



# Transferability of Coarse Grained Models: Multiscale Simulations of Liquid Crystalline Phase Transitions

Christine Peter

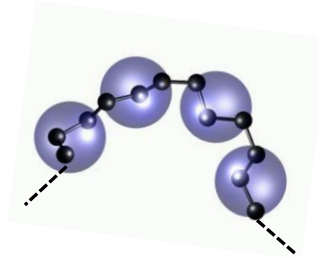
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# Systematic coarse graining

Mapping scheme:  $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{r}$



Possible aim of systematic coarse graining:  
consistent sampling of phase space on the **atomistic** and **CG** level

$$P^{at}(\mathbf{r}) = Z_{at}^{-1} \exp[-\beta U^{at}(\mathbf{r})]$$

mapped to CG coordinates  $\Rightarrow$

$$P^{at}(\mathbf{R}) = \langle \delta(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{R}) \rangle$$

possible consistency criterion:

=

$$P^{CG}(\mathbf{R}) = Z_{CG}^{-1} \exp[-\beta U^{CG}(\mathbf{R})]$$

$\Rightarrow$  “theoretical” solution: Boltzmann inversion

$$U_{PMF}^{CG}(\mathbf{R}) = -k_B T \ln P^{at}(\mathbf{R}) + const$$

# Systematic coarse graining

$$U_{PMF}^{CG}(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_{i,j} U_2(r_{ij}) + \sum_{i,j,k} U_3(r_{ij}, r_{jk}, r_{ik}) + \dots + const$$
$$\approx \sum_{i,j} V_{\text{eff}}(r_{ij}) + const$$

Approximating the PMF:

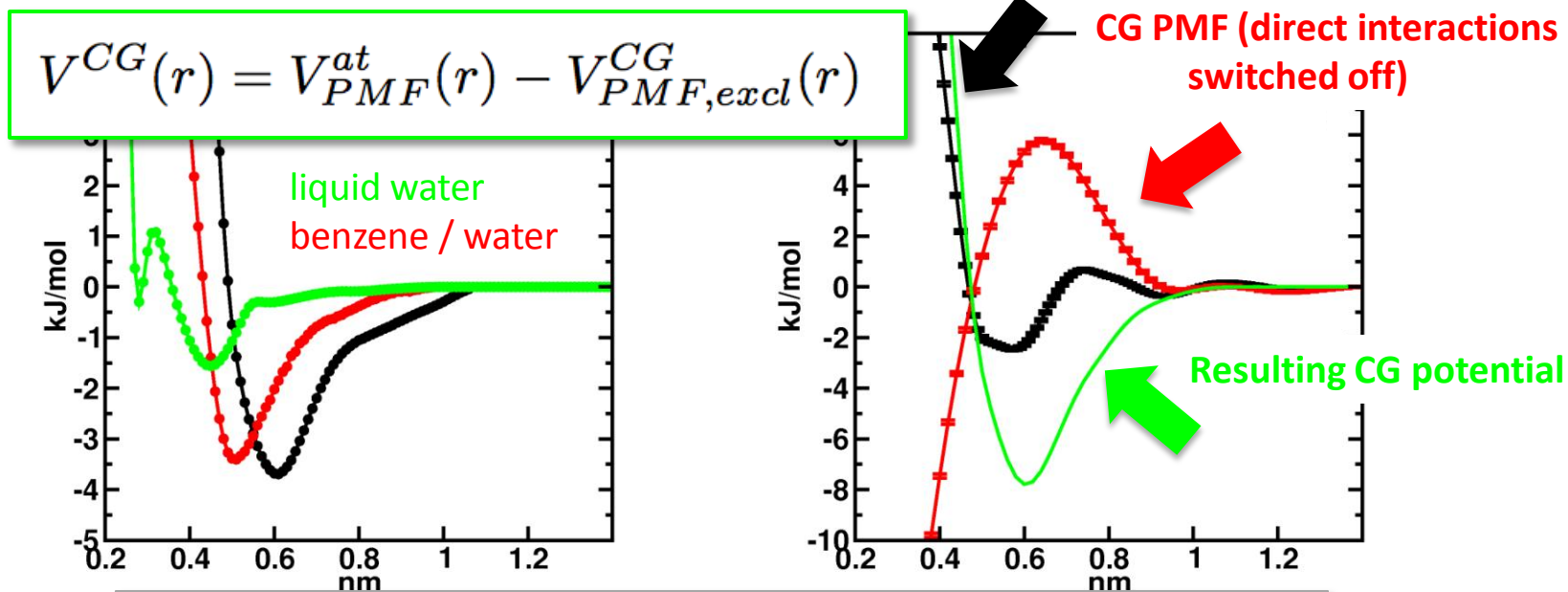
- ⇒ choice of types of interactions (pair potentials ...)
- ⇒ choice of parametrization target
  - pair correlation functions, i.e. pair PMFs, “Henderson solution”
  - mean forces, multidimensional PMFs
  - relative entropy
  - routes relying on thermodynamic cycles (“subtracting” pair PMFs, CRW)



# CG (dilute) solute/solute interactions

Low solute concentration:

- ↗ solvent/solvent and solute/solvent interactions predetermined  
e.g. from iterative Boltzmann inversion
- ↗ solute/solute PMF (e.g. from umbrella sampling): parameterization target
- ↗ remove environment contribution (no iteration)



↗ strong emphasis on solute-solute association strength

# Systematic coarse graining

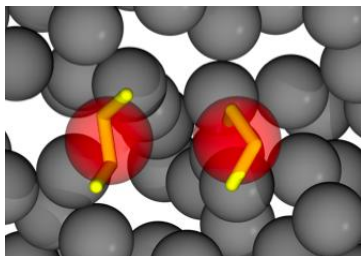
$$U_{PMF}^{CG}(\mathbf{R}) = \sum_{i,j} U_2(r_{ij}) + \sum_{i,j,k} U_3(r_{ij}, r_{jk}, r_{ik}) + \dots + const$$
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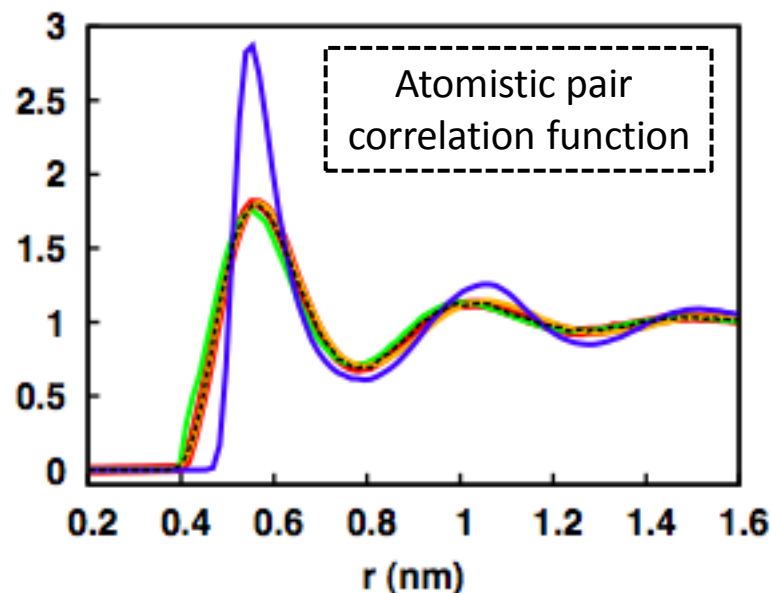
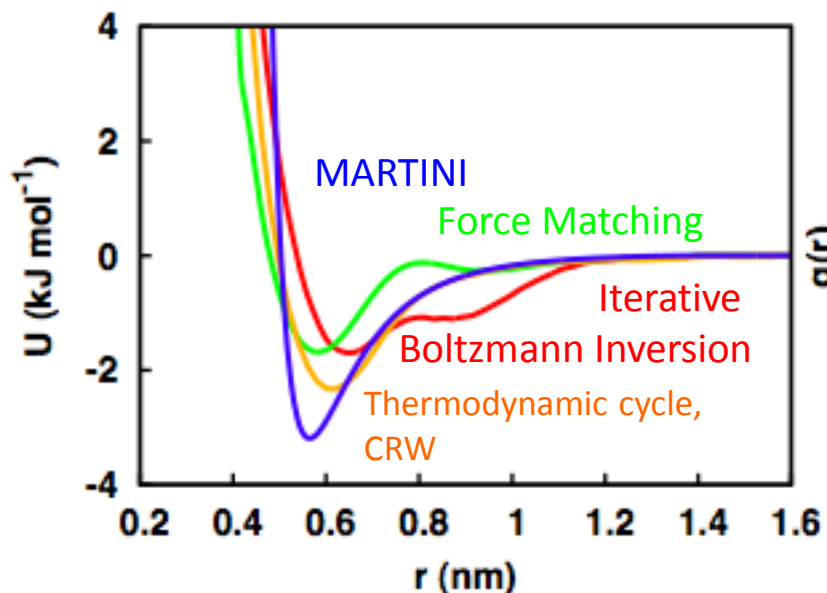


Challenge: representability and transferability



# Systematic coarse graining

Example: liquid butane



the “one” Henderson pair potential  
 $\Leftrightarrow$   
 multiple solutions that yield a  
 “decent” structural representation

Representation	$\Delta G;(\text{kJ/mol})$
AA, Gromos 53a5	-13.6 +/- 0.7
<u>CG, IB</u>	-11.3 +/- 0.7
<u>CG, FM</u>	-7.1 +/- 0.5
<u>CG, MARTINI*</u>	-11.6 +/- 1.6
<u>CG, SB</u>	-10.3 +/- 1.0

# Representability and transferability

We have seen that systematic CG approaches inevitably suffer from approximations leading to *representability* and *transferability* problems.

