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#### A Comprehensive Exploration of the Conformational and Energetic Landscape of a Rotaxane System: A Molecular Dynamics Study

Kentaro Bodzewski Concordia University - Portland

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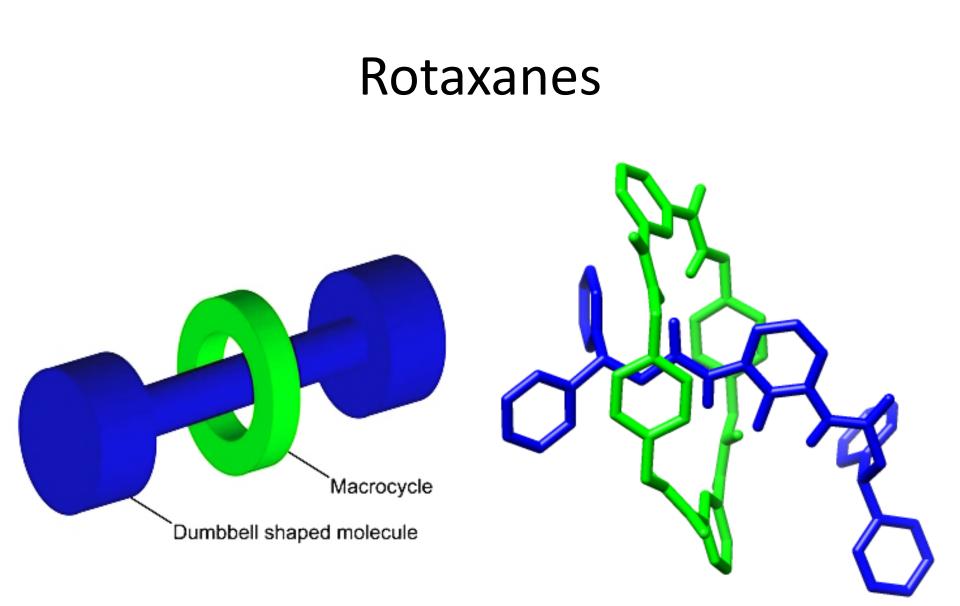
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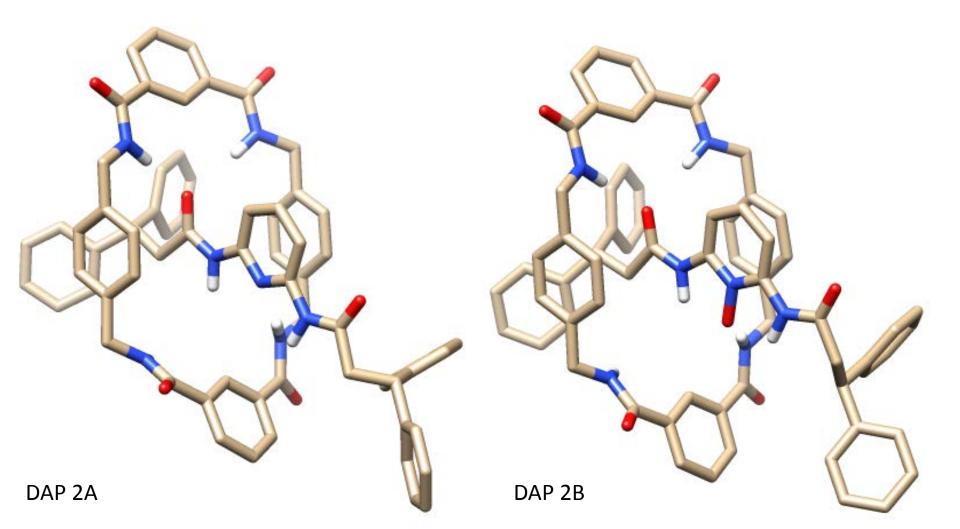
A Comprehensive Exploration of the Conformational and Energetic Landscape of a Rotaxane System: A Molecular Dynamics Study.

