# Modeling of minimal systems based on ATP-Zn coordination for chemically fueled self-assembly

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# Supporting Information

#### S1. Hysteresis assessment

Table 1: Free energy (FE) from WT-MTD simulations of MTP-[ZnCH<sub>3</sub>TACN]<sup>2+</sup> in water, starting from ion-contact (i.c.) and from water-mediated (w.m.) coordination. All quantities are expressed in kcal/mol and the ground state is taken as a reference. The uncertainty  $\Delta$ FE is calculated as the semi-difference between the two simulations.

Configuration	FE (i.c.)	FE (w.m.)	Average FE	$\Delta FE$
$\alpha\gamma$	0	0	0	0
$lpha\gamma\gamma$	5.37	6.35	5.86	0.49
$eta\gamma$	7.47	8.75	8.11	0.64
$\gamma$	8.39	8.14	8.27	0.13
$\beta$	8.93	10.14	9.54	0.61
$lpha lpha \gamma$	9.96	10.27	10.12	0.16
$\alpha$	10.72	10.56	10.64	0.08
$\gamma\gamma$	10.76	11.40	11.08	0.32
lphaeta	14.87	14.40	14.64	0.24
$eta\gamma\gamma$	14.58	15.73	15.16	0.58
$\alpha \alpha$	18.31	17.60	17.96	0.36
no contacts	18.72	16.37	17.55	1.18
$lphaeta\gamma$	19.55	20.02	19.79	0.24
$\beta\beta$	24.50	24.99	24.75	0.25
lphaetaeta	28.68	32.21	30.45	1.77
$etaeta\gamma$	33.91	33.26	33.59	0.33
lpha lpha eta	36.42	38.67	37.55	1.13

# S2. Simulations details

Total number of atoms	2258
ATP	1
$Na^+$	4
$H_2O$	737
Ensemble	NPT
Temperature	$300 \mathrm{K}$
Pressure	$1 \mathrm{atm}$
Timestep	1  fs
Length	100  ns

Table 2: Settings of standard MD simulation of ATP in water.

Table 3: Settings of standard MD simulation of  $[ZnCH_3TACN]^{2+}$  in water.

Total number of atoms	4872
$[ZnCH_3TACN]^{2+}$	1
Cl <sup>-</sup>	2
$H_2O$	1614
Ensemble	NPT
Temperature	$300 \mathrm{K}$
Pressure	$1 \mathrm{atm}$
Timestep	$1 \mathrm{fs}$
Length	160 ns

Equilibration	
Ensemble	NPT
Temperature	$300 \mathrm{K}$
Pressure	$1 \mathrm{atm}$
Timestep	1  fs
Length	20  ns
WT-MTD	
Ensemble	NVT
Temperature	$300 \mathrm{K}$
Pressure	$1 \mathrm{atm}$
Timestep	1 fs
Hill width	2.0
Initial hill height	$0.2 \ \mathrm{kcal/mol}$
Grid width	0.1
Bias factor	15
Hill deposition frequency	500  fs
Parameters of coordination number (c.n) function	
(for the definition of the function see Equation 1	
of the main text)	
Cutoff $d_0$	2.7 Å
n	6
m	12
Half-harmonic wall on c.n.s	
Upper walls position	2.4
Rescaled force constant	$15 \ \rm kcal/mol$
Half-harmonic wall on distance between Zn <sup>2+</sup>	
and the center of mass of phosphorus	
Upper walls position	10.2 Å
Rescaled force constant	$15 \ \rm kcal/mol$
Harmonic constraints on [ZnCH <sub>3</sub> TACN] <sup>2+</sup>	
Secondary N-Zn equilibrium distance	2.05 Å
Tertiary N-Zn equilibrium distance	2.15 Å
Force constant	$200 \text{ kcal/mol } \text{\AA}^2$

Table 4: General settings for WT-MTD simulations.

Table 5: Settings of WT-MTD simulation of  $ATP-Zn^{2+}$  in water.

Total number of atoms	997
ATP	1
$\mathrm{Zn}^{2+}$	1
$Na^+$	2
$H_2O$	317
Box size	$(21.40 \text{ Å})^3$
Length	$1.4 \ \mu s$

Total number of atoms	386
MTP	1
$Zn^{2+}$	1
Na <sup>+</sup>	2
$H_2O$	122
Box size	$(15.68 \text{ Å})^3$
Length	$1.4 \ \mu s$

Table 6: Settings of WT-MTD simulation of MTP- $Zn^{2+}$  in water.