How can we deal with a change of state point?

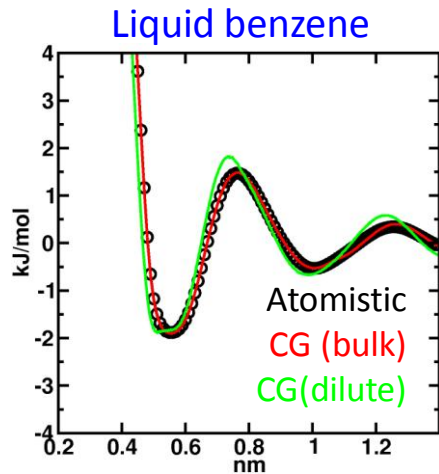
Example 1: concentration transferability

Example 2: transferability across a phase transition

# Example 1: Concentration transferability

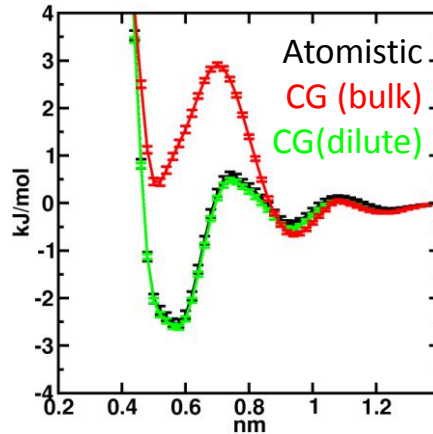
Hydrophobic molecules in aqueous solution  
(explicit CG water model)

Benzene- benzene pair PMF



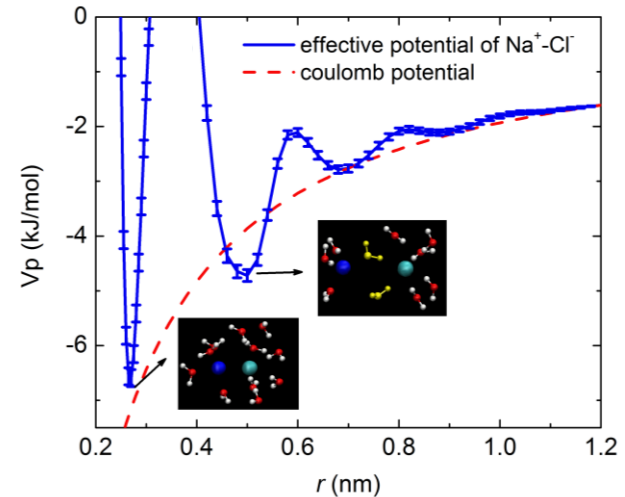
A. Villa, CP, N. van der Vegt *JCTC* 2010

Dilute aqueous  
benzene solution



Implicit-solvent aqueous electrolytes

Ion- ion pair PMF



$$V_{total}(r,c) = V_{short}(r) + V_{coul}(r,c) = V_{short}(r) + \frac{q_1 q_2}{4\pi \epsilon_0 \epsilon_E(c) r}$$

Ion specific transferable

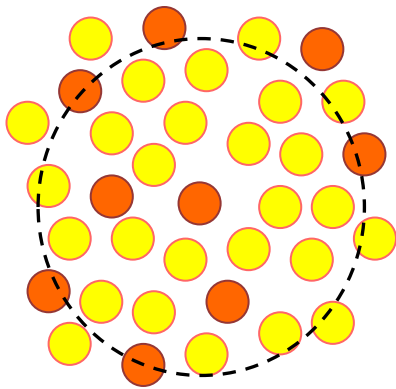
JW Shen, C. Li, N. van der Vegt, CP, *JCTC* 2011

⇒ models reproduce association strength (@ infinite dilution)  
and pair structure **over a range of concentrations**



# Example 1: Concentration transferability

⇒ Kirkwood Buff analysis: link structure / solution thermodynamics



KB integral:

$$G_{ij} = \int_0^R [g_{ij}(r) - 1] 4\pi r^2 dr$$

Excess coordination number:

$$\Delta N_{ij} = \rho_j \int_0^R [g_{ij}(r) - 1] 4\pi r^2 dr$$

Preferential solvation parameter:

$$\Delta_{BW} = G_{BB} + G_{WW} - 2G_{BW}$$

⇒  $\Delta_{BW}$  : deviation of local solution composition from global one

⇒ link between solution structure and thermodynamics

*chemical potential*

$$\left( \frac{\partial \mu_B}{\partial x_B} \right)_{P,T} = \frac{k_B T}{x_B (1 + \rho_B x_W \Delta_{BW})}$$

*activity coefficient*

$$\left( \frac{\partial \ln \gamma_B}{\partial \ln x_B} \right)_{P,T} = - \frac{\rho_W x_B \Delta_{BW}}{1 + \rho_W x_B \Delta_{BW}}$$

# Example 1: Concentration transferability

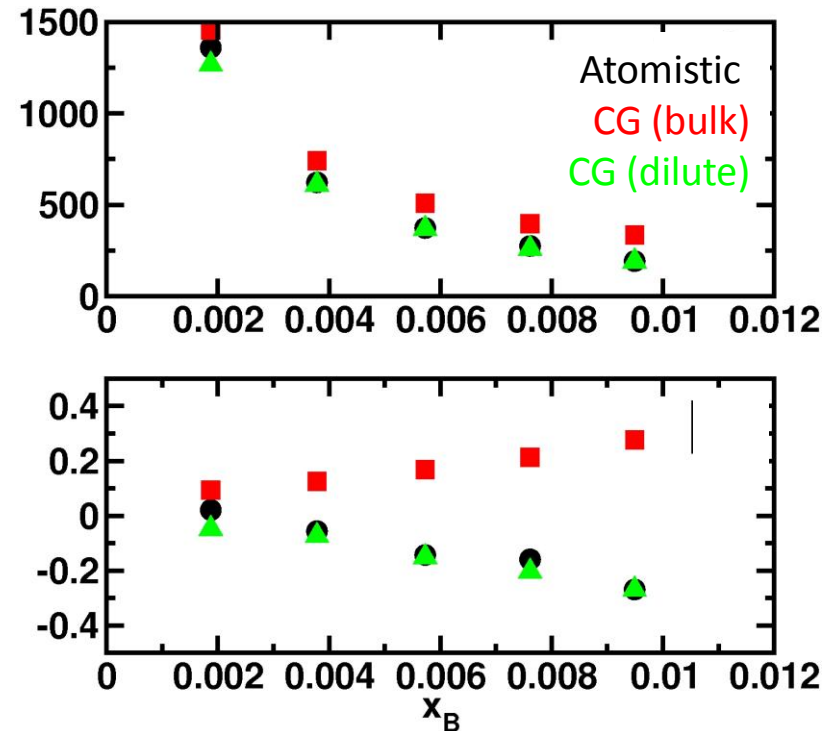
⇒ Kirkwood Buff analysis: CG benzene / water system

*chemical potential*

$$\left(\frac{\partial \mu_B}{\partial x_B}\right)_{P,T} = \frac{k_B T}{x_B(1 + \rho_B x_W \Delta_{BW})}$$