Ken Bodzewski



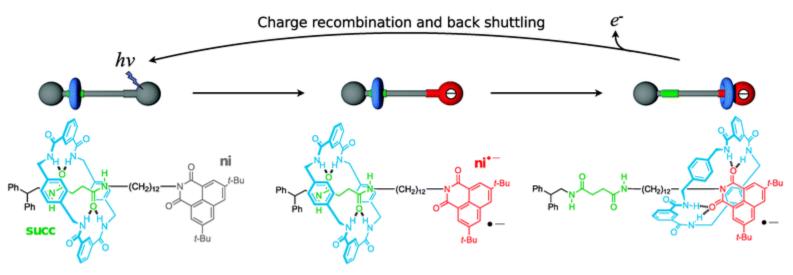
(Rotaxane. (2015, September 7). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 06:55, February 27, 2016, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rotaxane&oldid=679901561)

# Di(acylamino)pyridine (DAP) based rotaxanes



#### Relevance

- Rotaxanes are being used more and more.
  - Molecular machines.
    - Switches to turn them "on" and "off"
    - Rotation is often paired with a sliding or "shuttling."

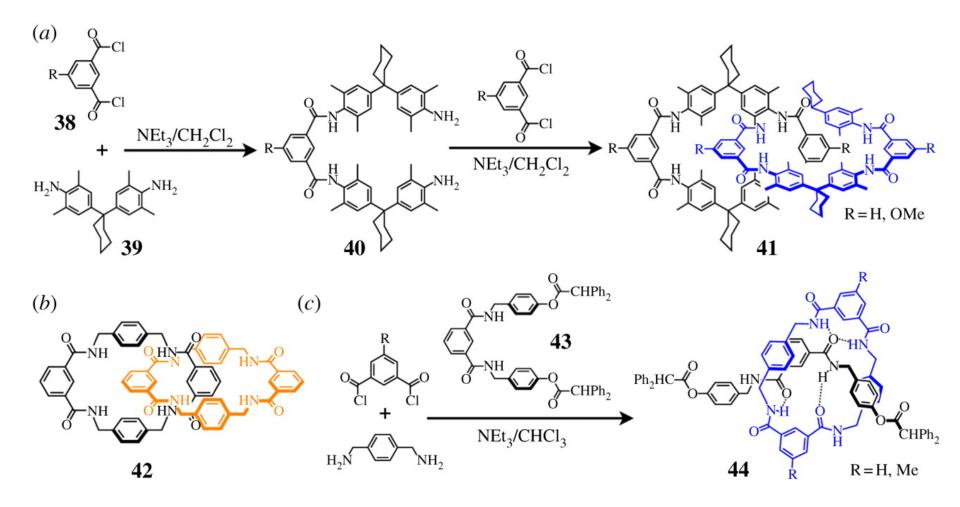


(Matthijs R. Panman, et al. Time-resolved vibrational spectroscopy of a molecular shuttle, Phys. Chem. 14, 2014)

#### Relevance

- Very difficult to make, low yield.
  - Molecular Dynamics as a way to study them before synthesizing them.
    - Use it as a predictor for how your rotaxane will respond.

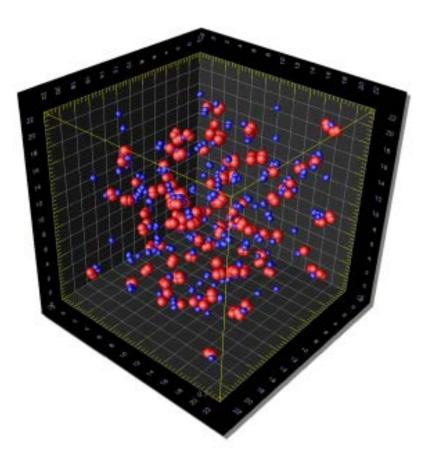
#### Relevance



(Gokhan Barin, Ross S. Forgan, J. Fraser Stoddart Proc. R. Soc. A 2012 468 2849-2880; DOI: 10.1098/rspa.2012.0117. Published 24 August 2012)

