Development and application of a polarizable force-field for actinides in aqueous solution including cooperative charge-transfer terms



### Challenges for theoretical modeling in actinide science

- Obtain information on radionuclide mobility in the environment
- Experimental data on radionuclides have some limitations
  - \* Radioactivity
  - Scarce gas-phase data
  - Most data are in the condensed phase
  - Main goals of theoretical modeling is
    - Improve our understanding of existing compounds
    - Help the interpretation of current experimental data
    - Predict properties for unknown species or species difficult to manipulate experimentally (Plutonium, ....)

#### cf poster J. Champion et al.

"Combined experimental and theoretical investigations of the heavy highlight electromobility. (I<sup>-</sup> and At<sup>-</sup>)."



### **Goals:**

- System studied: Thorium(IV) and Curium(III)
- Establish a predictive model
- investigate the counter-ion effect
- Comparison to available experimental data:
  - ✤ X-Ray spectroscopy: EXAFS, HEXS
  - \* NMR for structural properties and ligand exchange dynamics



### Approach to the theoretical modeling in actinide science

#### Microscopic



### **Theoretical models for solvation**

- Why not using ab initio MD (Car-Parinello MD)?
- too short time scales (~100 ps)
- problems with the accuracy of density functional theory (DFT) for
  - \* water-water interactions
  - ion-water interactions (most functionals overestimate M-ligand interactions)

### Why developing classical polarizable force-fields?

Solve the Newton's equations.

$$\vec{F} = -\sum g \vec{r} a d U_{int}$$

Parametrized M<sup>n+</sup>-L interaction potentials:

- $\star$  repulsion
- ✤ electrostatic
- \* polarization
- \* metal-oxygen bond (covalency)



# Why developing classical polarizable force-fields?

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- Parametrized M<sup>n+</sup>-L interaction potentials:
  - $\star$  repulsion
  - ★ electrostatic
  - $\star$  polarization
  - \* metal-oxygen bond (covalency)
- No experimental data used to parametrize the force field
- Build a predictive force field using ab initio quantum-chemical reference data





# $U = U_{rep} + U_{qq'} + U_{pol} + U_{HB}$

M. Masella and P. Cuniasse, J. Chem. Phys. 119, 1866 (2003)

$$U = U_{rep} + U_{qq'} + U_{pol} + U_{CT}$$



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![](_page_10_Figure_2.jpeg)

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#### Polarization

![](_page_11_Figure_3.jpeg)

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#### Polarization

![](_page_12_Figure_3.jpeg)

- B.T. Thole, Chem. Phys., 59, 341-350 (1981)
- M. Masella and P. Cuniasse, J. Chem. Phys., **119** 1866 (2003)

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![](_page_13_Figure_3.jpeg)

- B.T. Thole, Chem. Phys., 59, 341-350 (1981)
- M. Masella and P. Cuniasse, J. Chem. Phys., **119** 1866 (2003)

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

### How to optimize force-field parameters?

Need of a large set of ab initio reference data computed with the highest accuracy:

Metal-ligand interaction curve

![](_page_16_Figure_3.jpeg)

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Need of a large set of ab initio reference data computed with the highest accuracy:

![](_page_17_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Choice of the ab initio method

![](_page_18_Picture_1.jpeg)

Table 3: Binding energies of the Th(IV)/water dimer in kcal/mol at 2.22 Å, computed with different multi-reference and single-reference correlated methods.

WFT				DFT					
HF	MP2	CCSD(T)	MRCI+DC	BP86	B3LYP	MX06-HF	MX06-L	MX06-2X	
145	155	155	156	173	165	163	167	161	

K. E. Gutowski, D. A. Dixon, J. Phys. Chem. A, **110**, 8840-8856 (2006)

P. Wahlin, et al. J. Chem. Theory Comput., 4, 569-577 (2008)

J. P. Austin, et al. Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 11, 1143 (2009)

### Ab initio An<sup>3+</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O pair potential

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_2.jpeg)

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### Parameters adjusted on the clusters and accuracy of the fit

#### Adjustment of the many-body terms

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_3.jpeg)

### Parameters adjusted on the clusters and accuracy of the fit

#### Adjustment of the many-body terms

![](_page_21_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_3.jpeg)

For each parameter set, 10 ns molecular dynamics with starting points

![](_page_22_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_3.jpeg)

 Th(IV) and Cm(III) embedded in 1000 water molecules with periodic boundary conditions

#### « POLARIsation and Simulations (Molecular Dynamics) »

(>60 000 lines, MPI/FORTRAN95)

Polarisable force field TCPEp Including short-range many-body term (J. Chem. Phys. 1997-2003)

Multiple time steps algorithm MD speed up up to x3 (Mol. Phys. - 2006)

![](_page_22_Picture_9.jpeg)

M. Masella (CEA Saclay) **Polaris Code** 

Ewald summation techniques NVT MD (GGMT thermostat) NPT MD (isotropic cell fluctuations) XIIIe journées nationales de radiochimie et de chimie nucléaire 17

# Thorium (IV) and Curium(III) aqua ions

![](_page_23_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **Coordination of Cm(III)**

