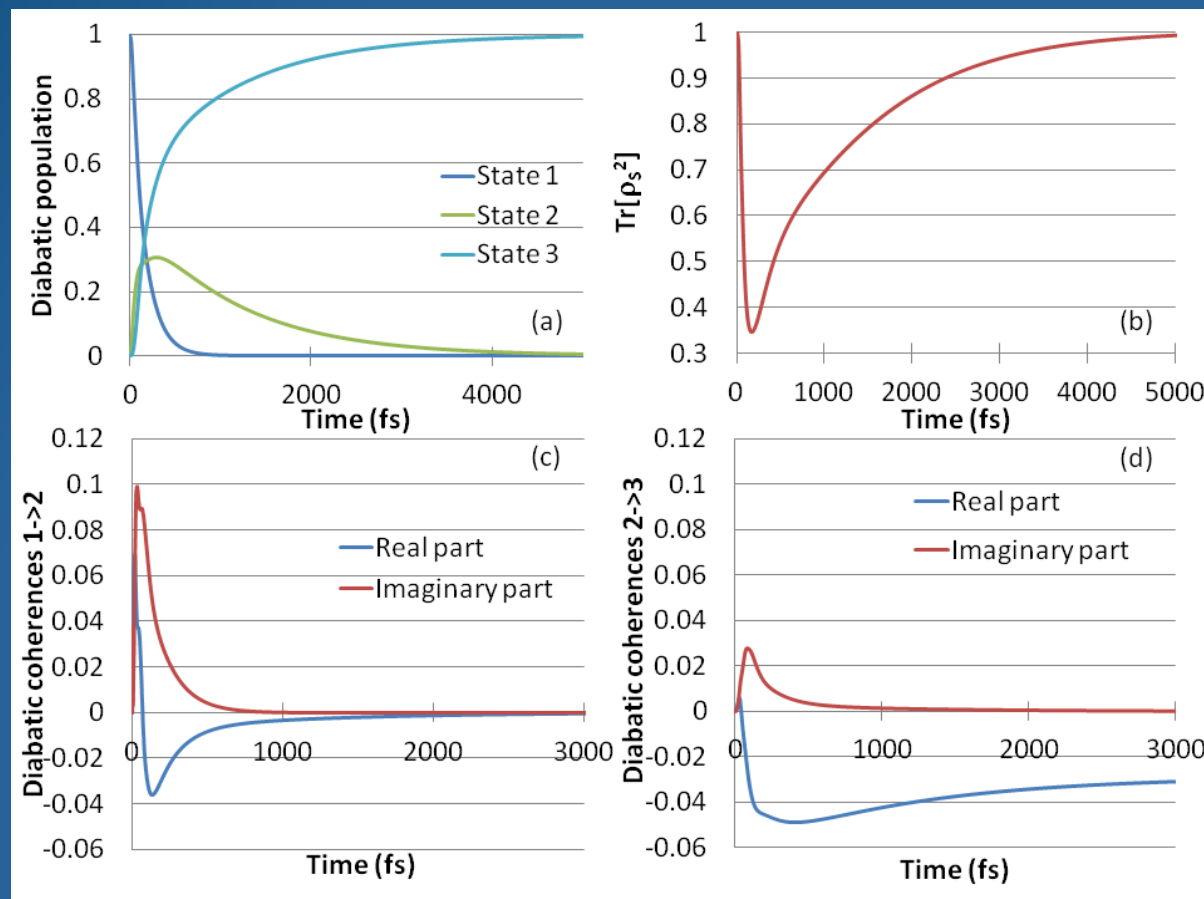
Step 1

Step 2



Electronic coherences are lost in few fs

Times scales similar to those given by kinetic theories



Th. Firmino, E. Mangaud, F. Cailliez, A. Devolter, D. Mendive-Tapia, F. Gatti, C. Meier, M. Desouter-Lecomte, A. de la Lande, *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* **2016**, *18*, 21442

D. Mendive-Tapia, E. Mangaud, Th. Firmino, A. de la Lande, M. Desouter-Lecomte, H. Dieter-Meyer, F. Gatti, *J. Phys. Chem. B.* **2018**.*122*, 126 (Treatment with ML-MCTDH)

# I – The Marcus theory: concepts, theory and computer simulations

## *I.1 Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...*

## *I.2 The Marcus theory in the era of supercomputers*

I.2.a. Linear Response Approximation

I.2.b. A very simple example to set ideas

I.2.c. Nanosecond ET in cytochrome c oxydase

## *I-3. Quantum and semi-classical formulations*

I.2.a. Fermi golden rule and spin-boson model

I.2.b. Mixed quantum-classical, application to inverted region

I.2.c. Recent example of application in cryptochromes

# II – Beyond "Vanilla Marcus theory"

## *II.1 Breakdown of the linear response approximation*

II.1.a. High polarizability of redox cofactor

II.1.b. Non-ergodic systems

## *II.2 Beyond the two-state model*

II.2.a. Flickering resonance model

II.2.b. Recent example of application in photolyases

# III – The mystery of electron tunneling through proteins

## *III.1 Interpretative models for tunneling*

III.1.a. Hopfield model

III.1.b. Pathway model

III.1.c. Interatomic tunneling currents

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III.2.c. Coherence loss in slow coupling regime

# II.1 Breakdown of the linear response approximation

## II.1.a. High polarizability of redox cofactor

D. V. Matyushov and G. A. Voth, *J Chem Phys*, 2000, **113**, 5413  
 D. Matyushov, *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2007**, 40, 294-301  
 DN LeBards, D. Matyushov *J. Phys. Chem. B* **2009**, 113, 12424

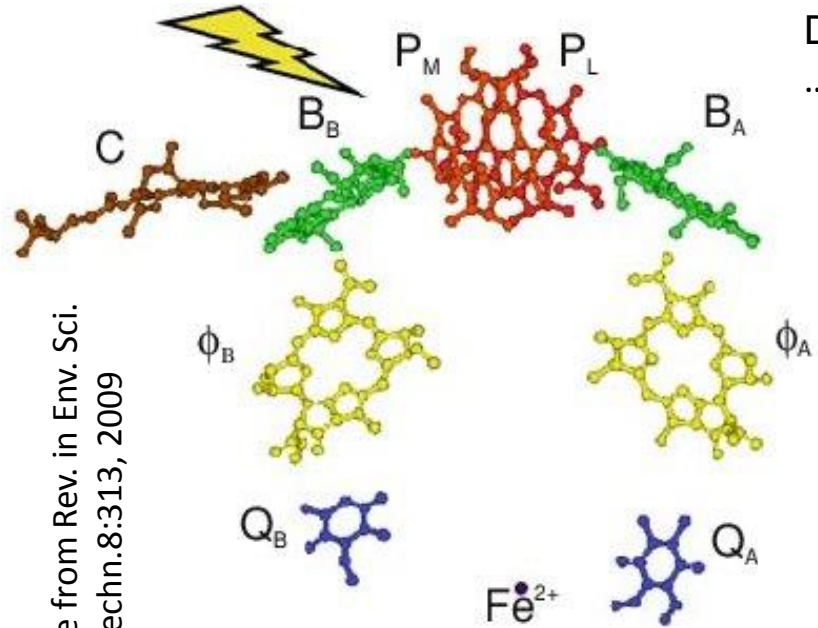
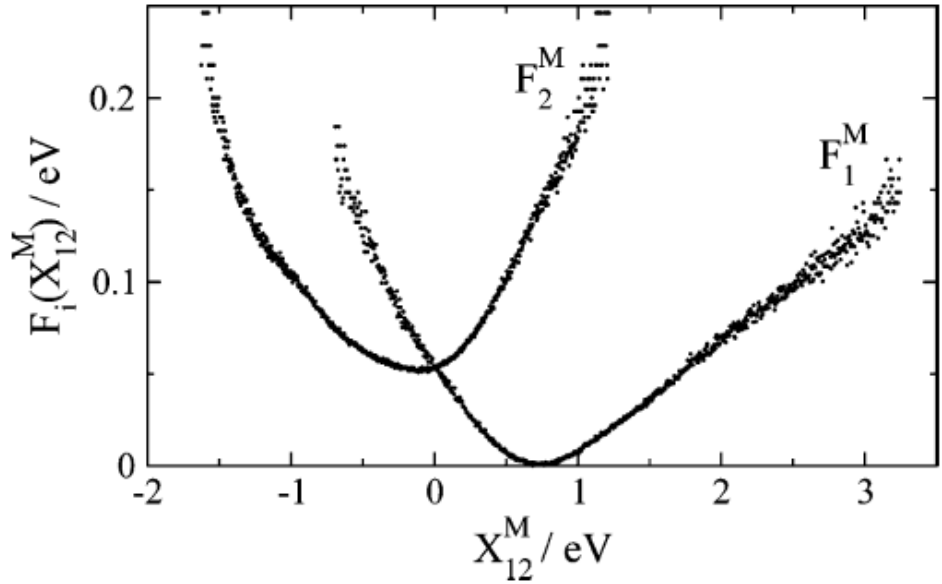
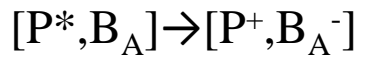


Image from Rev. in Env. Sci. Bio/Techn. 8:313, 2009

Q-model

$$E_x(q) = E_x^0 - C_x q + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_x q^2$$



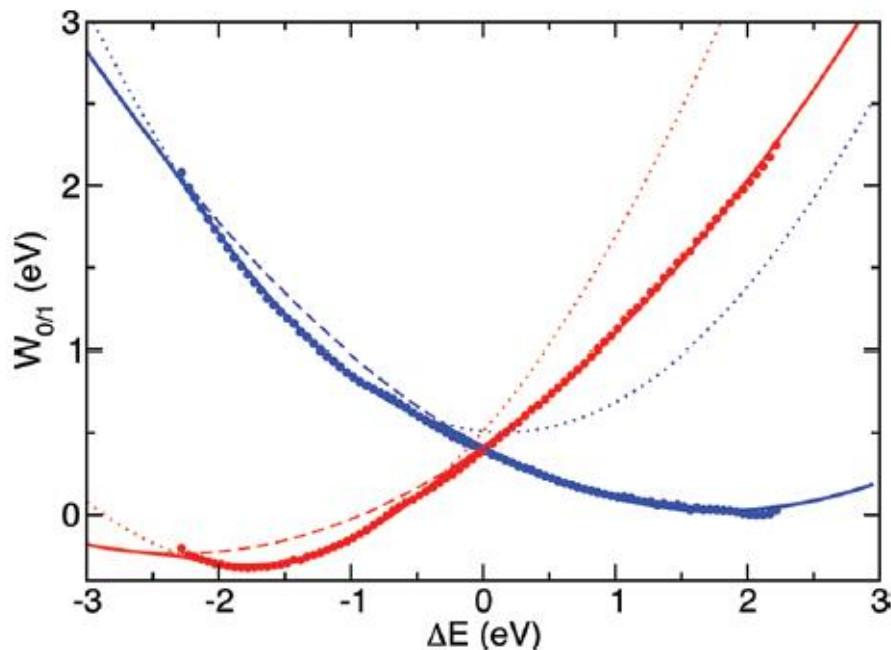
## II.1 Breakdown of the linear response approximation

