



# RARE EVENT SAMPLING METHODS AND MACHINE LEARNING TO STUDY CATALYTIC REACTION MECHANISMS

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Gabriel Stoltz<sup>3</sup>, Tony Lelièvre<sup>3</sup>



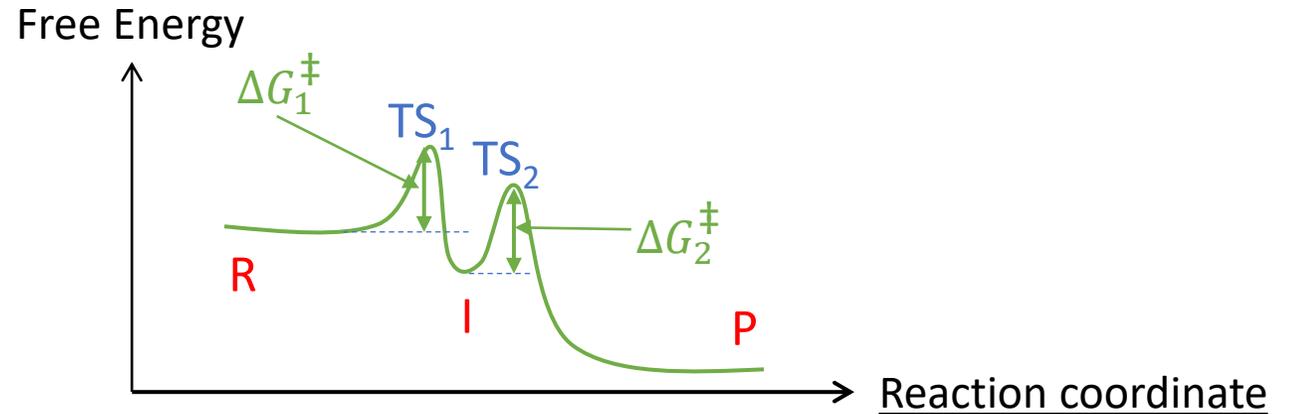
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## 2 INTRODUCTION: REACTION MECHANISMS

Targets : compute reaction rates  
identify reaction mechanism



Different methods exist:

- Transition State Theory (TST): for instance, Eyring-Polanyi equation<sup>1</sup>  $k^{hTST} = \frac{k_B T}{h} e^{-\frac{\Delta G^\ddagger}{k_B T}}$   
Using free energy computed by static approach within harmonic approximation or Molecular Dynamics (MD)
- Alternatively: MD and Rare events simulation methods to access directly the reaction time  
Hill relation<sup>2</sup>:  $k^{Hill} = p_{R \rightarrow P} \phi_R$

<sup>1</sup> Eyring, H. (1935). The activated complex in chemical reactions. *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, 3(2), 107-115.

<sup>2</sup> Hill, T. (2012) Free energy transduction in biology: The steady-state kinetic and thermodynamic formalism. *Elsevier Science and Technology Books*

## INTRODUCTION: STANDARD MOLECULAR DYNAMICS

Simulates the dynamic of the system by adding a thermostat to newton equations of motion

ex. Langevin formalism<sup>1</sup>

$$\begin{cases} dq_t = M^{-1}p_t dt \\ dp_t = -\nabla V(q_t)dt - \gamma p_t dt + \sqrt{2\gamma M k_B T} dW_t \end{cases}$$

NVE ensemble

NVT ensemble

Preserves energy

Dissipate energy

Provides energy

Newton equation

Langevin part

**Not efficient for the simulation of rare events due to high energy barriers and entropic bottlenecks**

**Time scales:** integration time step :  $\sim 10^{-15} s$  rare event rate  $\sim 10^{-9} s^{-1}$  to  $10^3 s^{-1}$

MD based approaches to overcome barriers:

- TST  $\rightarrow$  biased MD such as Metadynamics<sup>2</sup>, Blue-Moon sampling<sup>3</sup> ...

**Dynamics is lost but rates are estimated from free energy**

- Hill  $\rightarrow$  rare events sampling methods such as Adaptive multi-level splitting<sup>4</sup>

**Dynamics preserved thus the rates can directly be computed**

<sup>1</sup> Langevin P. (1908), *Comptes-Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences*, 146, 530-532

<sup>2</sup> Laio, A., & Parrinello, M. (2002) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 99(20), 12562-12566.

<sup>3</sup> Carter, E. A., Ciccotti, G., Hynes, J. T., & Kapral, R. (1989). *Chemical Physics Letters*, 156(5), 472-477.

