

## Supporting Information

### Insights on the origin of catalysis on glycine N-methyltransferase from computational modelling

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## 1. Molecular dynamic simulations

**Table S1.** SAM substrate missing (a) charges (in a.u.) and (b) impropers determined using antechamber module available in AmberTools.<sup>1,2</sup>

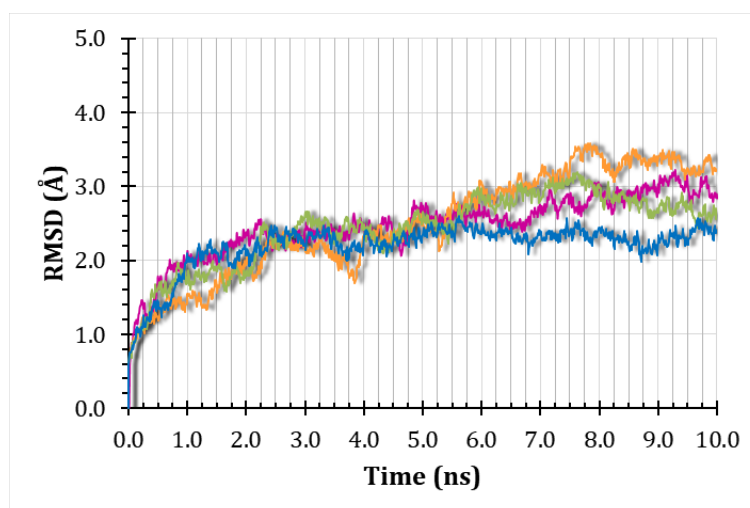
### a) CHARGES

Atom	Element	Atom Type	Mulliken Charge
1	N	n4	-0.049
2	C	c3	-0.196
3	C	c	0.349
4	O	o	-0.367
5	O	o	-0.523
6	C	c3	-0.138
7	C	c3	-0.567
8	S	s4	1.541
9	C	c3	-0.703
10	C	c3	-0.650
11	C	c3	0.020
12	O	os	-0.318
13	C	c3	-0.016
14	O	oh	-0.297
15	C	c3	-0.027
16	O	oh	-0.313
17	C	c3	0.166
18	N	na	-0.216
19	C	cc	-0.051
20	N	nd	-0.087
21	C	ca	-0.245
22	C	ca	0.257
23	N	nh	-0.327
24	N	nb	-0.252
25	C	ca	0.016
26	N	nb	-0.285
27	C	ca	0.078
28	H	hn	0.281
29	H	hn	0.241
30	H	hx	0.197
31	H	hc	0.112
32	H	hc	0.117
33	H	h1	0.157
34	H	h1	0.154
35	H	h1	0.160
36	H	h1	0.149
37	H	h1	0.142
38	H	h1	0.133
39	H	h1	0.158
40	H	h1	0.138

