#### HPC SCHOOL ON QUANTUM COMPUTATIONAL MATERIALS SCIENCE

Nov 18, 2020



Free-energy calculation of chemical reactions in solution Fabio Pietrucci - Sorbonne Université, IMPMC

#### objective:

study the mechanism, thermodynamics and kinetics of the transformations of matter



reactions







nano-transformations



drug binding

folding

#### why is it important to simulate transformations?

- 1) transition pathways are evanescent, hard to catch in experiments
- 2) access to free-energy landscapes and kinetic rates
- 3) gap between *in silico* predictions (e.g., crystal structures) and empirical "recipes" for synthesis

#### the fundamental puzzle: thermodynamics vs kinetics

Rev. Phys. 2, 32 (2017)



## Annealed high-density amorphous ice under pressure

RICHARD J. NELMES<sup>1\*</sup>, JOHN S. LOVEDAY<sup>1\*</sup>, THIERRY STRÄSSLE<sup>2†</sup>, CRAIG L. BULL<sup>1</sup>, MALCOLM GUTHRIE<sup>1</sup>, GÉRARD HAMEL<sup>2</sup> AND STEFAN KLOTZ<sup>2</sup>

We find that HDA annealed at 0.2–0.3 GPa to 130 K is like the amorph obtained by compressing LDA at 130 K, and is not VHDA. We have recovered this annealed HDA to ambient pressure at low temperature, and warmed it up to and through the transition to LDA, and observe an abrupt transition at  $\sim$ 128 K rather than the quasi-continuous transformation at  $\sim$ 110 K obtained with unannealed HDA and with VHDA.



#### mature materials

# Synthesis of an open-framework allotrope of silicon

Duck Young Kim<sup>1†</sup>, Stevce Stefanoski<sup>1†</sup>, Oleksandr O. Kurakevych<sup>1,2†</sup> and Timothy A. Strobel<sup>1\*†</sup>



<sup>6</sup> In the first step, Na4Si<sub>24</sub> was synthesized from a Na/Si mixture with 15 mol% Na. The mixture was ground in a ceramic mortar for one hour ... The mixture was pressurized in a 1500 ton multianvil press at a rate of 10 bar h<sup>-1</sup> to a pressure of 10 GPa and reacted at 800 °C in two steps: preheating at 400 °C for 30 min ... and reaction at the final temperature for one hour, after which the sample was quenched ... In the second step, polycrystalline agglomerates of Na4Si<sub>24</sub> were placed in a furnace under a dynamic vacuum of 10<sup>-5</sup> torr and 'degassed' at 400 K for eight days to obtain the empty Si<sub>24</sub> structure.

start

#### The <u>art</u> of total synthesis through cascade reactions

#### K. C. Nicolaou\* and Jason S. Chen

"The artistic nature of total synthesis manifests itself in the selection of the synthetic maneuvers that lead to the target molecule ..."



"The complete laboratory synthesis of B12 was achieved by R.B. Woodward and A. Eschenmoser in 1972, and remains one of the classic feats of organic synthesis, requiring the effort of 91 postdoctoral fellows (mostly at Harvard) and 12 PhD students (at ETH) from 19 nations."

#### studying rare events with molecular dynamics

1) generate transition pathways

2) sample the free energy landscape

3) compute kinetic rates

$$m\ddot{q} = -\frac{dF}{dq} - \int_0^t dt' \Gamma(t') \dot{q}(t-t') + \eta(t)$$





#### the challenge of rare events





in principle, molecular dynamics based on classical / *ab initio* forces is an ideal approach...

rate ∝ e	-∆G* / kT	
oarriers vs ra	ites at 300 K:	
20 kcal/mol	1 / minute	
30 kcal/mol	1 / human life	
l0 kcal/mol	1 / billion years	

time

#### metadynamics



reaction coord.

# Interest of the second second

#### Laio & Parrinello, *PNAS* 2002 Bussi & Laio, *Nat Phys* 2020

$$U^B(s,t) = \sum_{t_1, t_2, \dots, < t} \omega \exp\left(-\frac{(s-s(t_i))^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} U^B(s,t) \approx -F(s)$$

Torrie & Valleau, *J Chem Phys* 1977 Roux, *Comput Phys Commun* 1995

$$U_i^B(s) = \frac{1}{2}k(s - s_i)^2$$

$$P_i(s) = P_i^B(s)e^{\beta(U_i^B(s) - f_i)}$$

$$P(s) = C\sum_{i} \pi_i(s)P_i(s)$$

 $\sum_{i} \pi_i(s) = 1$ 

#### metadynamics



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#### how to find good reaction coordinates ?

#### chicken & egg dilemma !



because you need to know very well the phase space of the transformation to find the optimal coordinate,

& you need the optimal coordinate to explore the phase space of the transformation...

