

# Variational Approach to Markov Processes (VAMP)

Identification of molecular order parameters and states  
from nonreversible MD simulations

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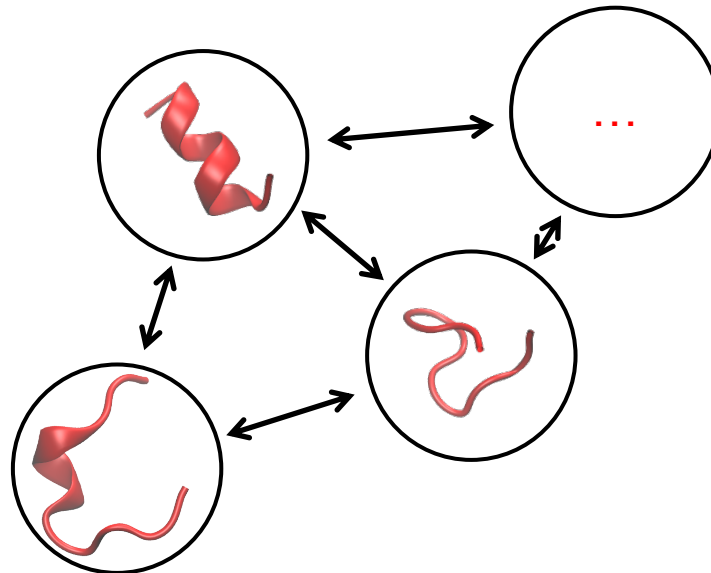
Computer Tutorial in Markov Modeling

18-FEB-2020

# Recap: the spectral theory of MSMs

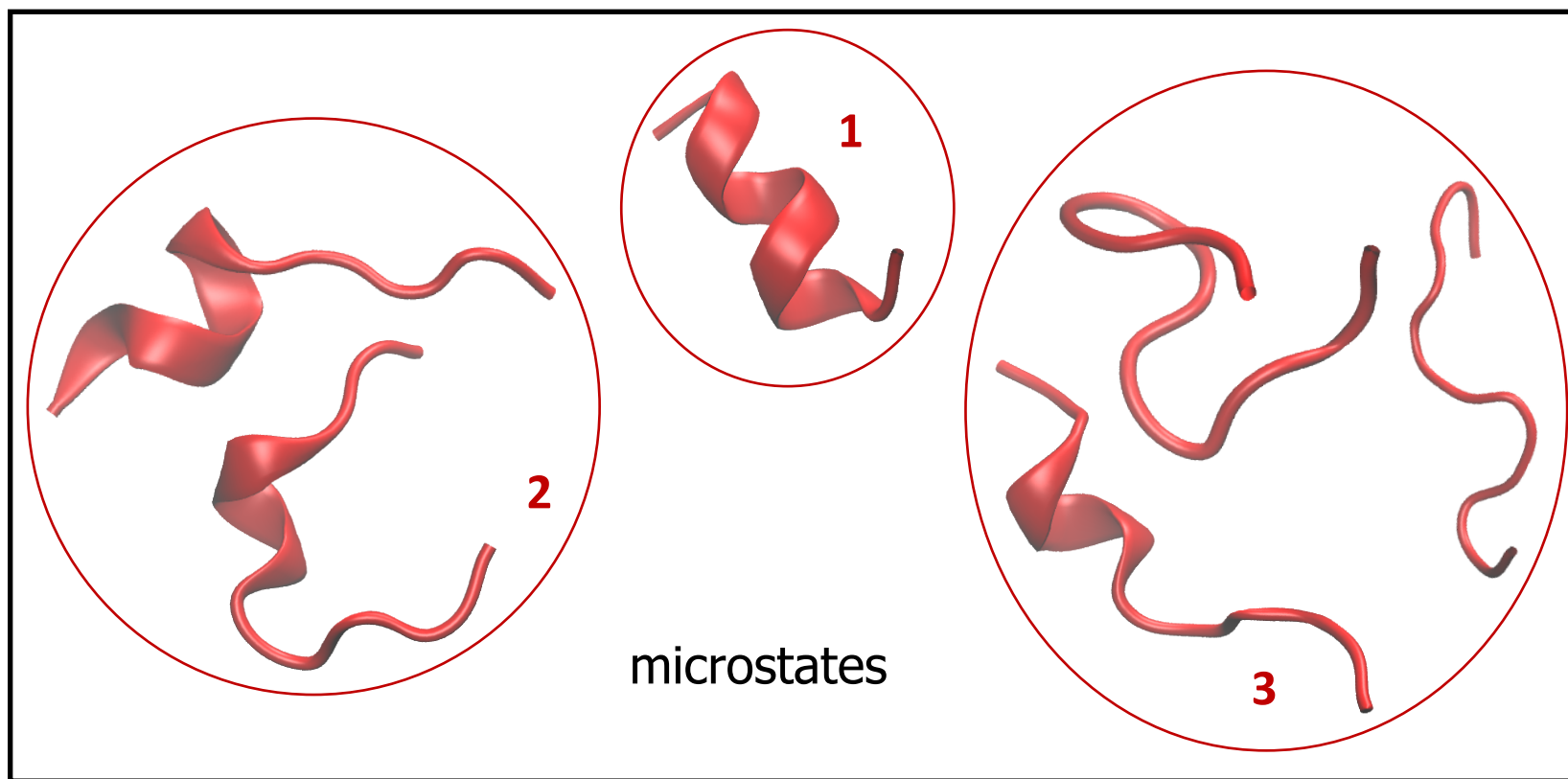
- A Markov state model consists of:
  1. a set of states  $\{s_i\}_{i=1,\dots,N}$
  2. (conditional) transition probabilities between these states

$$T_{ij} = \mathbb{P}(s(t + \tau) = j \mid s(t) = i)$$



# Markov state models: estimation

- Markov model estimation starts with:  
grouping of geometrically<sup>[1]</sup> or kinetically<sup>[2]</sup> related conformations into *clusters* or *microstates*



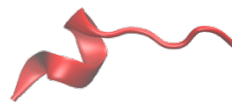






[1] Prinz *et al.*, *J. Chem. Phys.* **134**, 174105 (2011)

[2] Pérez-Hernández, Paul, *et al.*, *J. Chem. Phys.* **139**, 015102 (2013)

# Markov state models: estimation

- We then assign every conformation in a MD trajectory to a microstate.

time $t$	$\tau$	$2\tau$	$3\tau$	$4\tau$	$5\tau$	$6\tau$	$7\tau$
trajectory							
microstate $s$	1	1	2	3	3	2	3

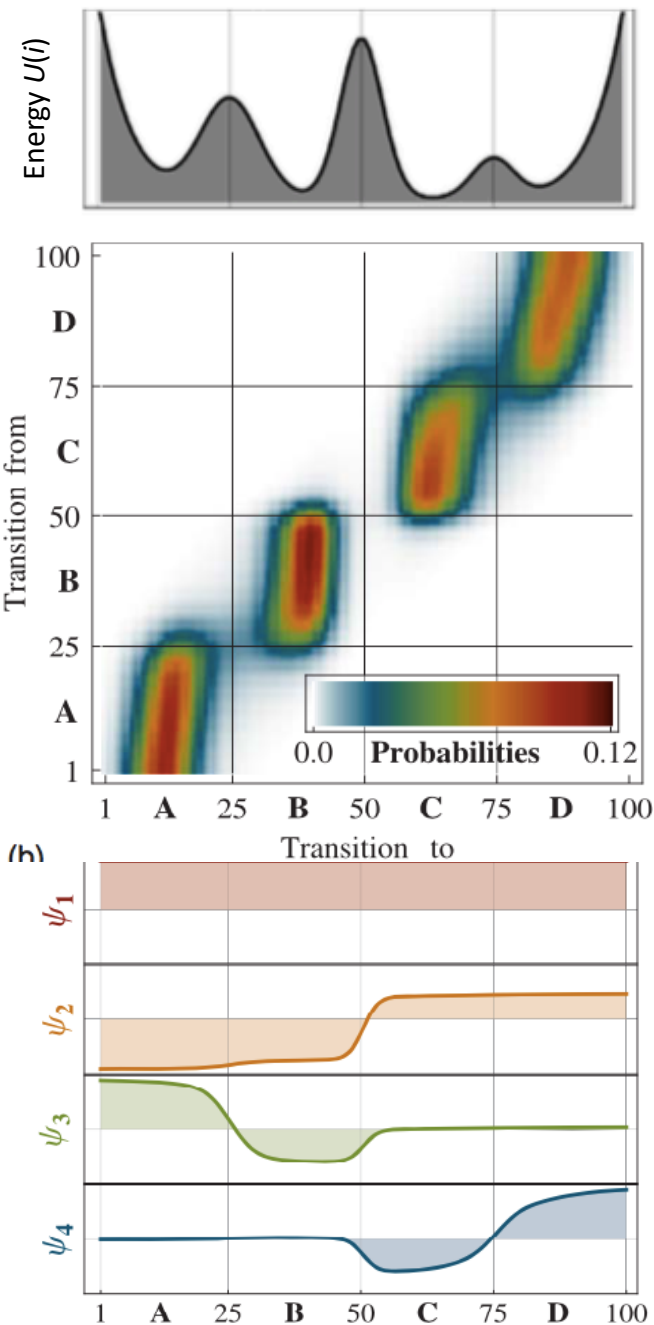
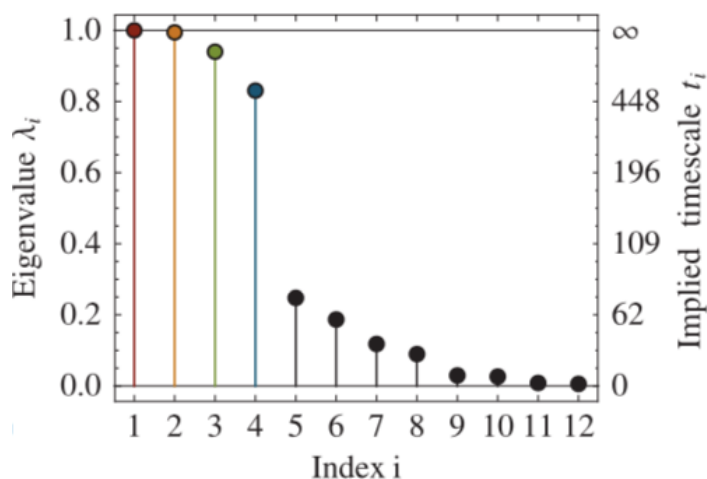
- We count transitions between microstates and tabulate them in a count matrix  $\mathbf{C}$   
e. g.  $C_{11} = 1, C_{12} = 1, C_{23} = 2, \dots$
- We estimate the transition probabilities  $T_{ij}$  from  $\mathbf{C}$ .
  - Naïve estimator:  $\hat{T}_{ij} = C_{ij} / \sum_k C_{ik}$
  - Maximum-likelihood estimator [1]

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# The spectrum of a reversible T matrix

- The large eigenvalues of the transition matrix and their corresponding eigenvectors encode the information about the slow molecular processes.
- Flat regions of the eigenvectors allow to identify the metastable states.