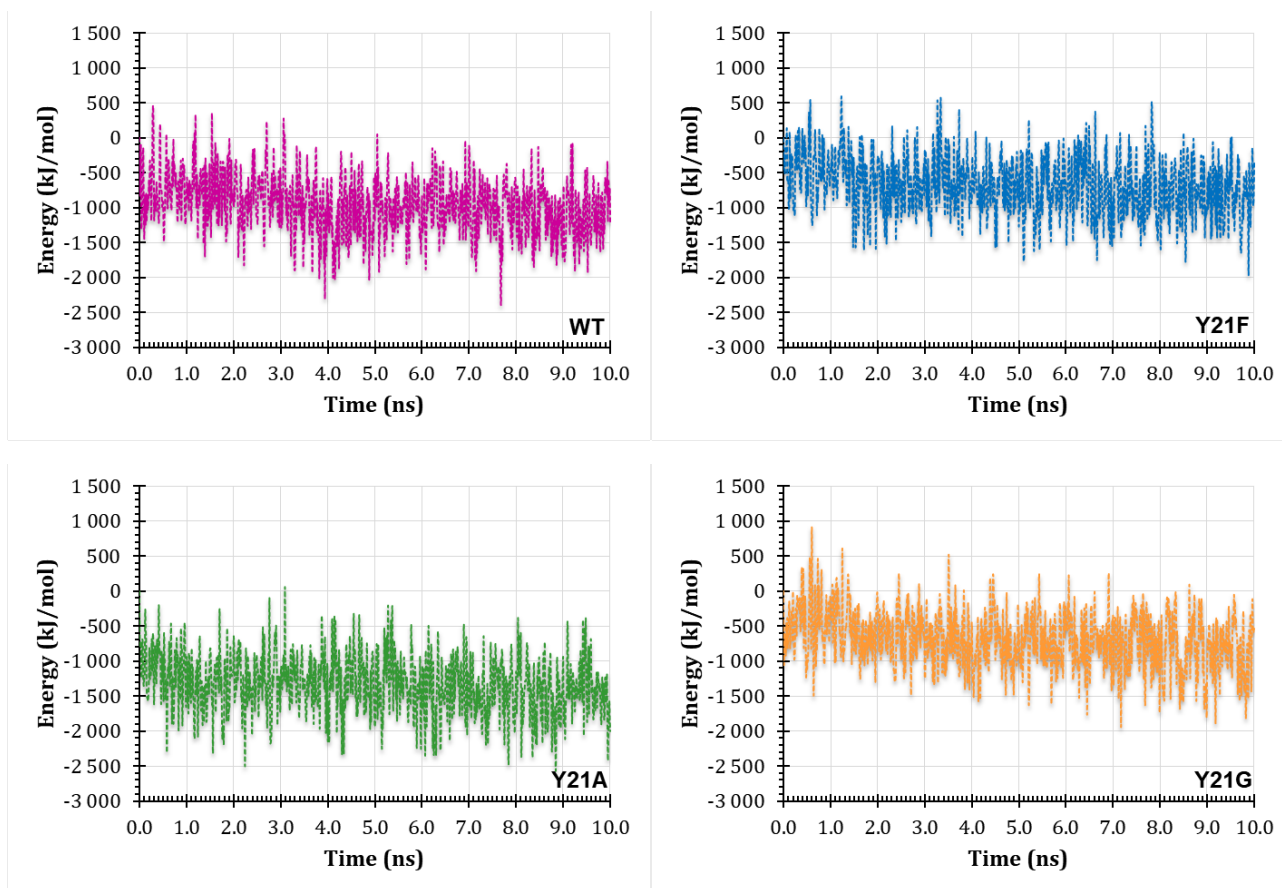
41	H	h1	0.143
42	H	ho	0.224
43	H	h1	0.117
44	H	ho	0.237
45	H	h2	0.175
46	H	h5	0.211
47	H	hn	0.261
48	H	hn	0.255
49	H	h5	0.175
50	H	hn	0.263
<b>Total Mulliken Charge =</b>			<b>1.000</b>

b) IMPROPER

c3-o -c -o	1.1	180.0	2.0	General improper torsional angle (1 general atom type)
c3-ca-na-cc	1.1	180.0	2.0	Using default value
h5-na-cc-nd	1.1	180.0	2.0	Using default value
ca-ca-ca-nd	1.1	180.0	2.0	Using default value
ca-nb-ca-nh	1.1	180.0	2.0	Using default value
ca-hn-nh-hn	1.1	180.0	2.0	Using default value
h5-nb-ca-nb	1.1	180.0	2.0	Using default value
ca-na-ca-nb	1.1	180.0	2.0	Using default value



**Figure S1.** Time dependence of root mean square deviation (**RMSD**) from four independent 10 ns MD-NVT simulations for Wild Type (magenta), Y21F (blue), Y21A (green) and Y21G (orange) variant of GNMT enzyme at 293K.

