

# e-Seminar #25

### Addressing the challenge of drug discovery with Machine Learning and Exascale computing



Presenter: Agastya Bhati (University College London)

28 July 2022

The e-Seminar will start at 2pm CEST / 1pm BST



Moderator: Gavin Pringle (EPCC, University of Edinburgh)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 823712



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The e-Seminar series is run in collaboration with:





## e-Seminar #25

A Centre of Excellence in Computational Biomedicine

### Addressing the challenge of drug discovery with Machine Learning and Exascale computing



Presenter: Agastya Bhati (University College London) 28 July 2022

Welcome!



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### Outline

- 1. Free energy prediction
- 2. Machine learning approaches
- 3. Physics-based approaches
- 4. Hybrid ML and PB approaches



# **Free Energy Predictions**



# Target based compoundscreening1060 estimated drug-like compounds



# **Drug-protein Binding Affinities**

- Drugs are designed to act on specific proteins within the body.
- If the wrong drug is used, it cannot interact with the protein.
- The protein shape or configuration can also change between patients.
- We can use computer programs to determine the best drug for a specific protein in a given patient





# Scientific motivation: we want to calculate binding free energies

(a)

Intracol



#### Applications:

GPCR

Kinases

Key proteins in SARS-Cov-2

And many more.

### Methods: Ensemble simulations

- Performing ensemble simulations and obtaining averages leads to more reliable results
- Ensemble averaging helps to eradicate aleatory errors on stochastic simulations, e.g. in drug affinity ranking



#### **BAC**: ensemble-based binding affinity calculator

# **Uncertainty Quantification**

- **distribution** of predicted free energies
- influence of ensemble and parametric averaging
- distributions often non-normal



10

#### In-depth analysis of the loss of statistical normality

- analysis of third and fourth statistical moments
- dependence of moments on influential parameters
- → fine-sampling is essential: a **need for ensemble averaging**







Vassaux et al., J. Chem. Theory Comp. (2021) 17 (8), 5187-5197

#### Non-normal distribution from experimental measurements

Experimental binding affinity measurements from GSK

- Compounds tested >100 times for their activities to SMYD3.
- Compounds a and b do not show any drift in the assay over time, compounds c and d show a small amount of time dependency.
- All distributions are skewed from a normal distribution
- The excess kurtoses are all positive, meaning that compared to a normal distribution, the tails are longer and heavier.



Wan, S. et al. J. Chem. Inf. Model., 62, 10, 2561 (2022) DOI: 10.1021/acs.jcim.2c00255

# Machine Learning Approaches

| Input | Hidden  | Hidden  | Output |
|-------|---------|---------|--------|
| layer | layer 1 | layer 2 | layer  |



# What can AI do in drug discovery?

NEWS | April 9, 2021 | updated 16 Apr 2021 10:33am



Tripathi, N., et al. Mol Divers 25, 1643–1664 (2021). DOI: 10.1007/s11030-021-10237-z

## **De Novo Drug Design**



Narrow down the space of the compounds through the filters

Current Opinion in Structural Biology

### **Prediction of Drug-Protein Interactions**



Zheng, S., et al. Nat Mach Intell 2, 134–140 (2020). DOI: 10.1038/s42256-020-0152-y



### **DeepDriveMD: Application to ligand-protein systems**

- DDMD is an autoencoder based method which was initially developed for accelerating the rate of protein folding simulations.
- Autoencoders:
  - Deep convolution variational autoencoder (CVAE)
  - Adversarial autoencoder (AAE)
- We are seeking to modify its functionality to extend it to the accelerated, enhanced sampling of ligand binding poses within protein-ligand complexes.
- Accelerated identification of optimal ligand binding poses should increase the precision and accuracy of downstream free energy calculations in the IMPECCABLE workflow, at a reduced computational cost.

### **Protein structure prediction**

How AlphaFold works:

- Formulate the protein folding problem as a "spatial graph" showing the amino acids localised in space
- Design the structure of the network to learn from training which amino acids lie near each other

In some cases, AlphaFold's structure predictions are indistinguishable from those determined using experimental methods

#### News in focus



DeepMind's program for determining the 3D shapes of proteins stands to transform biology, say scientists.