# Both MSMs and TICA make use of the same spectral method

The spectral method (working with eigenvalue and eigenvector) is not limited to Markov state models.

- Estimation of MSMs

$$T(\tau) = \frac{C_{ij}(\tau)}{C_i}$$

- In matrix notation

$$\mathbf{T}(\tau) = \mathbf{C}(0)^{-1}\mathbf{C}(\tau)$$

- Eigenvalue problem:

$$\mathbf{T}(\tau)\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{C}(0)^{-1}\mathbf{C}(\tau)\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{C}(\tau)\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{C}(0)\mathbf{v}$$

- The last equation is known as the TICA problem. All equations generalize to the case where  $\mathbf{C}(0)$  and  $\mathbf{C}(\tau)$  are not count matrices, but correlation matrices.
- The indices  $i, j$  don't longer refer to states but to *features*.

VAC and VAMP

# Variational approach to conformational dynamics VAC (Rayleigh-Ritz for classical dynamics)

Any autocorrelation is bounded by the system-specific number  $\hat{\lambda}$ , that is related to the system-specific autocorrelation time  $\hat{t}$  by  $\hat{\lambda} = e^{-\tau/\hat{t}}$ .

$$\text{acf}(\psi; \tau) := \frac{\sum_t^{T-\tau} \psi(x(t))\psi(x(t+\tau))}{\sum_t^{T-\tau} \psi(x(t))\psi(x(t))} = \frac{\langle \psi, T\psi \rangle_\pi}{\langle \psi, \psi \rangle_\pi} \leq \hat{\lambda}$$

- The maximum is achieved if  $\psi$  is an eigenfunction of  $T$ .

**Proof:**

Expand  $\psi$  in an (orthonormal) eigen-basis of  $T$ :

$$\psi(x) = \sum_i c_i \phi_i(x), \quad \langle \psi, \psi \rangle_\pi = \sum_i c_i^2 > 0$$

$$\langle \psi, T\psi \rangle_\pi - \hat{\lambda} \langle \psi, \psi \rangle_\pi = \sum_i c_i^2 \lambda_i - \sum_i c_i^2 \hat{\lambda} = \sum_i c_i^2 (\lambda_i - \hat{\lambda}) \leq 0$$

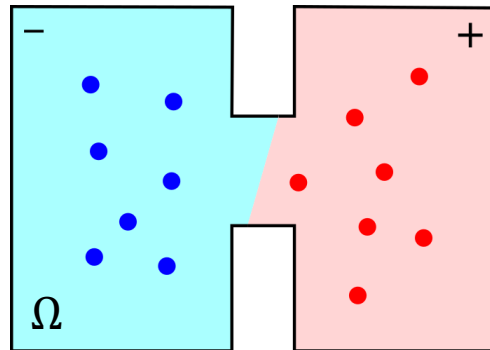
- If  $\hat{\lambda}$  is  $\max_i \lambda_i$  the largest of  $T$ 's eigenvalues, the inequality holds.
- Result can only be zero if  $c_i = 0$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $\lambda_j = \max_i \lambda_i \Rightarrow \psi(x) \propto \phi_{\max}(x)$
- Remark: the variational approach generalizes to the optimization of multiple eigenfunctions.  $\hat{\lambda}$  is replaced by the sum of the eigenvalues  $R_k = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i$



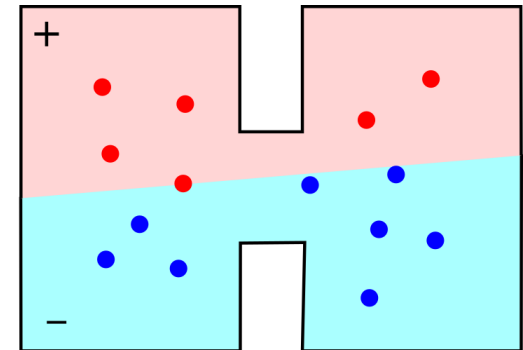
# Interpretation of variational principle

- Pick some test function  $\chi_{\text{test}}(\mathbf{x})$  and pick some test conformations  $\mathbf{x}_{i,\text{initial}}$  distributed according to equilibrium distribution  $\pi$

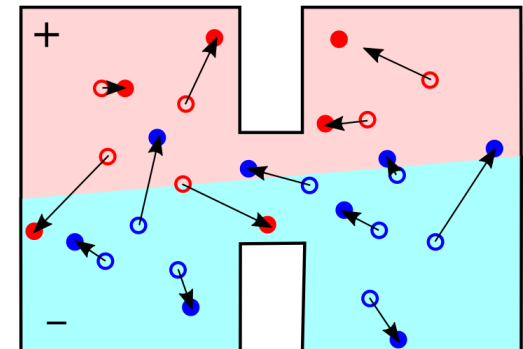
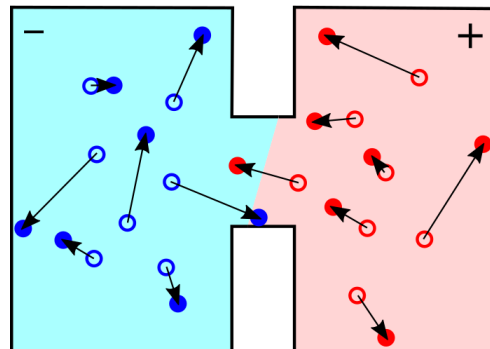
good test function



bad test function

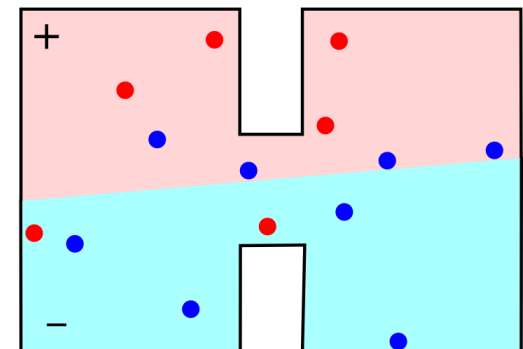
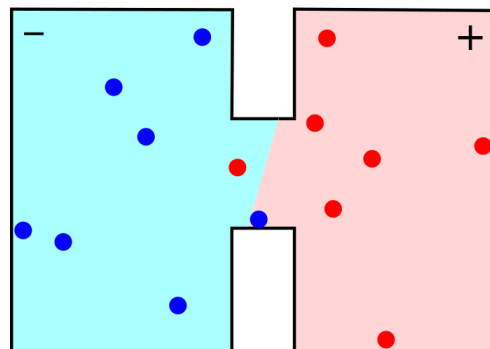


- Propagate  $\mathbf{x}_{i,\text{initial}}$  with the MD integrator. Call result  $\mathbf{x}_{i,\text{final}}$ .



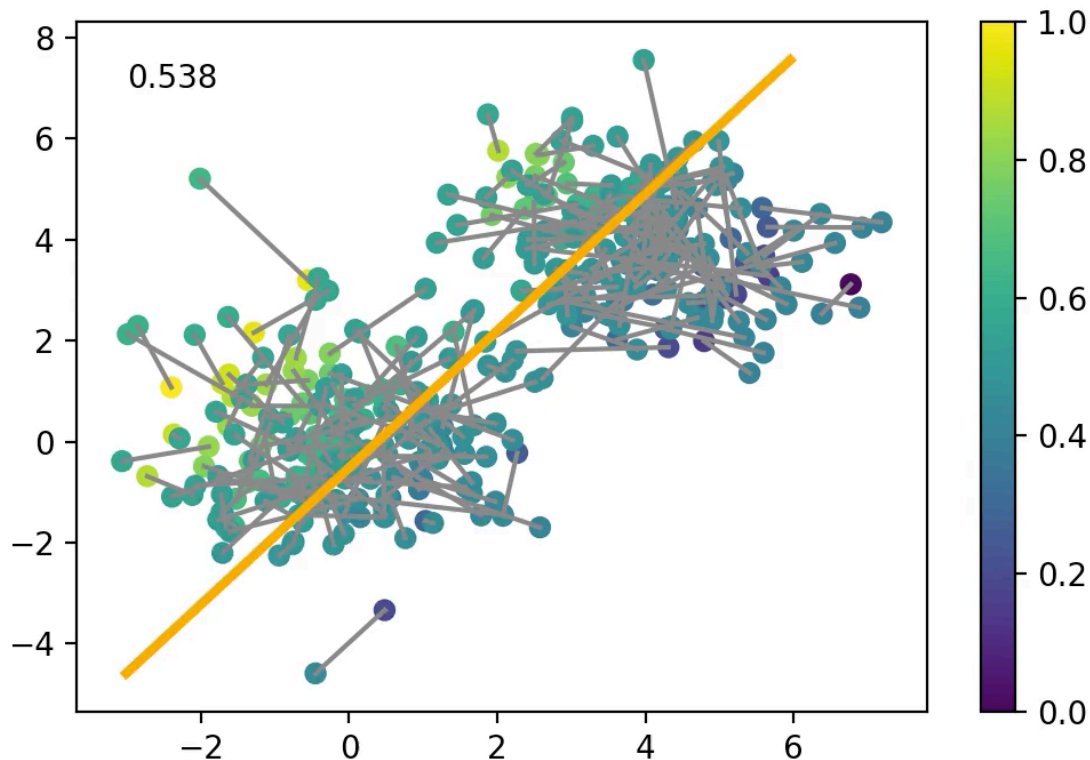
- Correlate  $\chi_{\text{test}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{initial}})$  with  $\chi_{\text{test}}(\mathbf{x}_{\text{final}})$ .

