

# SI: A streamlined, general approach for computing ligand binding free energies and its application to GPCR-bound cholesterol

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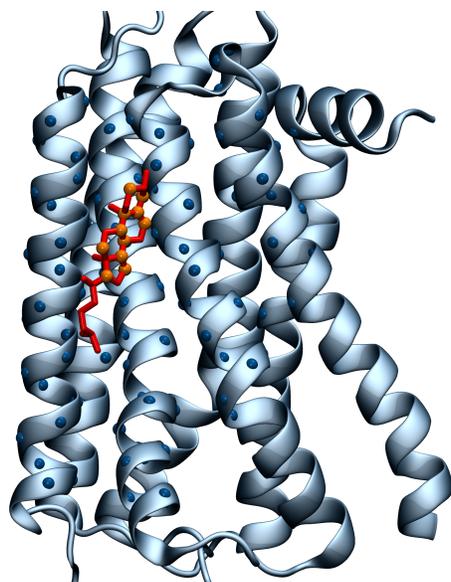
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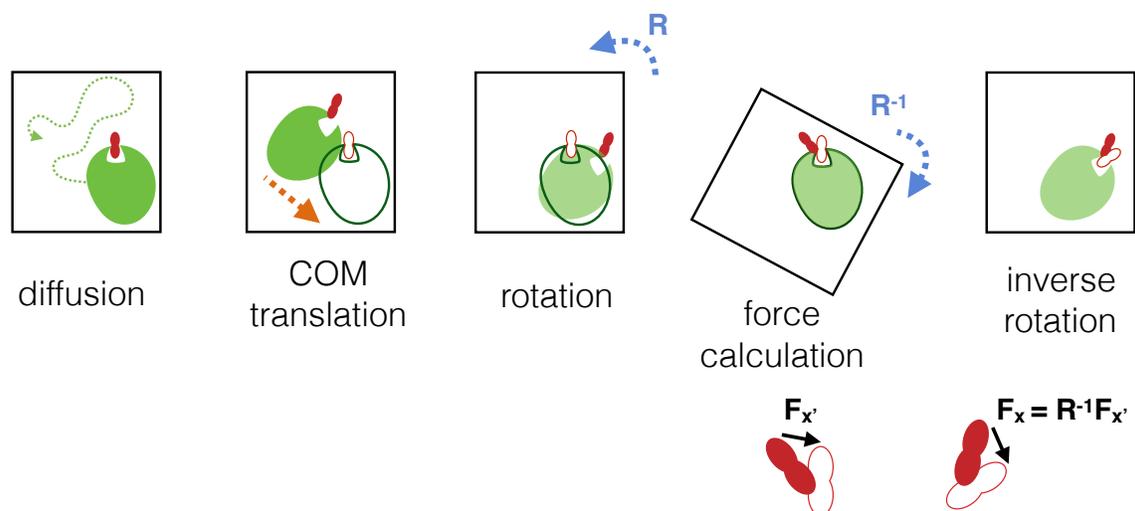
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**Figure S1. Definition of a distance-to-bound-configuration coordinate.** The  $\beta_2$ -adrenergic receptor is rendered in blue as ribbons, bound cholesterol in red. Atoms of cholesterol and the receptor involved in defining the DBC coordinate are shown as orange and blue spheres, respectively.



**Figure S2. Rotations and translations in calculation of a distance-to-bound-configuration coordinate.** A) The green receptor with red ligand bound diffuses away from its initial (reference) configuration. B) The center of mass (COM) is translated back to the reference position. C) The optimal rotation operation  $\mathbf{R}$  for aligning the protein onto the reference coordinates is determined. D) A force is derived from the restraint potential, using the RMSD between the ligand and its reference coordinates. E) The direction of the force vector is inversely rotated with  $\mathbf{R}^{-1}$

		$\beta 2$ adrenergic	5HT-2B	$\mu$ Opioid
$\Delta G_r = k_B T \ln \frac{Z_r^\Delta}{Z_g^\Delta Z_b^-}$	Replica 1(kcal/mol)	34.4	25.6	23.1
	Replica 2(kcal/mol)	33.9	25.2	25.7
	Replica 3(kcal/mol)	34.5	27.0	25.7
	Arithmetic Mean(kcal/mol)	34.3	25.9	24.8
	Standard Error(kcal/mol)	0.2	0.5	0.9
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$\frac{Z_r^\Delta}{Z_g^\Delta Z_b^-}$	Replica 1	2E+25	7E+18	1E+17
	Replica 2	9E+24	4E+18	8E+18
	Replica 3	2E+25	7E+19	8E+18
	Arithmetic Mean	2E+25	3E+19	6E+18
	Standard Error	5E+24	2E+19	3E+18
	Geometric Mean	2E+25	1E+19	2E+18
	<hr/>			
$x_{50}$	Replica 1	5E-10	2E-03	
	Replica 2	1E-09	3E-03	1E-03
	Replica 3	4E-09	1E-04	1E-03
	Arithmetic Mean	2E-09	2E-03	1E-03
	Standard Error	1E-09	8E-04	
	Geometric Mean	1E-09	8E-04	1E-03
	Determined using single shaded Geometric Mean	6E-10	1E-03	6E-03

**Table S1. Dispersion in protein decoupling  $\left(\frac{Z_r^\Delta}{Z_g^\Delta Z_b^-}\right)$  calculations across replicas, and resulting uncertainty in  $x_{50}$ .** Shaded row corresponds to values in Table 6. For values of  $\left(\frac{Z_r^\Delta}{Z_g^\Delta Z_b^-}\right)$  weaker than  $10^{18}$ , no  $x_{50}$  could be predicted, because occupancy was expected to plateau below 50%.