Nature | Vol 588 | 10 December 2020 | 203

### Limitations

**Assumption:** The distribution of training data is *identical* to the distribution of test data (including data from future unseen events).

In practice, this assumption is often violated to because of:

- insufficient training data
- noise and errors in real-life data
- skewed distributions
- Etc., etc.

#### Interpretability:

- Fail to provide conceptual accounts for the processes to which they are applied
- Lack explanatory power and thus no understanding and insight.
- It uses 10<sup>8</sup> parameters to fit the data!

It is vital to use theory as a guide to experimental design for maximal efficiency of data collection and to produce reliable predictive models and conceptual knowledge.

P. V. Coveney & R. Highfield, "Big AI: Blending Big Data With Big Theory to Build Virtual Humans", in "AI for Science", Tony Hey *et al*, Editors (forthcoming) P. V. Coveney, E. R. Dougherty and R. R. Highfield, "Big Data Need Big Theory Too", *Phil Trans R Soc London A*, 374, 20160153 (2016)



# Physics-based Approaches

# Methods: End-point approach

**ESMACS**: enhanced sampling of molecular dynamics with approximation of continuum solvent

#### **Ranking binding affinities:**

- Evaluate large number of promising compounds
- Structurally and chemically diverse compounds
- Ranking of binding free energies
- Ensemble simulation for reliable
  predictions
- Lower computational cost





## Methods: Alchemical approach

TIES: Thermodynamic integration with enhanced sampling

#### **Relative binding free energy**



Absolute binding free energy



A. Bhati, et al., J. Chem. Theory Comput. (2017), 13(1), 210–222.M. Bieniek, et al., J. Chem. Theory Comput., (2021) 17(2), 1250–1265.



**TIES20:** a software for Flexible Superimposition and Partial Ring Morphing

https://ccs-ties.org/

**TIES MD:** a collection of software packages to calculate protein ligand binding free energies with physics based alchemical methods. https://ucl-ccs.github.io/TIES\_MD/

# **Absolute binding free energy**

- ABFE is capable of comparison of binding affinities of structurally and chemically unrelated compounds.
- A thermodynamic cycle is employed, in which the binding process is divided into a series of nonphysical transformations.
- The binding free energy,  $\Delta G_{binding}$ , is the sum of all  $\Delta G$  values from the nonphysical step.
- Ensemble simulations, with relatively large number of replicas, are required to attain the desired precision.



#### **TIES 20**

Relative Binding Free Energy with a Flexible Superimposition Algorithm and Partial Ring Morphing.



TIES 20 implements a flexible topology superimposition algorithm to match drugs and build inputs for relative binding affinity calculations.



M. K. Bieniek, A. P. Bhati, S. Wan, and P. V. Coveney, J. Chem. Theory Comput. 2021, 17, 2, 1250–1265. DOI:10.1021/acs.jctc.0c01179

### TI vs FEP

Using ensemble-based simulations

- > No statistically significant difference found between the calculated properties for TI and FEP results.
- > Both TI and FEP methods achieve comparable accuracy and precision for the systems studied.



A. Wade, A. Bhati, S. Wan, P. Coveney. J. Chem. Theory Comput., 18, 6, 3972 (2022) DOI: 10.1021/acs.jctc.2c00114

Large Scale Study of Ligand–Protein Relative Binding Free Energy Calculations

#### Actionable Predictions from Statistically Robust Protocols

A large data set comprising over 500 ligand transformations spanning over 300 ligands binding to a diverse set of 14 different protein targets.

A. P. Bhati and P. V. Coveney, J. Chem. Theory Comput. 2022, 18, 4, 2687–2702. DOI:10.1021/acs.jctc.1c01288



### Ensemble simulation-based alchemical approach

Ensemble simulations furnish information on the statistical distributions of the free energy calculations which exhibit non-normal behaviour.

0.200

0.175

0.150

· 필 0.125

0.100

E 0.075

0.050

0.025

0.000

90

95

100

ş

149-167



A. P. Bhati and P. V. Coveney, J. Chem. Theory Comput. 2022, 18, 4, 2687–2702. DOI:10.1021/acs.jctc.1c01288

### Enhanced sampling method

Replica exchange with solute tempering (REST2) protocol degrades the accuracy of results, and hence its routine application is not recommended.