$$\text{score} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (\chi(\mathbf{x}_{i,\text{initial}}) - \bar{\chi}) \cdot (\chi(\mathbf{x}_{i,\text{final}}) - \bar{\chi})}{\sum_{i=1}^N (\chi(\mathbf{x}_{i,\text{initial}}) - \bar{\chi}) \cdot (\chi(\mathbf{x}_{i,\text{initial}}) - \bar{\chi})}$$

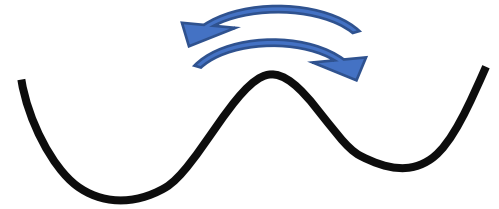


# Gradient-based optimization of function parameters

Parameters  $\mathbf{p}$  of  $\chi_{\text{test}}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{p})$  can be optimized with gradient-based techniques. Make use of the gradient of the VAC or VAMP score, the gradient of the test function and off-the-shelf optimizers such as ADAM or BFGS.



# Reversible dynamics



- **In equilibrium**, every trajectory is as probable as its time-reversed copy

$$\mathbb{P}(s(t + \tau) = j \text{ and } s(t) = i) = \mathbb{P}(s(t + \tau) = i \text{ and } s(t) = j)$$

$$\mathbb{P}(s(t + \tau) = j \mid s(t) = i) \mathbb{P}_{\text{eq}}(s(t) = i) = \mathbb{P}(s(t + \tau) = i \mid s(t) = j) \mathbb{P}_{\text{eq}}(s(t) = j)$$

$$\pi_i T_{ij} = \pi_j T_{ji}$$

- In mathematician's notation  $\langle \mathbf{e}_i, \mathbf{T} \mathbf{e}_j \rangle_{\pi} = \langle \mathbf{e}_j, \mathbf{T} \mathbf{e}_i \rangle_{\pi}$   
where  $\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle_{\pi} = \sum_i x_i y_i \pi_i$
- $\mathbf{T}$  is a symmetric matrix w.r.t. to a non-standard scalar product.
- $\mathbf{T}$  has real eigenvalues and eigenvectors (linear algebra I).

# The problem with nonreversible systems

- $R_k = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i$  where  $\lambda_i$  are the true eigenvalues.
- For nonreversible dynamics  $\langle \mathbf{e}_i, \mathbf{T} \mathbf{e}_j \rangle_{\pi} \neq \langle \mathbf{e}_j, \mathbf{T} \mathbf{e}_i \rangle_{\pi}$
- There might not even be a well-defined  $\pi$ .
- Eigenvalues and eigenvectors will be complex.
- Variational principle doesn't work.  $\text{acf}(\psi) \leq \hat{\lambda} \in \mathbb{C}$  makes no sense. One can't order complex numbers on a line.
  - Optimization of models not possible
  - Feature selection not possible
- Is there any way to fix this? Can we maybe find some other operator that is related to dynamics and that is symmetric?

# A possible solution: VAMP

## Variational approach to Markov processes

- Introduce the “backward” transition matrix

$$\mathbf{T}_b := \mathbf{C}(N)^{-1} \mathbf{C}(-\tau) = \mathbf{C}(N)^{-1} \mathbf{C}^\top(\tau)$$

i.e. estimate MSM/TICA from time-reversed data, where

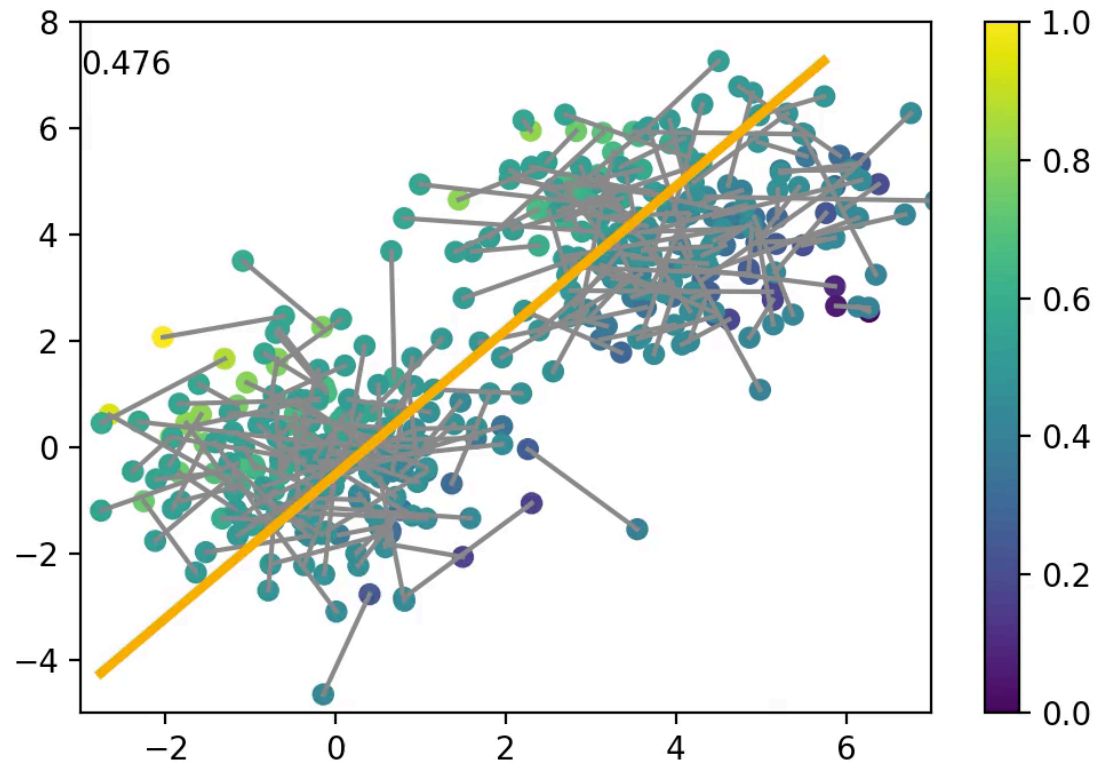
$$C_{ij}(-\tau) := \sum_{t=\tau}^N f_i(x(t-\tau)) f_j(x(t))$$

$$C_{ij}(N) := \sum_{t=\tau}^N f_i(x(t)) f_j(x(t))$$

- Introduce the forward-backward transition matrix  $\mathbf{T}_{fb} := \mathbf{T} \mathbf{T}_b$  and  $\mathbf{T}_{bf} := \mathbf{T}_b \mathbf{T}$
- Can show that  $\mathbf{T}_{fb}$  and  $\mathbf{T}_{bf}$  are symmetric *without any reference to a stationary vector* (symmetry is built into the matrices).
- Eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $\mathbf{T}_{fb}$  and  $\mathbf{T}_{bf}$  are real.
- They fulfill a variational principle  $\|\mathbf{C}^{-1/2}(0) \mathbf{C}(\tau) \mathbf{C}(N)^{-1/2}\| \leq R$

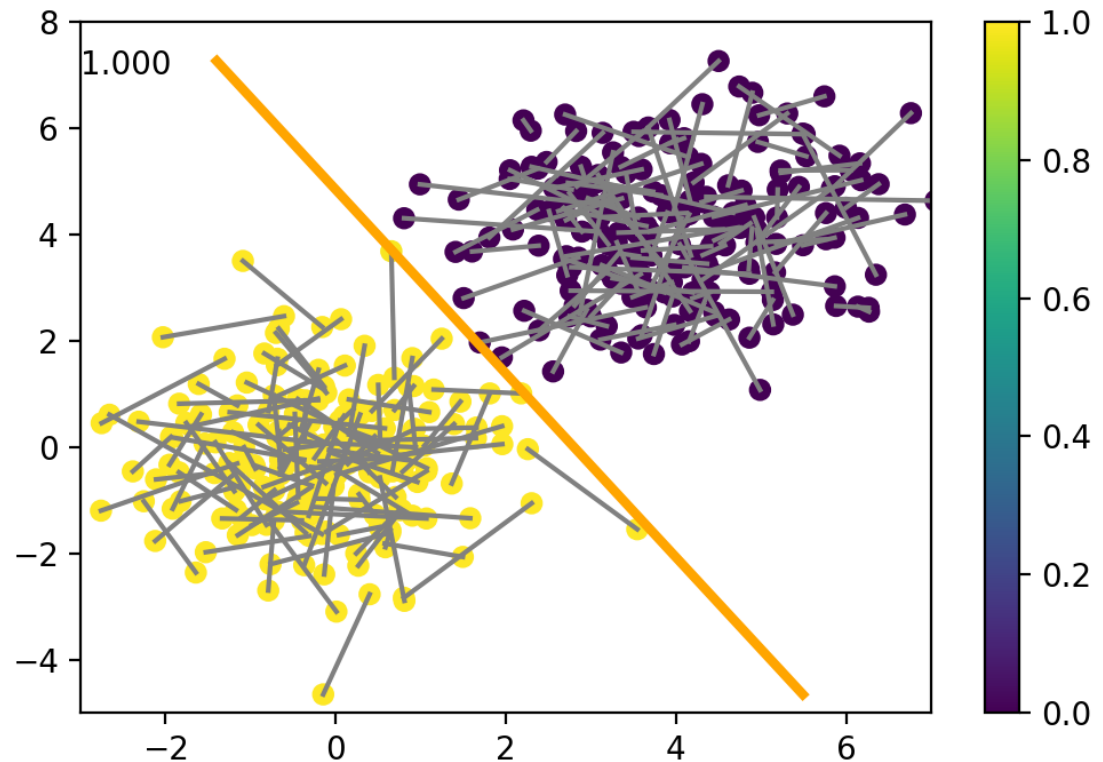
# Cross-validation

- The model parameters (in this example parameters of the line and steepness of the transition) were optimized for a particular realization of the dynamics.
- Didn't we say that the eigenfunctions and eigenvalues were an intrinsic property of the molecular system?
- So the eigenfunctions should be the same if we repeat the analysis with a second simulation of the same system.