<sup>4</sup> C erou, F., & Guyader, A. (2007) *Stochastic Analysis and Applications*, 25(2), 417-443.

**I. Adaptive Multi-level Splitting (AMS) for reaction rates**

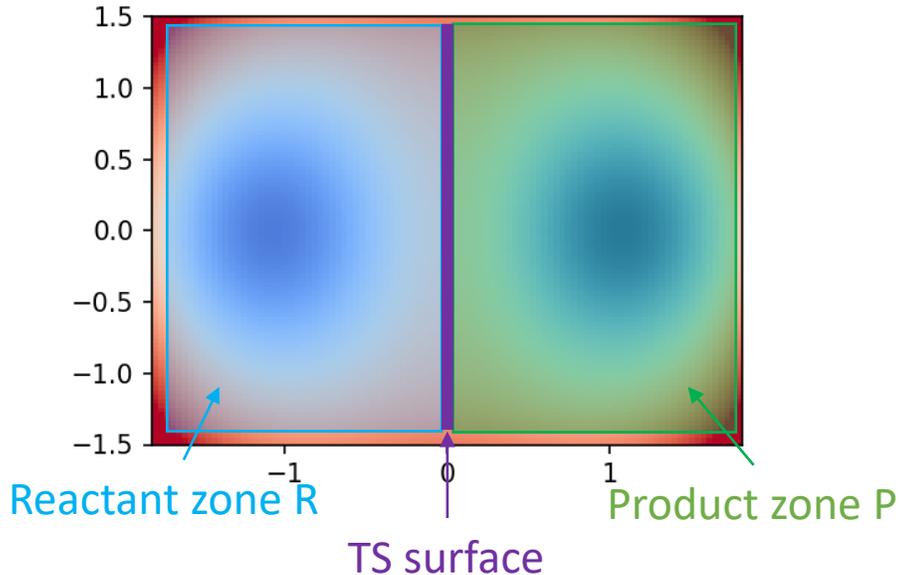
II. Identifying reaction coordinate with Machine Learning (ML)

III. Results of the AMS + ML method.

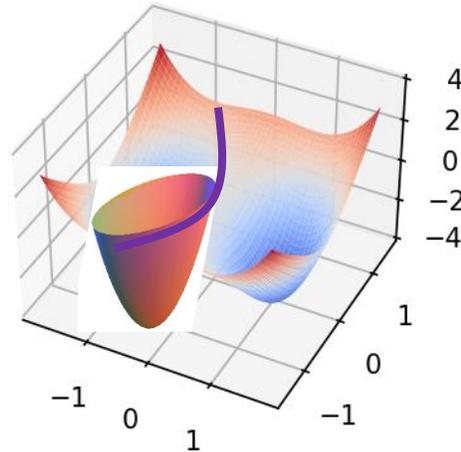
CASE STUDY: Kinetics of dissociation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  on  $\gamma\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (100) surface

# I. ADAPTIVE MULTI-LEVEL SPLITTING METHOD FOR REACTION RATES

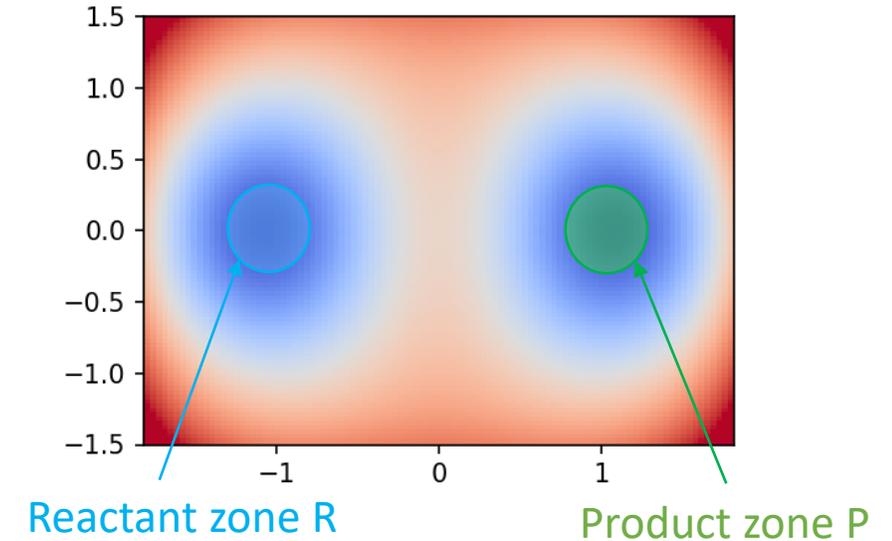
## Transition State Theory



## 2-dimensional potential



## Hill relation



**Rate** = probability of being in TS with respect to R  
 × frequency of decomposition to P

$$k^{TST} = p(TS | R) \phi_{TS \rightarrow P} \quad k^{hTST} = e^{-\frac{\Delta G^\ddagger}{k_B T}} \frac{k_B T}{h}$$