A. P. Bhati and P. V. Coveney, J. Chem. Theory Comput. 2022, 18, 4, 2687–2702. DOI:10.1021/acs.jctc.1c01288

# BAC: Molecular simulations of receptor-ligand free energy

- computer-aided drug discovery
- prediction of the dynamics of 100,000s of atoms using Newton's equations of motion on the timescale of nanoseconds
  - → evaluate the free energy of the system using timeaveraging and ensemble averaging
- computational cost:
  - 1,000 core hours per replica
  - ensembles of replicas for a robust free energy evaluation
- Approach is being integrated with ML





# Hybrid physics-based and machine-learning approach



### Hybrid physics-based and machine-learning approach

- Molecular Dynamics simulations
  - Accurate binding affinity estimation
  - Less accurate methods for virtual screening
  - More accurate methods for lead optimization
  - Computationally expensive and hence limited exploration of chemical space
- Machine Learning algorithms
  - Very fast in screening huge libraries of molecules
  - Can explore the chemical space of relevance much widely
  - Generative algorithm predicts useful molecules
  - Heavily depending on training data

# Why couple ML and MD?

**Molecular dynamics (MD)** and **machine learning (ML)** methods are complementary to each other

- MD can be used to screen predictions from ML algorithms
- MD output can be fed back into ML
  - algorithm to train and improve it further
- Quick predictions of potential binders
- Augmenting human intelligence with artificial intelligence



# Multiscale modelling and simulation

- Bridging, combining and integrating multiple levels of description and representations of matter
  - combine many theories / methods in our research
  - necessary to solve real-world problems
- Machine Learning to screen large datasets
  - De Novo drug design
  - ZINC: 230 million purchasable compounds
  - DrugBank: 13,551 drug entries
  - PubChem: 103 million compounds
  - Enamine: 188,734 building blocks
- Physics-based model to predict binding affinities
  - **ESMACS** to identify promising lead compounds
  - **TIES** to further optimise the lead compounds
- → Quick Turnaround is required, especially urgent to find effective drug treatment for COVID-19



### IMPECCABLE Workflow - Accelerating COVID-19 drug discovery

- No single algorithm or method can achieve the necessary accuracy with required efficiency to sample the huge chemical space.
- Physics and machine learning based methods are used symbiotically to test drugs with required accuracy and efficiency.
- DeepDriveMD is a deep learning based approach and has been demonstrated for protein folding trajectories, offering at least 2× speedup compared to traditional conformational sampling methods.



The pipeline combines ML and PB into a unified workflow, allowing both upstream and downstream exchange of <sup>35</sup> information in the iterative loop.

# IMPECCABLE: Integrated Modeling Pipeline

**Multi-stage** campaign employed to select promising drug candidates:

- Stage-1: High-throughput ensemble docking to identify small molecules ("hits")
- Stage-2: Al-driven Molecular Dynamics modeling specific binding regions and understanding mechanistic changes involving drugs
- **Stage-3**: Binding Free Energy calculation of promising leads ("Hit-to-Lead")



A. Al Saadi, D. Alfe, Y. Babuji, A. Bhati, B. Blaiszik, A. Brace, T. Brettin, K. Chard, R. Chard, A. Clyde, P. V. Coveney, I. Foster, T. Gibbs, S. Jha, K. Keipert, T. Kurth, D. Kranzlmüller, H. Lee, Z. Li, H. Ma, A. Merzky, G. Mathias, A. Partin, J. Yin, A. Ramanathan, A. Shah, A. Stern, R. Stevens, L. Tan, M. Titov, A. Trifan, A. Tsaris, M. Turilli, H. Van Dam, S. Wan, D. Wifling, "IMPECCABLE: Integrated Modeling PipelinE for COVID Cure by Assessing Better LEads", 50<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Parallel Processing (ICPP '21), August 9-12 (2021), DOI: 10.1145/3472456.3473524