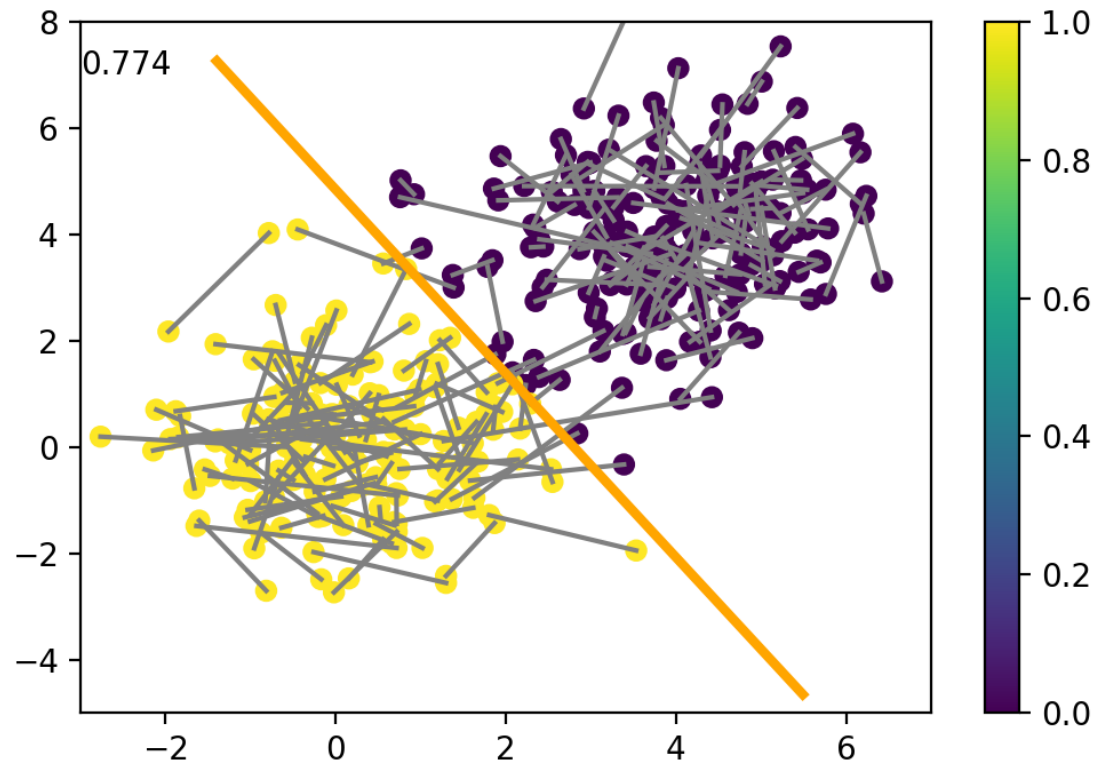
# Cross-validation

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# Cross-validation

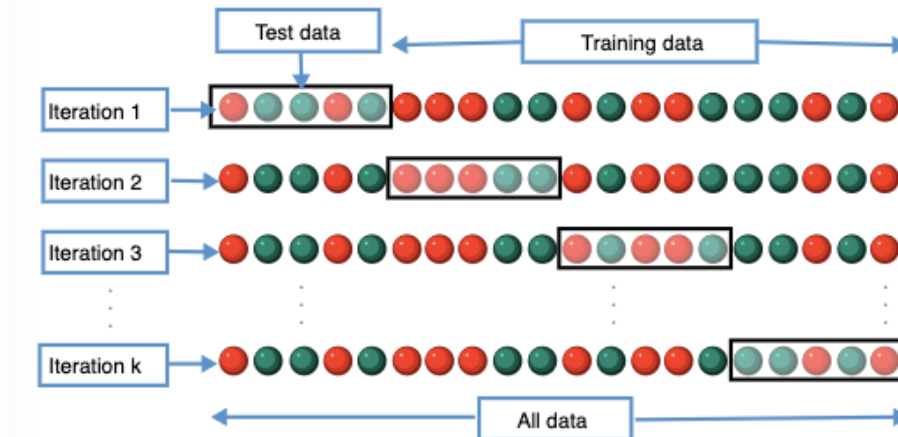
- Ideally, we want to tell if the solution is robust at a single glance by measuring the robustness with one number.
- The VAMP score or VAC score (also called GRMQ<sup>1</sup>) lends itself to this task.
- Keep all the **trained** model parameters fixed (here the line parameters and the steepness of the transition), plug in new data and recompute the **test** autocorrelation.
- The **test** autocorrelation will be lower in general, which means that the original model was fit to noise (**overfit**).





# Cross-validation

- Reporting a test-score that was computed from independent realizations is the gold standard.
- Independent realizations can be expensive to sample.
- Do the approximate  $k$ -fold (hold-out) cross-validation.
  - Split all data into **training** set and **test** sets.
  - Optimize the model parameters with the training set and test the parameters with test sets.
  - Repeat for  $k$  different divisions of the data.

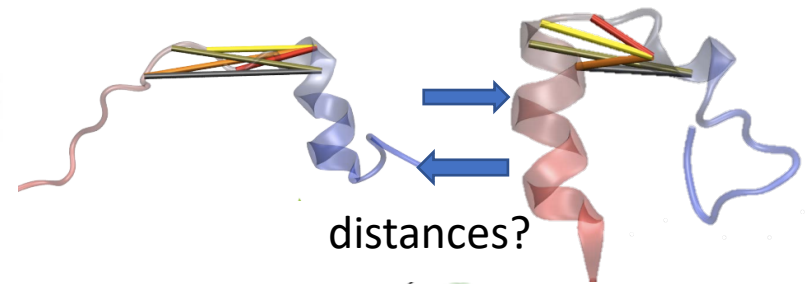
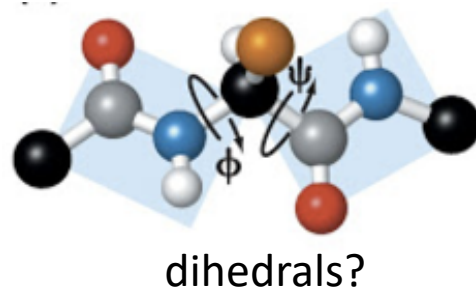
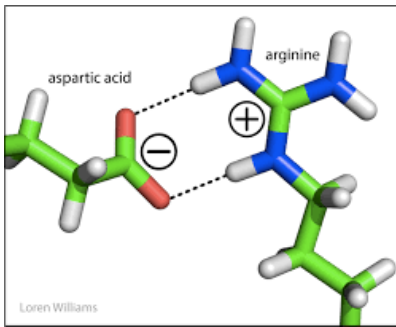


- $k$ -fold cross-validation can be tricky with highly autocorrelated time series data!

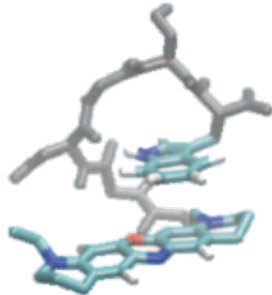
# Applications

# Application: feature selection

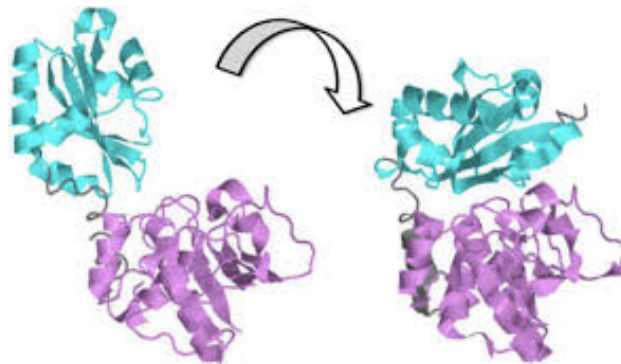
- variational principle: the higher the score the better
- Compare **test** scores for different selections of molecular features. Which selection gives best score?



contacts?



chemical intuition?

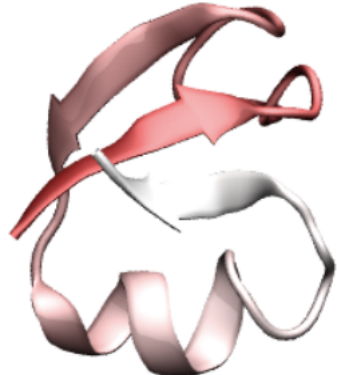


rigid body approximation?