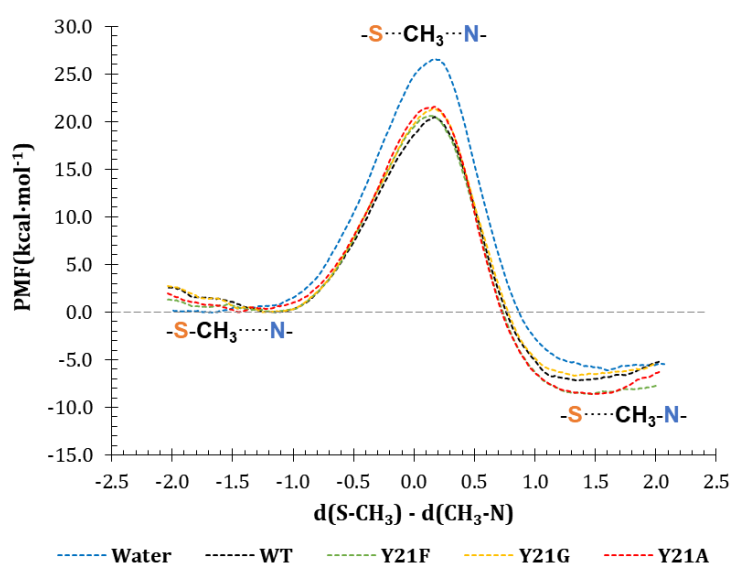


**Figure S2.** Time dependence of total energy from four independent 10ns MD-NVT simulations for Wild Type (magenta), Y21F (blue), Y21A (green) and Y21G (orange) variant of GNMT enzyme at 293K.

**Table S2.** Average values of DAD (donor-acceptor distance) and MAD (methyl-acceptor distance) obtained from 10 ns of NPT MD simulations of the ternary reactant complex at two different pressures: 1 and 1000 bar) and from 10 ns of NVT MD simulations. All simulations run at 293 K. AMBER force field was used as implemented in NAMD package (see ref 43 of the text). The constant pressure simulations were carried out using the Langevin piston method.

		DAD (Å)	MAD (Å)
NPT	P (bar)		
	1	$5.0 \pm 0.7$	$3.4 \pm 0.8$
	1000	$5.0 \pm 0.4$	$3.4 \pm 0.5$
NVT		$4.8 \pm 0.1$	$3.4 \pm 1.1$

## 2. Free energy calculations



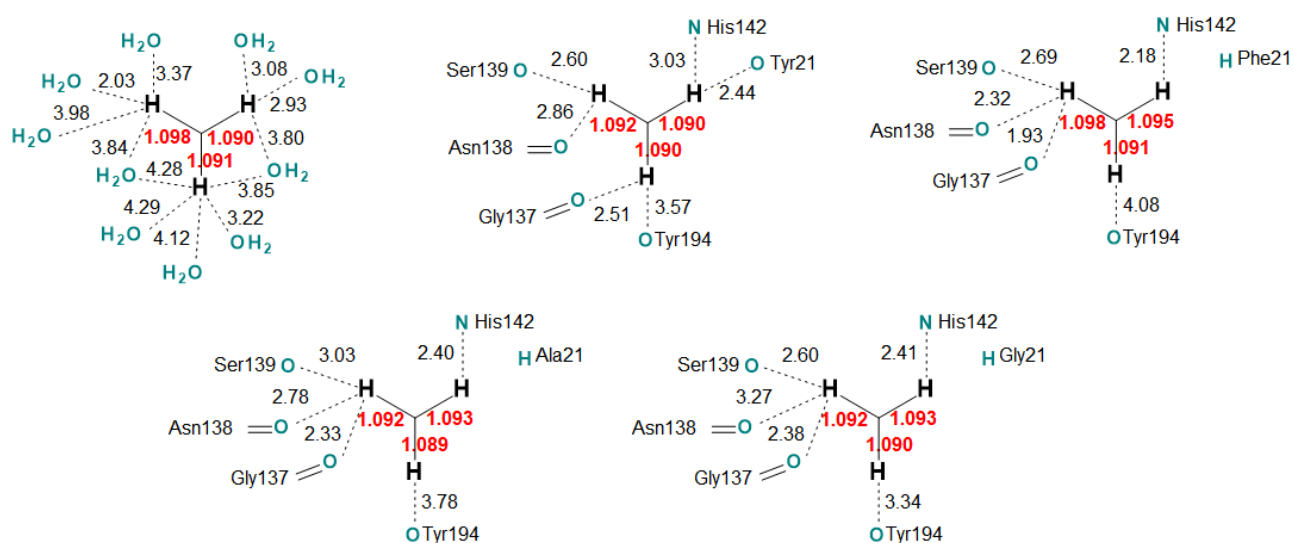
**Figure S3.** AM1/MM PMFs (at 293K) for the Methylation of Glycine (Scheme 2) in aqueous solution (blue line) and catalyzed by wild type (black line), Y21F (green line), Y21G (yellow line) and Y21A (red line) variants of GNMT. Distances are in Å and energies in kcal·mol<sup>-1</sup>.