Peters, Annu Rev Phys Chem 2016 Jungblut & Dellago, Eur Phys J E 2016

#### sampling with bias on collective variables, in general

in all methods, the convergence of free energy profiles depends, in a way difficult to predict, on **choice of variables & length of simulations** 



no convergence if  $t_{sim} \sim t_{AC}$ 

FP, *Rev Phys* 2, 32 (2017) Zhu & Hummer, *J Comput Chem* 33, 453 (2012)

Banushkina & Krivov, *WIREs* 2016 Peters, *Annu Rev Phys Chem* 2016 Jungblut & Dellago, *Eur Phys J E* 2016

#### optimal reaction coordinate =

probability that atomic configuration **R** will evolve to *B* before *A* 



T=0, T>0, enthalpic/entropic barriers, nucleation, chemical reactions, protein folding...

#### we try graph theory

it provided powerful tools in many domains:



SIAM REVIEW

Vol. 48, No. 3, pp. 569-581

J. Chem. Phys. 96, 7603 (1992)

Volume 92, Number 21

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 28 MAY 2004

**Reconstruction of Protein Structures from a Vectorial Representation** 

Markus Porto,<sup>1,2</sup> Ugo Bastolla,<sup>3</sup> H. Eduardo Roman,<sup>4</sup> and Michele Vendruscolo<sup>5</sup>



adjacency matrices are a very fruitful starting point !





1<sup>st</sup> step: from an atomic system to a graph

filter distances through a switching function







we analyzed > 80 crystalline / amorphous / liquid structures of molecular / ionic / covalent / metallic materials: **all are well resolved** 

C, Na, Si, P, S, Fe,  $H_2O$ , SiC, Si $O_2$ , RbCl, Fe<sub>2</sub> $O_3$ , B<sub>2</sub> $O_3$ , CO<sub>2</sub> MgSiO<sub>3</sub>, benzene, paracetamol

Gallet & Pietrucci, *J Chem Phys* 2013 Pipolo, Salanne, Ferlat, Klotz, Saitta, Pietrucci, *PRL* 2017





a "social" coordinate is assigned to each atom

Pietrucci & Andreoni, PRL 2011

atomic structure



a "social" coordinate is assigned to each atom

Pietrucci & Andreoni, PRL 2011

#### sensitive to topology:



Social PeRmutation-INvarianT coordinates

Pietrucci & Andreoni, PRL 2011

general-purpose reaction coordinates for chemistry





Marco Saitta



Théo Magrino

#### general-purpose reaction coordinates for chemistry

$$s(t) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{N_f} k e^{-D(\mathbf{R}(t), \mathbf{R}_k)}}{\sum_{k'=1}^{N_f} e^{-\lambda D(\mathbf{R}(t), \mathbf{R}_{k'})}}$$
  

$$z(t) = -\frac{1}{\lambda} \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^{N_f} e^{-\lambda D(\mathbf{R}(t), \mathbf{R}_k)} \right)$$
  

$$D(\mathbf{R}(t), \mathbf{R}_k) = \sum_{IS} \left( C_{IS}(t) - C_{IS}^k \right)^2$$
  
coordination number  
of atom *I* w.r.t. species *S*

Pietrucci & Saitta, PNAS 112, 15030 (2015)

#### general-purpose reaction coordinates for chemistry





#### $HCONH_2 \rightleftharpoons NH_3 + CO$

input = A & B

the simulation automatically discovers

- transition pathways
- intermediate states
- off-pathway states



#### several applications so far...



amino acid decomposition ACS Earth Space Chem 2018



formic acid synthesis at water-mineral interface J Phys Chem C 2020





formation of nucleobases PNAS 2017



Théo Magrino

DFT ab initio MD T = 300K 81 water molecules about 4 ns in total (!)



supercomputers: CINES, TGCC, PRACE

### simulating for the first time the complete Strecker amino acid synthesis

one century old, invoked by Miller (1952), no full study



a complex multi-step pathway: only one form of reaction coordinates



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(a) Nitrile hydration transition state, step (4) $\rightarrow$ (5').  $\Delta F^{\ddagger} = 22 \text{ kcal/mol.}$ 

(b) Amide hydrolysis transition state, step  $(5) \rightarrow (6)$ .  $\Delta F^{\ddagger} = 29 \text{ kcal/mol.}$ 

a complex multi-step pathway: only one form of reaction coordinates



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#### conclusion:

## good agreement with available exp. free energies (within DFT-PBE typical errors)

#### a reference for future prebiotic chemistry studies (effect of catalysts like rocks or meteorites?)

(submitted for publication)

... to glycine





#### the larger picture:



Adv Phys X 3, 1477531 (2018)



Adv Phys X 3, 1477531 (2018)