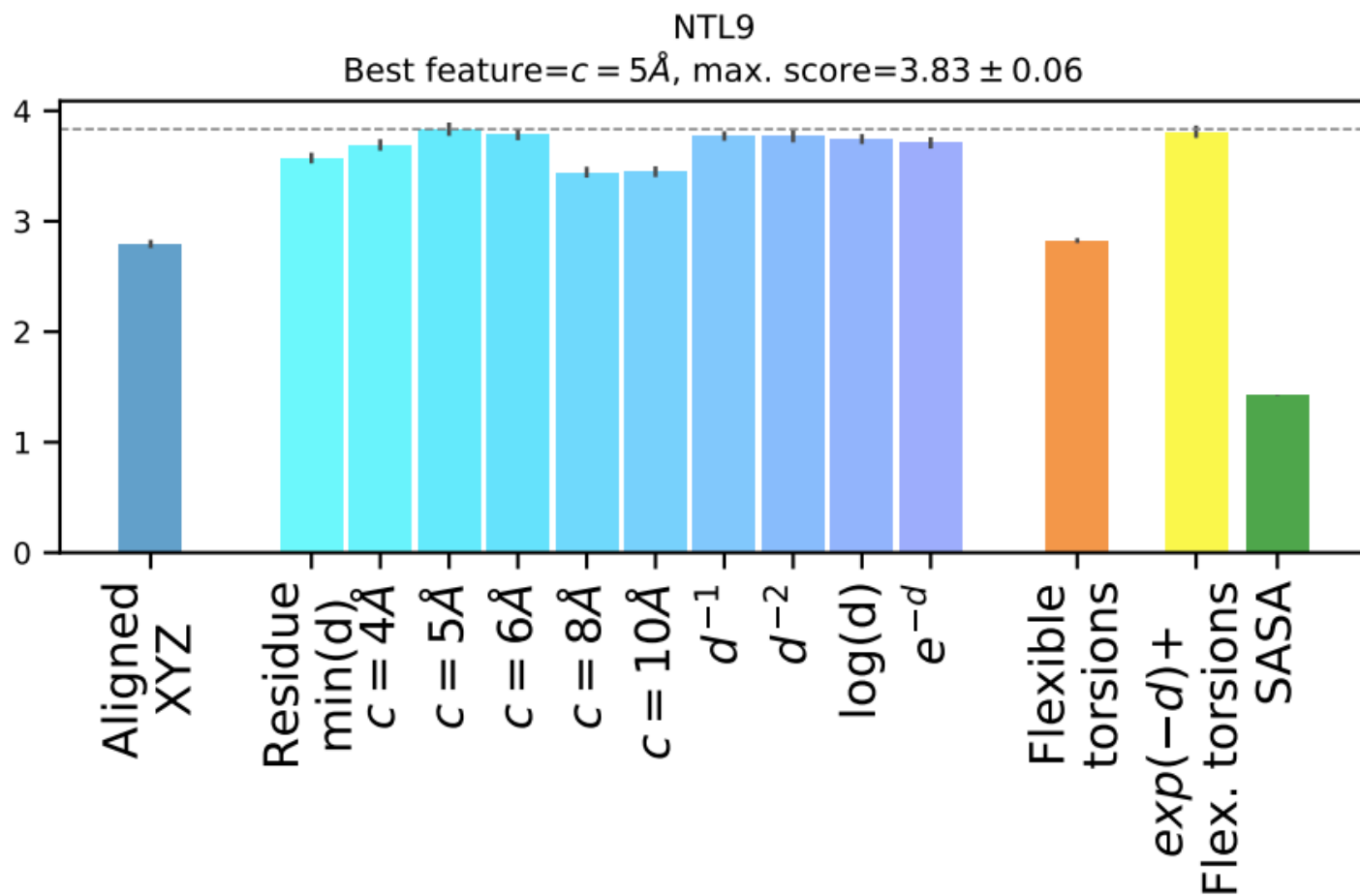


side chain flips?

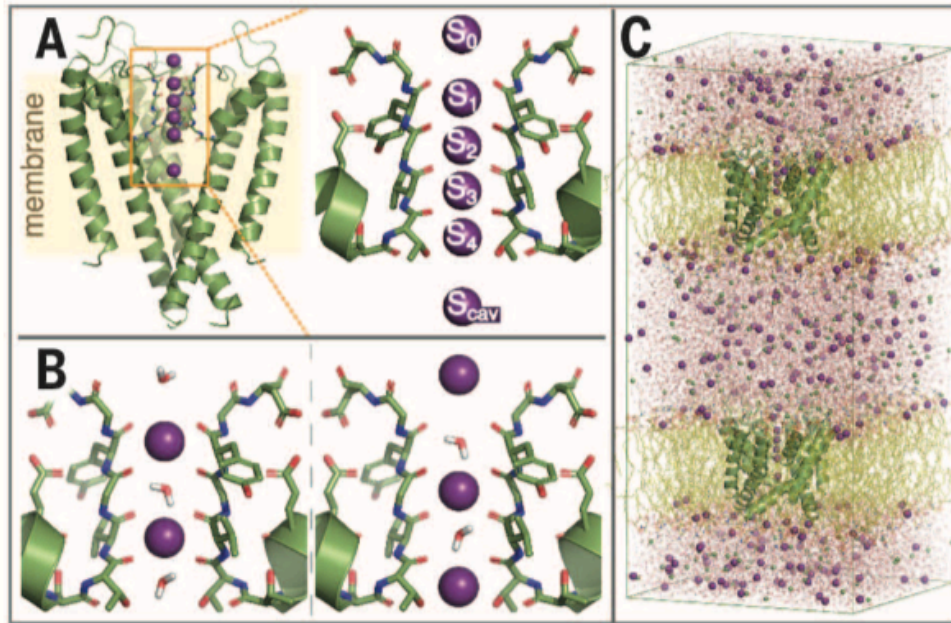
# Application: feature selection



NTL9

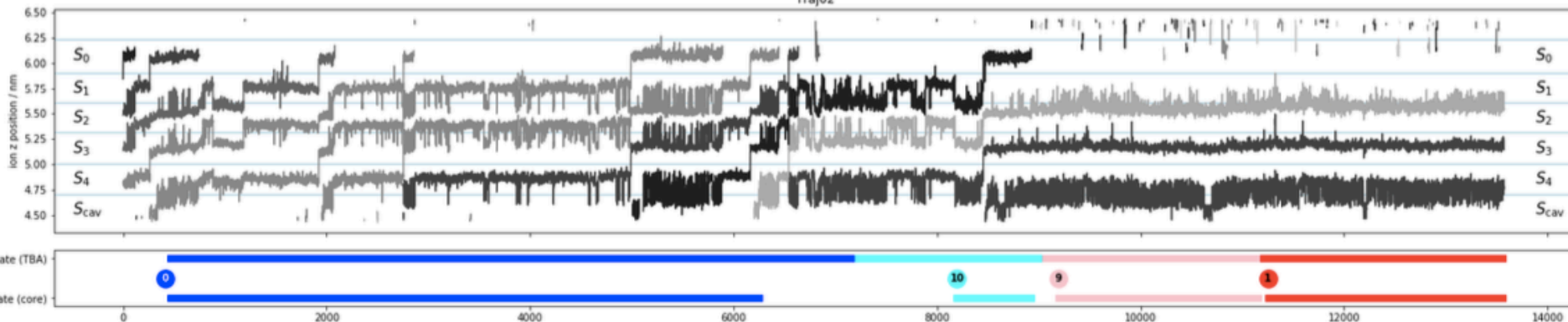


# Application: ion channel non-equilibrium MD



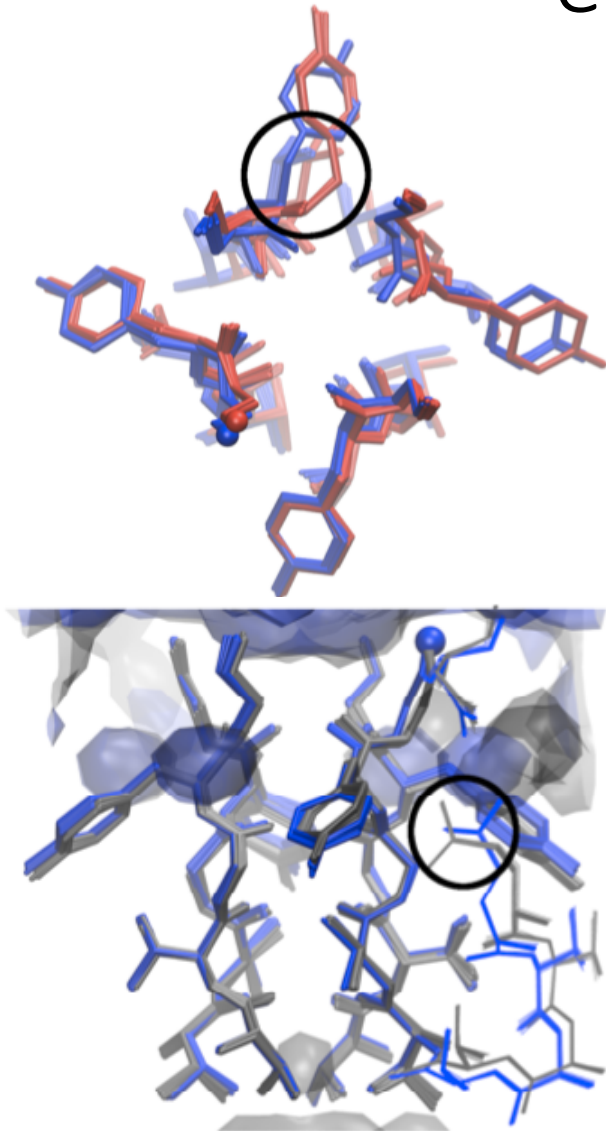
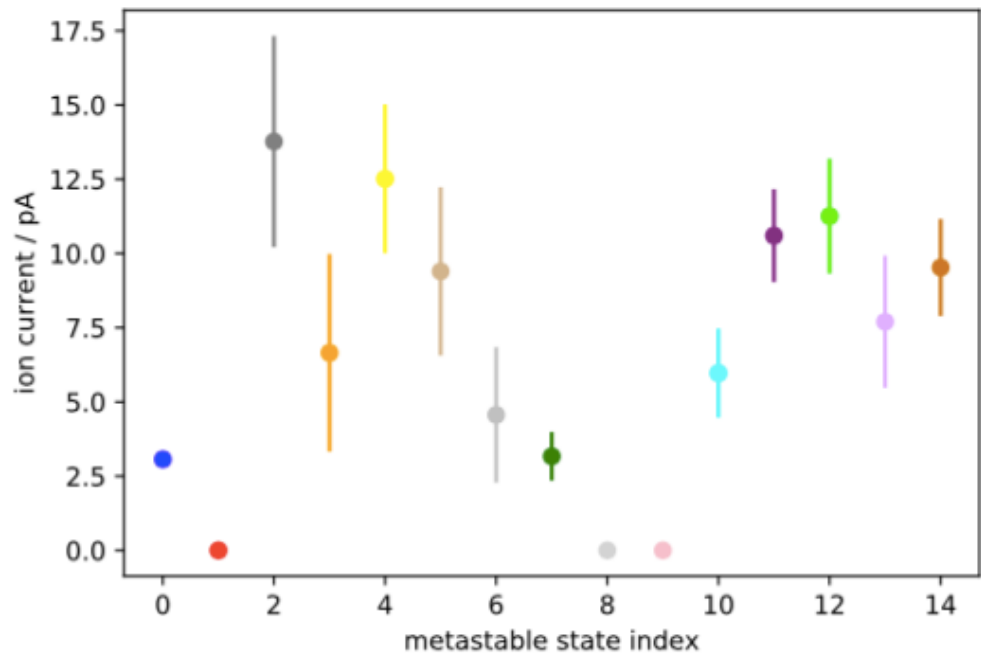
Analysis of MD simulation data of the "controversial" direct-knock-on conduction mechanism in the KcsA potassium channel. Ions are constantly inserted at one side of the membrane and deleted at the other side.

