

Free Energy Calculations — MM PBSA MM GBSA FEP — Hands-on

Learn how to estimate binding free energies for protein–ligand and protein–protein systems using MM-PBSA, MM-GBSA and introductory FEP style workflows. From MD trajectory preparation and definition of energy terms to convergence checks, uncertainty estimation and interpretation limits, you will construct free energy protocols that complement docking and MD and are suitable for decision support and publication.

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Session 1

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Concepts, Thermodynamic Cycles & Protocol Choice

Binding free energy fundamentals

[ΔG, enthalpy, entropy ideas](#) [absolute vs relative free energies](#) [end point vs alchemical views](#)

Thermodynamic cycles for binding

[solution vs gas phase cycles](#) [protein–ligand and](#)

mutation scenarios | [link to experiment \(Kd, IC50\)](#)

Choosing between MM PBSA, MM GBSA and FEP

[data requirements and cost](#) | [expected accuracy regimes](#) | [screening vs refinement use cases](#)

Session 2

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MM PBSA / MM GBSA Workflows

Preparing MD trajectories for analysis

[equilibration checks and frame selection](#) | [stripping waters and ions as required](#) | [handling periodicity and imaging](#)

Energy components in MM PBSA / GBSA

[molecular mechanics \(E_vdw, E_elec\)](#) | [polar & nonpolar solvation terms](#) | [entropy estimation strategies overview](#)

Running and interpreting MM PBSA / GBSA

[single vs multiple trajectory approaches](#) | [per residue decomposition ideas](#) | [linking \$\Delta G\$ trends to SAR and mutations](#)

Session 3

[Fee: Rs 20720](#) | [Apply Now](#)

FEP Concepts, Setup & Checks

Alchemical FEP foundations

[alchemical vs physical pathways](#) | [\$\lambda\$ windows and soft core potentials](#) | [relative binding free energy use cases](#)

System and perturbation setup

mapping ligands and mutations topology and
parameter consistency choosing number of windows

Convergence, overlap and error estimates

monitoring λ window overlaps BAR / MBAR style
estimators (concepts) run length and hysteresis
checks

Session 4

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Best Practices, Uncertainty & Reporting

Uncertainty, replicates and robustness

technical vs physical replicates confidence intervals
and error bars sensitivity to protocol choices

Integrating free energies into decision making

ranking ligands or variants combining with docking
and SAR data flagging borderline and noisy cases

Documentation, plots and publication readiness

tabulating ΔG and components correlation plots vs
experiment protocol descriptions for reviewers