*activity coefficient*

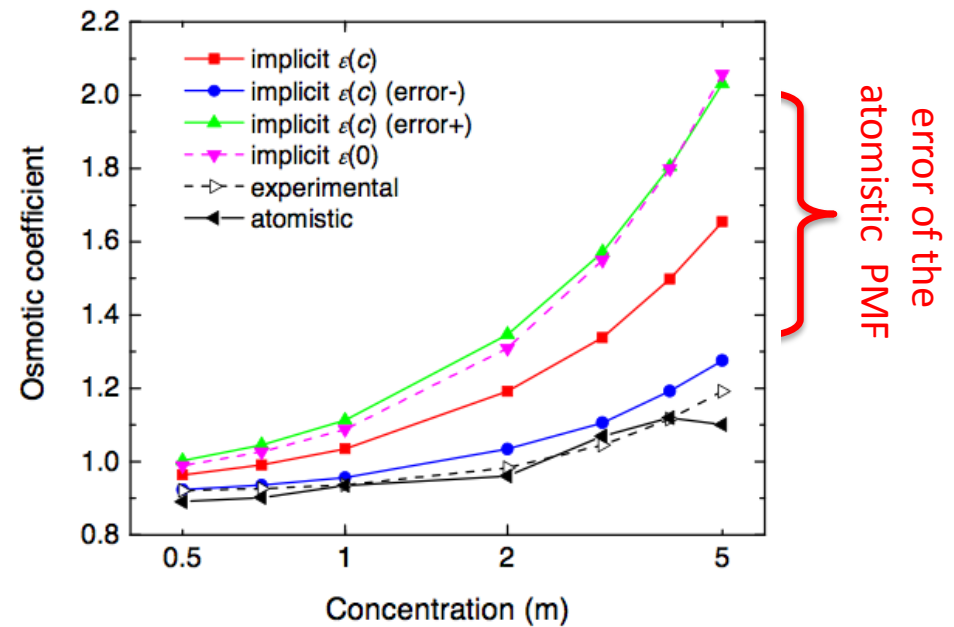
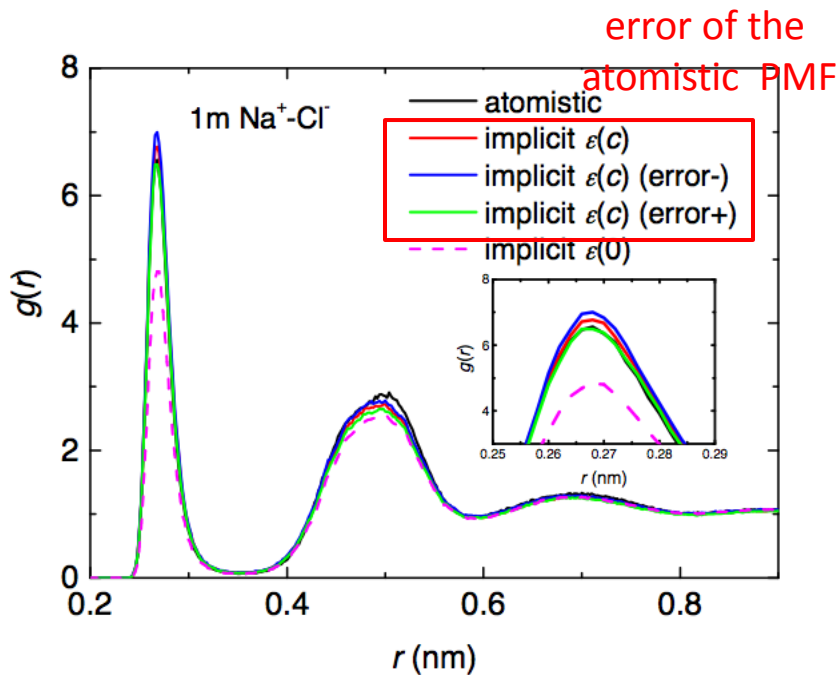
$$\left(\frac{\partial \ln \gamma_B}{\partial \ln x_B}\right)_{P,T} = -\frac{\rho_W x_B \Delta_{BW}}{1 + \rho_W x_B \Delta_{BW}}$$



- ⇒ CG (dilute): concentration transferable (up to demixing)
- ⇒ hydrophobic association cast into solute/solute interactions
- ⇒ pairwise additive up to demixing

# Example 1: Concentration transferability

⇒ Kirkwood Buff analysis: implicit-solvent electrolyte

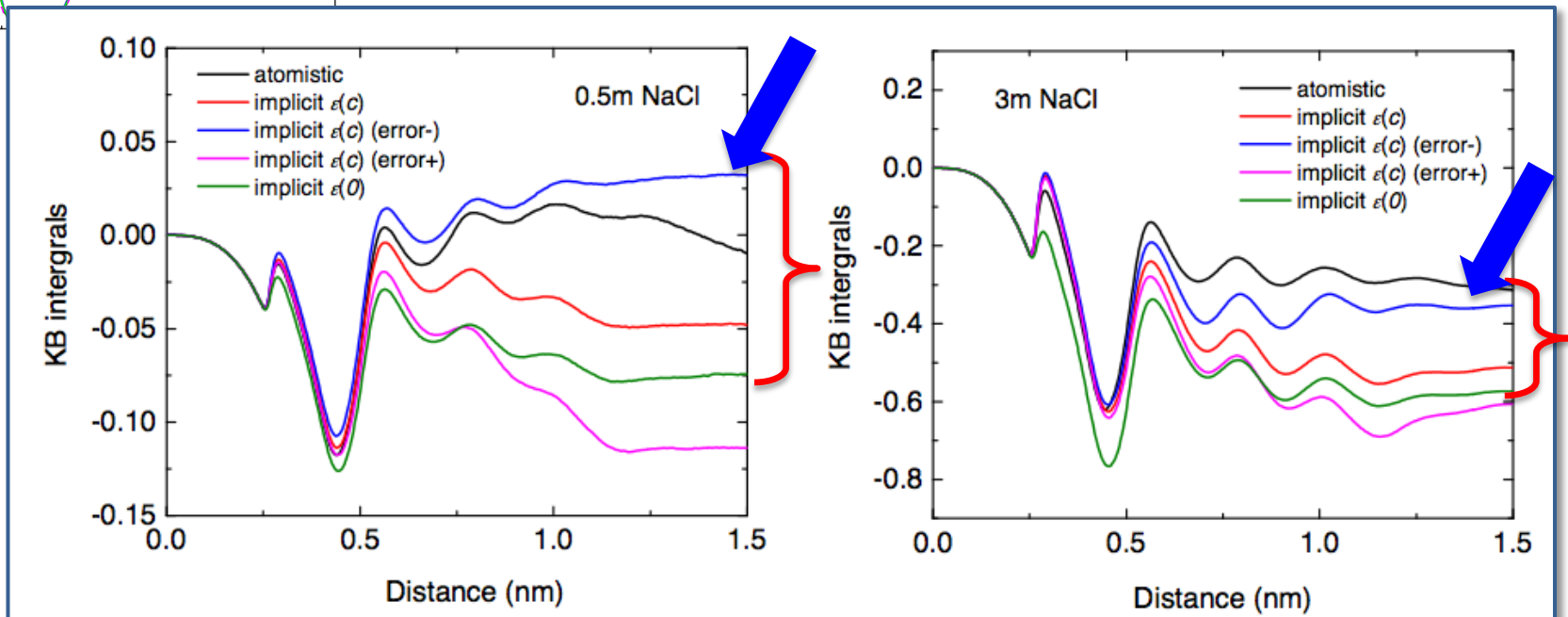
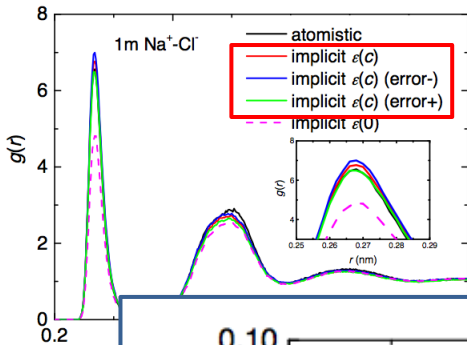


# Example 1: Concentration transferability

⇒ Kirkwood Buff analysis: implicit-solvent electrolyte

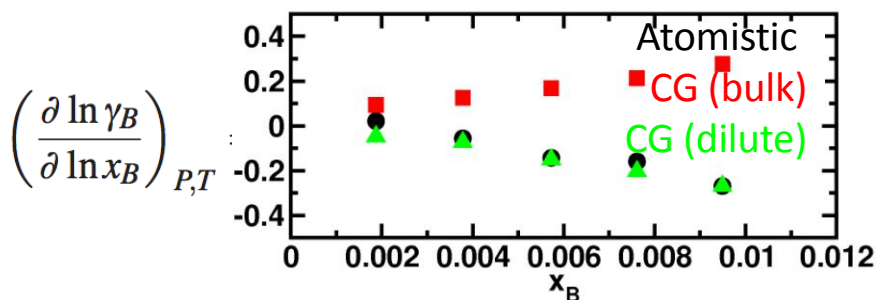
error of the  
atomistic PMF

$$\Rightarrow G_{ij} = \int_0^R [g_{ij}(r) - 1] 4\pi r^2 dr,$$



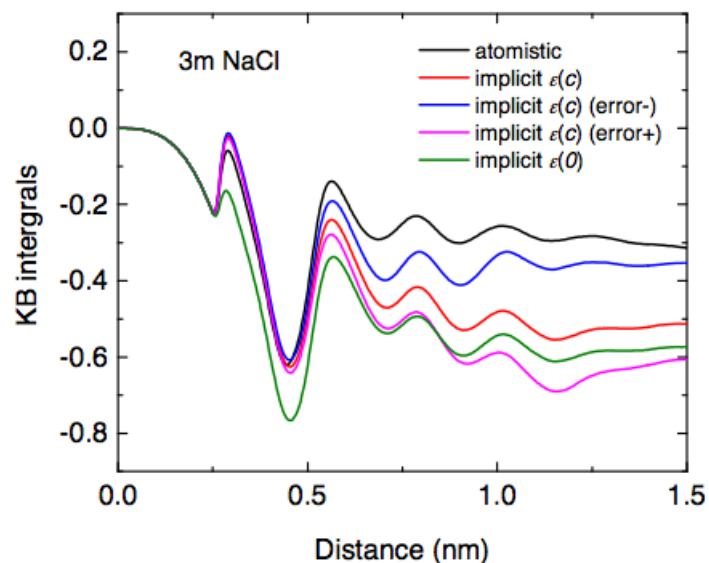
# Example 1: Concentration transferability

Hydrophobic molecules in aqueous solution  
(explicit CG water model)



A. Villa, CP, N. van der Vegt *JCTC* 2010

Implicit-solvent aqueous electrolytes



JW Shen, C. Li, N. van der Vegt, CP, *JCTC* 2011

KB analysis useful to understand (and improve, see Ganguly et al 2012) concentration transferability

# Representability and transferability

We have seen that systematic CG approaches inevitably suffer from approximations leading to *representability* and *transferability* problems.