Traj02



# Application: ion channel non-equilibrium MD

By clustering in the VAMP space, we identified 15 different states that differ structurally near the selectivity filter and differ in their conductivity.

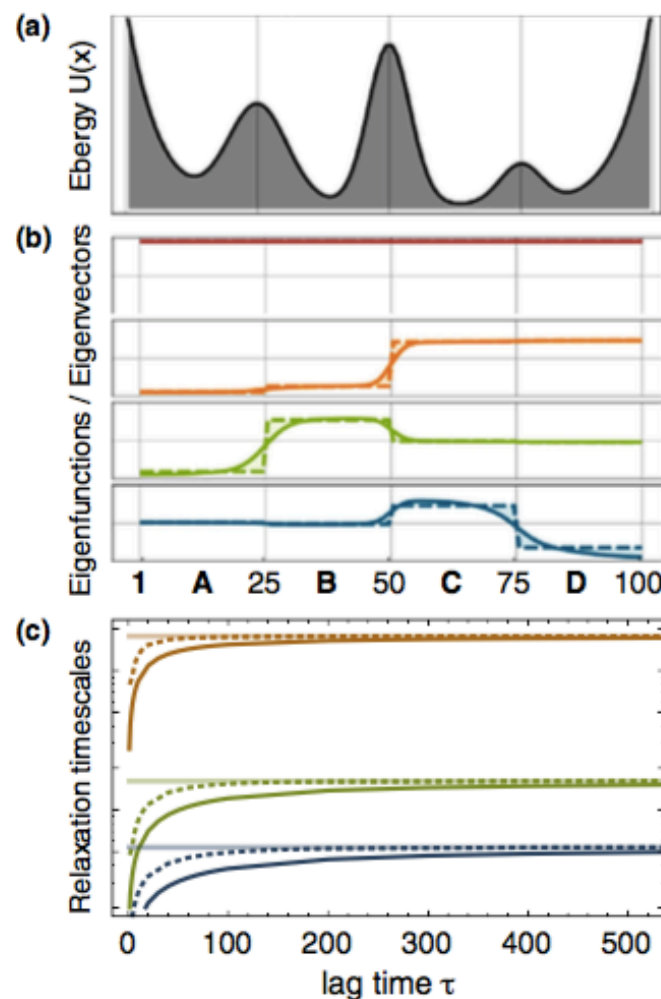
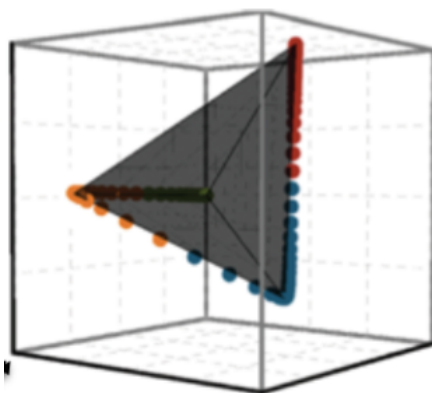
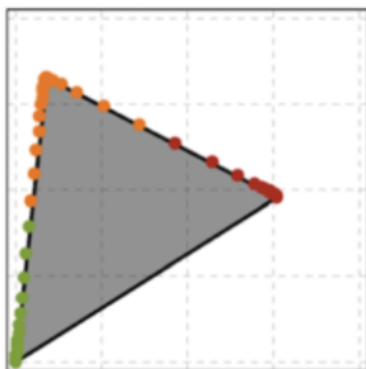


# Summary and conclusion

- VAC and VAMP are two variational principles that allow to approximate the true eigenfunctions of the dynamical system (VAC) or its restricted singular functions (VAMP) by using optimization.
- VAMP even works in non-equilibrium settings, if the dynamics is driven by external forces or if the sampling is so limited, that transitions in both the forward and backward directions are not available.
- VAMP can be used for feature selection and to model the slow reaction coordinates with enormously complicated functions (see talk tomorrow).

# From order parameters to states to MSMs

- PCCA = Perron-cluster cluster analysis
- Motivating observation:  
the set of all MD data projected onto the dominant eigenvectors  $\{ \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}) \mid \mathbf{x} \in \text{data} \}$  form a simplex
- In 2-D simplex=triangle  
In 3-D simplex=tetrahedron  
...



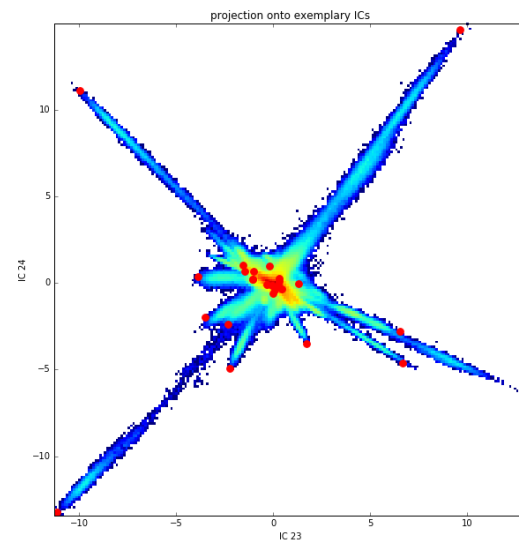
Deuffhard, Weber. *Linear Algebra Appl.*, 398 **161**, (2005).

Weber, Galliat. Tech. Rep. **02-12**, KZZ (2002).



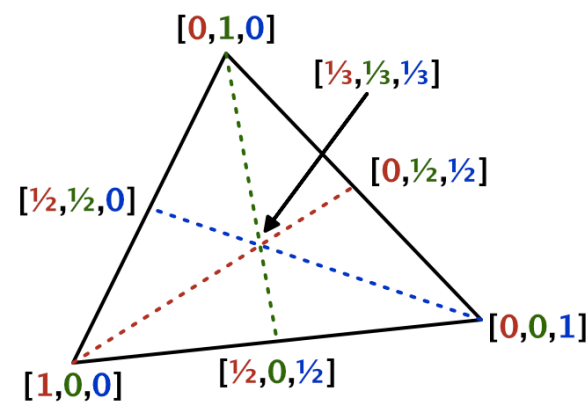
# From order parameters to states to MSMs

- I: PCCA only needs the eigenvectors
- II: TICA (and VAMP) provide eigenvectors
- I&II → We can do PCCA in TICA or VAMP space.