# IMPECCABLE: Integrated Modeling Pipeline

#### No turnkey solutions! Why is this challenging?

- Heterogeneous: High-throughput function calls (S1) ensembles of MPI tasks (S3); coupled AI-HPC (S2))
  - Producers of data (S1) and consumers (ML1) *"Supercomputers will become merely rapid generators of data for powerful ML models"*
- Adaptivity at multiple levels
  - Workload: Task mix varies over campaign
  - Tasks: Run for varying duration
- Collective versus single-task performance
  - Campaigns are "integrated" workflows: S1 and S3-FG differ by 10<sup>7</sup>x in computational cost

Table 2: Normalized computational costs on Summit.

| Method                  | Nodes per Hours per<br>ligand ligand<br>(approx) |        | r Node-hours<br>per ligand |  |
|-------------------------|--|--------|----------------------------|--|
| Docking (S1)            | 1/6  | 0.0001 | ~0.0001                    |  |
| BFE-CG (S3-CG)          | 1  | 0.5    | 0.5                        |  |
| Ad. Sampling (S2)       | 2  | 2      | 4                          |  |
| BFE-FG (S3-FG)          | 4  | 1.25   | 5                          |  |
| BFE-TI (not integrated) | 64   | 10     | 640                        |  |

#### 10<sup>7</sup>x variation in cost across workflows

Table 3: Throughput and performance measured as peak flop per second (mixed precision, measured over short but time interval) per Summit node (6 NVIDIA V100 GPU).

| Comp.      | #GPUs | Tflop/s | Throughput       |
|------------|-------|---------|------------------|
| ML1        | 1536  | 753.9   | 319674 ligands/s |
| <b>S</b> 1 | 6000  | 112.5   | 14252 ligands/s  |
| S3–CG      | 6000  | 277.9   | 2000 ligand/s    |
| S3–FG      | 6000  | 732.4   | 200 ligand/s     |

#### 1000x variation in workflow throughput

# Concurrent Heterogeneous Task Placement



Concurrent Heterogeneous Task placement permits better resource utilization by supporting hybrid workflows.

H. Lee, A. Merzky, L. Tan, M. Titov, M. Turilli, D. Alfe, A. Bhati, A. Brace, A. Clyde, P. V. Coveney, H. Ma, A. Ramanathan, R. Stevens, A. Trifan, H. Van Dam, S. Wan, S. Wilkinson, S. Jha, "Scalable HPC & AI Infrastructure for COVID-19 Therapeutics", Platform for Advanced Scientific Computing Conference (PASC '21), July 5-9 (2021), <u>DOI: 10.1145/3468267.3470573</u>

## ML/MD: Accelerating COVID-19 Drug Discovery

IMPECCABLE: Integrated Modeling PipelinE for COVID Cure by

#### **Assessing Better Leads**

A.A. Saadi, *et al.*, **2021**, In ACM Int. Conf. on Parallel Processing (ICPP) 2021, 9–12 August, Chicago, IL. Piscataway, NJ: IEEE Computer Society.

#### INTERFACE FOCUS

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Research

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Agastya P. Bhati<sup>1</sup>, Shunzhou Wan<sup>1</sup>, Dario Alfè<sup>2,3</sup>, Austin R. Clyde<sup>4</sup>, Mathis Bode<sup>5</sup>, Li Tan<sup>6</sup>, Mikhail Titov<sup>7</sup>, Andre Merzky<sup>7</sup>, Matteo Turilli<sup>7</sup>, Shantenu Jha<sup>6,7</sup>, Roger R. Highfield<sup>8</sup>, Walter Rocchia<sup>9</sup>, Nicola Scafuri<sup>9</sup>, Sauro Succi<sup>10</sup>, Dieter Kranzlmüller<sup>11</sup>, Gerald Mathias<sup>11</sup>, David Wifling<sup>11</sup>, Yann Donon<sup>12</sup>, Alberto Di Meglio<sup>12</sup>, Sofia Vallecorsa<sup>12</sup>, Heng Ma<sup>13</sup>, Anda Trifan<sup>13</sup>, Arvind Ramanathan<sup>13</sup>, Tom Brettin<sup>14</sup>, Alexander Partin<sup>13</sup>, Fangfang Xia<sup>13</sup>, Xiaotan Duan<sup>4</sup>, Rick Stevens<sup>14</sup> and Peter V. Coveney<sup>1,15</sup>