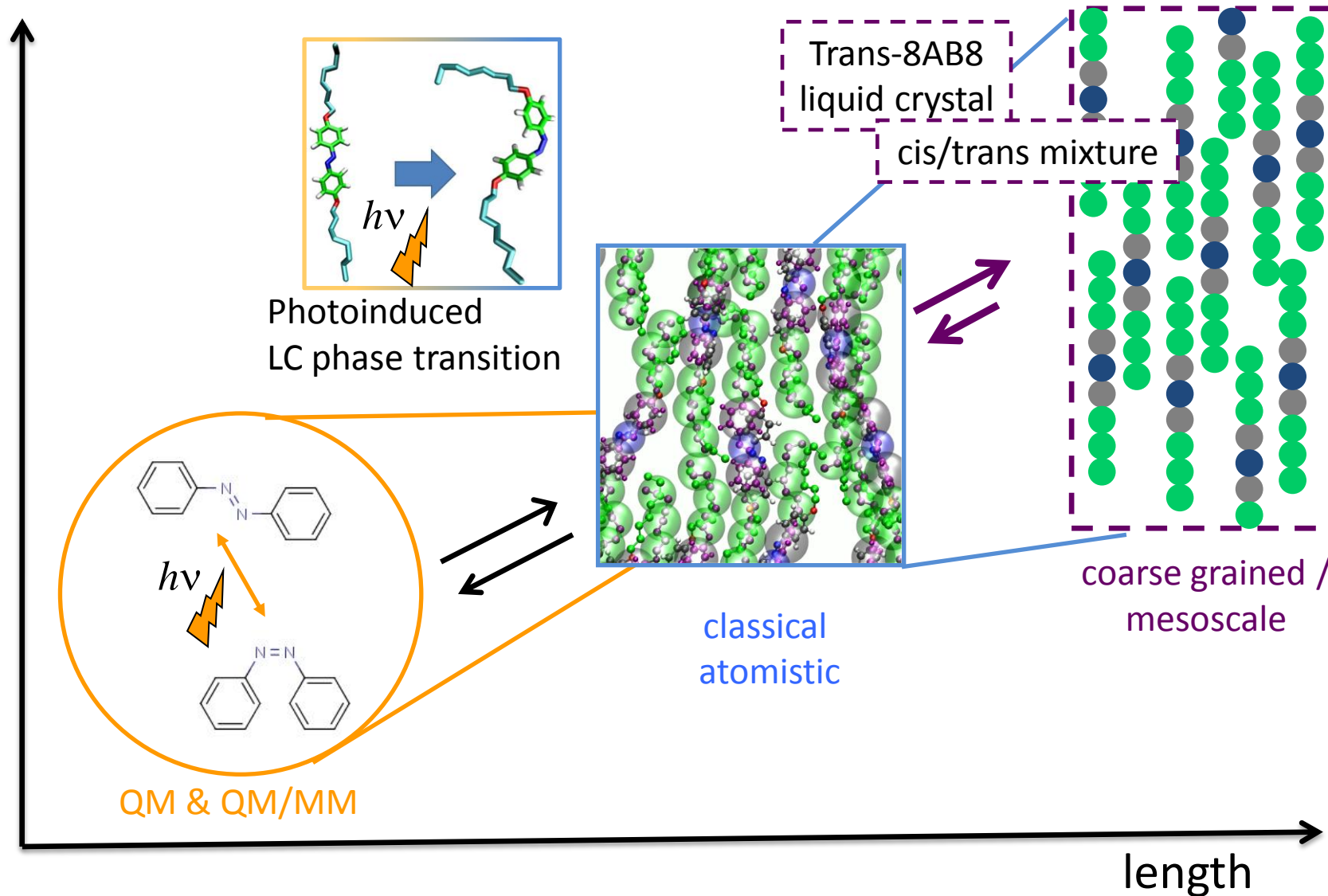
How can we deal with a change of state point?

Example 1: concentration transferability

Example 2: transferability across a phase transition

# Example 2: LC phase transition

time



# Example 2: LC phase transition

**Aim:** Construct CG model that:

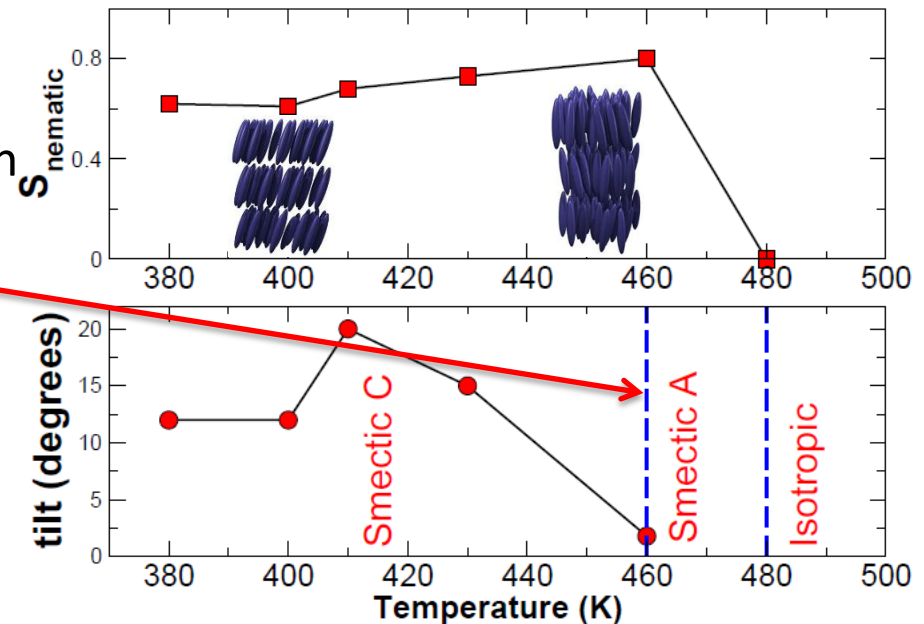
Reproduces the atomistic (thermotropic) phase behavior

Reproduces atomistic structures (incl. box-aspect ratio/pressure anisotropy)

**Target state point:**

LC system just below the  
thermotropic phase transition  
smectic system @ 460 K

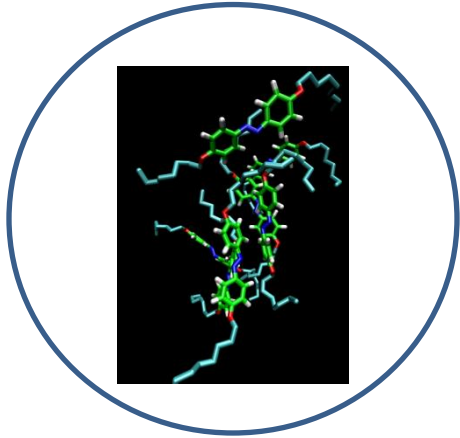
⇒ Find: suitable **isotropic  
reference** system



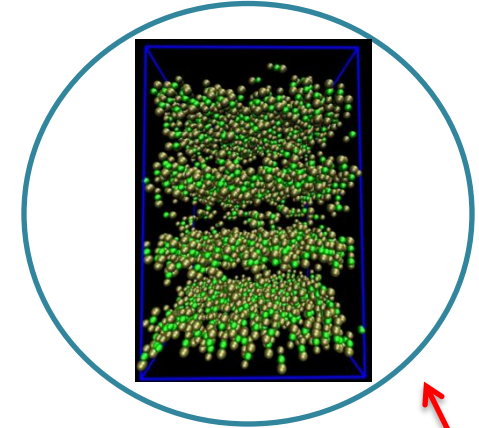


# Example 2: LC phase transitions

Disordered @ 480 K

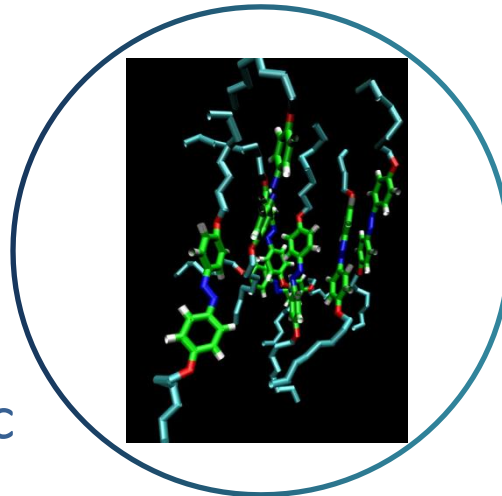


SmA @ 460 K



CG model should reproduce this transition !