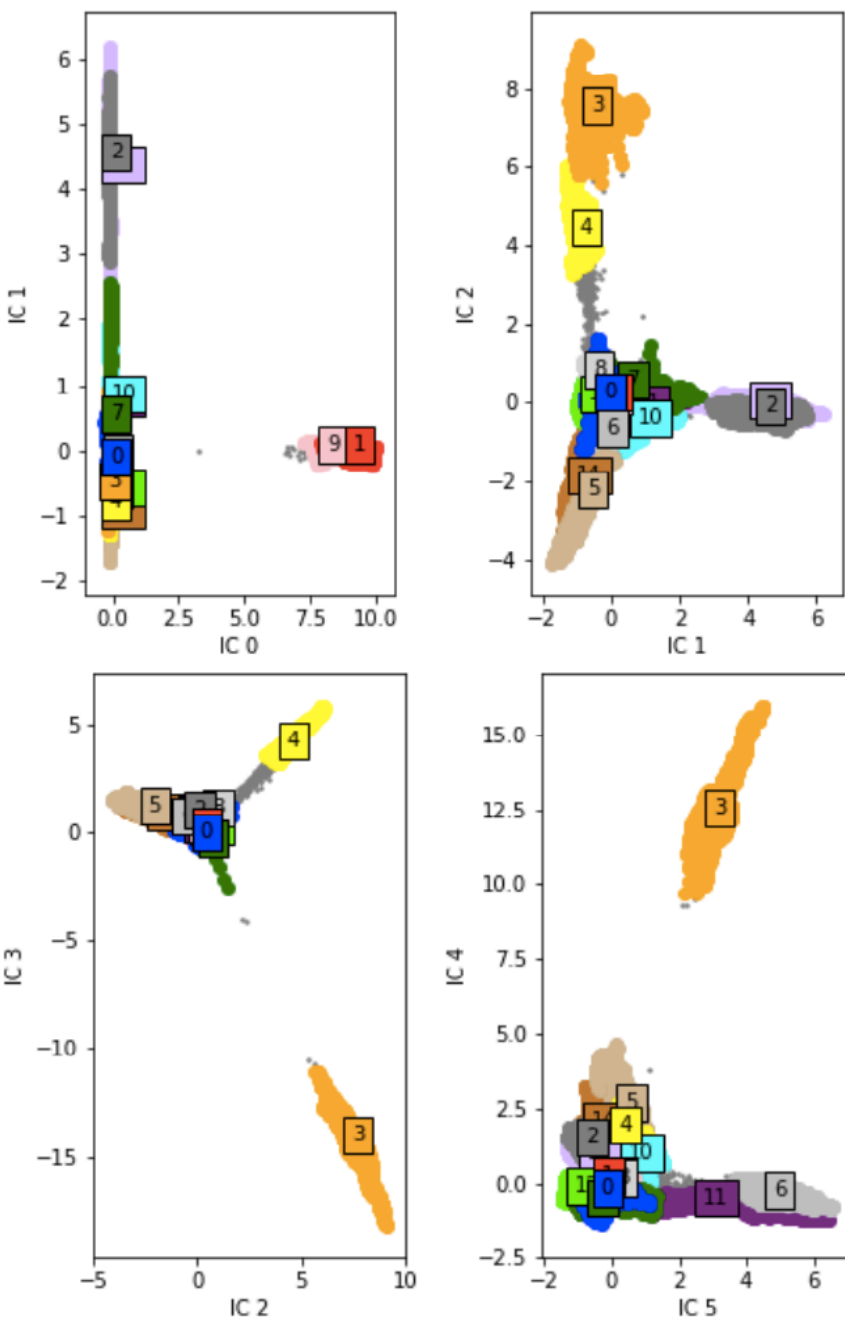


## Steps of the PCCA algorithm:

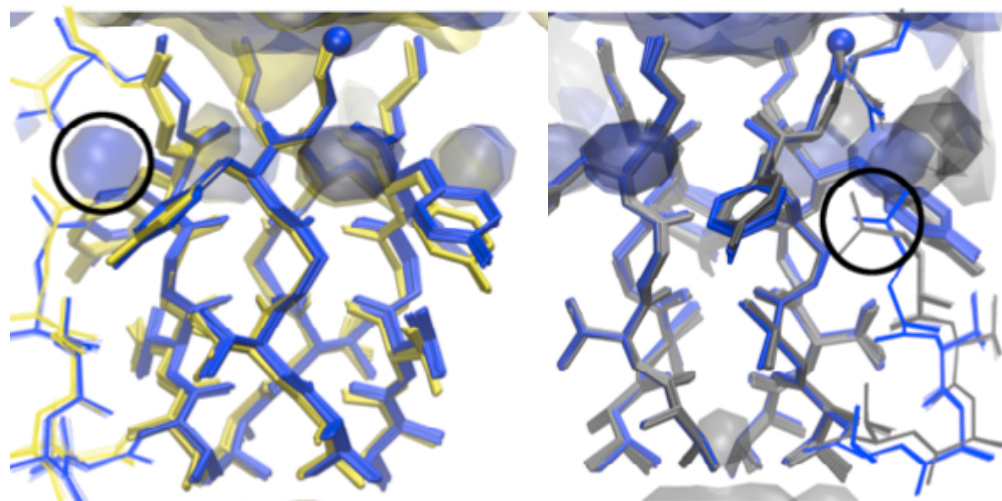
1. Find the N-1 most distant points (the *vertices*) in the N-dimensional eigenspace.
2. Compute barycentric coordinates of every MD frame with respect to the N-1 vertices.



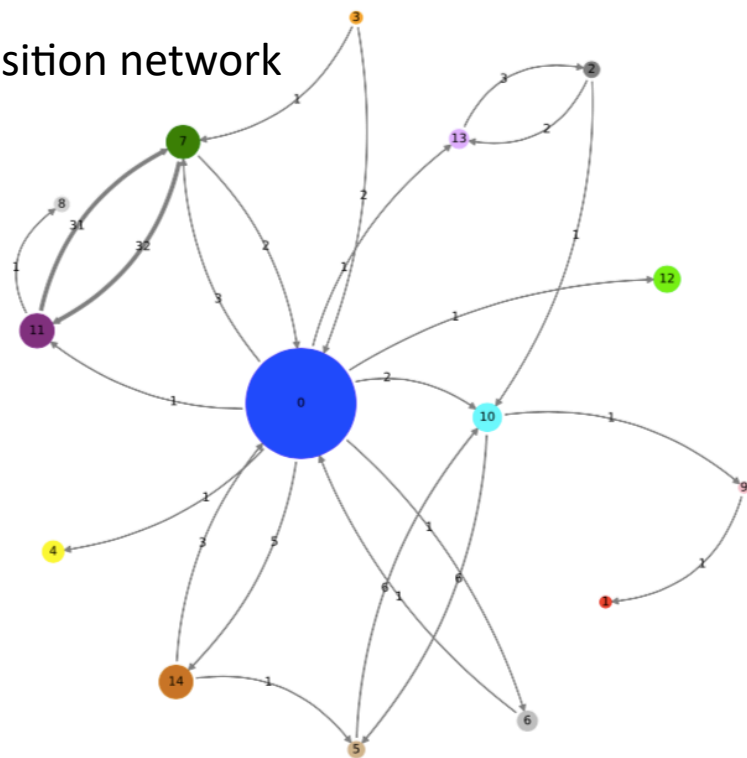
Projections to VAMP space, colored by state



Ensembles of conformations

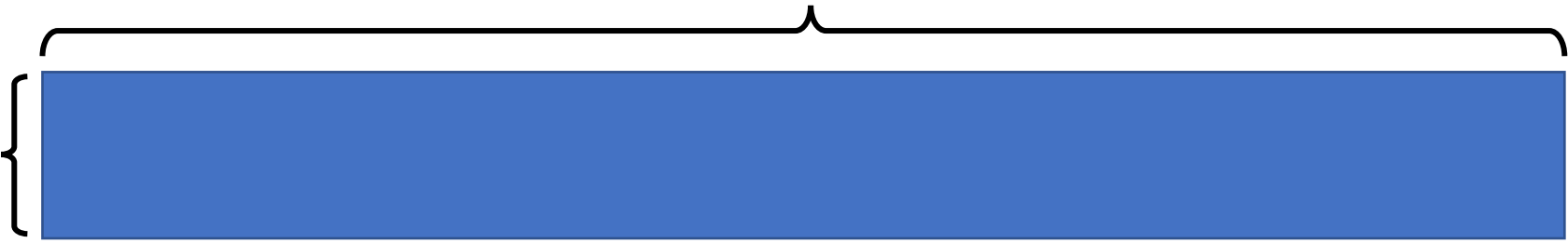


Transition network



$T$  time steps

$n$   
features



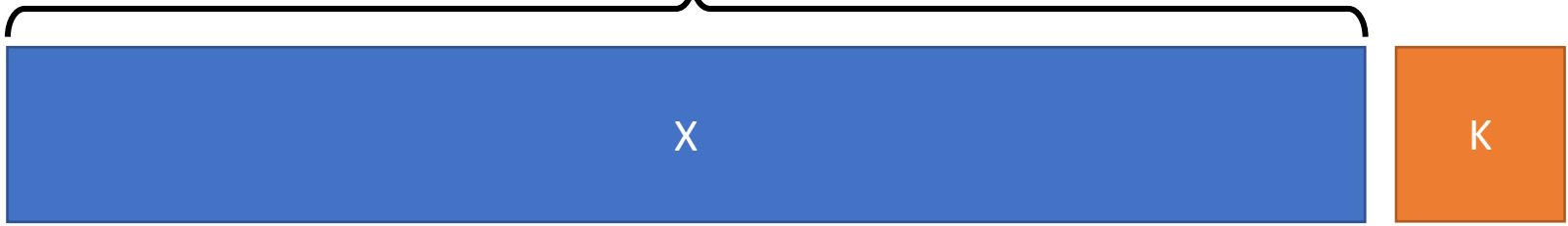
Separate into:

last  $T - \tau$  time steps



first  $T - \tau$  time steps

$\approx$



$$\mathbf{K} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{C}(0)^{-1} \mathbf{C}(\tau)$$

$$\mathbf{K} \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{C}(\tau) \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{C}(0) \mathbf{v}$$

Do a dimensionality reduction by keeping only the dominant eigenmodes.

VAMP is all about the eigendecomposition of the forward-backward transition matrix

$$\begin{aligned} T_{fb} &:= T_f T_b = C_{00}^{-1} C_{01} C_{11}^{-1} C_{01}^\top \\ &= (X^T X)^{-1} X^\top Y (Y^\top Y)^{-1} Y^\top X \end{aligned}$$

For the sake of notational simplicity, I have defined  $C_{00} := X^T X$ ,  $C_{11} := Y^T Y$ , and  $C_{01} := X^T Y$  without normalization.

**Theorem:**  $T_{fb}$  has a real-valued spectrum.

**Proof:** Introduce the co-ordinate transformed features  $\tilde{X} := X C_{00}^{-\frac{1}{2}} = X (X^T X)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $\tilde{Y} := Y C_{11}^{-\frac{1}{2}} = Y (Y^T Y)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ . This choice leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{C}_{00} &:= \tilde{X}^T \tilde{X} = \mathbb{I} \\ \tilde{C}_{11} &:= \tilde{Y}^T \tilde{Y} = \mathbb{I} \\ \tilde{C}_{01} &:= \tilde{X}^T \tilde{Y} = C_{00}^{-\frac{1}{2}} C_{01} C_{11}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

The new matrix  $\tilde{T}_{fb}$  in the new co-ordinates is

$$\tilde{T}_{fb} := \tilde{C}_{00}^{-1} \tilde{C}_{01} \tilde{C}_{11}^{-1} \tilde{C}_{10} = \tilde{C}_{01} \tilde{C}_{10} = \tilde{X}^\top \tilde{Y} \tilde{Y}^\top \tilde{X}$$

Obviously, this matrix is symmetric. Therefore  $\tilde{T}_{fb}$  has a real-valued spectrum.