### II.1.a. Non-ergodic effects

R. Vuilleumier, K. A. Tay, G. Jeanmairet, D. Borgis A. Boutin, *J Am Chem Soc*, 2012, **134**, 2067-2074

Solvation state change drastically between two redox states

But... the linear response approximation remains valid within each solvation states



See also Matyushov (Univ. Arizona) for dedicated framework to treat redox and spectroscopic properties in non-ergodic biological systems



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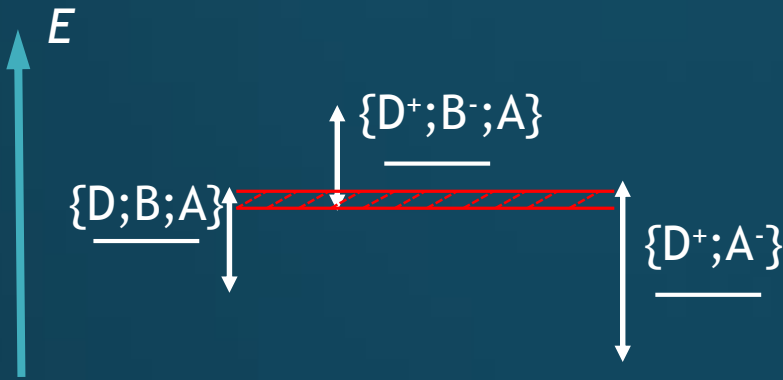
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- I.2.b.

# SITES ENERGY FLUCTUATIONS, COUPLING FLUCTUATIONS ...

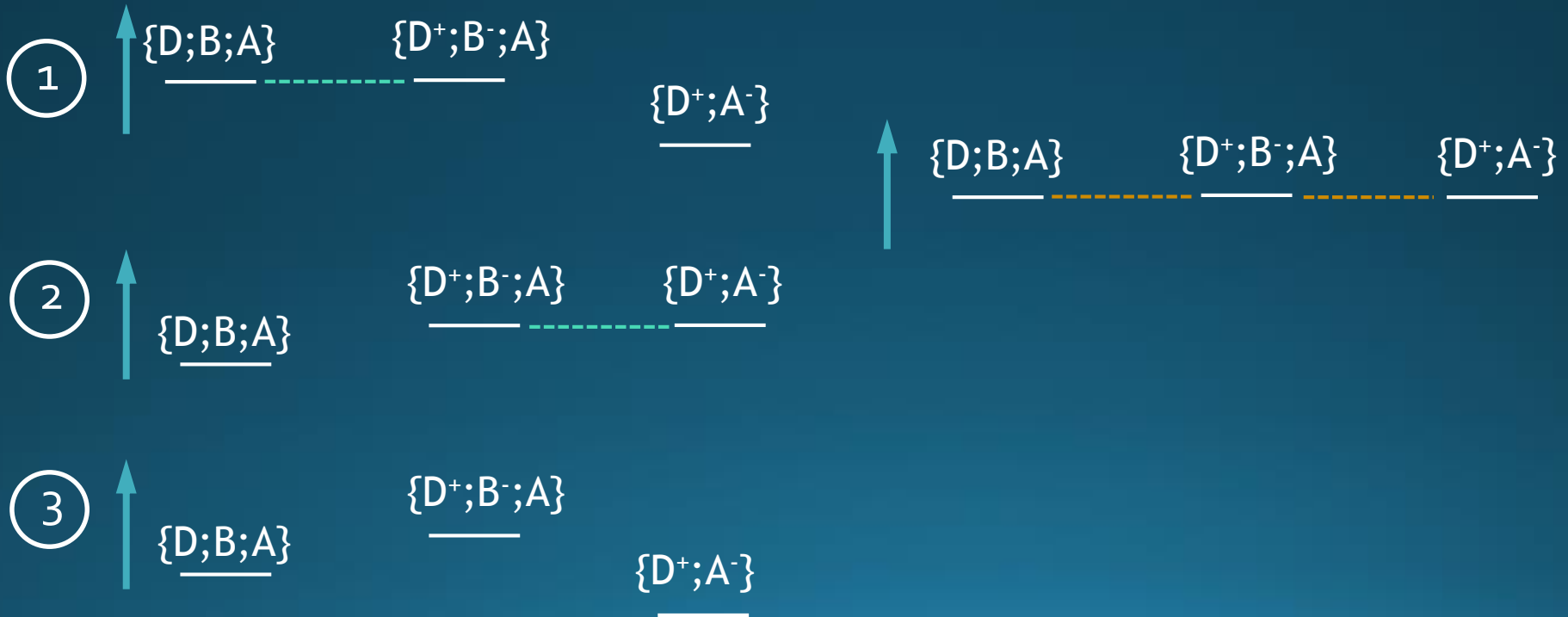


*Incoherent mechanism*

Condition of resonance:

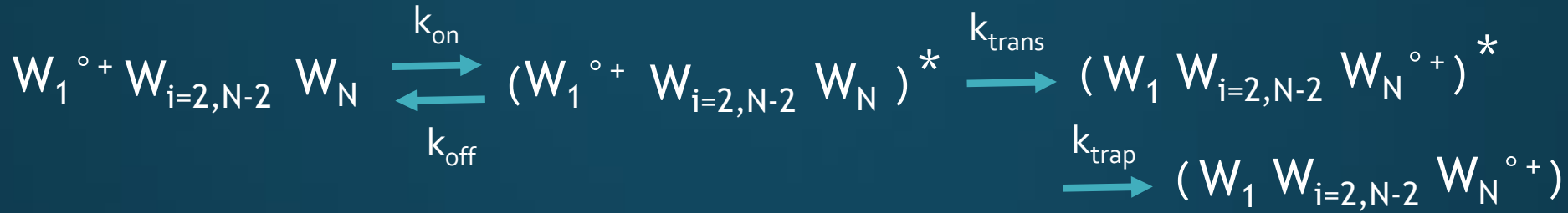
$$\Delta E \leq H_{DA}$$

*Coherent mechanism*



# A KINETIC MODEL: THE FLICKERING RESONANCE MECHANISM

Generalization of the Hopfield theory\* of ET to multiple sites \*\*



$$k_{FR}(N) = \frac{1}{\tau} \times P_{\text{match}}(N)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &P_{\text{match}}(N) \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{-\infty} dH_{DA} \rho_H(H_{DA}) \int_{-\infty}^{-\infty} dE_1 \rho_1(E_1) \int_{E_1 - H_{DA}}^{E_1 + H_{DA}} dE_2 \rho_2(E_2) \dots \int_{\max\{E_1, \dots, E_{N-1}\} - H_{DA}}^{\min\{E_1, \dots, E_{N-1}\} + H_{DA}} dE_N \rho_N(E_N)
 \end{aligned}$$

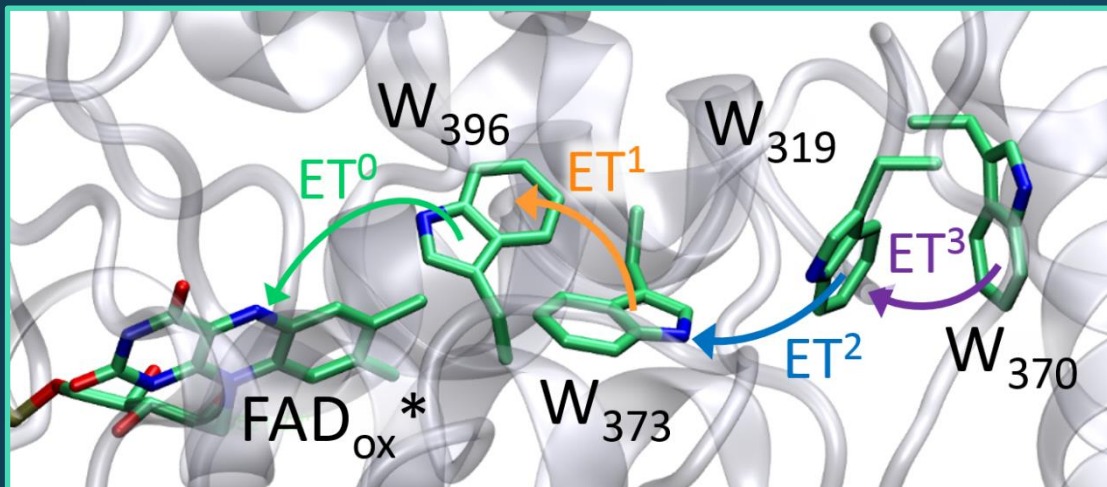
$$\rho_{D/D+}^{o,a_x}(\Delta E_D^{ox}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_D} \exp\left(\frac{-\left(\Delta E_D^{ox} - \overline{\Delta E_D^{ox}}\right)^2}{2\sigma_D^2}\right)$$

\* J. J. Hopfield, *Proc Natl Acad Sci*, 1974, **71**, 3640

\*\*Zhang, Y.; Liu, C.; Balaeff, A.; Skourtis, S. S.; Beratan, D. N. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Soc.* **2014**, *111*, 10049

# An example in the case of photolyase

## Competition between incoherent and coherent mechanisms



*Xenopus laevis* (frog)  
(6-4) photolyase

Müller, P.; Yamamoto, J.; Martin, R.; Iwai, S.; Brettel, K. *Chem. Commun.* **2015**, *51*, 15502

