

Supplementary Information for “Water transport through nanotubes with varying interaction strength between tube wall and water” by Mathew Melillo, Fangqiang Zhu, Mark A. Snyder, and Jeetain Mittal*

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1. Lennard-Jones Potential between nanotube atoms and water

The Lennard-Jones Potential is a model to describe the interactions between a nanotube atom (NT) and water’s oxygen atom (OW). The interaction energy depends on the distance between the two atoms in question, r , as well as the parameters of $\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$ and $\sigma_{\text{NT-OW}}$. Here, $\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$ represents the potential energy well depth, which is the point at which the molecules or atoms are a distance of r_{min} from each other and have potential energy, $U = -\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$. The resulting potential functions are also shown in Figure S1.

Table1. Lennard-Jones potential parameters used

| $\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$ (kcal/mol) | r_{min} (Å) | $\sigma_{\text{NT-OW}}$ (Å) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 0.0200 | 4.1812 | 3.7250 |
| 0.0400 | 3.9679 | 3.5350 |
| 0.0500 | 3.9000 | 3.4745 |
| 0.0525 | 3.8875 | 3.4634 |
| 0.0550 | 3.8750 | 3.4522 |
| 0.0575 | 3.8625 | 3.4411 |
| 0.0600 | 3.8500 | 3.4300 |
| 0.0625 | 3.8350 | 3.4166 |
| 0.0650 | 3.8250 | 3.4077 |
| 0.0675 | 3.8200 | 3.4032 |
| 0.0700 | 3.8100 | 3.3943 |
| 0.0725 | 3.8000 | 3.3854 |
| 0.0750 | 3.7900 | 3.3765 |
| 0.0775 | 3.7800 | 3.3676 |
| 0.0800 | 3.7715 | 3.3600 |
| 0.1000 | 3.7154 | 3.3100 |
| 0.1200 | 3.6648 | 3.2650 |
| 0.1400 | 3.6256 | 3.2300 |
| 0.1600 | 3.5919 | 3.2000 |
| 0.1800 | 3.5638 | 3.1750 |
| 0.2000 | 3.5414 | 3.1550 |

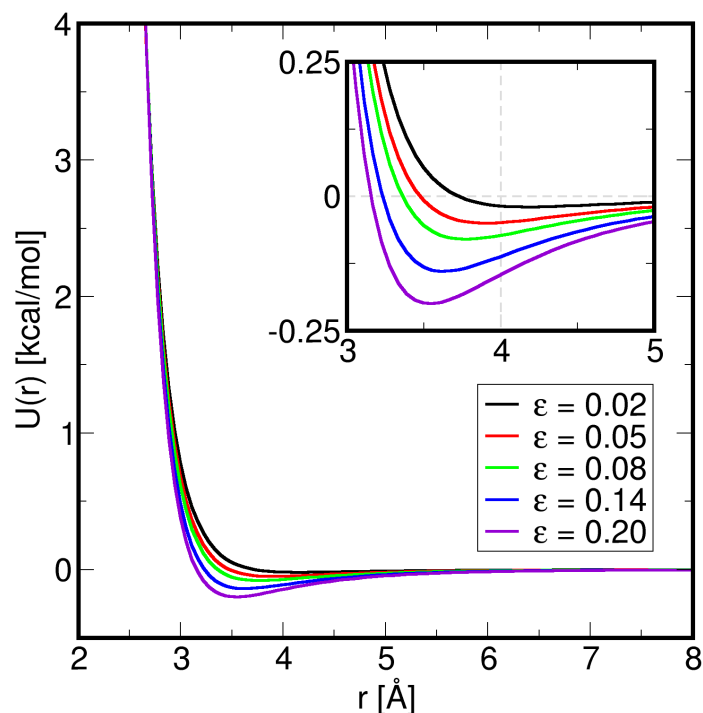


Figure S1: Potential energy $U(r)$ versus distance between a nanotube atom and water's oxygen for different $\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$ values (the inset shows a zoomed-in view).

2. Comparison of permeation events between our membrane system (3x4 nanotubes) and a single nanotube system

To verify that the membrane system used to accumulate data doesn't affect our results for flow through a nanotube, we have also performed a set of simulations with a setup utilizing a single nanotube (6,6) immersed in water. As we show in Figure S2, the results are comparable between the 'membrane' and 'single tube' simulation setups.