## **Molecular Dynamics**

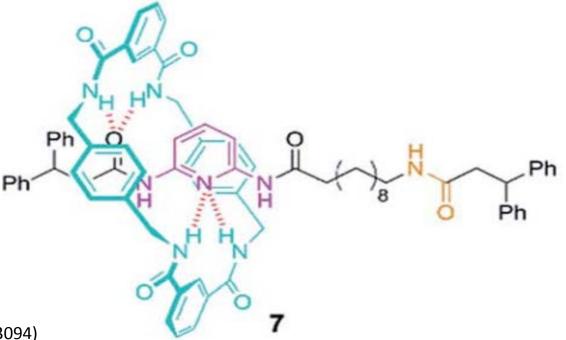
- Classical (Newtonian) mechanics.
- NAMD.
- VMD.
- Roughly 2,000 atoms in our systems.



(http://www.bgce.de/curriculum/projects/moldyn/)

#### **Previous Study**

- Used NMR spectroscopy to find energy required for rotaxane pirouette.
- Looked at three different rotaxanes.
  - We studied two of these three.
- Solvated in chloroform.



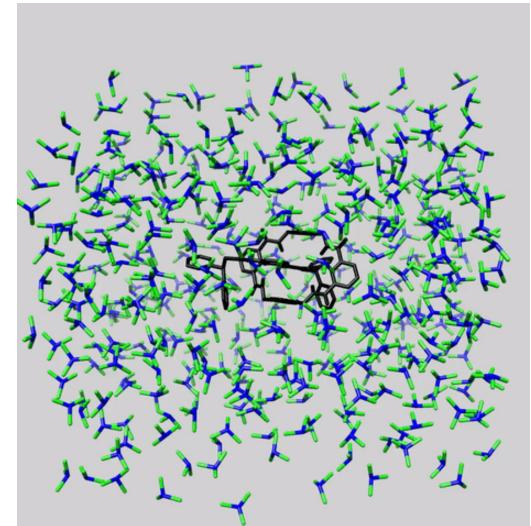
(Martinez-Cuezva, et al. <u>Chem. Sci.</u>, 2015, 6, 3087-3094)

#### Procedure

- R.E.D.D. server to derive partial charges on our rotaxanes.
- System was created through the use of AmberTools.

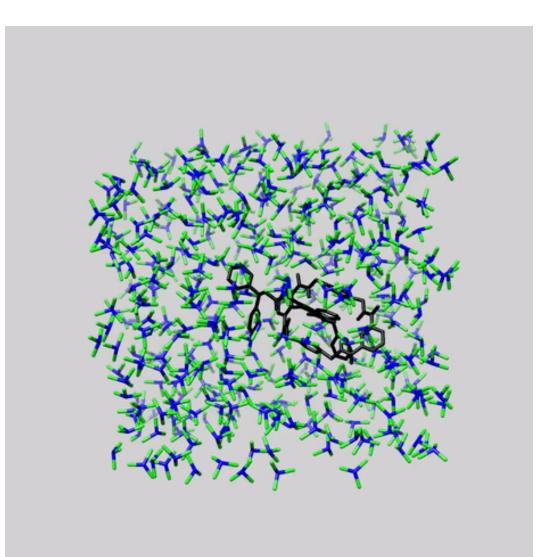
#### Procedure

- Rotaxane held still while chloroform is relaxed.
- Whole system is relaxed.



#### Procedure

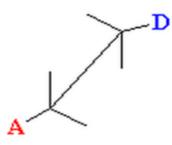
- Slowly heat up the system at constant volume.
- Equilibrate for 50
  nanoseconds.



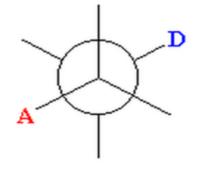
(visualized with chimera)

## **Dihedral Angle**

- Angle made up of 4 atoms.
  - Created by first and fourth atom, second and third atom act as an axis.
- Defined three atoms on the thread and one on the macrocycle.
- Tried countless combinations.