F. Cailliez, P. Muller, Th. Firmino, P. Pernot, A. de la Lande, *JACS*, **2016**, *138*, 1904

# ENERGY LEVEL ALIGNMENT

*based on DFT + polarizable MD*

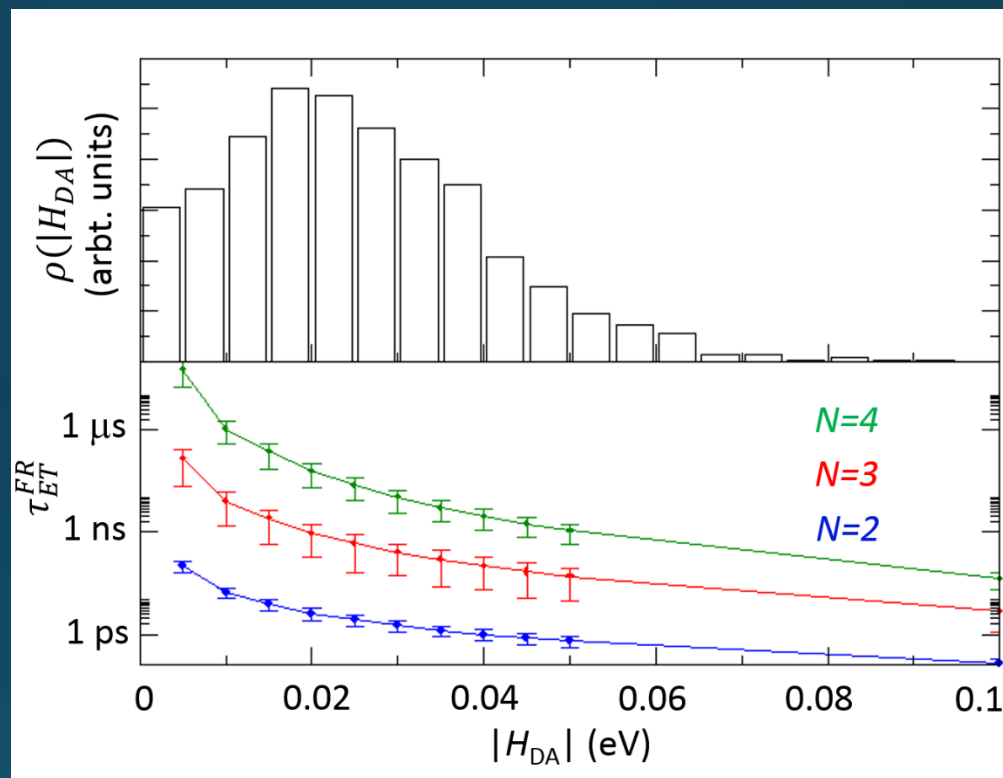
<b>N</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
$\overline{\Delta E_D^{ox}}$ (eV)	0.27 (0.04)	0.33 (0.11)	0.33 (0.09)
$\sigma_D$ (eV)	0.18 (<0.01)	0.20 (<0.01)	0.21 (<0.01)
$P_{match}(N)$	$5.75 \cdot 10^{-3}$ ( $1.23 \cdot 10^{-3}$ )	$1.23 \cdot 10^{-4}$ ( $5.64 \cdot 10^{-5}$ )	$3.11 \cdot 10^{-6}$ ( $1.83 \cdot 10^{-6}$ )



➡ *The probability to align the first three energy levels is substantial.  
But strong dependence on the initial nuclear configuration*

# FLICKERING RESONANCE TIME SCALES

$$k_{FR}(N) = \frac{1}{\tau} \times P_{match}(N)$$



*FR over three sites can be envisioned*

*Again, strong dependence on the initial nuclear configuration*

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III.2.c. Coherence loss in slow coupling regime

## Tunneling in proteins why is it important ?

$$H_{DA} = \langle \varphi_1 | H_{el} | \varphi_2 \rangle$$

- Determines the probability of electronic change

example of Landau Zener theory

$$P_{LZ} = 1 - \exp\left(\frac{-2\pi H_{DA}^2}{\hbar \dot{\Delta} E}\right)$$

- Remind that Fermi golden rule assumes weak coupling ( $< \sim 100 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ )
- Reflects the likelihood of tunneling from D to A

$$H_{DA} = \langle \varphi_1 | H_{el} | \varphi_2 \rangle$$



# QUANTUM CHEMISTRY METHODS

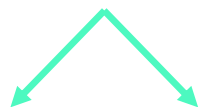
M.D. Newton, *Chem. Rev.* (Washington, DC, U.S.) 91 (1991) 767–792.

A.A. Stuchebrukhov, *Theor. Chem. Acc.* 110 (2003) 291–306.

Progress and challenges in simulating and understanding electron

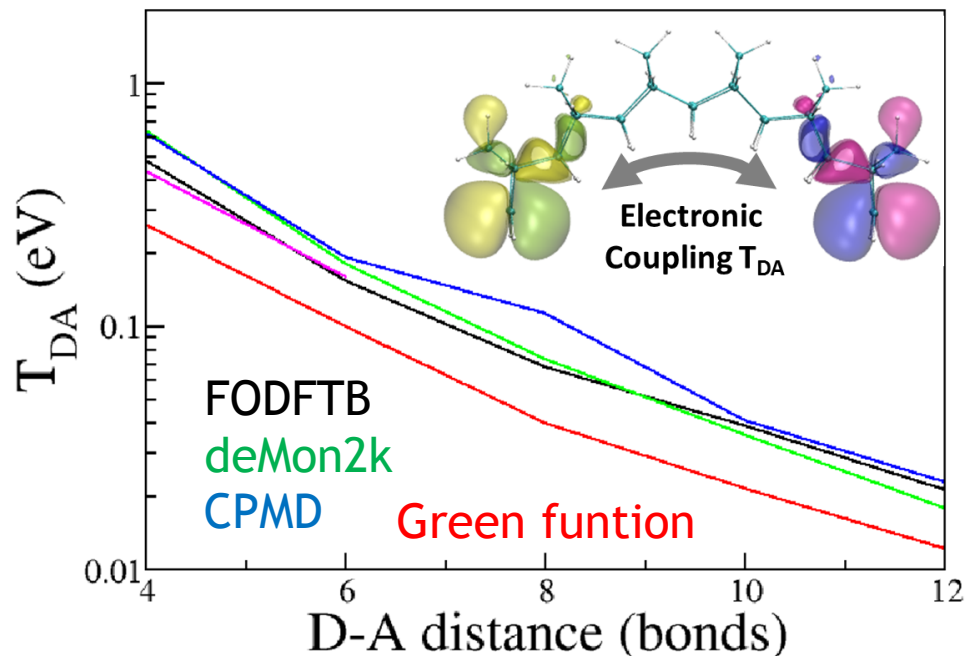
transfer in proteins. A de la Lande, S. Chen, DR. Salahub. *Arch. Biochem. Biophys.* 582 (2015) 28–41

electronic states in a  
*diabatic* basis



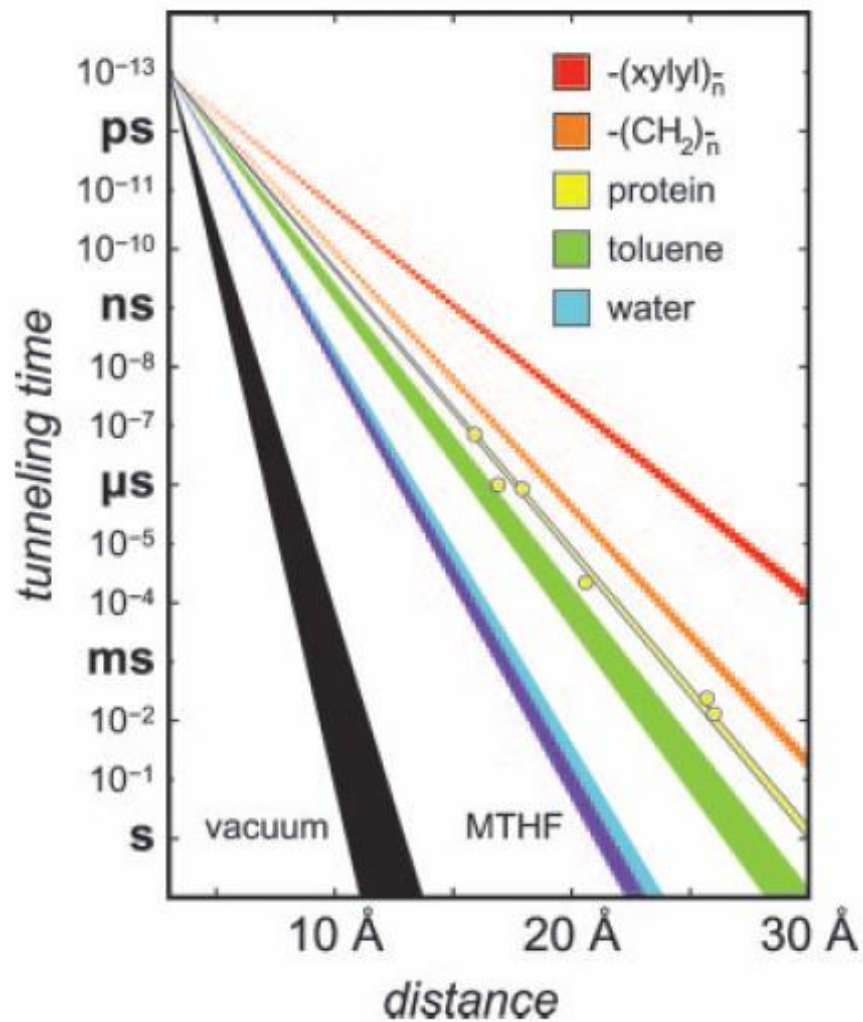
$$H_{DA} = \langle \varphi_1 | H_{el} | \varphi_2 \rangle$$

Most quantum chemistry methods give  
*adiabatic* states



N Gillet, L Berstis, X Wu, F Gajdos, A Heck,  
A de la Lande, J Blumberger, M Elstner,  
*J. Chem. Theor. Comput.* **2016**, 12, 4793