Sensitive to the TS definition  
 TST overestimates rates ( $\kappa$ )  
 hTST poorly captures entropy

**Rate** = probability of reaching P before R  
 starting from  $\partial R$  × frequency of exits of R

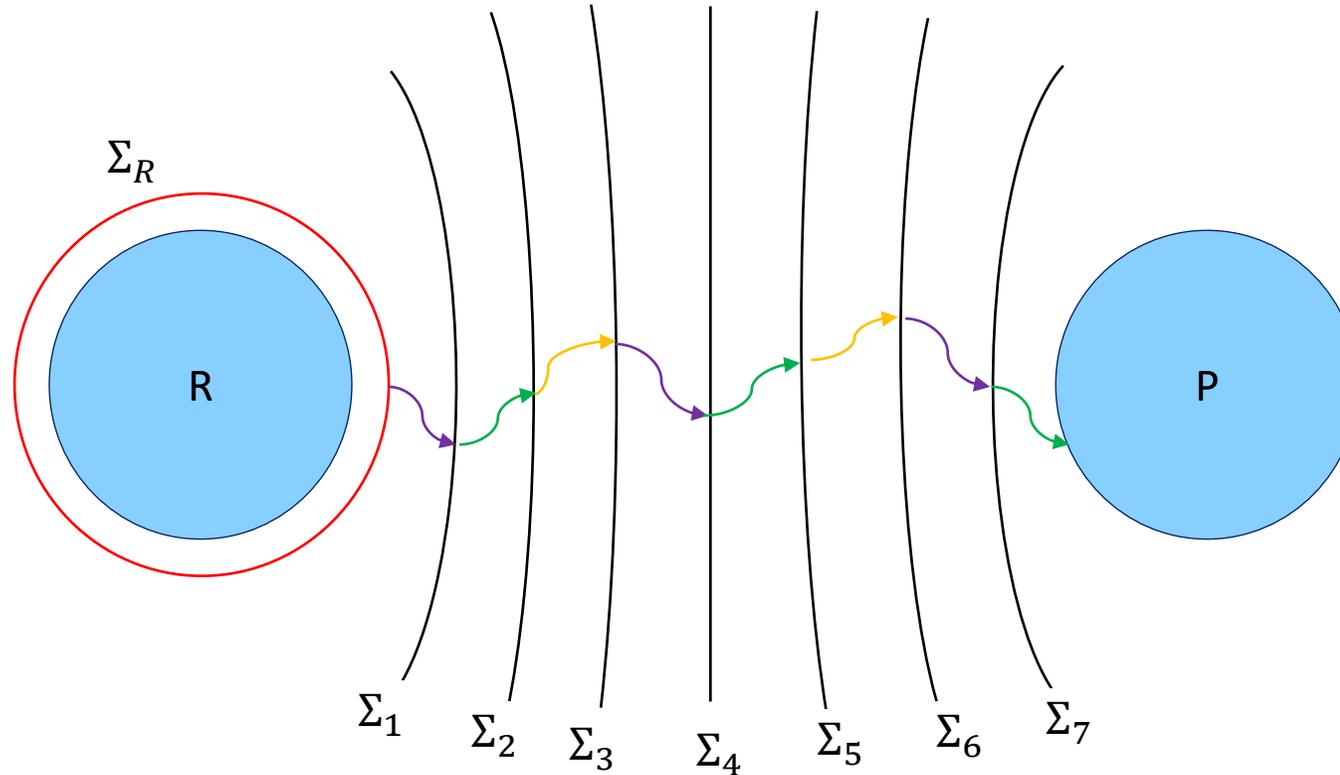
$$k^{Hill} = p_{R \rightarrow P}(\partial R) \phi_R$$

Not extremely sensitive to the  
 definition of R and P

<sup>1</sup> Hänggi, P. Talkner, P. Borkovec, M. (1990) Reaction-rate theory: fifty years after Kramers *Reviews of Modern Physics*, Vol. 62, No. 2 American Physical Society (APS) p. 251-341