Table 7: Settings of WT-MTD simulation of  $ATP-[ZnCH_3TACN]^{2+}$  in water.

Total number of atoms	1405
ATP	1
$[ZnCH_3TACN]^{2+}$	1
$Na^+$	2
$H_2O$	444
Box size	$(24.16 \text{ Å})^3$
Length	$2.2~\mu { m s}$

Table 8: Settings of WT-MTD simulations of MTP-[ZnCH<sub>3</sub>TACN]<sup>2+</sup> in water, either from ion-contact or from water-mediated initial configuration.

Total number of atoms	383
MTP	1
$[Zn CH_3 TACN]^{2+}$	1
$Na^+$	2
$H_2O$	112
Box size	$(15.55 \text{ Å})^3$
Length	$1.7 \ \mu s$

# S3. Characterization of $[ZnCH_3TACN]^{2+}$



Figure 1: Structure of  $[ZnCH_3TACN]^{2+}$  with coordinated water molecules, as obtained from standard MD simulation.

Table 9: Zn-N and Zn-Ow distances in  $[ZnCH_3TACN]^{2+}$  from standard MD simulation. Ow indicates water oxygens and NS, NT refer to secondary and tertiary nitrogens of TACN, respectively.

Atoms	Distance (Å)
Zn-NS	$2.09\pm0.06$
Zn-NT	$2.16\pm0.07$
Zn-Ow (I)	$2.05\pm0.06$
Zn-Ow (II)	$2.05\pm0.05$
Zn-Ow (III)	$2.05\pm0.06$

S4. Conformational analysis



Figure 2: Free energy as a function of the dihedrals a)  $\omega_2/\omega_1$ , b)  $\omega_4/\omega_3$  and c)  $\omega_5$  of the triphosphate chain (definition of angles in Fig. 5 of the main text), obtained by reweighting of WT-MTD run for the  $\alpha\gamma\gamma$  coordination mode of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water.



Figure 3: Free energy profiles as a function of the dihedral angles a)  $\omega_1$ , b)  $\omega_2$ , c)  $\omega_3$ , d)  $\omega_4$ , e)  $\omega_5$  of the triphosphate chain (definition of angles in Fig. 5 of the main text), obtained for free ATP in water (black dashed) by standard MD simulations and for  $\alpha\gamma$  (red solid),  $\alpha\gamma\gamma$  (blue solid) and  $\beta\gamma$  (green solid) coordination modes of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water by reweighting of WT-MTD run.



Figure 4: Free energy as a function of the dihedrals a-c)  $\omega_2/\omega_1$ , d-f)  $\omega_4/\omega_3$  and g)  $\omega_5$  of the triphosphate chain (definition of angles in Fig. 5 of the main text), obtained by reweighting of WT-MTD run for the  $\alpha\gamma$ ,  $\alpha\gamma\gamma$  and  $\beta\gamma$  coordination modes of MTP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water.



Figure 5: a) Structure of a denosine, highlighting the position of the N7 and the H8 atoms and the gly cosidic angle,  $\chi$ . FES as a function of  $\chi$  and of the Zn-N7 distance, for the b)  $\alpha\gamma$ , c)  $\alpha\gamma\gamma$ , d)  $\beta\gamma$  binding modes of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup>, reconstructed from WT-MTD run.

S5. Free energy surfaces as a function of coordination numbers  $\mathbf{MTP}\text{-}\mathbf{Zn}^{2+}$ 



Figure 6: FESs from WT-MTD simulations of MTP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water. States with two Zn-O $\beta$  contacts are disregarded as higher in energy. a-f) Representative configurations for minima lying within ~10 kcal/mol from the global minimum.

### ATP-[ZnCH<sub>3</sub>TACN]<sup>2+</sup>



Figure 7: FESs from WT-MTD simulation of ATP-[ZnCH<sub>3</sub>TACN]<sup>2+</sup> in water. States with two Zn-O $\beta$  contacts are disregarded as higher in energy. a-g) Representative configurations for minima lying within ~10 kcal/mol from the global minimum.