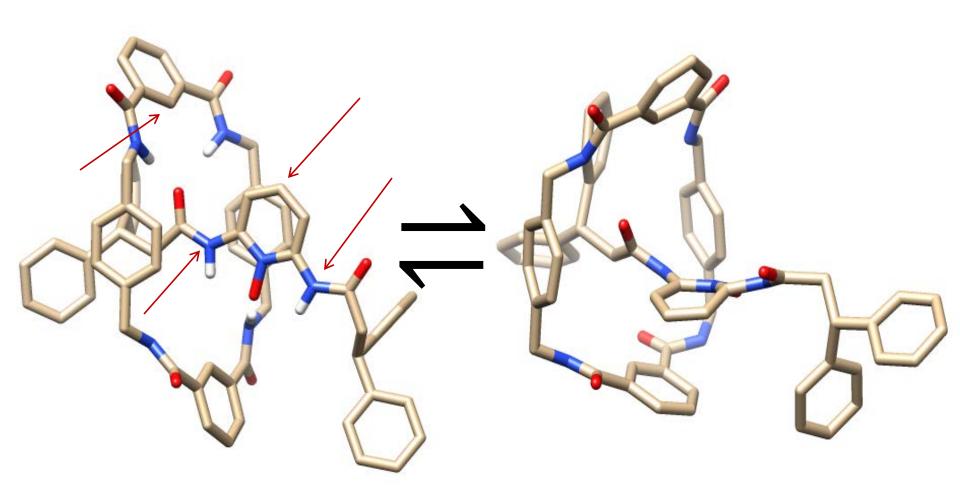
Sawhorse projection



Newman projection

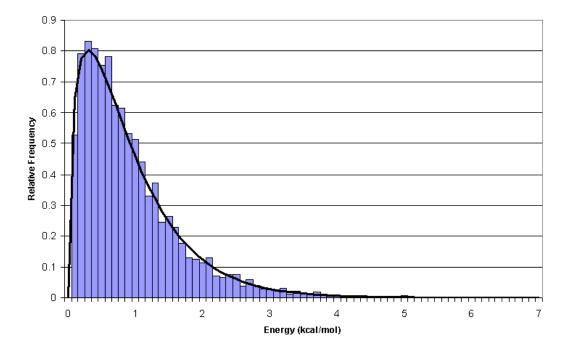
(http://tigger.uic.edu/~kbruzik/text/chapter6.htm)

#### Simulated Rotation



## **Biased Sampling**

- Adaptive Biasing Force, Metadynamics, and Umbrella Sampling.
- Apply force on the system to allow molecules to go through otherwise unfavorable conformations.
- Took 3-4 hours to produce 1 nanosecond simulation.
- Much more efficient way of mapping free energy barriers.

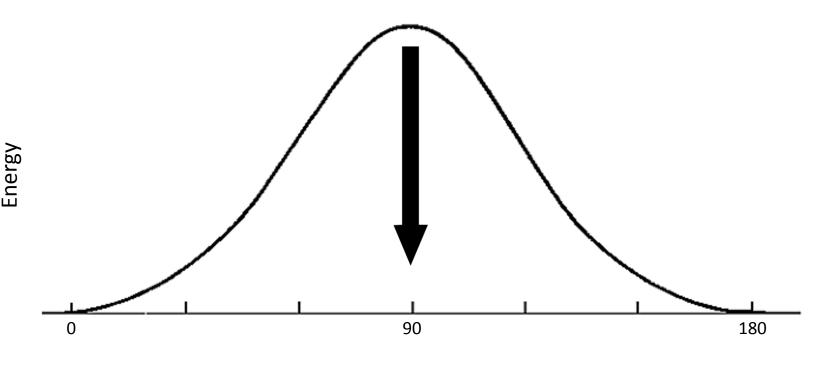


Maxwell-Boltzmann Energy Distribution

(James C. Phillips, et al. Scalable molecular dynamics with NAMD. *Journal of Computational Chemistry*, 26:1781-1802, 2005.)