### 3. Structural Analysis

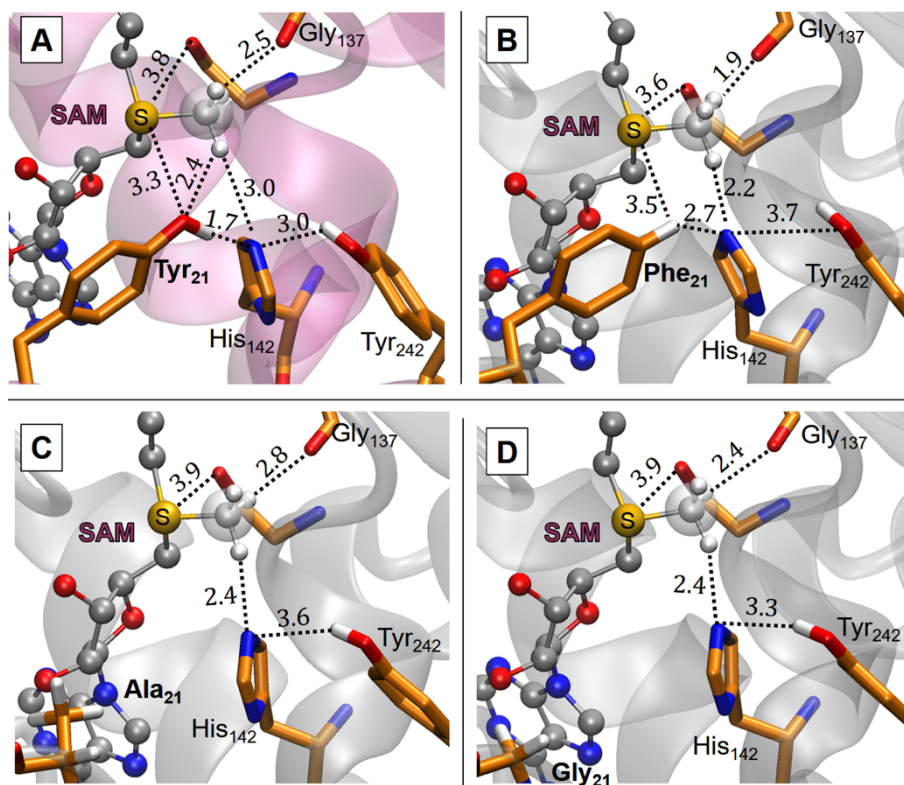
**Table S3.** Average DAD (in Å) and S-C-N angle (in degrees) obtained in the reactant state (RS) and transition state (TS) for the methylation of glycine in aqueous solution and in the different forms of the recombinant rat-liver GNMT obtained at AM1/MM level.