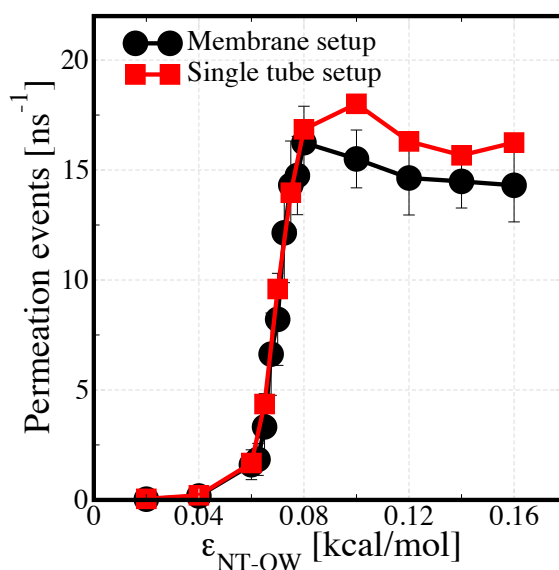


Figure S2: Effect of system setup, membrane versus single nanotube, on observed water flow through a nanotube.

3. Effect of changing $\sigma_{\text{NT-OW}}$ for a given interaction strength $\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$

Consistent with previous studies [1-3], we have changed the nanotube atom's diameter for different $\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$ to make sure that repulsive part of the potential (Figure S1) is the same. To see how keeping this diameter or therefore $\sigma_{\text{NT-OW}}$ constant ($\sigma_{\text{NT-OW}} = 3.2751 \text{ \AA}$ which corresponds to carbon nanotube as used previously in the literature) for different $\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$ values will (not) affect our results, we have generated a data set for (6,6) nanotubes. As shown below in Figure S3, the permeation events are largely insensitive to this change.

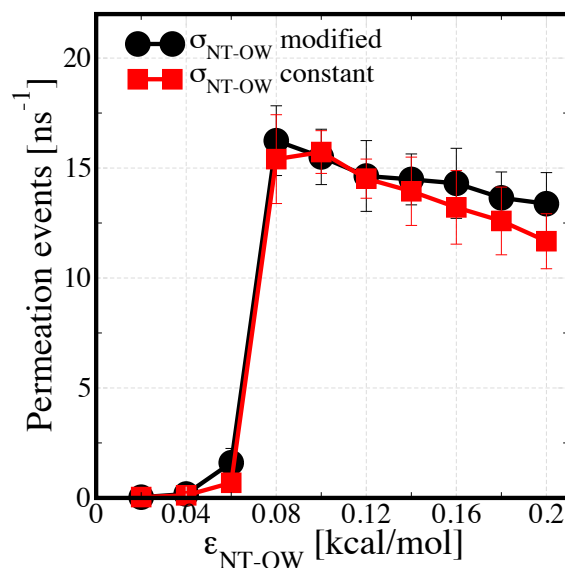


Figure S3: Effect of $\sigma_{\text{NT-OW}}$ (see section 1) on observed permeation rates.

4. Simulation setup details

Table 2. List of simulation systems and runtime considered in this study

| Nanotube (n,m) | Length (nm) | $\epsilon_{\text{NT-OW}}$ range (kcal/mol) | Equilibration time (ps) | Production time (ns) | Number of water molecules |
|----------------|-------------|--|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| (6,6) | 1.34 | 0.02-0.2 | 200 | 15 | 1541 |
| (7,7) | 1.34 | 0.02-0.2 | 200 | 15 | 1924 |
| (8,8) | 1.34 | 0.02-0.2 | 200 | 15 | 2346 |
| (9,9) | 1.34 | 0.02-0.2 | 200 | 15 | 2910 |
| (12,12) | 1.34 | 0.02-0.2 | 200 | 15 | 4972 |
| (12,12) | 1.34 | 0.04-0.06 | 200 | 100 | 4972 |
| (6,6) | 5.6 | 0.02-0.2 | 400 | 30 | 1706 |