

**Supporting Information for**  
**Efficient calculation of protein-ligand binding free energy**  
**with GFN methods: the power of cluster model**

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**Table S1.** The PDB entries, the net charge of protein and ligand, the experimental  $pK_d$  ( $pK_d = -\log K_d$ ) and the descriptions of the complexes.

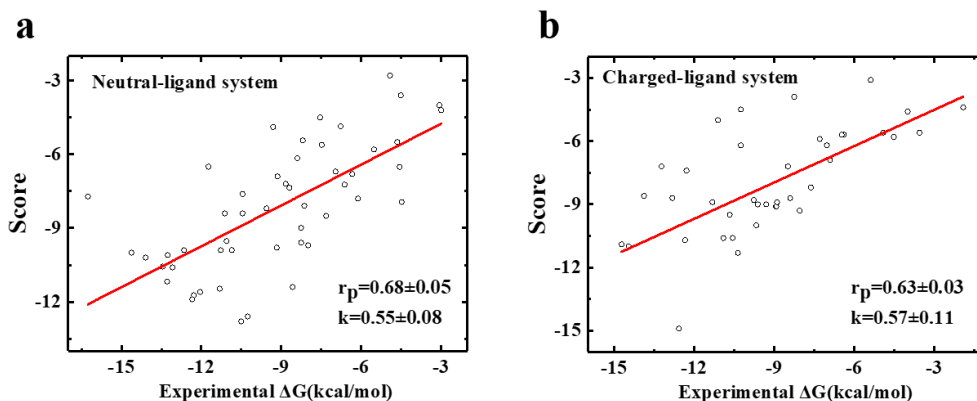
ID	PDB	$pK_d$	Charge(Pro/Lig)	Descriptions
1	186L	4.85	+8/0	Enterobacteria phage T4 LYSOZYME / N4B
2	188L	3.33	+8/0	Enterobacteria phage T4 LYSOZYME / OXE
3	1A28	8.29	+1/0	ligand-binding domain of the human progesterone receptor / STR
4	1A52	9.86	-7/0	human estrogen receptor alpha ligand-binding domain / EST
5	1AU0	7.66	+7/0	cathepsin k / SDK
6	1BCU	3.28	+7/0	thrombin alpha / PRL
7	1CEA	4.96	0/0	Plasminogen / ACA
8	1CEB	6	0/0	Plasminogen / AMH
9	1CTU	11.92	-9/0	cytidine deaminase / ZEB
10	1D2S	9.74	-6/0	N-terminal laminin G-like domain of human sex hormone-binding globulin / DHT
11	1D7I	3.6	+1/0	FK506 binding protein / DSS
12	1D7J	3.3	+1/0	FK506 binding protein / BUQ
13	1DRK	6.82	-2/0	rous sarcoma virus protease / RIP
14	1E02	6.15	-16/0	odorant-binding protein / UNA
15	1E3G	9	+5/0	Ligand-binding Domain (LBD) of human Androgen Receptor / R18
16	1ERB	8.1	-4/0	retinoic acid receptor rxr-alpha / ETR
17	1FKH	8.15	+1/0	FK506 binding protein / SBX
18	1G50	6.28	-6/0	wildtype human estrogen receptor alpha ligand-binding domain (hERalpha LBD) / EST
19	1G85	5.48	-10/0	odorant-binding protein / 3OL
20	1GX8	6.37	-8/0	bovine beta-lactoglobulin / RTL
21	1J01	6.47	-8/0	xylanase beta-1,4 / XIL
22	1JAQ	4.48	-12/0	matrix metalloproteinase-8 / 01S