Parameter set	CN	r(Cm-O)		CN <sub>2</sub>
M <sub>nocoop</sub>	9.0	2.41		20.9
<u>M</u> dens	8.9	2.49 stim		19.7
<u>M</u> 3body	8.8	Arbitrary		18.8
M <sub>dens</sub>	8.4	2.49		20.4
M <sub>3body</sub>	8.2	2.49	2 3 4 5 6 7 Distance in Å	20.3
Average MD	8.6 ± 0.3	2.49		19.8 ± 0.6
Average Exp	8-9	2.45-2.48		13(4)

F. Réal et al. accepted to J. Comput. Chem.

ie nucléa

Parameter set	CN	r(Cm-O)		CN <sub>2</sub>	
M <sub>nocoop</sub>	10.0	2.43		17.5	
<u>M</u> dens	8.0	2.42	- $30$ $ 30$ $ 30$ $   30$ $         -$	20.0	
<u>M</u> 3body	8.0	2.44	20 vater mole	14.6	
M <sub>dens</sub>	9.0	2.48		21.2	
M <sub>3body</sub>	9.0	2.47	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	16.3	
Average MD	8.5 ± 0.25	2.45 ± 0.02	1	8.0 ± 2.0	
Average Exp	8-12	2.45-2.51			
			F. Réal et al. accepted to J. Comput. Chem. XIIIe journées nationales de radiochimie et de chimie nuclé		

### **Temporal properties**

Parameter set	<u>M</u> coop	<u>M</u> 3body	M <sub>coop</sub>	M <sub>3body</sub>	Average	Exp.	
Cm(III)							
D <sub>Cm</sub> (10 <sup>-5</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	0.59	0.53	0.52	0.58	0.55 ± <mark>0.03</mark>	0.6	
mrt1 (ps)	140	510	240	670	520 ± <mark>200</mark>	830, 940 for Gd(III)	
mrt2 (ps)	7.7	8.7	7.5	9.9	8.5 ± 1.1	?	
Th(I∨)							
D <sub>Th</sub> (10 <sup>-5</sup> cm <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	0.70	0.54	0.58	0.59	0.60 ± <mark>0.05</mark>	?	
mrt1 (ns)	> 10	> 10	> 10	> 10	-	< 20 ns	
mrt2 (ps)	17.7	15.6	18.6	29.6	20.5 ± 4.7	?	

Atta-Fynn et al. J Phys, Chem A. 2011

For Cm<sup>3+:</sup>

• AIMD mrt1 = ? not computed due to lack of statistic

• CMD 3b or LJ (no MetOx Bond) ≈ 3ps.

F. Réal et al. accepted to J. Comput. Chem.

### Water polarization near the cation

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **Modeling counter-ions effects(ex: halides)**

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Modeling counter-ions effects(ex: halides)

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Accuracy the of Anion/Water polarisable potentials

### Same procedure for halides: X-H<sub>2</sub>O interaction

Enthalpy for gas-phase reactions  $[X(H_2O)_{n-1}]^2 + H_2O \rightleftharpoons [X(H_2O)_n]^2$ 

F <sup>-</sup>					Cl <sup>-</sup>		Br <sup>-</sup>		
n	QM	MM	exp.	QM	MM	Expt.	QM	MM	Expt.
1	27.9	26.8	23.3	14.4	13.7	13.1/14.7	12.4	12.4	12.6/11.7
2	19.3	20.0	16.6/19.2	12.9	12.5	12.7/13.0	11.9	10.9	12.3/11.6
3	16.9	17.0	13.7/15.3	13.4	12.9	11.7/11.8	13.1	12.8	11.5/11.4
4	13.2	13.2	13.5/13.9	11.3	12.0	11.1/10.6	12.6	12.0	10.9/11.0
5	10.1	9.9	13.2/12.3	7.6	8.5	9.5	8.0	7.9	10.8
6	9.9	8.2	10.9	8.8	5.4	8.8	6.8	7.0	10.3

M. Trumm et al. J. Chem. Phys. 136, 044509 (2012)

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### **Anion hydration properties**

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Accuracy the of Anion/Water polarisable potentials

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

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- Strengths of our force-field model
  - Completely ab initio
  - \* Adjusted to reproduce many different physical/chemical situations
  - \* efficient MD code enables us to explore various models/parameter sets

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### Uncertainties of the force-field models

- impact CN number (± 0.3)
- impact first-hydration shells distances (± 0.02 Å)
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- \* do not impact diffusion coefficients
- Strong influence of second-shell Bromide counter ions
  - \* We need to understand how Br influence the hydration shell around the anion

### **Acknowledgments & Financial Support**

### University of Lille

- Yansel Omar Guerrero Martinez (PhD student)
- Dr. Valérie Vallet, Dr. Jean-Pierre Flament

### CEA, Centre de Saclay

Dr. Michel Masella

### INE, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe

- Dr. Michael Trumm
- Dr. Bernd Schimmelpfennig

### Financial support:

- CNRS & Ministère de la Recherche et de la Technologie
- ACTINET-I3 european network

![](_page_38_Picture_12.jpeg)