Super-cooled fluid @ 460 K



Parametrise **HERE** !!

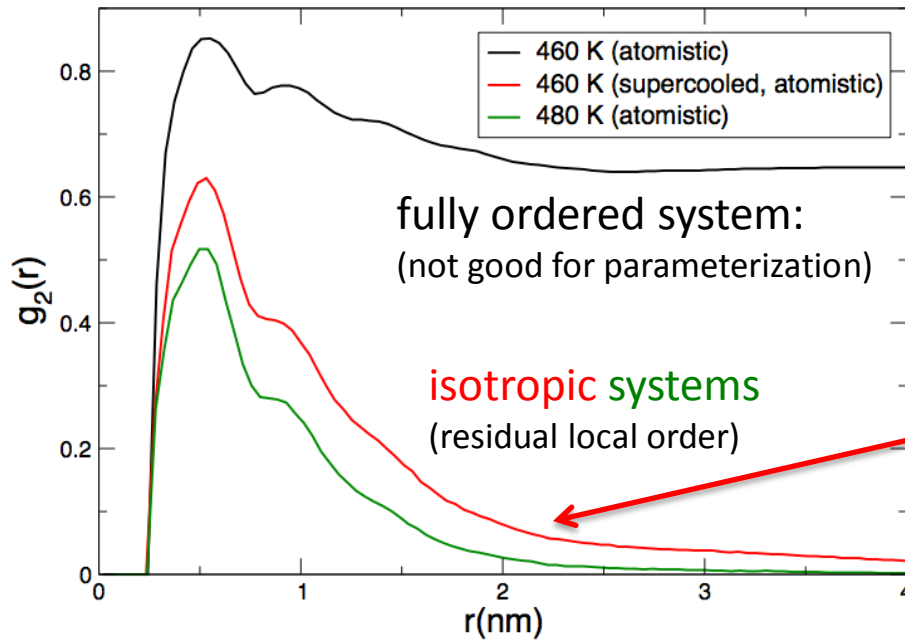
CG model should reproduce structure

Parametrisation impossible here:  
(layering built into potentials)

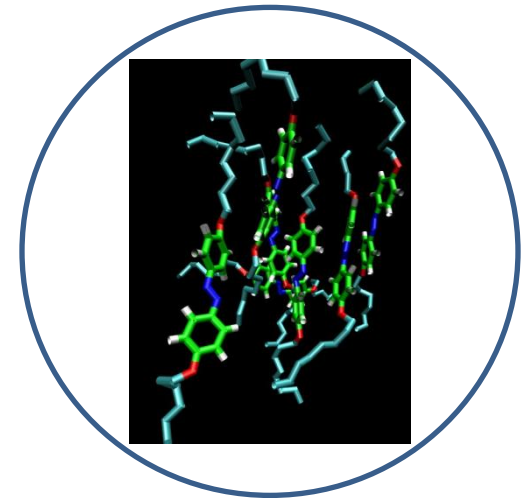
overall isotropic

residual nematic order

# Example 2: LC phase transitions

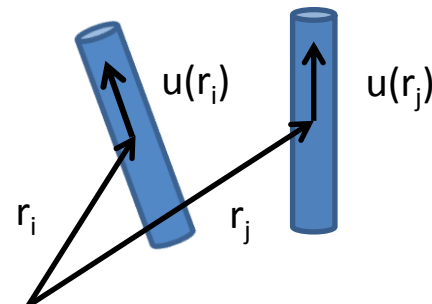


Super-cooled fluid @ 460 K

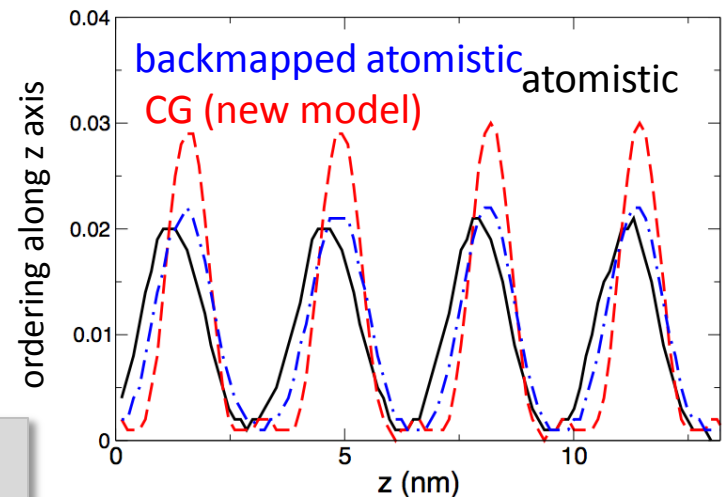
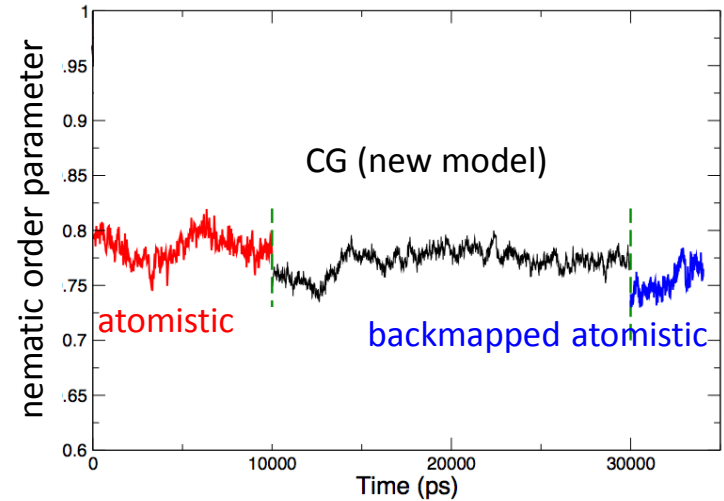
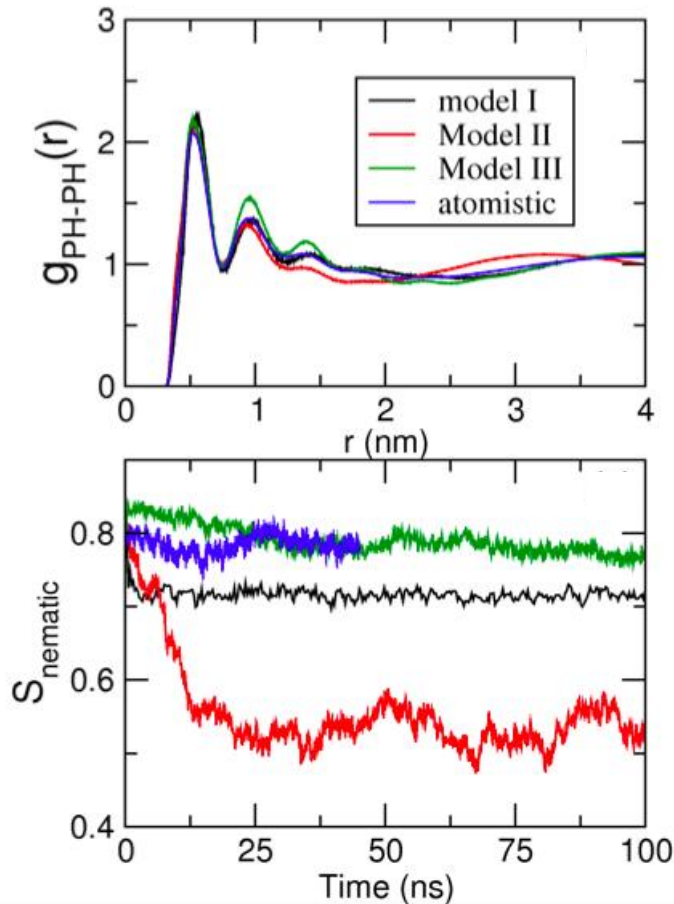
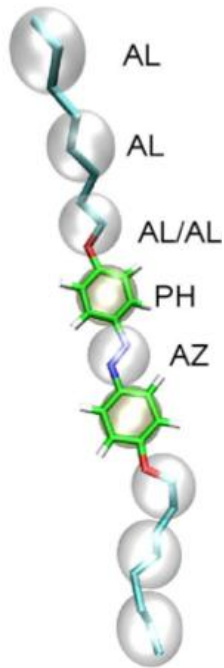


globally isotropic  
 super-cooled liquid  
 with local order

$$g_2(r) = \left\langle \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{(N-1)} \sum_{j=i+1}^N \delta(r - |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|) \mathbf{P}_2(\mathbf{u}_i(\mathbf{r}_i) \cdot \mathbf{u}_j(\mathbf{r}_j))}{\sum_{i=1}^{(N-1)} \sum_{j=i+1}^N \delta(r - |\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|)} \right\rangle$$