23	1KDK	9.05	-5/0	sex hormone-binding globulin / DHT
24	1KMY	5.1	-10/0	2,3-dihydroxybiphenyl-1,2-dioxygenase / BPY
25	1L83	3.4	+8/0	lysozyme C54T C97A L99A / BNZ
26	1LHU	8.83	-4/0	N-terminal laminin G-like domain of human sex hormone-binding globulin / EST
27	1LI2	4.04	+8/0	Lysozyme / IPH
28	1LKE	7.52	-4/0	diga16 / DOG
29	1OGZ	5.85	-4/0	STEROID DELTA-ISOMERASE(P39A) / EQU
30	1QKU	9.59	-6/0	ESTRADIOL RECEPTOR/ EST
31	1RBP	6.72	-4/0	retinoic acid receptor rxr-alpha / RTL
32	1RDL	2.24	-1/0	mannose-binding protein-c / MMA
33	1W6Y	5.36	-7/0	steroid delta-isomerase / EQU
34	2A2G	7	-5/0	alpha-2u-globulin / LEO
35	2E2R	8.25964	-11/0	human estrogen-related receptor c (ERR $\gamma$ ) / 2OH
36	2I0G	9.72	-4/0	estrogen receptor beta / I0G
37	2QE4	7.96	-6/0	Estrogen receptor / JJ3
38	2XAB	9.27	-8/0	HSP90 / VHD
39	2XHT	5.96	-11/0	HSP90 / C0Y
40	3EKO	6.69897	-11/0	Hsp90 Thr184 / PYU
41	3KGT	5.51	-5/0	V30M mutant human transthyretin (TTR) / GEN
42	4HBV	4.64	+2/0	Bromodomain-containing protein 4 / 15E
43	4MRE	2.19	-4/0	murine cd44 hyaluronan binding domain / 2C9
44	4O09	7.7	-7/0	Heat shock protein HSP 90-alpha / 2R6
45	4QEV	7.66	+1/0	Bromodomain-containing protein 2, BRD2(BD2) L383A mutant / 31O
46	4QF7	8.6	+4/0	Phospholipase A2 VRV-PL-VIIIa / C0R
47	4STD	10.33	-4/0	scytalone dehydratase / BFS

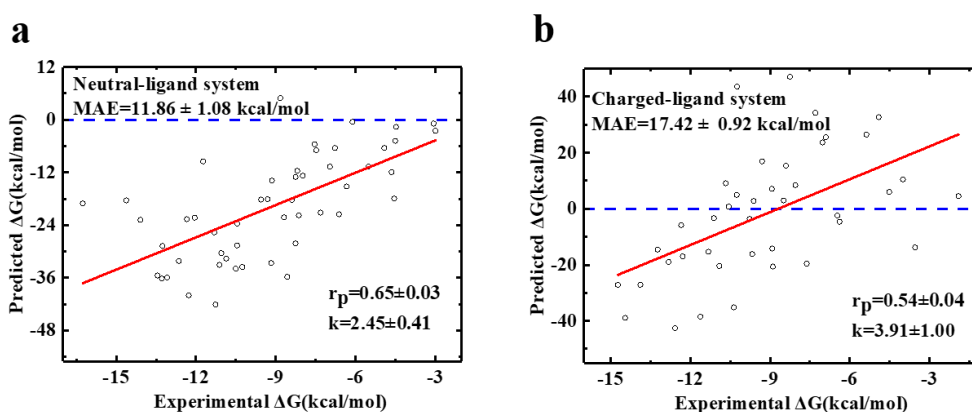
48	5G2G	6.05	-5/0	ketosteroid isomerase mutant M112K / EQU
49	6ELN	6.05	-7/0	Heat shock protein HSP 90-alpha / P4A
50	7STD	10.72	-4/0	scytalone dehydratase / CRP
51	1C4V	10.8	+6/+1	thrombin alpha / IH2
52	1C5P	4.68	+6/+1	trypsin beta / BEN
53	1CBR	9.4	-4/-1	mouse cellular retinol-binding protein (CRBP-1) / REA
54	1CE5	4.74	+6/+1	trypsin beta / BEN
55	1DB5	6.82	+15/-1	human non-pancreatic secretory phospholipase A2 / 6IN
56	1DF8	9.7	-1/-1	Streptavidin / BTN
57	1EZQ	9.05	+1/+2	coagulation factor xa / RPR
58	1F0U	7.16	+6/+2	trypsin beta / RPR
59	1FCY	8.52	-3/-1	retinoic acid receptor gamma-1 / 564
60	1FCZ	9.22	-3/-1	retinoic acid receptor gamma-1 / 156
61	1FIG	6.22	+4/-2	antibody fab fragment / TSA
62	1I2S	3.31	-8/-3	beta-lactamase from Bacillus licheniformis BS3 / CIT
63	1LAH	7.52	-3/+1	diga16 / ORN
64	1LPG	7.09	+1/+2	coagulation factor xa / IMA
65	1NF8	7.82	-4/-2	phenazine biosynthesis protein phzd / ISC
66	1O4M	1.4	+4/-2	proto-oncogene tyrosine-protein kinase src / MLA
67	1O4P	2.6	+4/-2	proto-oncogene tyrosine-protein kinase src / 791
68	1QB6	6.06	+6/+2	trypsin beta / 623
69	1TNG	2.93	+6/+1	trypsin beta / AMC
70	1TOM	8.3	+7/+2	thrombin alpha / MIN
71	1V2N	5.9	+5/+2	trypsin beta / BBA
72	1XUG	7.05	+6/+3	Trypsin / BAB
73	2BOK	6.55	-1/+3	coagulation factor xa / 784
74	2GKL	5.35	0/-2	zinc carbapenemase CPHA / PD2