#### **Adaptive Biasing Force**

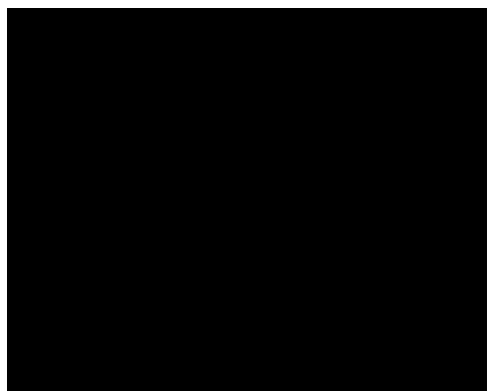
- Adaptive Biasing Force
  - Flattening out energy barriers to allow full sampling.



Dihedral Angle (degrees)

### Metadynamics

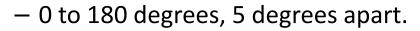
- Metadynamics
  - Flooding low energy areas to fill up energy valleys.
- Allows for more sampling at high energy states.

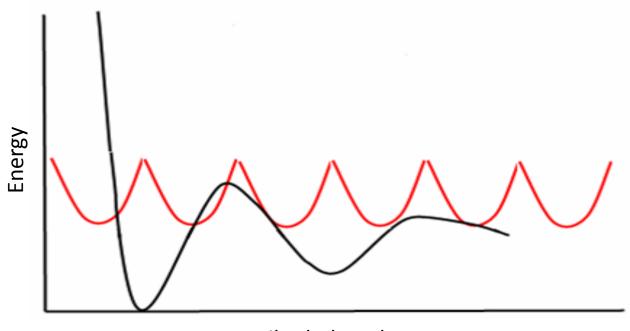


(http://people.sissa.it/~laio/Research/Res\_metadynamics.php)

## **Umbrella Sampling**

- Umbrella Sampling
  - Multiple runs held at different angle ranges.