# THE NEED FOR RATIONALIZATION MODELS



Harry Gray



David Beratan



John Hopfield



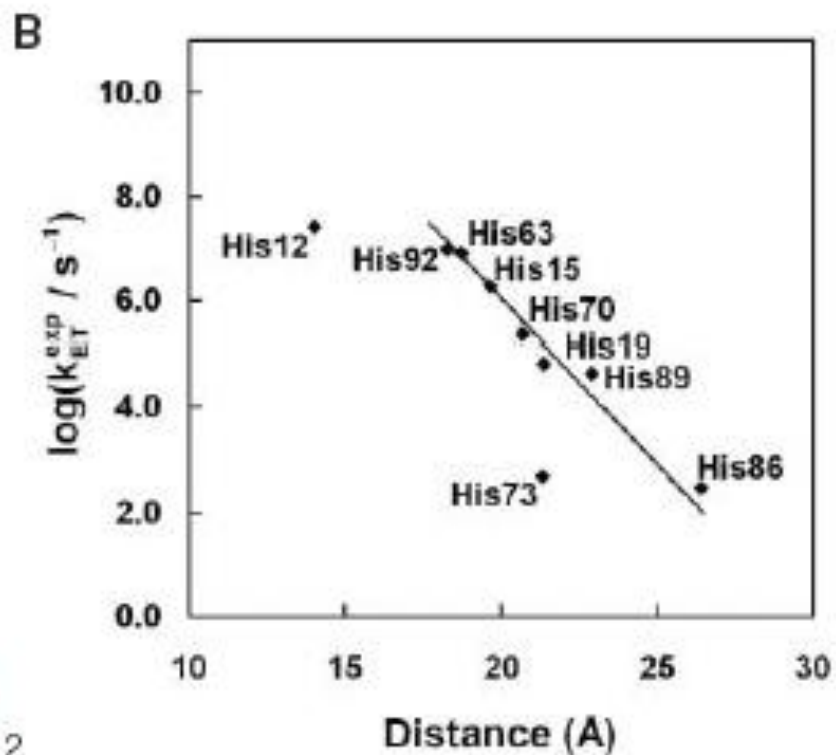
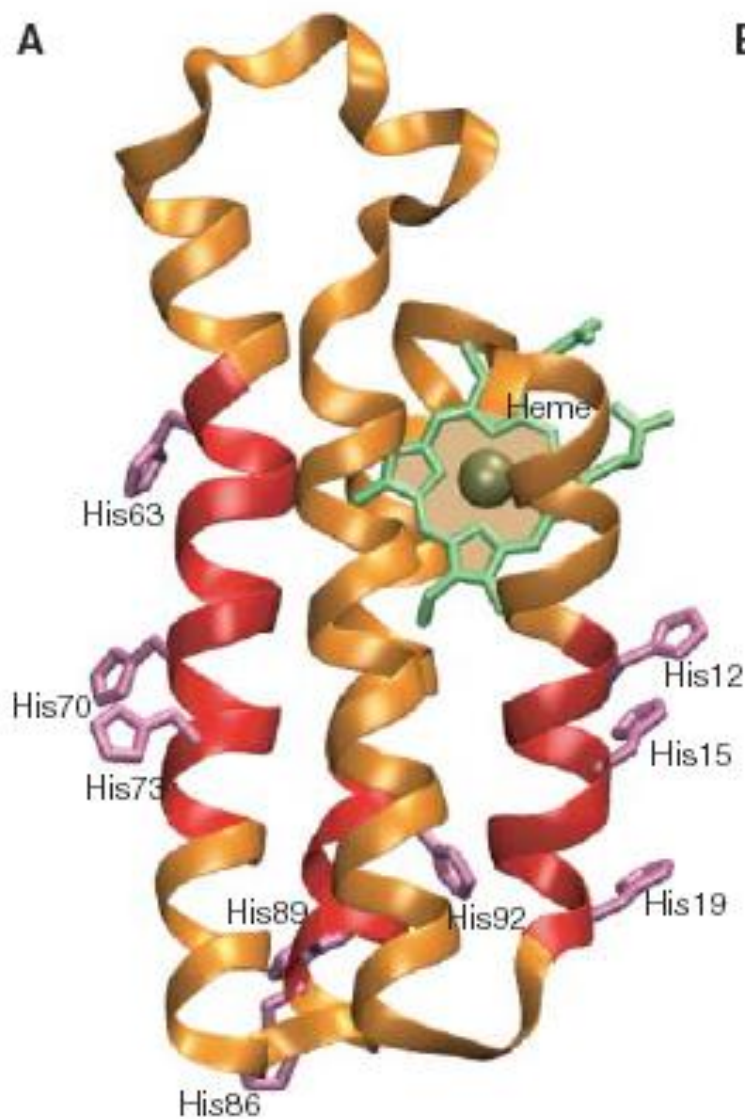
Leslie Dutton

from H. B. Gray, J. R. Winkler, *PNAS*, **2005**, 102, 3534

# A VERY CLEVER STRATEGY

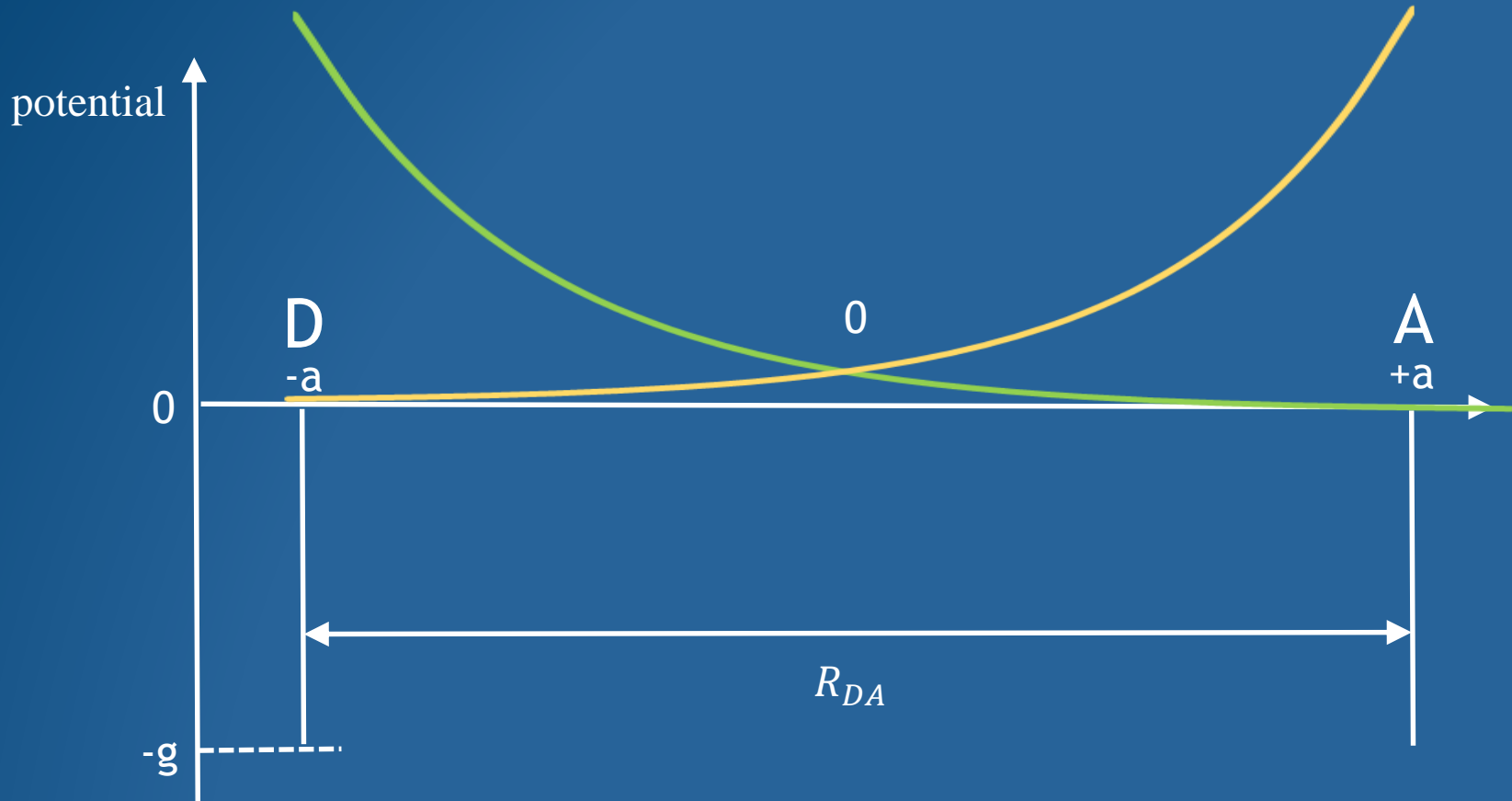
*HB Gray and co-workers*

Ru-cytochromes  
Ru-myoglobines  
Ru-azurines



$$\phi_D(x) = \sqrt{\kappa} \cdot \exp(-\kappa|x - a|)$$

$$\phi_A(x) = \sqrt{\kappa} \cdot \exp(-\kappa|x + a|)$$



$$\kappa = m_e g / \hbar^2$$

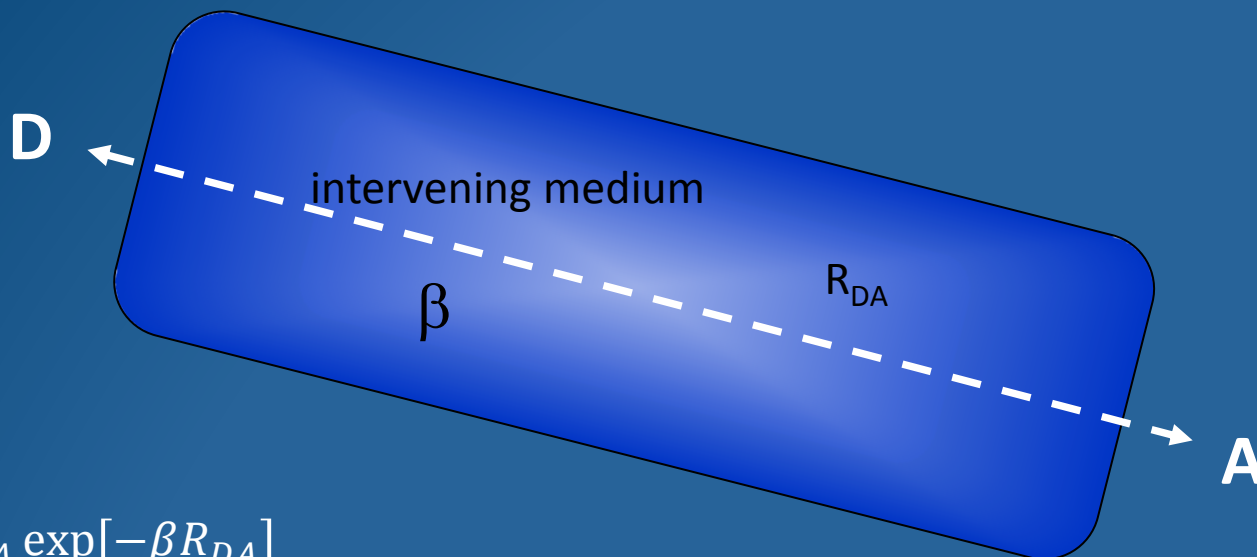
$$H_{DA} = \frac{-g^2}{2\hbar^2} \exp\left[-2a\sqrt{-2m_e E_0 / \hbar^2}\right] = H_{DA}^0 \exp[-\beta R_{DA}]$$