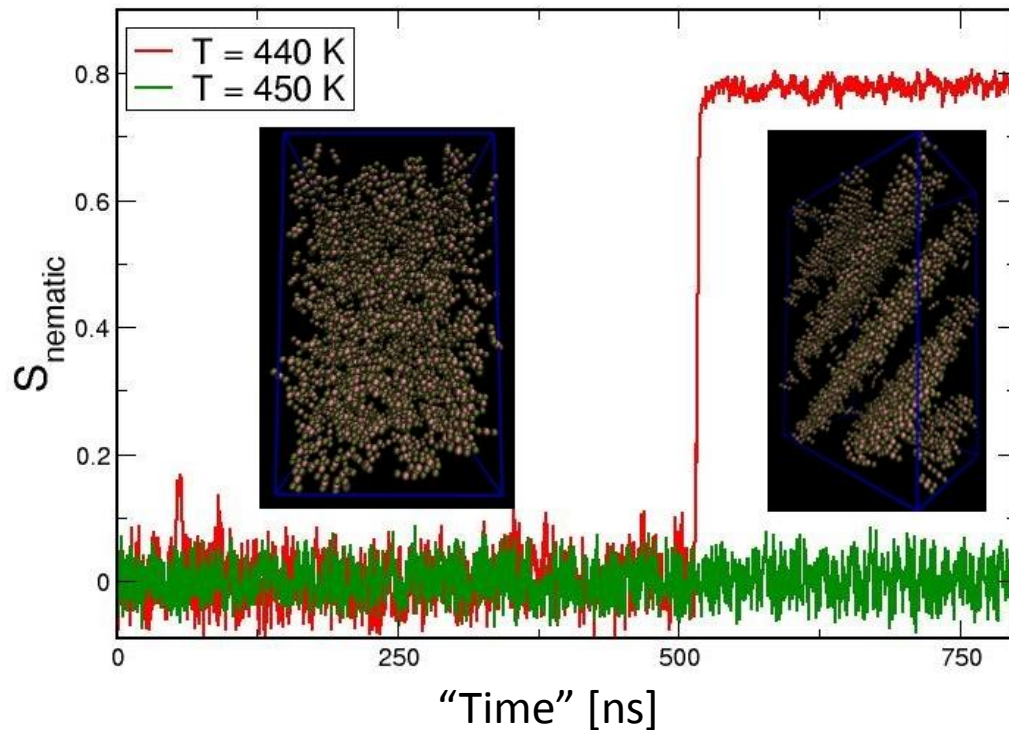
# Example 2: LC phase transitions



⇒ CG model reproduces LC structure ...

# Example 2: LC phase transitions

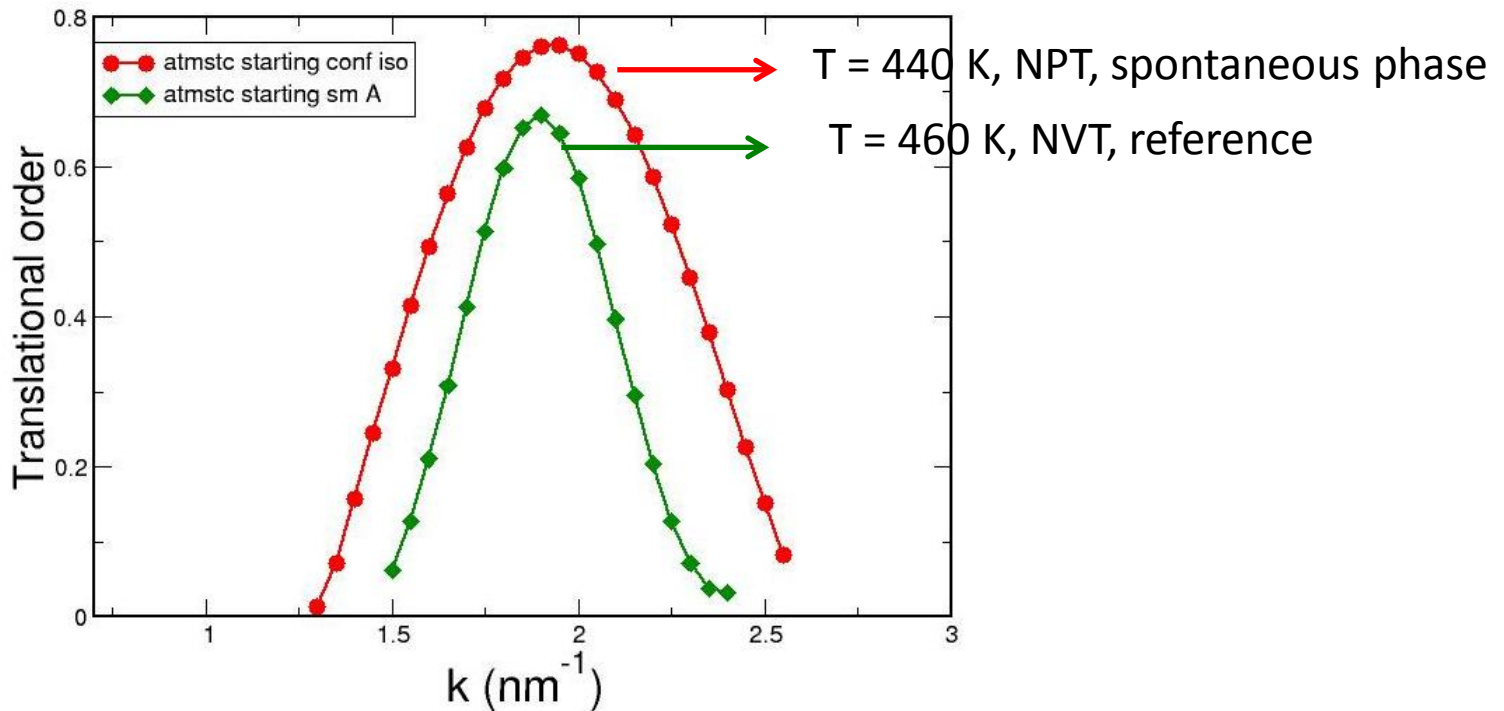
... and phase transition



- Smectic A phase develops spontaneously while cooling from the isotropic phase to  $T = 440 \text{ K}$  (NpT).
- Smectic A melts to the isotropic phase on heating to  $T = 500 \text{ K}$ .
- ⇒ Characterize phase behavior
- ⇒ Dynamics in the CG model
- ⇒ Growth of LC domains
- ⇒ Photoinduced transition

# Example 2: LC phase transitions

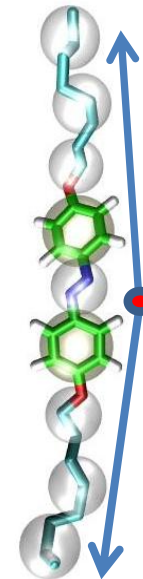
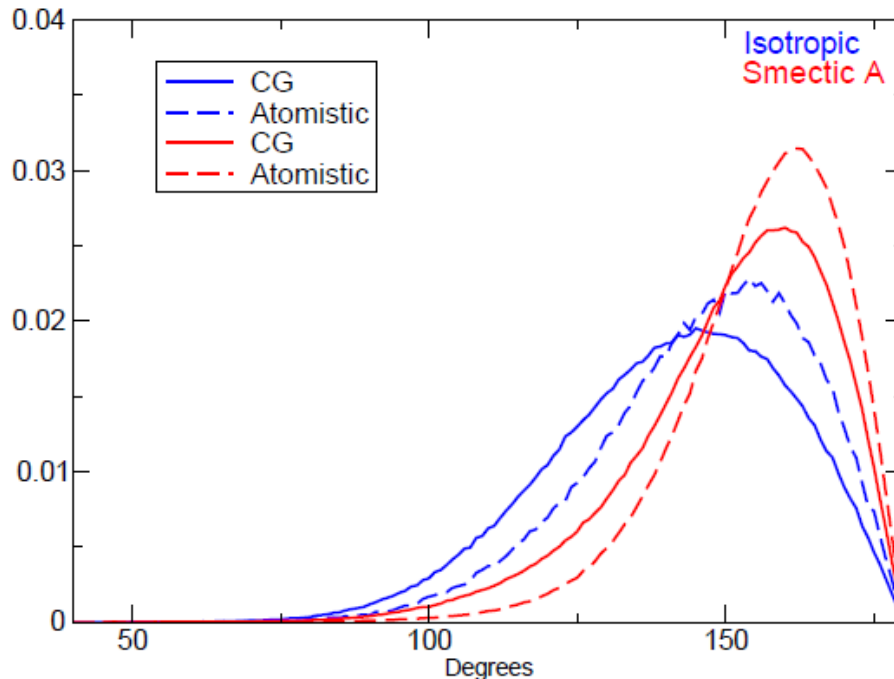
structure of the “spontaneous” phase:  
layer spacing perpendicular to director  $\sim$  reference