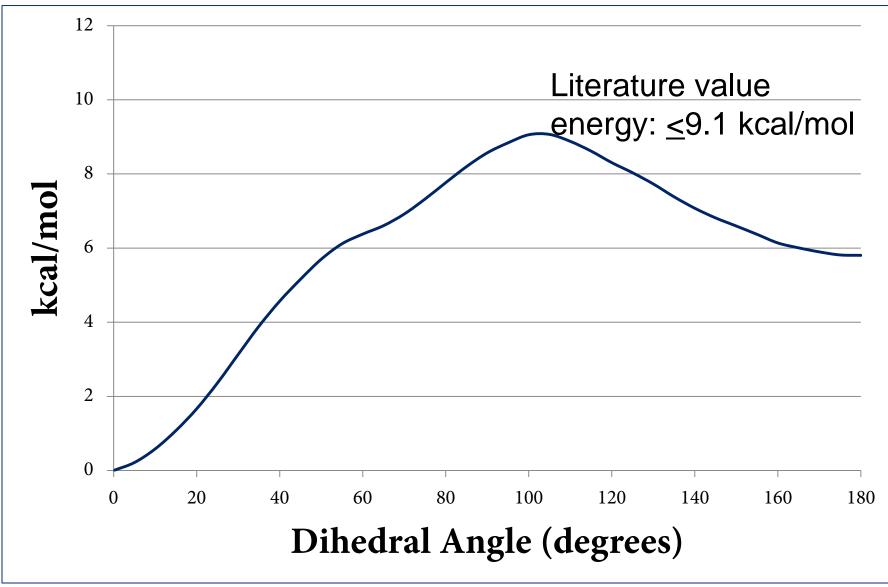




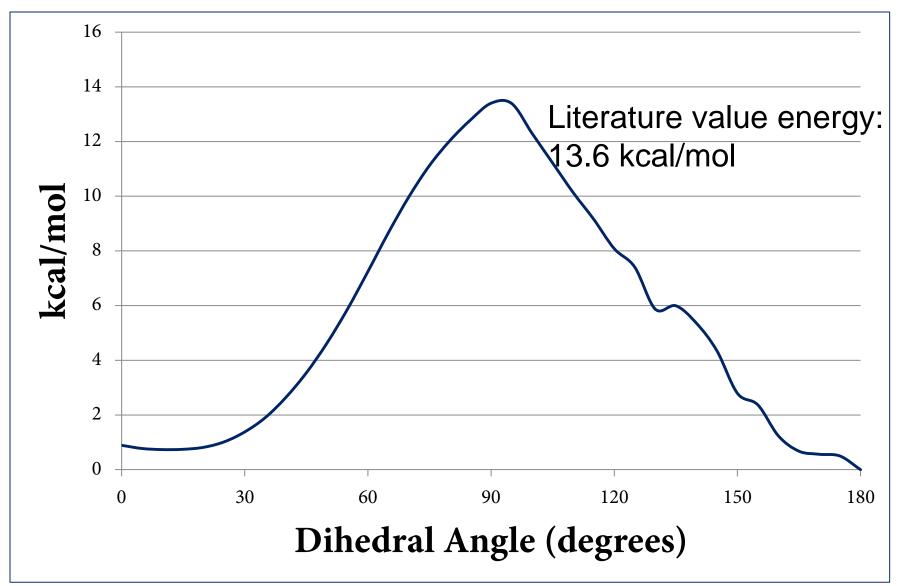
Dihedral Angle

(http://w3.iams.sinica.edu.tw/lab/jlli/thesis\_andy/node17.html)

#### DAP 2A (ABF)

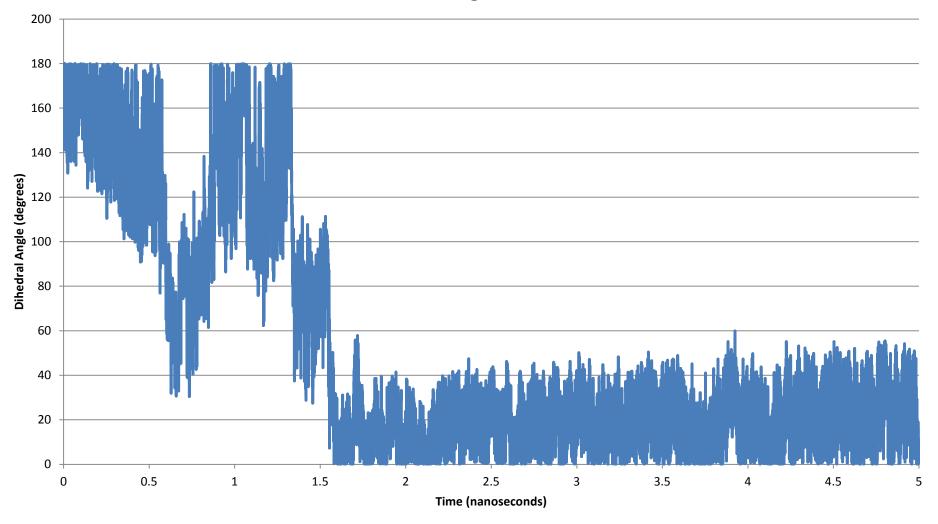


### DAP 2B (ABF)



### Sampling

**Dihedral Angle vs Time** 

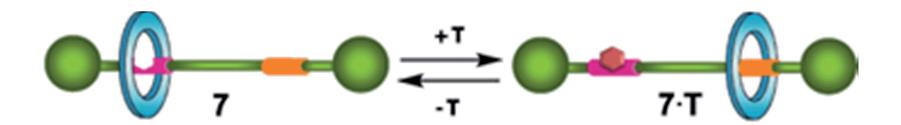


#### **Future Direction**

• Run ABF with a distance variable added.

- Way of measuring energy involved in shuttling.

• Apply bias to allow thread to shuttle through macrocycle.



(Martinez-Cuezva, et al. <u>Chem. Sci.</u>, 2015, 6, 3087-3094)

#### Acknowledgements

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Dr. Andrew Johnson

#### References

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