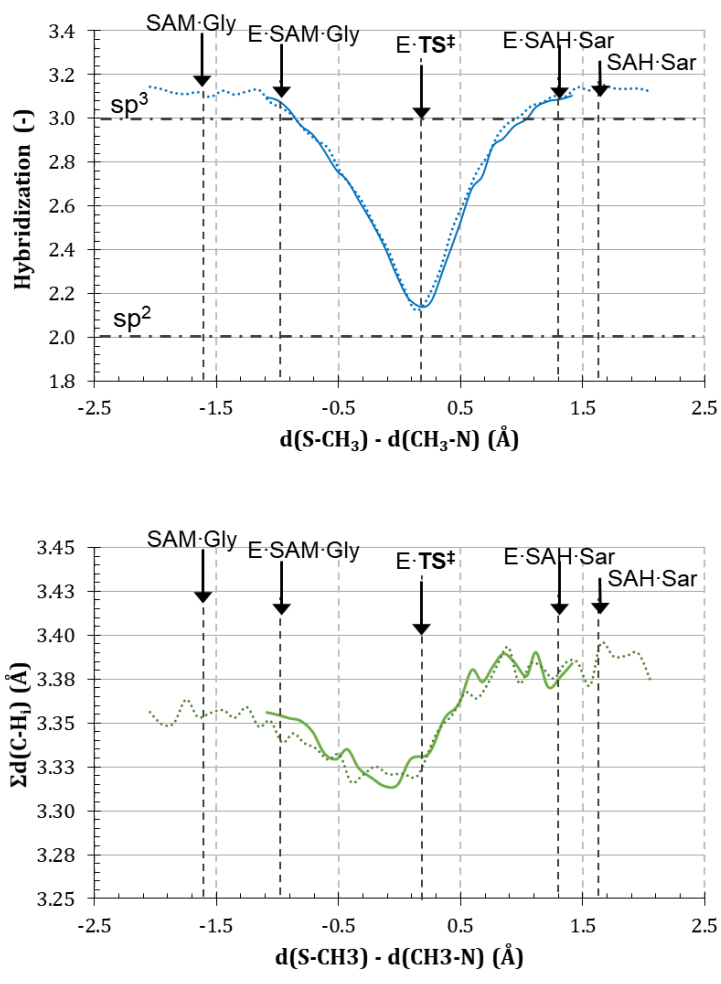
	DAD		S-C-N	
	RS	TS	RS	TS
Water	4.79 ± 0.19	4.24 ± 0.10	129.0 ± 11.0	172.4 ± 4.6
WT	4.76 ± 0.09	4.10 ± 0.10	162.4 ± 6.8	171.5 ± 4.0
Y21F	4.71 ± 0.10	4.23 ± 0.10	163.1 ± 7.3	172.5 ± 3.5
Y21A	5.01 ± 0.08	4.11 ± 0.11	168.3 ± 5.7	170.1 ± 3.9
Y21G	4.82 ± 0.09	4.15 ± 0.11	164.8 ± 6.5	169.6 ± 4.4

**Figure S4.** Schematic representation of the interactions established with the hydrogen atoms of the transferring methyl group of SAM in water and in the binary GNMT-SAM complex optimized at M06-2X/MM level.



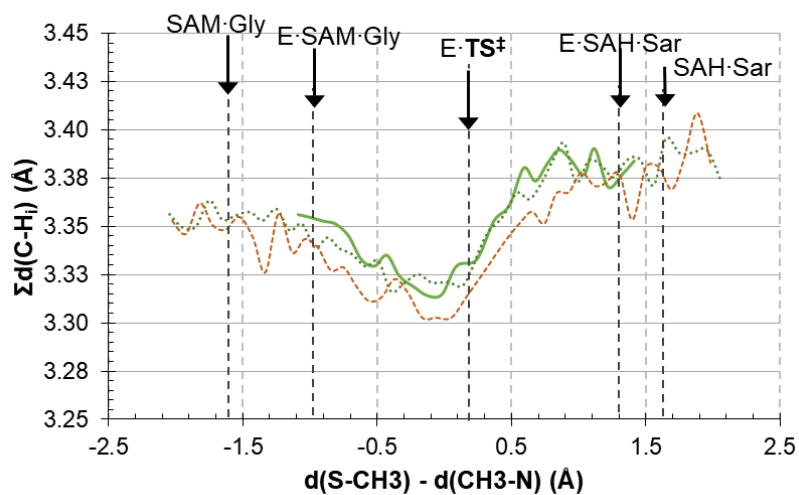
**Figure S5.** Depiction of the catalytic residues at the active site from structures of the GNMT:SAM binary complex optimized at M06-2X/MM level in A) WT GNMT; B) Y21F GNMT; C) Y21A GNMT; and D) Y21G GNMT Distances are in Å and the angle in degrees.