## MTP-[ZnCH<sub>3</sub>TACN]<sup>2+</sup>



Figure 8: Average FESs from WT-MTD simulations of MTP-[ZnCH<sub>3</sub>TACN]<sup>2+</sup> in water starting from ion-contact and from water-mediated coordination. States with two Zn-O $\beta$  contacts are disregarded as higher in energy. a-f) Representative configurations for minima lying within ~10 kcal/mol from the global minimum.

#### S6. Convergence assessment



Figure 9: Time evolution of the free energy along WT-MTD trajectories, for a,b) ATP- $Zn^{2+}$ , c,d) MTP- $Zn^{2+}$ , e,f)ATP-[ZnCH<sub>3</sub>TACN]<sup>2+</sup>, MTP-[ZnCH<sub>3</sub>TACN]<sup>2+</sup> in water, starting from g,h) ion contact and from i,j) water-mediated coordination. For each system the global minimum is taken as a reference. On the left all coordination modes are shown, whereas on the right only the modes lower in energy than the unbound state are retained.

### S7. $Zn^{2+}$ -ATP WT-MTD simulation with $Zn^{2+}$ dummy model

Table 10: Settings of WT-MTD simulation of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water with the dummy model by Duarte *et al.*.

Total number of atoms	997
ATP	1
$\mathrm{Zn}^{2+}$	1
Dummies	6
$Na^+$	2
$H_2O$	315
Box size	$(21.19 \text{ Å})^3$
Length	$1.1 \ \mu s$

The settings of the WT-MTD simulation are the same reported in Tab.4.



Figure 10: Time evolution of the free energy along WT-MTD trajectories, for  $ATP-Zn^{2+}$  with the dummy model by Duarte *et al.* starting from water-mediated coordination. The global minimum is taken as a reference. In the upper panel all coordination modes are shown, whereas in the lower panel only the modes lower in energy than the unbound state are retained.



Figure 11: a) Structure of a denosine, highlighting the position of the N7 and the H8 atoms and the gly cosidic angle,  $\chi$ . FES as a function of  $\chi$  and of the Zn-N7 distance, for the b)  $\alpha\gamma$ , c)  $\alpha\gamma\gamma$ , d)  $\beta\gamma$  binding modes of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup>, reconstructed from WT-MTD run with the dummy model by Duarte *et al.*.



Figure 12: Comparison of free energy as a function of the dihedrals  $\omega_2/\omega_1$ ,  $\omega_4/\omega_3$  of the triphosphate chain (definition of angles in Fig. 5 of the main text), obtained by reweighting of WT-MTD run for the  $\alpha\gamma$  coordination modes of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water for the dummy model by Duarte *et al.* (a-b) and for the non-bonded model by Stote and Karplus (c-d).



Figure 13: Comparison of free energy as a function of the dihedrals  $\omega_2/\omega_1$ ,  $\omega_4/\omega_3$  of the triphosphate chain (definition of angles in Fig. 5 of the main text), obtained by reweighting of WT-MTD run for the  $\alpha\gamma\gamma$  coordination modes of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water for the dummy model by Duarte *et al.* (a-b) and for the non-bonded model by Stote and Karplus (c-d).



Figure 14: Comparison of free energy as a function of the dihedrals  $\omega_2/\omega_1$ ,  $\omega_4/\omega_3$  of the triphosphate chain (definition of angles in Fig. 5 of the main text), obtained by reweighting of WT-MTD run for the  $\beta\gamma$  coordination modes of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water for the dummy model by Duarte *et al.* (a-b) and for the non-bonded model by Stote and Karplus (c-d).



Figure 15: Comparison of free energy as a function of the dihedral  $\omega_5$  of the triphosphate chain (definition of the angle in Fig. 5 of the main text), obtained by reweighting of WT-MTD run for the  $\alpha\gamma$ ,  $\alpha\gamma\gamma$  and for  $\beta\gamma$  coordination modes of ATP-Zn<sup>2+</sup> in water for the dummy model by Duarte *et al.* (Dummy) and for the non-bonded model by Stote and Karplus (SK).



Figure 16: FES of ATP- $Zn^{2+}$  as a function of c.n. of  $Zn^{2+}$  to water and triphosphate oxygens, reconstructed from WT-MTD run using a) the model by Duarte *et al.* and b) the model by Stote and Karplus for the metal.