# Homogeneous systems models

Hopfield (1974)



John Hopfield

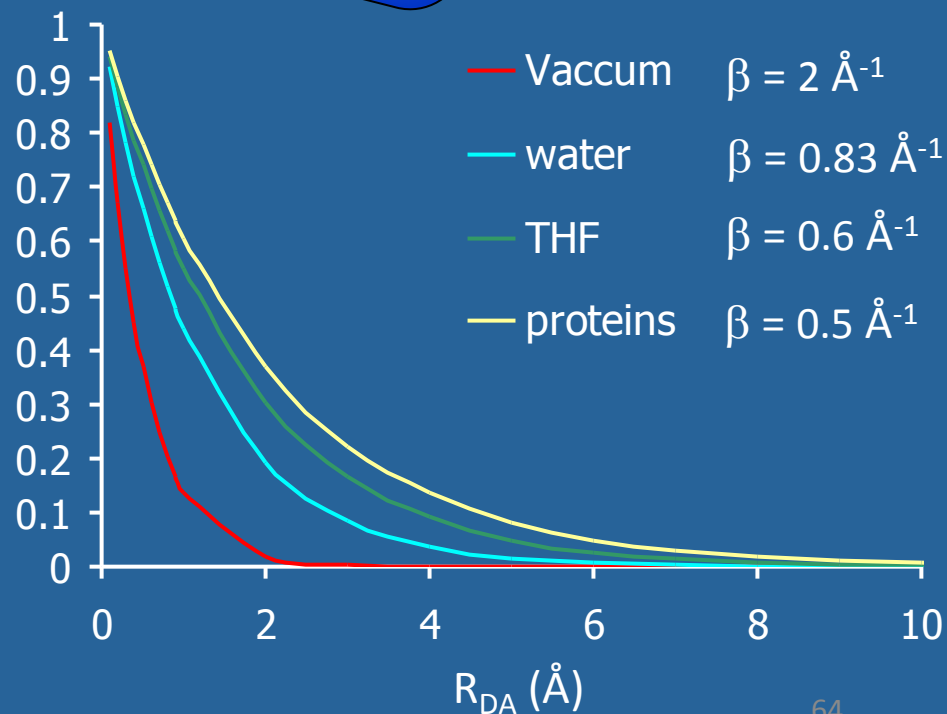


$$H_{DA} = H_{DA}^0 \exp[-\beta R_{DA}]$$

$$\beta = \sqrt{-2m_e E_0 / \hbar^2}$$

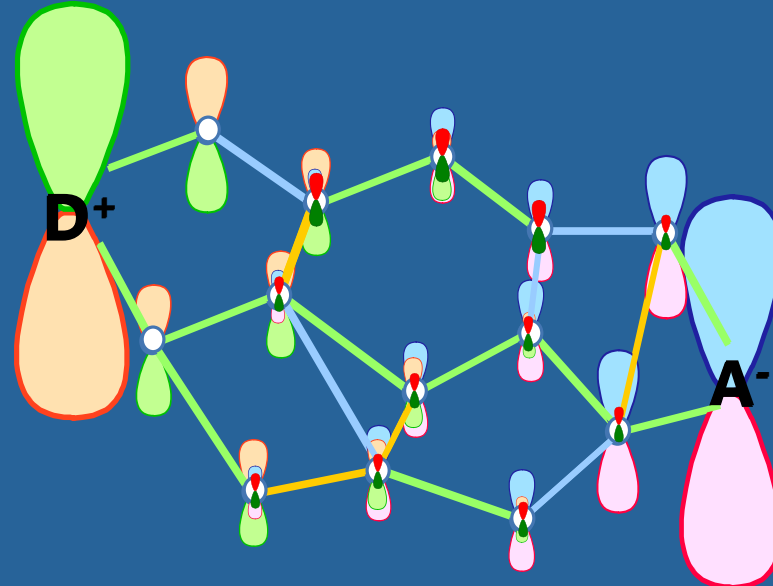
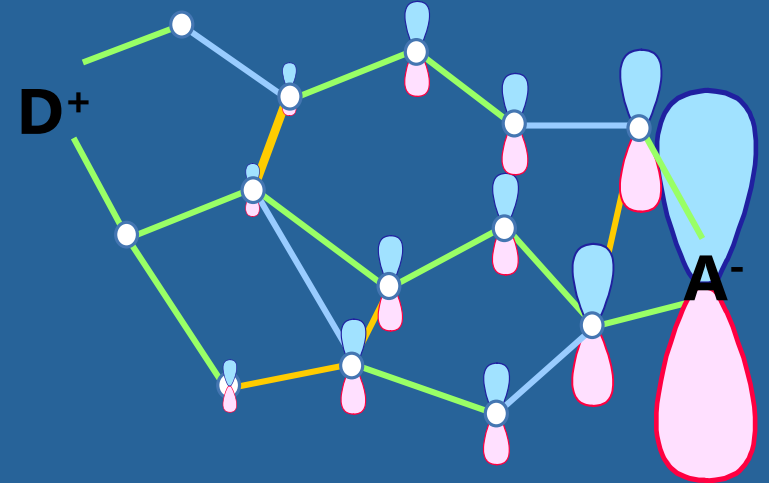
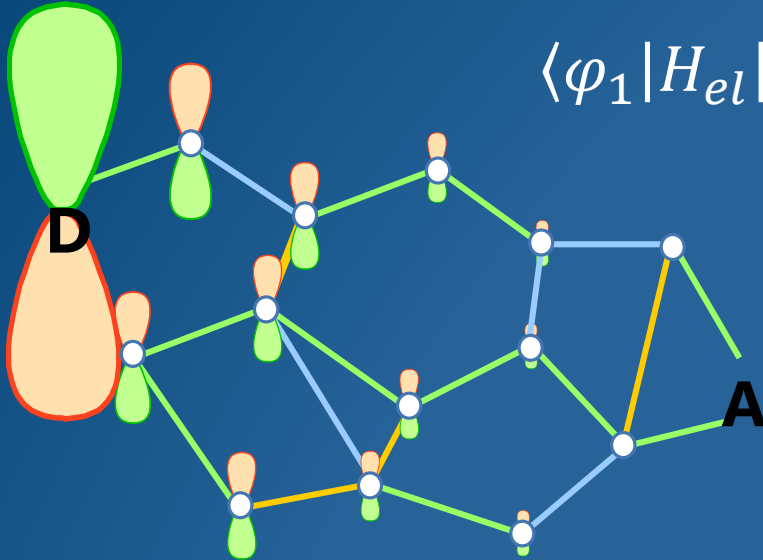
for proteins the  $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma^*$  band gap of the surrounding material ( $\approx 3\text{eV}$ )

$$\beta = 0.72$$



Let's just consider the pair of MOs that exchange electrons

$$\langle \varphi_1 | H_{el} | \varphi_2 \rangle \propto \langle \varphi_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle$$

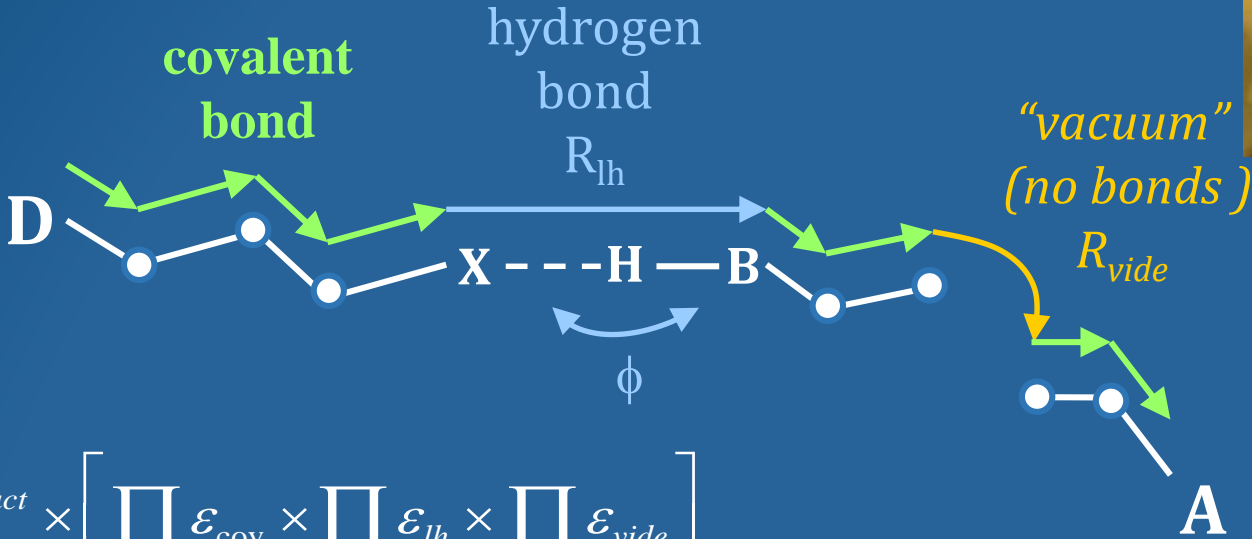


# THE TUNNELING PATHWAY MODEL

D. N. Beratan *et Coll.* 1991



● atomes



$$H_{DA} = H_{DA}^{contact} \times \left[ \prod_{N_{cov}} \epsilon_{cov} \times \prod_{N_{lh}} \epsilon_{lh} \times \prod_{N_{vide}} \epsilon_{vide} \right]$$