### **IMPECCABLE Workflow - Performance**

- Pilot-based task execution frameworks implemented using RADIAL-Pilot allow for the execution of complex workflows large heterogeneous HPC such as Summit.
- The infrastructure has supported a campaign utilizing 2.5×10<sup>6</sup> nodehours on diverse HPC platforms for:
- docking  $\sim 10^{11}$  ligands with a peak docking rate of  $\sim 150 \times 10^{6}$  docks/hr,
- Al-driven enhanced sampling simulations, which demonstrate 10× scientific improvement over traditional methods; and
- computing binding free energies on  $\sim 10^5$  ligand-protein complexes, including  $10^4$  concurrently.
- These methods and infrastructure have enabled the screening of more than 4.2 billion molecules against over a dozen drug targets in SARS-CoV-2. So far, over 1000 compounds have been identified and experimentally validated, resulting in advanced testing for dozens of hits





### Industrial Strength

# Scale-out block operation on SuperMUC-NG 15–17 November 2021

We are able to use the entire machine, a total of **6444 nodes, for 11 hours,** with one single job submission:

- Pattern #3 simulations
- Embarrassingly parallel workload
- Assembled together via binding affinity calculator (BAC) workflow
- Task farming function on SuperMUC-NG
- Replica implementation in NAMD

#### Ca 150 drug-protein complexes evaluated

- drug ranking: ranking binding free energies for a series of drugs to a given protein
- drug selectivity: preference of a given drug binding to various protein targets





### Industrial Strength

Summit Reservation 23–24 November 2021

We were able to use the entire machine, a total of 4550 nodes, for 24 hours:

- Pattern #3 simulations
- MD engines: NAMD3 & OpenMM
- Each individual simulation runs on a single GPU
- Assembled together via binding affinity calculator (BAC) workflow

Scientific simulations:

- Absolute binding free energy calculations: 235 drug-protein complexes
- Relative binding free energy calculations: 70 protein mutations
- Markov state models: **500 separate simulations**



# Exascale class Problems we encountered during the reservation:

Summit as configured currently cannot distribute the pattern #3 simulations across the entire machine – **very limited number of batch nodes**.

#### Solution:

Use middleware tools such as **RADICAL-Cybertools** (RCT) for flexible task-level parallelism.



07 Apr 2020 | Network Updates | Update from University College London

These updates are republished press releases and communications from members of the Science | Business Network

# UCL researchers are using the world's most powerful supercomputers to tackle COVID-19

By Communication from UCL







Scientists are using the world's most powerful supercomputers to speed up the development of treatments for the deadly coronavirus



### Binding Affinity Calculations:

Binding affinity calculations at exascale:

- Applications of binding affinity calculations (BAC) on **Summit** and **SuperMUC-NG** are laying the groundwork to scale to exascale.

Current work has lead to the development of solutions that can facilitate the exascale deployment of BAC:

- Developing middleware tools such as **RADICAL-Cybertools** (RCT) for flexible task-level parallelism.
- Refining ensemble based task farming methodologies.

Current Opportunities to develop exascale solutions:

- **2021 INCITE Award** provided access to Summit; granted unlimited time to run on it through January 2022. Continuing in new award in 2022-23
- Over 150 million core hours awarded on SuperMUC-NG though **GCS awards**.

# Preliminary results: High-throughput screening



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pubs.acs.org/jcim



#### High-Throughput Virtual Screening and Validation of a SARS-CoV-2 Main Protease Noncovalent Inhibitor

Austin Clyde,\* Stephanie Galanie, Daniel W. Kneller, Heng Ma, Yadu Babuji, Ben Blaiszik, Alexander Brace, Thomas Brettin, Kyle Chard, Ryan Chard, Leighton Coates, Ian Foster, Darin Hauner, Vilmos Kertesz, Neeraj Kumar, Hyungro Lee, Zhuozhao Li, Andre Merzky, Jurgen G. Schmidt, Li Tan, Mikhail Titov, Anda Trifan, Matteo Turilli, Hubertus Van Dam, Srinivas C. Chennubhotla, Shantenu Jha,\* Andrey Kovalevsky,\* Arvind Ramanathan,\* Martha S. Head,\* and Rick Stevens\*