**Figure S6.** Change in C-hybridization along reaction coordinate. Dot line in water solid line for WT (upper plot) and in the sum of three C-H bonds in transferred methyl group along reaction coordinate. Dot line in water solid line for WT (bottom plot).





**Figure S7.** Sum of C-H bond distances of the transferring methyl group along the reaction coordinate gas phase (orange dashed line), in water (green dotted line) and in the WT GNMT (green solid line). Results obtained at AM1/MM level. Positions of the different states located in the enzyme catalyzed reaction are indicated as dashed vertical lines.

#### 4. Kinetic and Binding Isotope Effects

**Table S4.**  $1^\circ$   $^{12}\text{C}/^{14}\text{C}$  and  $2^\circ$   $^1\text{H}_3/{}^3\text{H}_3$  KIEs computed from the GNMT:SAM binary complex at M06-2X/6-31G+(d,p)/MM level at 293 K. Values computed from 3x3 structures combinations of RS and TS.

	$2^\circ$ $^1\text{H}_3/{}^3\text{H}_3$ KIE <sup>b</sup>	$1^\circ$ $^{12}\text{C}/^{14}\text{C}$ KIE <sup>b</sup>
water	$0.680 \pm 0.055$	$1.110 \pm 0.011$
WT	$0.630 \pm 0.016$	$1.116 \pm 0.003$
Y21F	$0.659 \pm 0.023$	$1.121 \pm 0.004$
Y21A	$0.656 \pm 0.035$	$1.120 \pm 0.007$
Y21G	$0.638 \pm 0.031$	$1.117 \pm 0.005$

**Table S5.**  $1^\circ$   $^{12}\text{C}/^{14}\text{C}$  and  $2^\circ$   $^1\text{H}_3/{}^3\text{H}_3$  KIE, computed from the GNMT:SAM:Gly ternary complex at AM1/MM level at 293 K. Values computed from 10x10 structures combinations of RS and TS, respectively.

AM1/MM		
	$2^\circ$ KIE ( $^1\text{H}_3/{}^3\text{H}_3$ )	$1^\circ$ KIE ( $^{12}\text{C}/^{14}\text{C}$ )
water	$0.762 \pm 0.023$	$1.114 \pm 0.005$
WT	$0.809 \pm 0.023$	$1.104 \pm 0.003$
Y21F	$0.761 \pm 0.019$	$1.109 \pm 0.003$
Y21A	$0.795 \pm 0.016$	$1.103 \pm 0.007$
Y21G	$0.751 \pm 0.018$	$1.101 \pm 0.004$

**Table S6.** BIEs for the binding of SAM to the active site of the proteins, computed at M06-2X/6-31G+(d,p)/MM level at 293 K. Values computed from 3 x 3 structures combinations of SAM in water and in the active site of the different GNMT variants.

	$^1\text{H}_3/{}^3\text{H}_3$ BIE	$^{12}\text{C}/^{14}\text{C}$ BIE
WT	$1.162 \pm 0.017$	$0.998 \pm 0.003$
Y21F	$1.049 \pm 0.034$	$0.992 \pm 0.004$
Y21A	$1.058 \pm 0.053$	$0.995 \pm 0.003$
Y21G	$1.085 \pm 0.049$	$0.990 \pm 0.006$