↗  $\epsilon_B = \epsilon_C = 0.6$

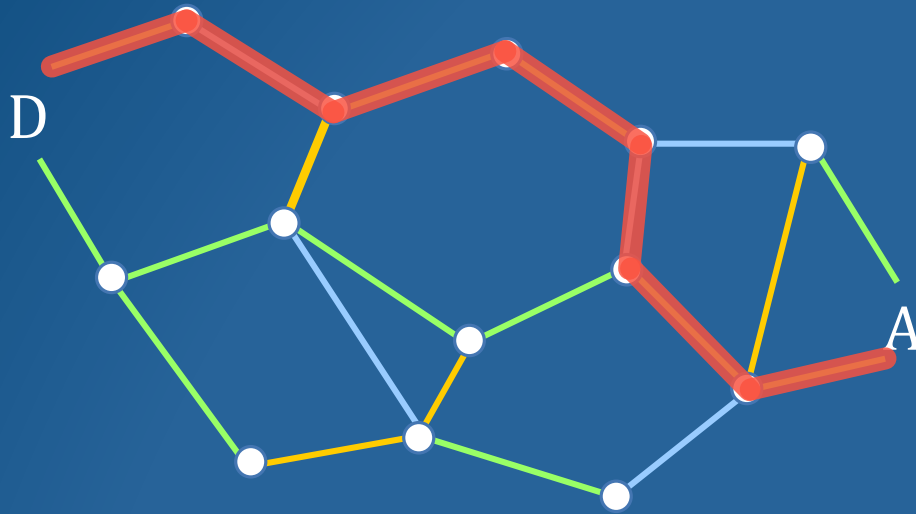
↖  $\epsilon_H = \epsilon_C^2 \exp[-1.7(R^H - 2.8)]$

↘  $\epsilon_S = \epsilon_C \exp[-1.7(R^S - 1.4)]$

} good conductivity

} bad conductivity

# SEARCH FOR THE BEST PATHWAY



Dijkstra algorithm

find your way on a map !

- Assume on pathway dominate over the others (in practice an excellent approximation)
- No explicit interferences among pathways



# EVEN HIGHER RESOLUTION: INTER-ATOMIC TUNNELING CURRENTS

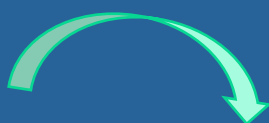
A. A. Stuchebrukhov, *Theor. Chem. Acc.* 2003, 110, 291

- The electronic wave function is a linear combination of the two diabatic states

$$\psi_{el}(t) = \cos\left(\frac{H_{DA}}{\hbar}t\right)\phi_1\{R\} - \sin\left(\frac{H_{DA}}{\hbar}t\right)\phi_2\{R\}$$

- The density current operator reads

$$\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\hbar}{2m_e i} (\psi_{el}^* \nabla \psi_{el} - \psi_{el} \nabla \psi_{el}^*)$$



Only one pair of MOs are important

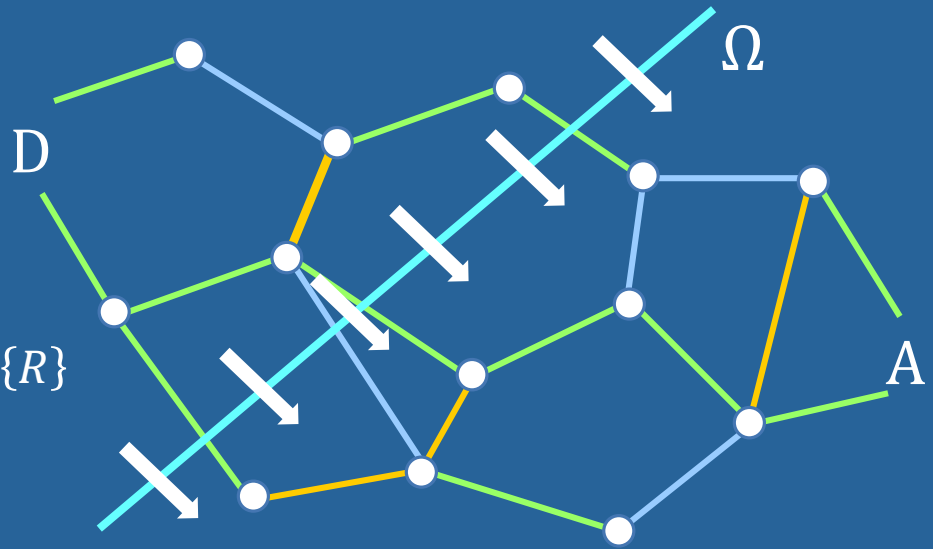
$$\mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}) = \langle \phi_1 | \mathbf{j} | \phi_2 \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{2m_e} (\phi_1^* \nabla \phi_2 - \phi_2 \nabla \phi_1^*)$$

$$H_{DA} = -\hbar \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{r}) d\Omega$$

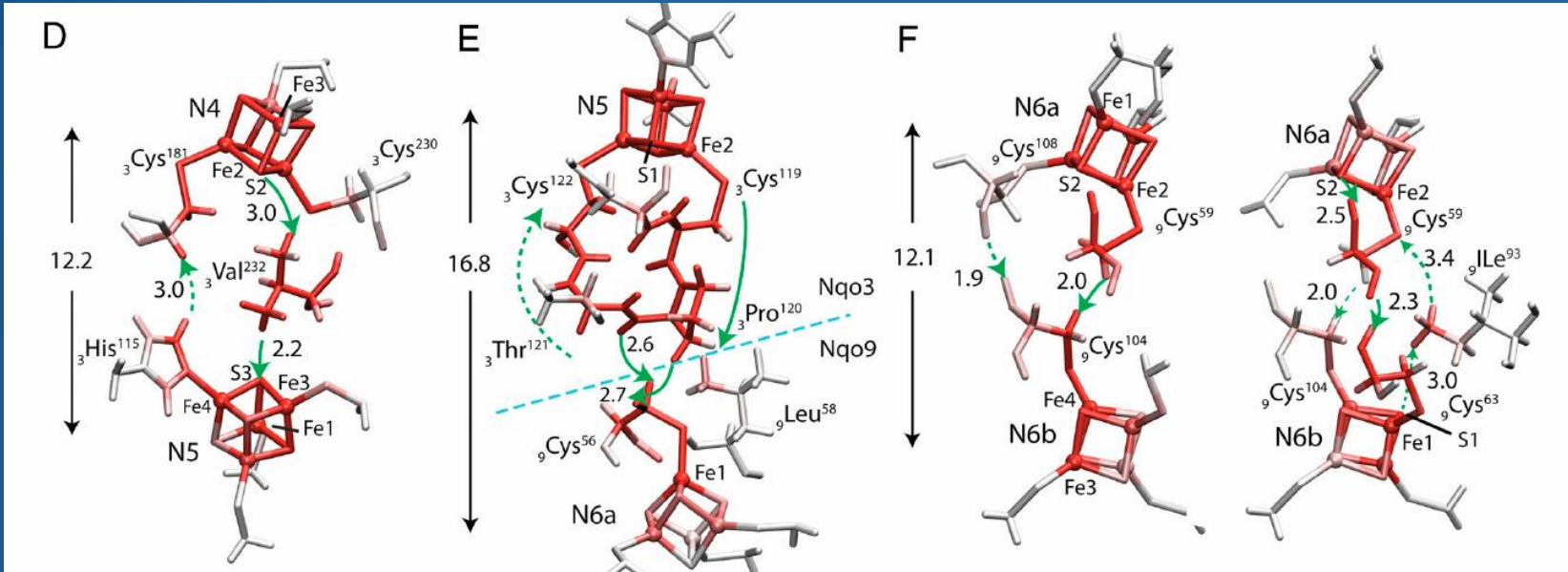
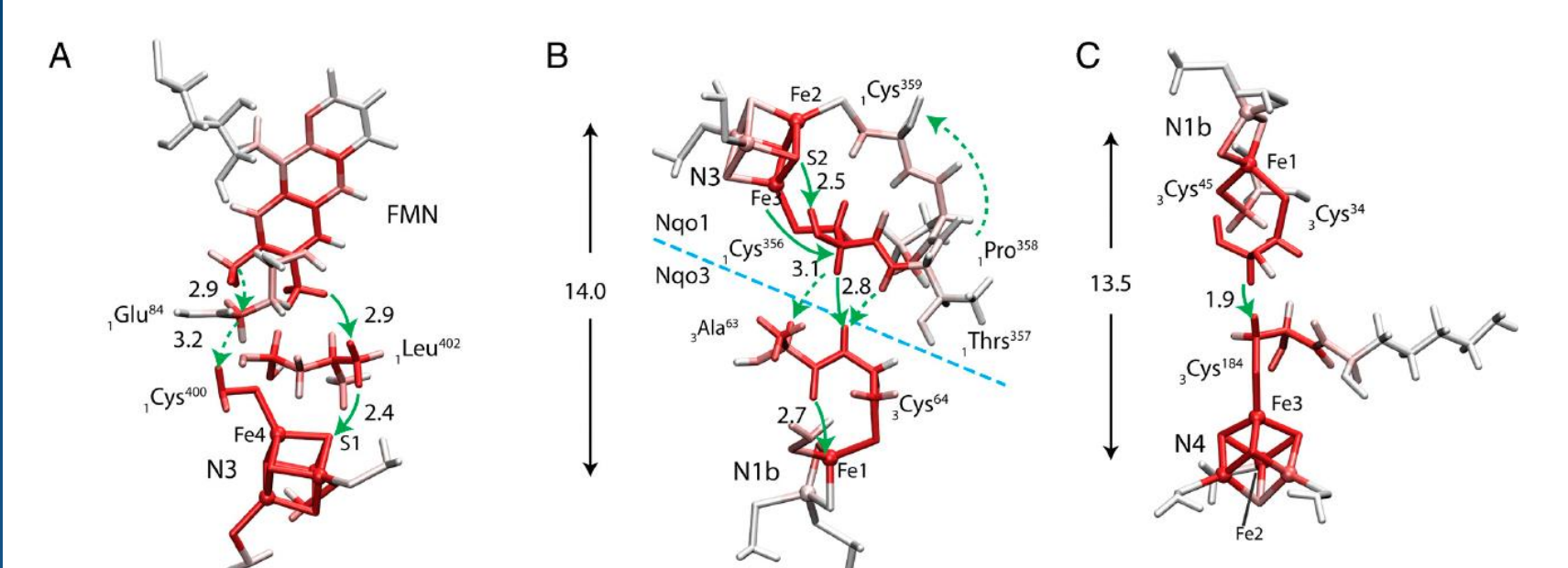