# Example 2: LC phase transitions

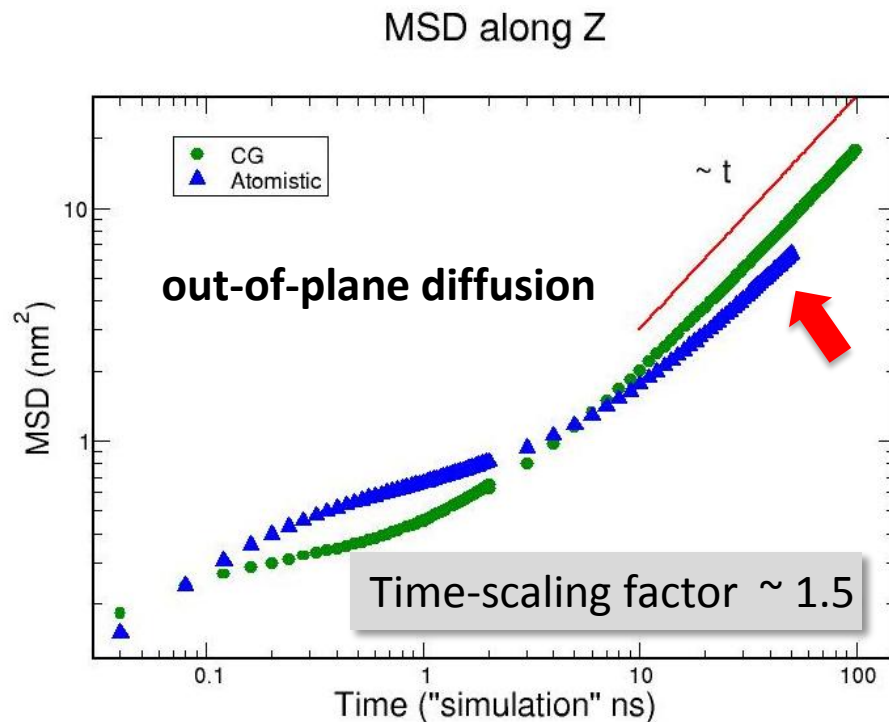
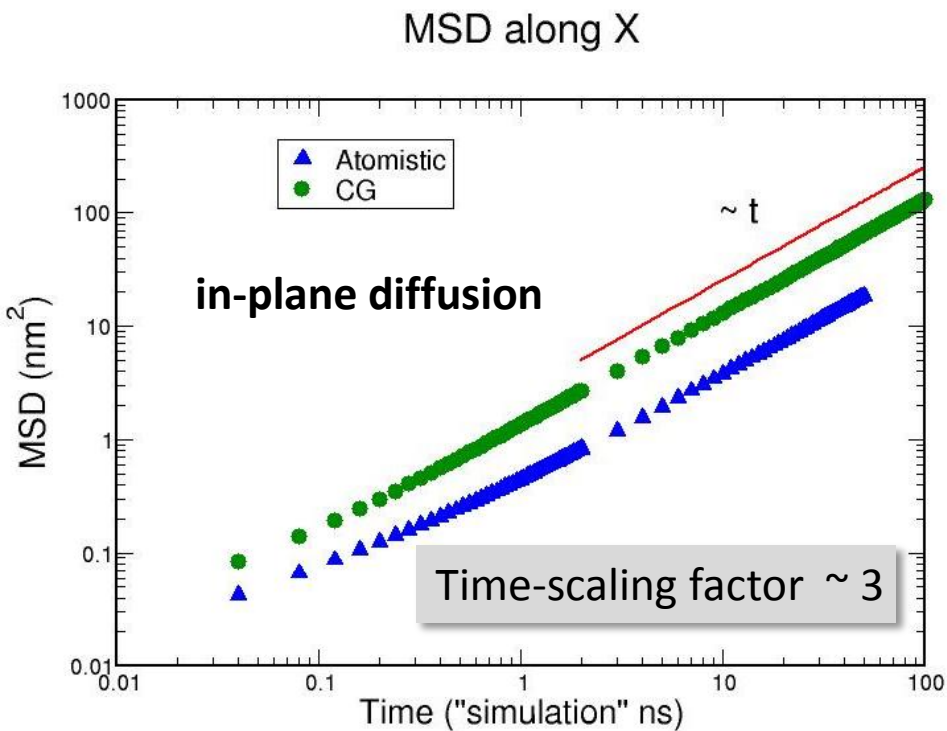
## density & molecule shape at the phase transition

- ⇒ Density change  $\sim 0.85\%$  (comparable to typical low molecular weight LC compounds; hard rod models typically  $\sim 10\%$ )

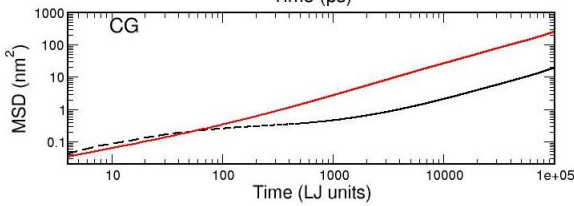
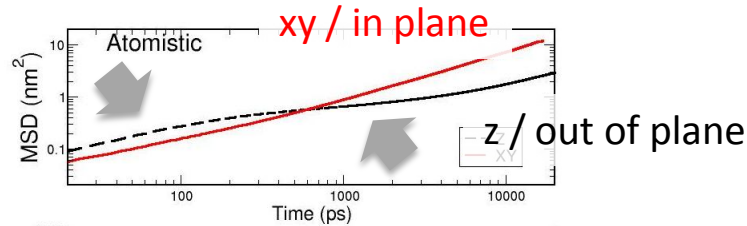


- ⇒ Response of molecular conformations to phase change correct

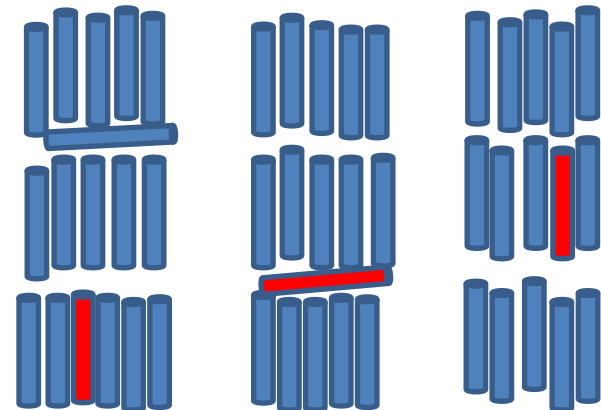
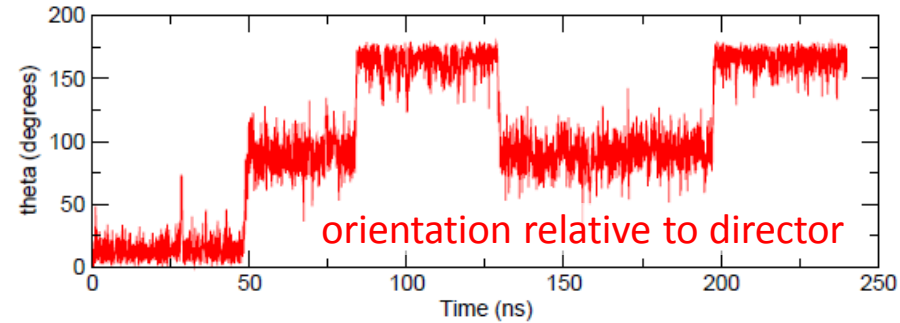
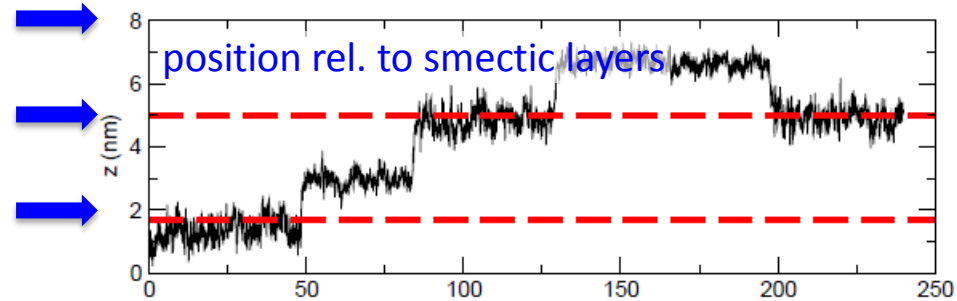
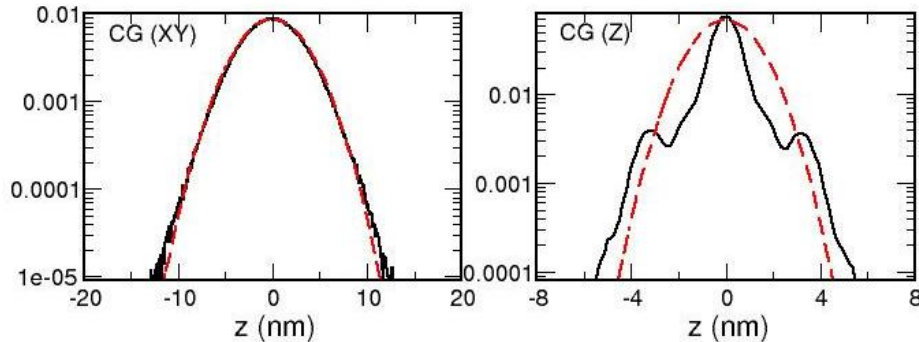
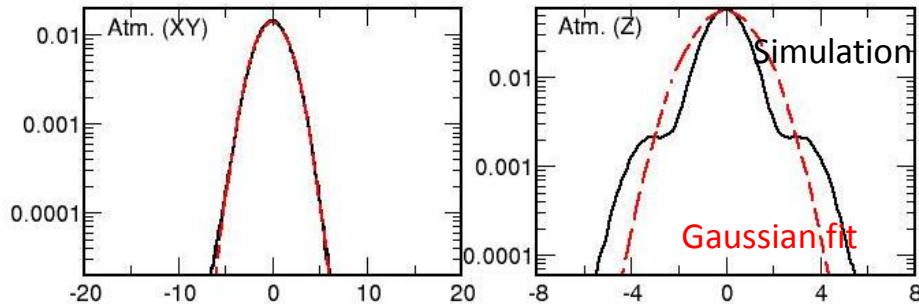
# And finally a bit of dynamics