75	2GTV	5.15	+1/-2	chorismate mutase / TSA
76	2J4A	10.6	-9/-1	HUMAN THYROID HORMONE RECEPTOR BETA LIGAND BINDING DOMAIN / OEF
77	2V77	5.06048	-6/-4	human carboxypeptidase A1 (hCPA1) / PAY
78	2YG2	6.05	-5/-3	APOLIPOPROTEIN M / FLC
79	2ZFS	6.54	+6/+2	Cationic trypsin / 12U
80	2ZFT	6.52	+6/+2	Cationic trypsin / 10U
81	3B3X	3.6	-8/-2	class A beta-lactamase of Bacillus licheniformis BS3 / A33
82	3BU1	8.14874	-3/+1	AM-10, monomine / HSM
83	3TVC	7.74	-10/-1	Collagenase 3 / E3P
84	4BAQ	9.01	+7/+2	THROMBIN / M4Z
85	4GGZ	10.18	+5/-1	Bradavidin 2 / BTN
86	4M8H	7.6	-7/-1	human Retinoic acid receptor RXR-alpha ligand binding domain / R4M
87	4O9V	8	-6/+3	Suppressor of tumorigenicity 14 protein Matriptase catalytic domain complex / NT4
88	4QF8	7.51	+4/+3	Phospholipase A2 VRV-PL-VIIIa / SPD
89	4RGD	3.94	+8/-3	Bacteriocin AS-48 G13K/L40K mutant / CIT
90	6GGD	5.59	+2/+1	Cellular tumor antigen p53 / EYB