# Preliminary results: S3-CG

Number of the most promising compounds for each of the 4 proteins investigated. For each protein, the top 100 compounds, chosen from 10,000 docked small molecules, are evaluated by ESMACS approach. The number of compounds are listed, which have the most favourable binding free energies, in the ranges corresponding to K<sub>D</sub> values of 10 nM (-10.98 kcal/mol), 100 nM (-9.61 kcal/mol), 1 µM (-8.24 kcal/mol).

| Energy (kcal/mol)   | 3CLPro | ADRP | NSP15 | PLPro |
|---------------------|--------|------|-------|-------|
| ∆G < -10.98         | 1      | 0    | 3     | 6     |
| -10.98 ≤ ∆G < -9.61 | 2      | 2    | 1     | 8     |
| -9.61 ≤ ∆G < -8.24  | 1      | 4    | 10    | 5     |
| ∆G < -8.24 Total    | 4      | 6    | 14    | 19    |

A. P. Bhati, S. Wan, D. Alfè, A. R. Clyde, M. Bode, L. Tan, M. Titov, A. Merzky, M. Turilli, S. Jha, R. R. Highfield, W. Rocchia, N. Scafuri, S. Succi, D. Kranzlmüller, G. Mathias, D. Wifling, Y. Donon, A. Di Meglio, S. Vallecorsa, H. Ma, A. Trifan, A. Ramanathan, T. Brettin, A. Partin, F. Xia, X. Duan, R. Stevens, P. V. Coveney, "Pandemic Drugs at Pandemic Speed: Accelerating COVID-19 Drug Discovery with Hybrid Machine Learning- and Physics-based Simulations on High Performance Computers", Interface Focus, 11, 20210018, DOI: 10.1098/rsfs.2021.0018

# Preliminary results: S3-CG to S2 to S3-FG

-40 FG CG ΔG<sub>ESMACS</sub> (kcal/mol) -80 12105 14044 16939 16967 178 Ligand

Results from S3-CG and S3-FG

Comparison of S3-CG and S3-FG results for the ve best binders for PLPro (PDBID: 6w9c) based on CG-ESMACS results. S2 selected five outlier conformations for each binder and performed FG-ESMACS on them. The provisional results confirm improved binding for the selected conformations in all five compounds, as FG energies are lower than CG.

A. Al Saadi, D. Alfe, Y. Babuji, A. Bhati, B. Blaiszik, A. Brace, T. Brettin, K. Chard, R. Chard, A. Clyde, P. V. Coveney, I. Foster, T. Gibbs, S. Jha, K. Keipert, T. Kurth, D. Kranzlmüller, H. Lee, Z. Li, H. Ma, A. Merzky, G. Mathias, A. Partin, J. Yin, A. Ramanathan, A. Shah, A. Stern, R. Stevens, L. Tan, M. Titov, A. Trifan, A. Tsaris, M. Turilli, H. Van Dam, S. Wan, D. Wifling, "IMPECCABLE: Integrated Modeling PipelinE for COVID Cure by Assessing Better LEads", 50<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Parallel Processing (ICPP '21), August 9-12 (2021), DOI: 10.1145/3472456.3473524

### **Conclusions and perspectives**

- ML and PB approaches have their own advantages and limitations
- A more productive blend of ML and PB mechanistic understanding
- An iterative cycle is used, where AI hypotheses are tested in physics-based simulations, and the results of PB modelling are used to train AI.
- Equipped with advanced VVUQ to handle high-dimensional parametric spaces
- Use of ML and PB pipelines for actionable predictions to guide drug discovery
- Applications of ML and PB pipelines on emerging exascale architectures

#### Acknowledgements

#### Team members:

- Peter V. Coveney
- Shunzhou Wan
- Mat Bieniek
- Alex Wade
- Maxime Vassaux
- Wouter Edeling
- and many others ...



compbiomed.eu/





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Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

ucl.ac.uk/mesoscale-modelling-consortium/









#### To pose a question, you can write your question in the "Questions" tab



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 823712



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### Thank you for participating!

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