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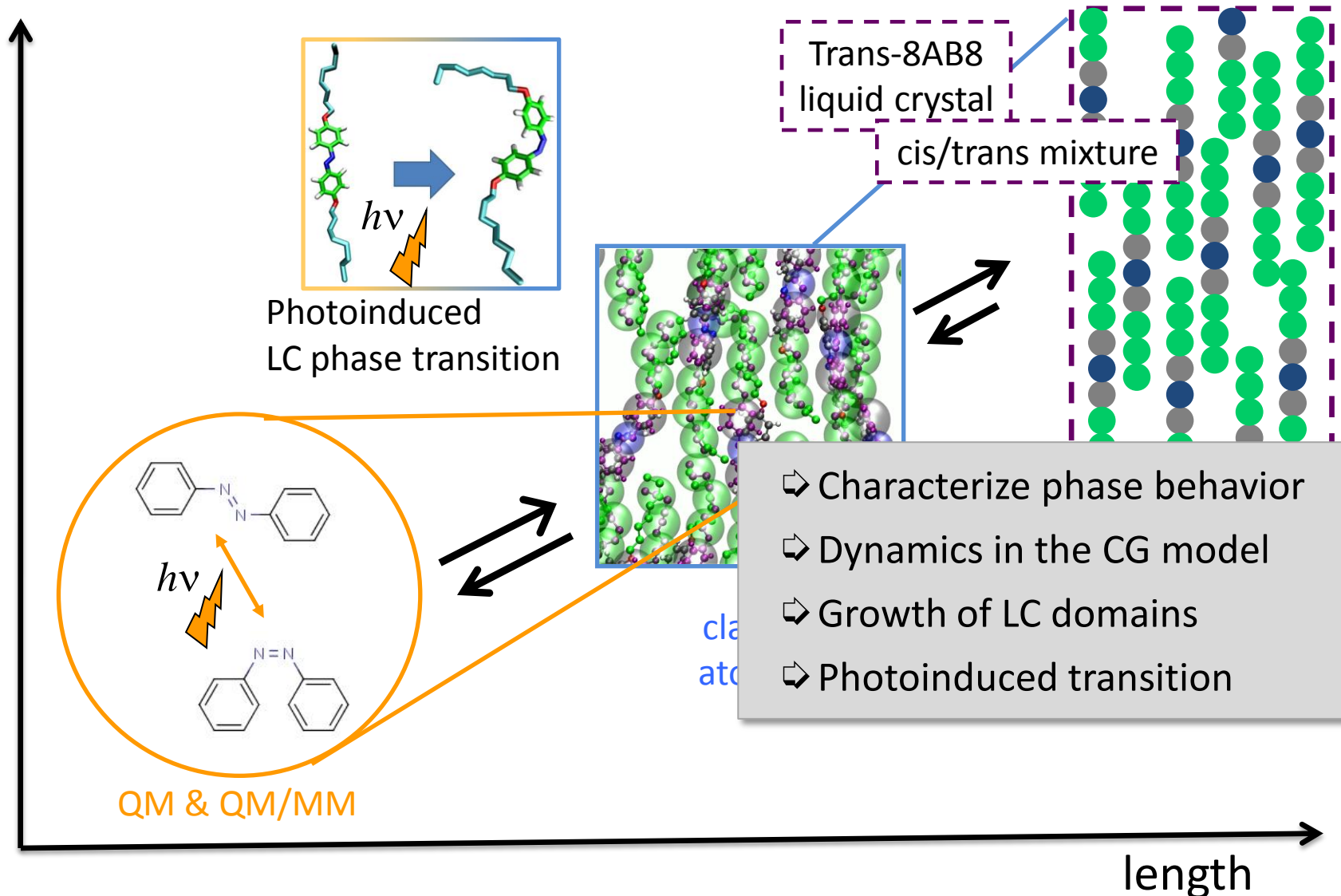
$$G_s(z,t) = (1/N) \sum_i \delta[z - (z_i(t_0 + t) - z_i(t))]$$





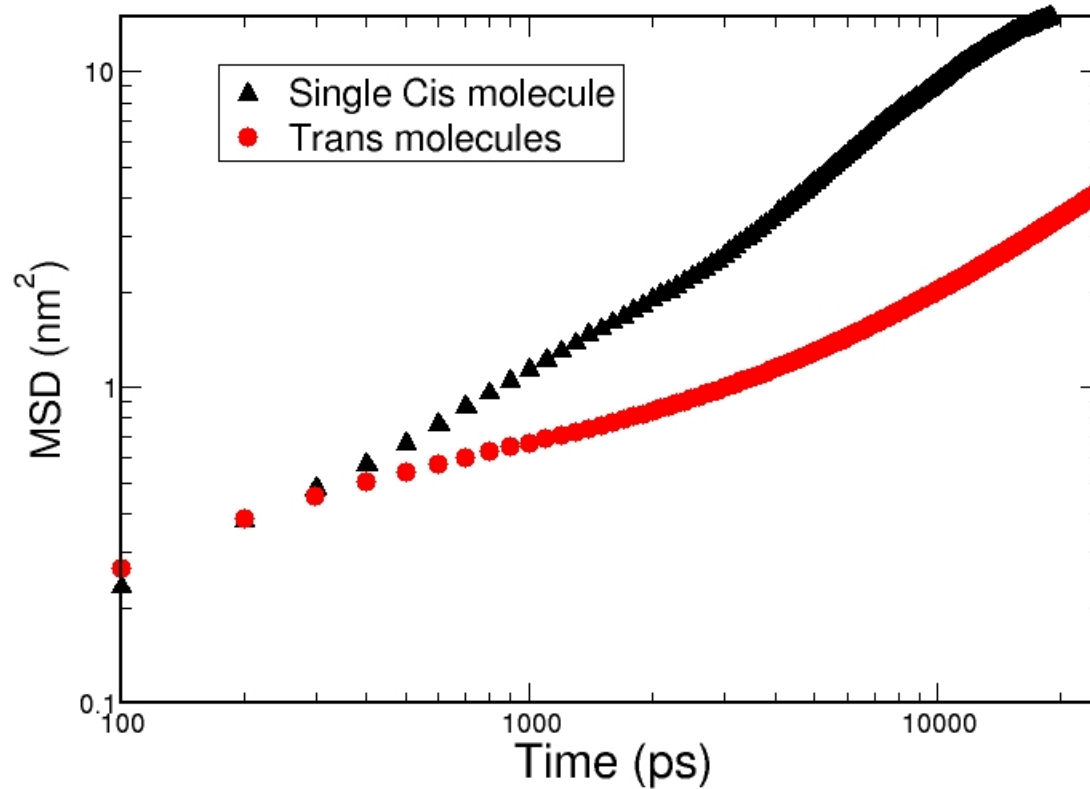
# Example 2: LC phase transition

time



# The cis molecules are “fast”

Atomistic: MSD along Z (perpendicular to the smectic layers)



# Let's “conclude” with questions

CG: How do I deal with the danger that the different “speed ups” distort my kinetics, pathways, and (out-of-equilibrium) the selection of resulting structures/motifs?

Atomistic/CG: How do the switched molecules behave?  
Form clusters?

Atomistic/QM: Find a criterion to relate  
environment/local order parameter to switching time?

QM: Does presence of cis molecules/cis domains facilitate  
photoswitching (e.g. via local disorder)?

# Acknowledgements

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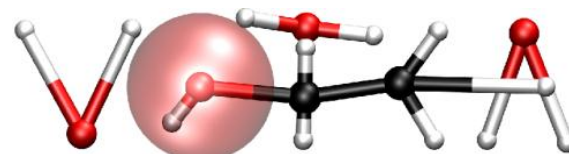
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Dominik Marx, RUB

Marcus Böckmann, RUB

Nikos Doltsinis, U Münster



Versatile Object-oriented Toolkit for Coarse-graining Applications