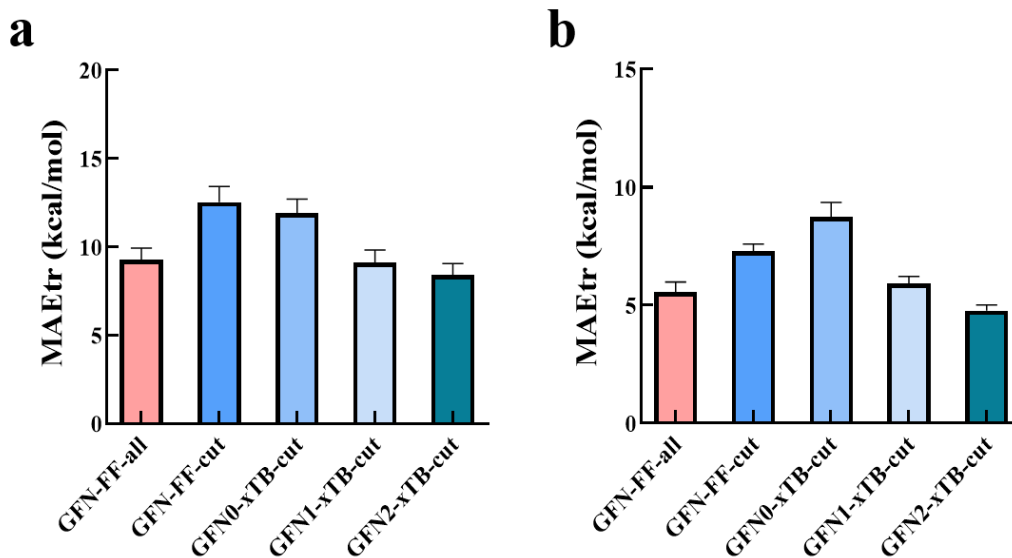
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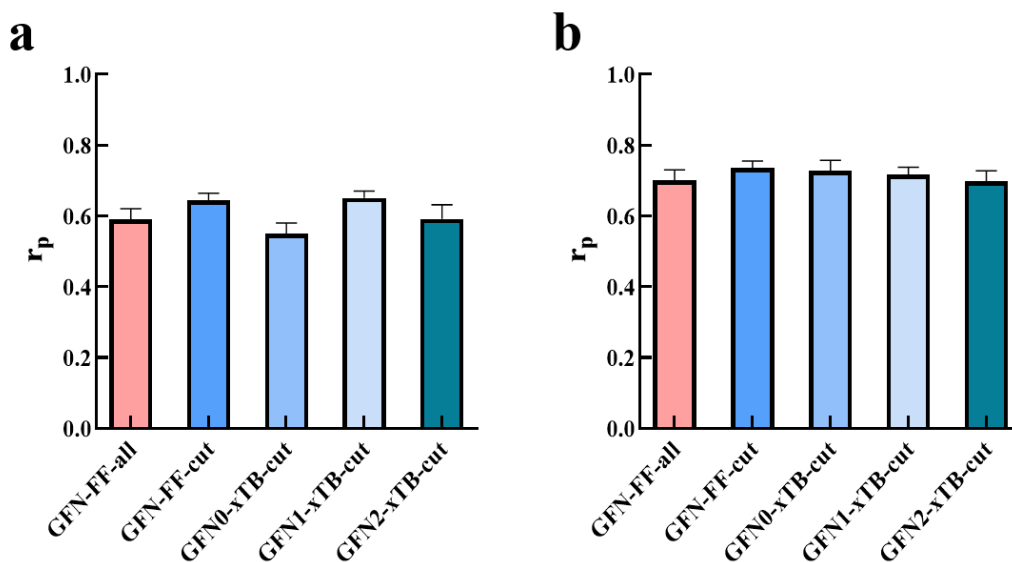
**Figure S1.** Correlation between experimental measurements and the docking score calculated by using the Autodock vina in (a) neutral-ligand system and (b) charged-ligand system. The uncertainties of  $r_p$  and  $k$  is estimated by the bootstrapping algorithm (i.e., randomly selecting 80% of each dataset with the repeat times equaling to the number of complexes in each dataset).



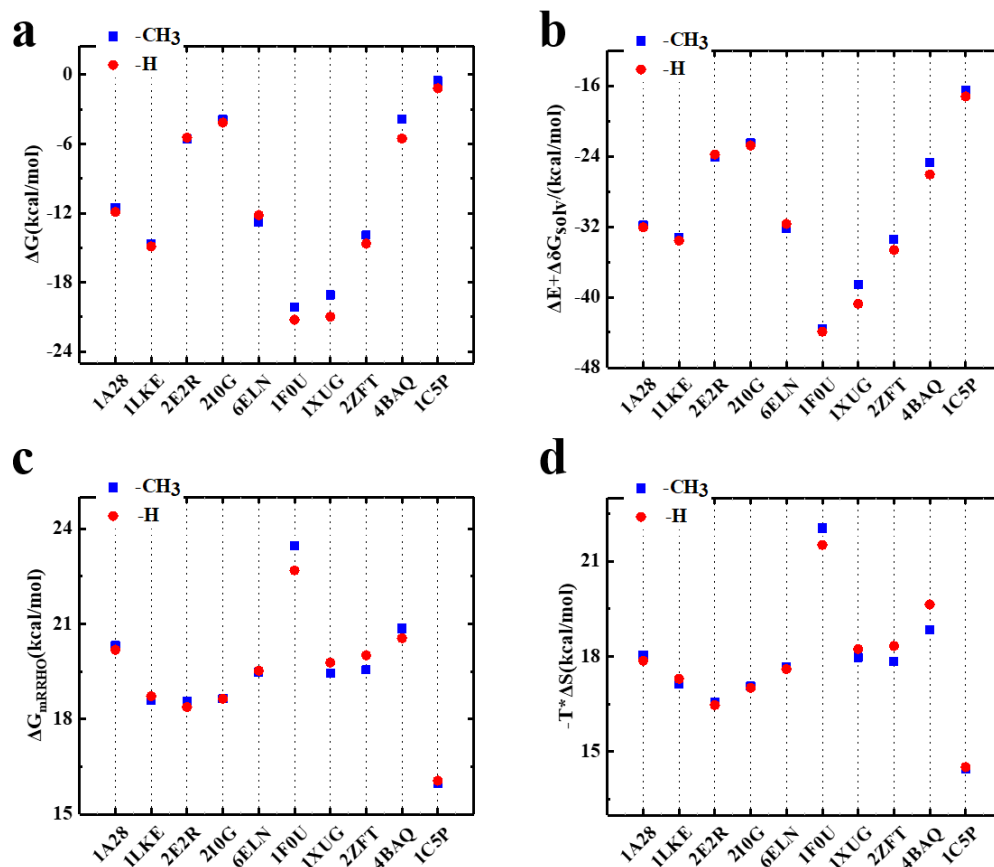
**Figure S2.** MAE and correlation between experimental and the predicted binding free energy with the MM/PBSA method in (a) neutral-ligand system and (b) charged-ligand system. The uncertainties of  $r_p$  and  $k$  is estimated by the bootstrapping algorithm (i.e., randomly selecting 80% of each dataset with the repeat times equaling to the number of complexes in each dataset).