interatomic decomposition

$$H_{DA} = \sum_{a \in \Omega} \sum_{b \notin \Omega} J_{ab}$$



# EVEN HIGHER RESOLUTION: INTER-ATOMIC TUNNELING CURRENTS



# I – The Marcus theory: concepts, theory and computer simulations

## *I.1 Pioneer ideas from Libby, Marcus, Hush...*

## *I.2 The Marcus theory in the era of supercomputers*

I.2.a. Linear Response Approximation

I.2.b. A very simple example to set ideas

I.2.c. Nanosecond ET in cytochrome c oxydase

## *I-3. Quantum and semi-classical formulations*

I.2.a. Fermi golden rule and spin-boson model

I.2.b. Mixed quantum-classical, application to inverted region

I.2.c. Recent example of application in cryptochromes

# II – Beyond "Vanilla Marcus theory"

## *II.1 Breakdown of the linear response approximation*

II.1.a. High polarizability of redox cofactor

II.1.b. Non-ergodic systems

## *II.2 Beyond the two-state model*

II.2.a. Flickering resonance model

II.2.b. Recent example of application in photolyases

# III – The mystery of electron tunneling through proteins

## *III.1 Interpretative models for tunneling*

III.1.a. Hopfield model

III.1.b. Pathway model

III.1.c. Interatomic tunneling currents

## *III.2 Dynamical effects on tunneling*

III.2.a. Inelastic tunneling

III.2.b. Recent example of application in cryptochromes

III.2.c. Coherence loss in slow coupling regime

# WHAT ABOUT THERMAL MOTION ?



## WHAT ABOUT THERMAL MOTION ?

$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda k_B T}} |H_{DA}|^2 \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda k_B T}\right)$$



THIS IS NOT A CONSTANT !!!

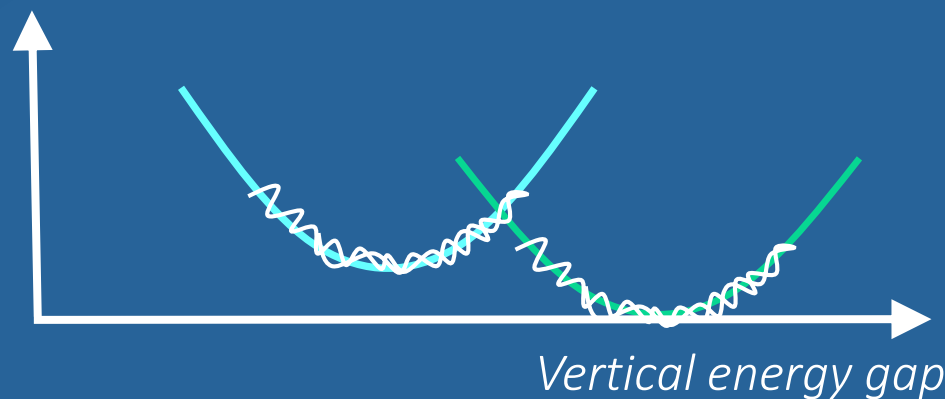
$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda k_B T}} \langle |H_{DA}|^2 \rangle \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda k_B T}\right)$$



# TWO IMPORTANT TIMESCALES

$\tau_{FC}$  How fast the diabatic energy gap changes in time

$\tau_{coh}$  How fast the electronic coupling changes in time



$\tau_{coh} \ll \tau_{FC}$  FAST coupling regime

~~$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda k_B T}} \langle |H_{DA}|^2 \rangle \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda k_B T}\right)$$~~

*breakdown of Condon approximation*

*Theories of inelastic tunneling*

A. Troisi, A. Nitzan and M. A. Ratner, *J Chem Phys*, 2003, 119, 5782-5788.

E. S. Medvedev and A. A. Stuchebrukhov, *J Chem Phys*, 1997, 107, 3821-3831

$\tau_{coh} \gg \tau_{FC}$  SLOW coupling regime

$$k_{ET} = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda k_B T}} \langle |H_{DA}|^2 \rangle \exp\left(-\frac{(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda)^2}{4\lambda k_B T}\right)$$

# HOW TO OBTAIN $\tau_{coh}$ AND $\tau_{FC}$ ?

I. A. Balabin, J. N. Onuchic, *Science*, **2000**, 290, 114-117  
D. N. Beratan, et al. , *Acc. Chem. Res.*, **2015**, 48, 474-481.

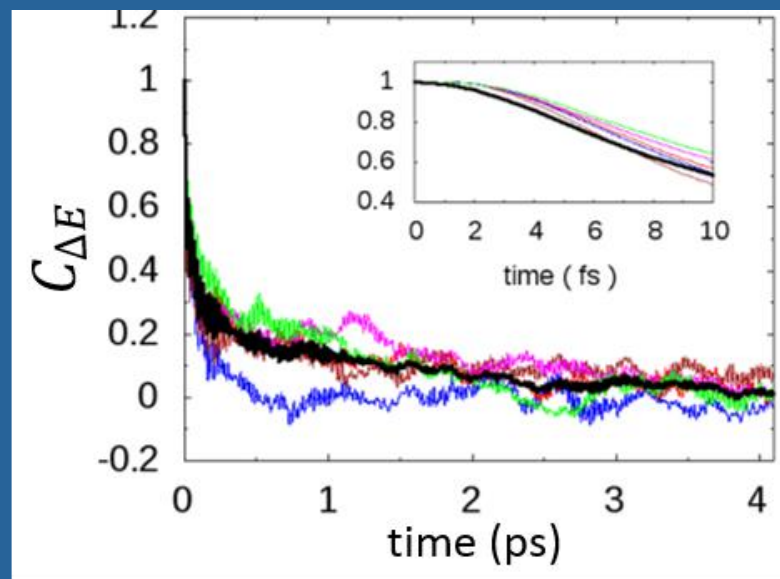
$$C_{H_{DA}}(t) = \langle H_{DA}(t)H_{DA}(0) \rangle / \langle H_{DA}(0)^2 \rangle$$

→  $\tau_{coh}$

$$C_{\Delta E}(t) = \langle \Delta E(t)\Delta E(0) \rangle / \langle \Delta E(0)^2 \rangle$$

→  $\tau_{FC}$

$$\tau_{FC} = \hbar / \sqrt{2\lambda k_B T}.$$



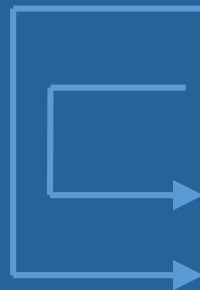
COMPUTATIONALLY RATHER INVOLVED

# THE CASE OF CRYPTOCHROME

*cDFT corrected  $H_{DA}$*

ET STEP	1	2
$\langle H_{DA} \rangle$ in meV	15	11
$\langle H_{DA}^2 \rangle$ in meV <sup>2</sup>	386	1300
$R_{coh}$	0.59	0.55
$\tau_{coh}$ in fs	54	36
$\tau_{FC}$ in fs	39	62

$$R_{coh} = \langle H_{DA} \rangle^2 / \langle H_{DA}^2 \rangle$$



characterizes how fast  $\Delta E$  fluctuates

characterizes how fast  $H_{DA}$  fluctuates

Non-Condon effects are negligible in most of our simulations

 *factorization of the electronic factor in rate expressions*

# DYNAMICAL EFFECTS ON ET RATES

D. N. Beratan, et al. , *Acc. Chem. Res.*, **2015**, 48, 474-481

$$\langle H_{DA}^2 \rangle = \langle H_{DA} \rangle^2 + \sigma^2 \quad \sigma^2 = \langle (H_{DA} - \langle H_{DA} \rangle)^2 \rangle$$



$$\langle H_{DA} \rangle^2 \gg \sigma^2$$



$$\langle H_{DA} \rangle^2 \ll \sigma^2$$

SINGLE PATHWAY REGIME

MULTIPLE PATHWAY REGIME

$$C = \langle H_{DA} \rangle^2 / \langle H_{DA}^2 \rangle$$

$$C \rightarrow 1$$

$$C \rightarrow 0$$

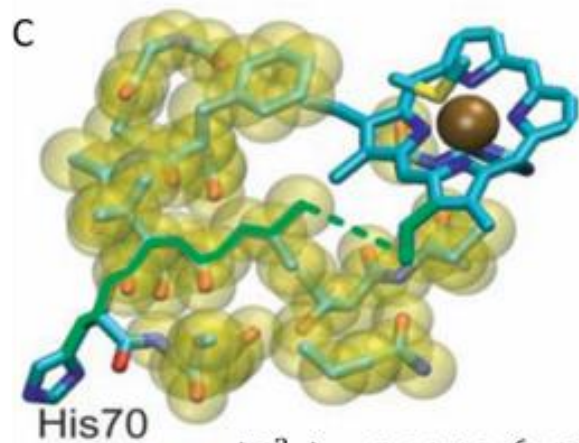
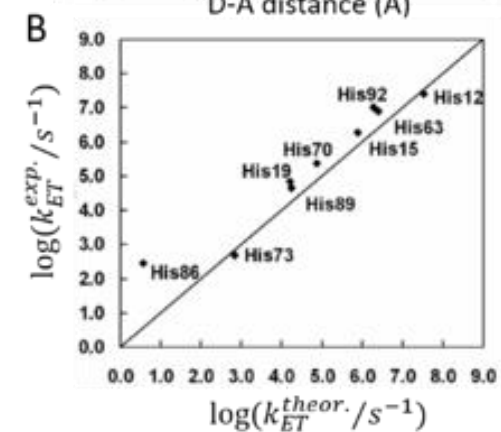
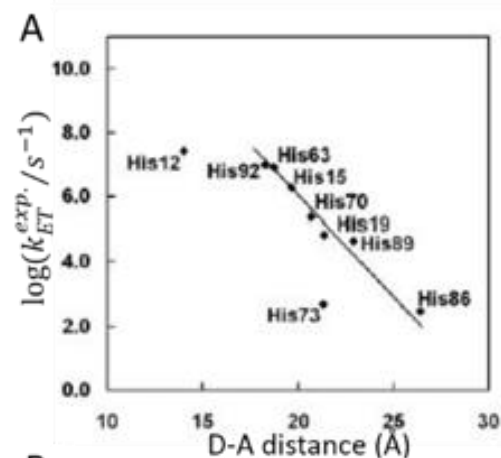