To complete the proof, one has to show that  $\tilde{T}_{fb}$  has the same eigenvalues as  $T_{fb}$ . The eigenvectors of  $\tilde{T}_{fb}$  can be easily found from the eigenvectors of  $T_{fb}$  by a linear transform. Let  $v$  be an eigenvector of  $\tilde{T}_{fb}$  with the corresponding eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

$$\tilde{T}_{fb}v = \lambda v \quad (1a)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \tilde{C}_{01}\tilde{C}_{10}v = \lambda v \quad (1b)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow C_{00}^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{01}C_{11}^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{11}^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{01}^{\top}C_{00}^{-\frac{1}{2}}v = \lambda v \quad (1c)$$

Set  $w := C_{00}^{-\frac{1}{2}}v$ , then we find from the left hand side of 1a.

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_{fb}v &= C_{00}^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{01}C_{11}^{-1}C_{01}^{\top}C_{00}^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{00}^{\frac{1}{2}}w \\ &= C_{00}^{-\frac{1}{2}}C_{01}C_{11}^{-1}C_{01}^{\top}w \\ &= C_{00}^{\frac{1}{2}}T_{fb}w \end{aligned}$$

From the right hand side of 1a we find

$$\tilde{T}_{fb}v = \lambda C_{00}^{\frac{1}{2}}w$$

Equating left and right sides, we get

$$\begin{aligned} C_{00}^{\frac{1}{2}}T_{fb}w &= \lambda C_{00}^{\frac{1}{2}}w \\ T_{fb}w &= \lambda w \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $w$  is an eigenvector of  $T_{fb}$  with the unchanged eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . Since this holds for all eigenvectors of  $T_{fb}$ , this completes the proof.

# Markov state models

# MSM theory : propagator and generator

- Langevin equation

$$\ddot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})/m - \gamma\dot{\mathbf{x}} + \sqrt{2k_B T \gamma/m} \boldsymbol{\eta}_i(t)$$

- Fokker-Planck equation

$$\frac{\partial p(t, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\left( -\frac{\mathbf{p}}{m} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} + \nabla_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot (\gamma \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x})) + \gamma k_B T m \Delta_{\mathbf{p}} \right)}_A p(t, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{x})$$

- Propagator (operator)  
define  $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{x})$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{P}_\tau[p(t, \cdot)](\mathbf{X}) &= \exp[\tau A] p(t, \cdot) = p(t + \tau, \mathbf{X}) \\ &= \int p(t, \mathbf{Y}) p(\mathbf{Y} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}; \tau) d\mathbf{Y} \end{aligned}$$

- Transfer operator

define  $p(t, \mathbf{X}) = u(t, \mathbf{X}) p_B(\mathbf{X})$

$$\mathcal{T}[u_t; \tau](\mathbf{X}) := \frac{1}{p_B(\mathbf{X})} \int u_t(\mathbf{Y}) p_B(\mathbf{Y}) p(\mathbf{Y} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}; \tau) d\mathbf{Y}$$

Integration of the equations of

$$c_1 = e^{-\gamma\delta t}, \quad c_2 = \gamma^{-1}(1 - c_1),$$

$$c_3 = \sqrt{k_B T(1 - c_1^2)}$$

### Stochastic Position Verlet (SPV)

$$x_{n+1/2} = x_n + \delta t M^{-1} p_n / 2;$$

$$p_{n+1} = c_1 p_n - c_2 \nabla U(x_{n+1/2}) + c_3 M^{1/2} R_{n+1};$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_{n+1/2} + \delta t M^{-1} p_{n+1} / 2;$$

### The Method of Brunger-Brooks-Karplus (1982) (BBK)

$$p_{n+1/2} = (1 - \delta t \gamma / 2) p_n - \delta t \nabla U(x_n) / 2 + \sqrt{\delta t k_B T \gamma} M^{1/2} R_n / 2;$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \delta t M^{-1} p_{n+1/2};$$

$$p_{n+1} = [p_{n+1/2} - \delta t \nabla U(x_{n+1}) / 2 + \sqrt{\delta t k_B T \gamma} M^{1/2} R_{n+1} / 2] / (1 + \delta t \gamma / 2);$$

### Euler-Maruyama

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \delta t M^{-1} \nabla U(x_n) + \sqrt{2k_B T \delta t} M^{-1/2} R_n;$$



# MSM theory : transfer operator

$$\mathcal{T}[u_t; \tau](\mathbf{X}) := \frac{1}{p_B(\mathbf{X})} \int u_t(\mathbf{Y}) p_B(\mathbf{Y}) p(\mathbf{Y} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}; \tau) dy$$

$$u_{t+\tau}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathcal{T}_{\text{slow}}[u_t; \tau](\mathbf{X}) + \mathcal{T}_{\text{fast}}[u_t; \tau](\mathbf{X})$$

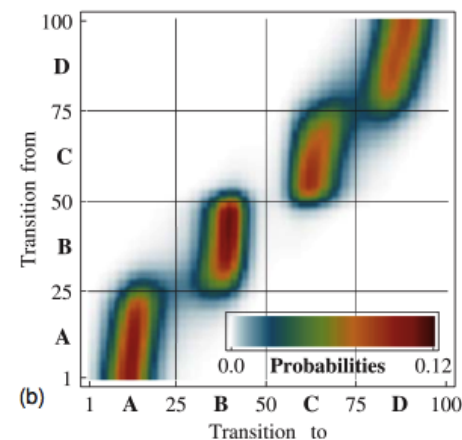
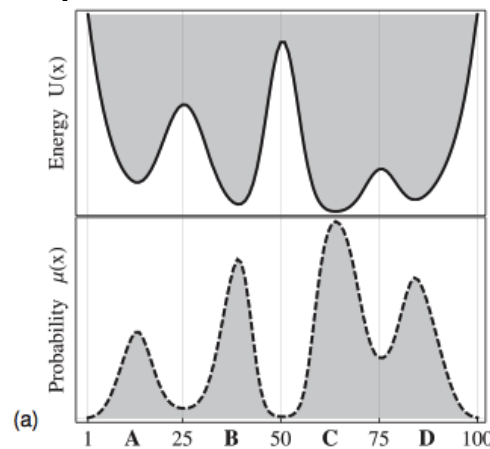
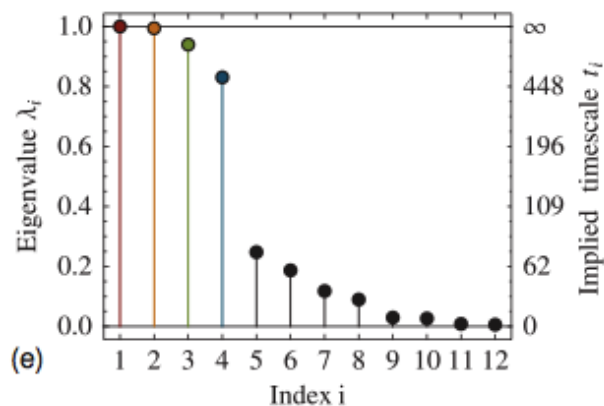
$$\mathcal{T}_{\text{slow}}[u_t; \tau](\mathbf{X}) = \sum_i \lambda_i(\tau) \psi_i(\mathbf{X}) \int \psi_i(\mathbf{Y}) p_B(\mathbf{Y}) u_t(\mathbf{Y}) dy = \sum_i \lambda_i(\tau) \psi_i(\mathbf{X}) \langle \psi_i, u_t \rangle_{p_B}$$

$$T_{ij} = \frac{\langle \chi_j, \mathcal{T}[\chi_i] \rangle_{p_B}}{\langle \chi_j, \chi_i \rangle_{p_B}} = \frac{\iint \chi_i(\mathbf{x}) p_B(\mathbf{Y}) p(\mathbf{Y} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}; \tau) \chi_j(\mathbf{X}) dx dy}{\int \chi_j(\mathbf{X}) \chi_i(\mathbf{X}) p_B(\mathbf{X}) dy} = \frac{\text{cov}(\chi_j, \chi_i; \tau)}{\text{cov}(\chi_i, \chi_i; 0)}$$

# MSM: spectral properties

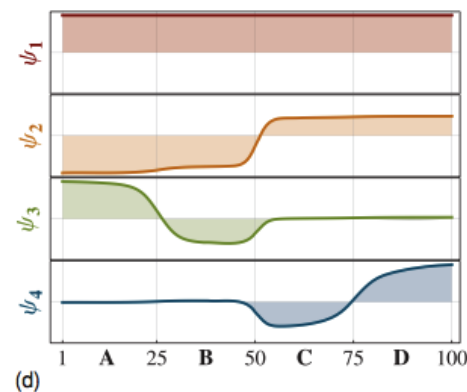
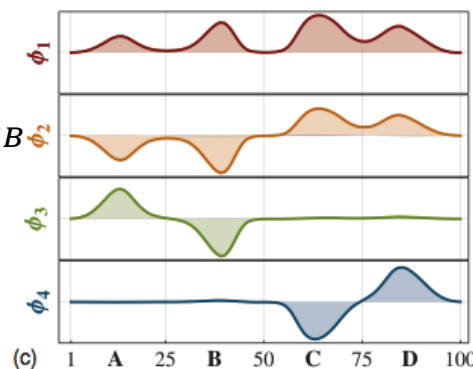
time scales:

processes:



$$\mathcal{T}_{\text{slow}}[u_t; \tau](\mathbf{X}) = \sum_i \lambda_i(\tau) \psi_i(\mathbf{X}) \langle \psi_i, u_t \rangle_{p_B}$$

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{T}_S \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{T}_S}_{n \text{ times}} u_t = \sum_i \lambda_i^n(\tau) \psi_i \langle \psi_i, u_t \rangle_{p_B}$$



$\phi_i$  (left)

$\psi_i$  (right)

for MSM:

$$\mathbf{p}^T(n\tau) = \sum_i \lambda_i^n \phi_i [\psi_i \cdot \mathbf{p}(0)]$$