**Figure S3.** MAEtr for the binding free energy of the whole protein-ligand (calculated using GFN-FF method) and its cluster model (calculated using GFN0, GFN1, GFN2-xTB and GFN-FF methods), after the removal of the systematic error (mean signed error, MSE). (a) MAEtr value of the charged-ligand system; (b) MAEtr value of the neutral-ligand system.

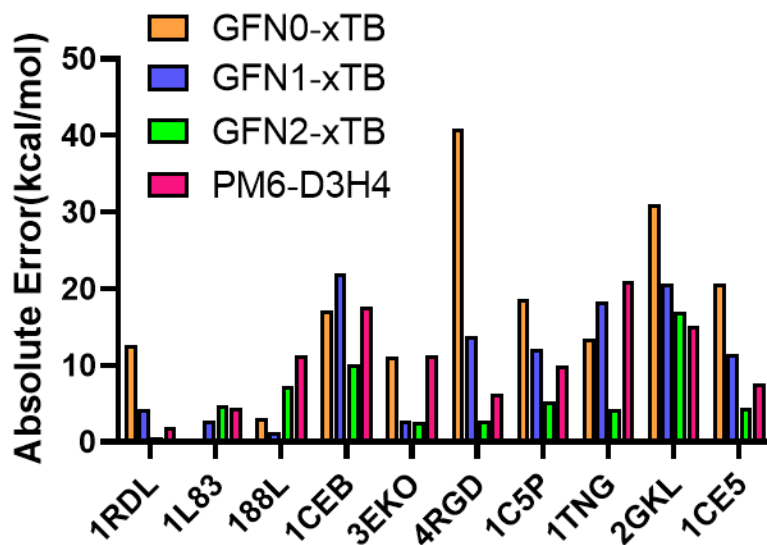


**Figure S4.** The Pearson correlation coefficients  $r_p$  of (a) the charged-ligand truncated systems and (b) the neutral-ligand truncated systems under different GFN methods.



**Figure S5.** In the cluster model with the GFN2-xTB method, (a) association free energy ( $\Delta G$ ), (b) enthalpy changes ( $\Delta E + \Delta \delta G_{\text{solv}}$ ), (c) thermostatical corrections of free energy ( $\Delta G_{\text{mRRHO}}$ ) and (d) entropy changes ( $-T^* \Delta S$ ) of ten protein-ligand systems using different truncated methods (hydrogen atoms and methyl groups).





**Figure S6.** Absolute error (i.e.,  $|\Delta G_{\text{exp}} - \Delta G_{\text{cal}}|$ ) for the binding free energy of the truncated systems with the PM6-D3H4 and GFN $n$ -xTB methods.