# WHAT ABOUT THERMAL MOTION

T. R. Prytkova, I. V. Kurnikov and D. N. Beratan, *Science* **2007**, 315, 622

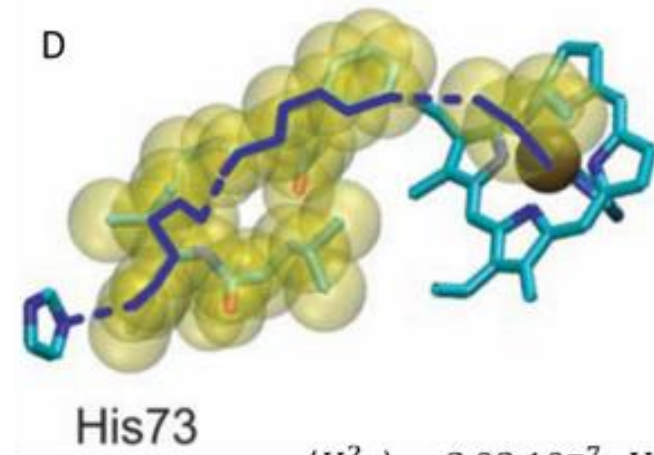
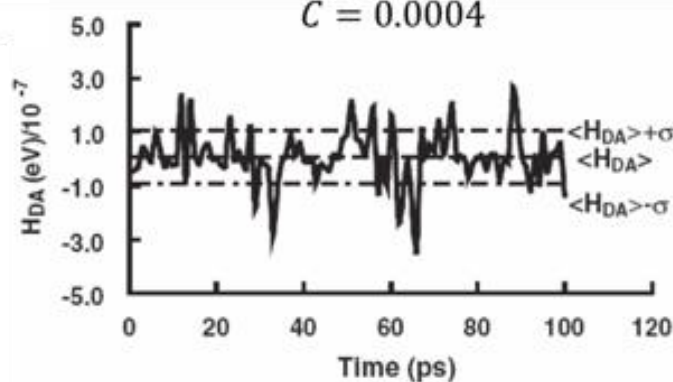
$$(\Delta G^\circ + \lambda)^2 / 4\lambda \approx 0$$

$$k_{ET} \approx \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\lambda k_B T}} \langle |H_{DA}|^2 \rangle$$



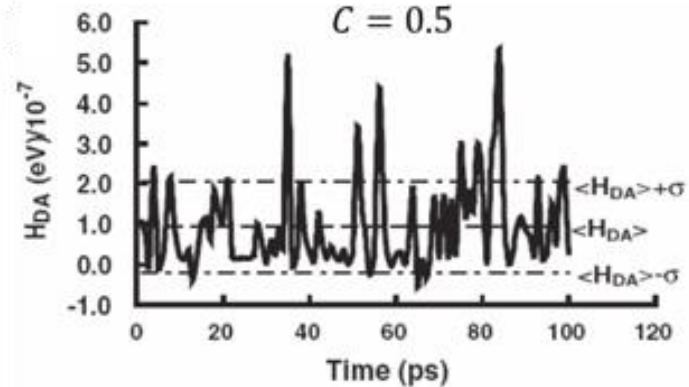
$$\langle H_{DA}^2 \rangle = 2.11 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ eV}$$

$$C = 0.0004$$



$$\langle H_{DA}^2 \rangle = 2.02 \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ eV}$$

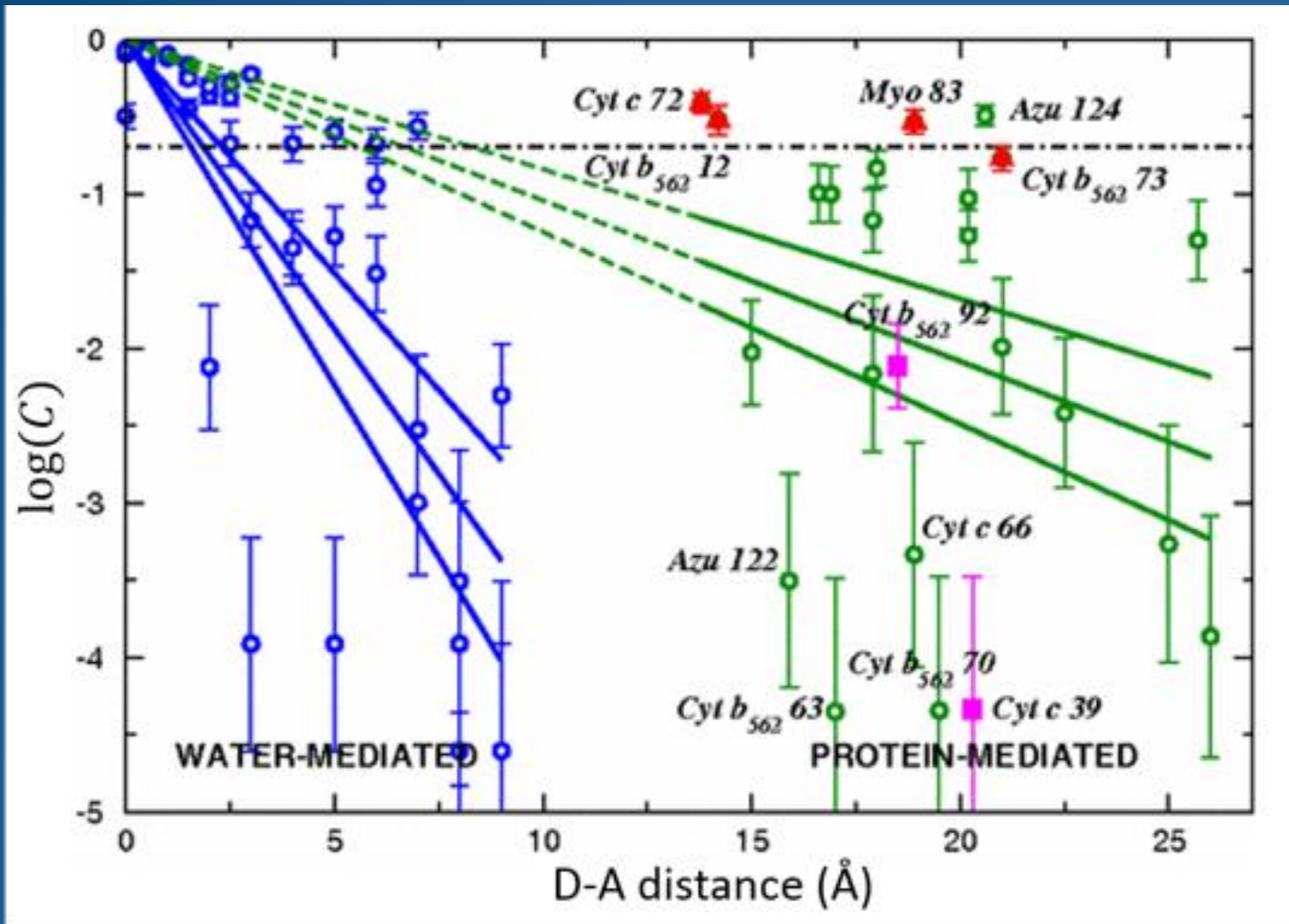
$$C = 0.5$$



MULTIPLE PATHWAY REGIME

SINGLE PATHWAY REGIME

# EVEN FOR VERY LONG RANGE ET, THE UNDERLYING PROTEIN STRUCTURE MATTERS



<http://demon-software.com>



Dennis Salahub

**deMon2k**  
density of Montréal



Tzonka Mineva

- Highly efficient Auxiliary DFT code, **free for academics**
- Several magnetic and optical properties available
- QM/MM (Amber ff99, polarizable ff02, CHARMM, OPLS) (additive scheme, link atom, capping potential)
- User friendly tutorials for QM/MM simulations
- **Born-Oppenheimer MD, Ehrenfest MD, Electronic Dynamics**
- Interface with PLUMED 2.0 (metadynamics, path integral)
- **Constrained DFT** to simulate electron transfers



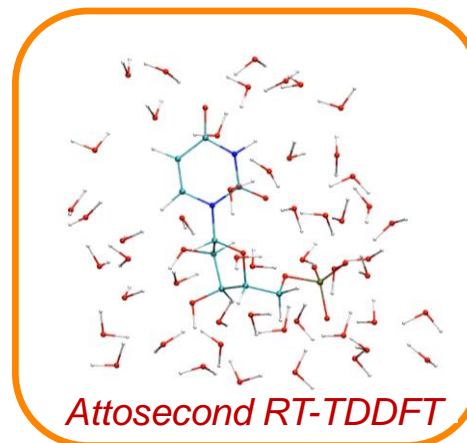
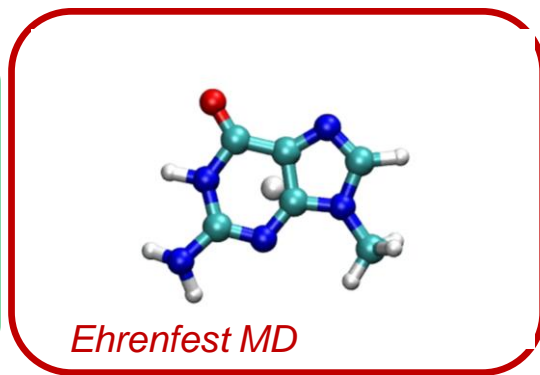
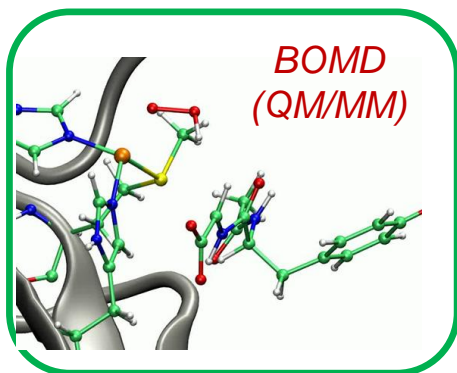
Andreas Köster



Daniel Mejia Rodriguez



Patrizia Calaminici



Mark Casida, Roberto Flores, Jérôme Cuny, Aurelio Alvarez-Ibarra

...  
And many other



compute | calcul  
canada | canada