<sup>2</sup> Hill, T. (2012) Free energy transduction in biology: The steady-state kinetic and thermodynamic formalism. *Elsevier Science and Technology Books*

What is a Multilevel Splitting estimator:



$$p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_1}(\Sigma_R) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_2}(\Sigma_1) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_3}(\Sigma_2) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_4}(\Sigma_3) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_5}(\Sigma_4) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_6}(\Sigma_5) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_7}(\Sigma_6) p_{R \rightarrow P}(\Sigma_7) \\ = p_{R \rightarrow P}(\Sigma_R)$$

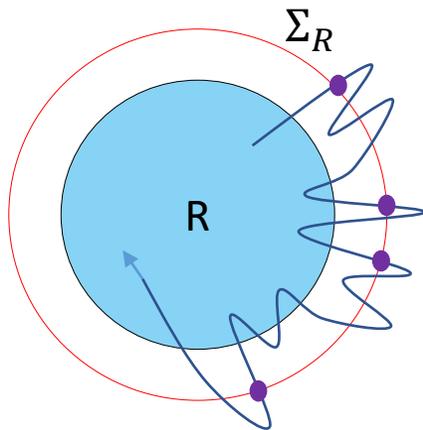
How to place  $\Sigma_i$  and compute  $p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_{i+1}}(\Sigma_i)$  ?

# I. ADAPTIVE MULTI-LEVEL SPLITTING METHOD FOR REACTION RATES

● AMS aims at estimating  $p_{\Sigma \rightarrow P}^{1,2}$ . It can be split in 3 steps:

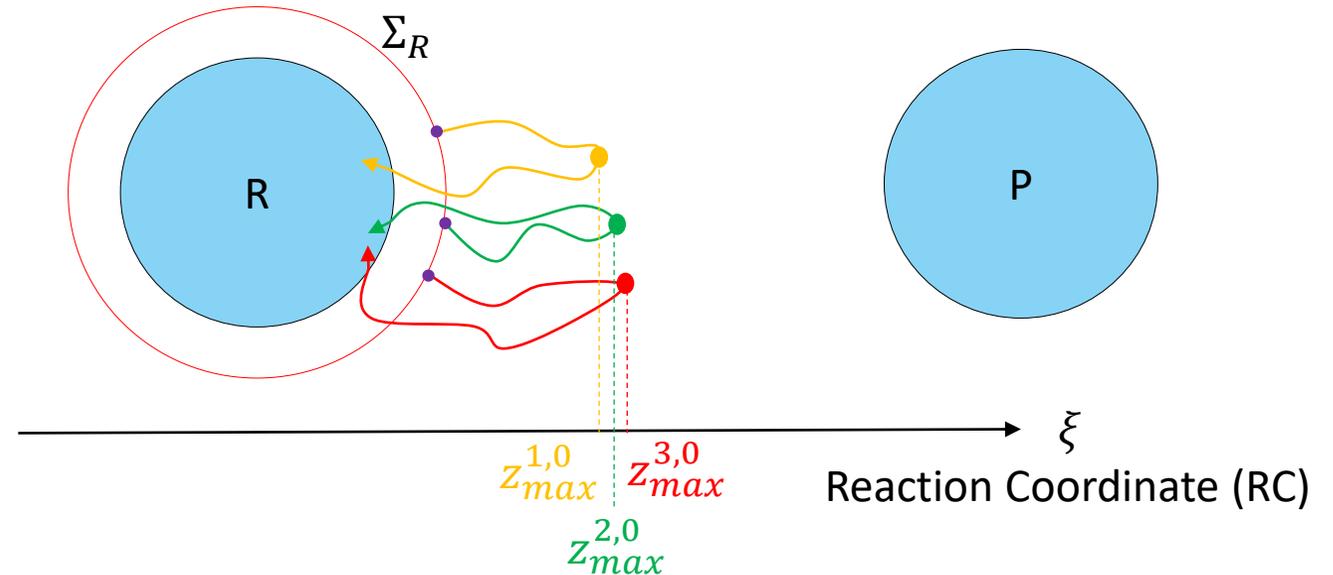
1. Generating initial conditions on  $\Sigma$  and estimate  $t_{R-\Sigma-R} = \frac{1}{\phi_R}$
2. Initialize N replicas by running an unbiased dynamics until it reaches R or P. Set  $p = 1$ . Classify all the replicas by increasing  $\xi_{\max}$ .
3. Apply the AMS loop until all replicas have reached P.

## 1. Initial conditions and flux



MD for Initial conditions.

## 2. Initialization

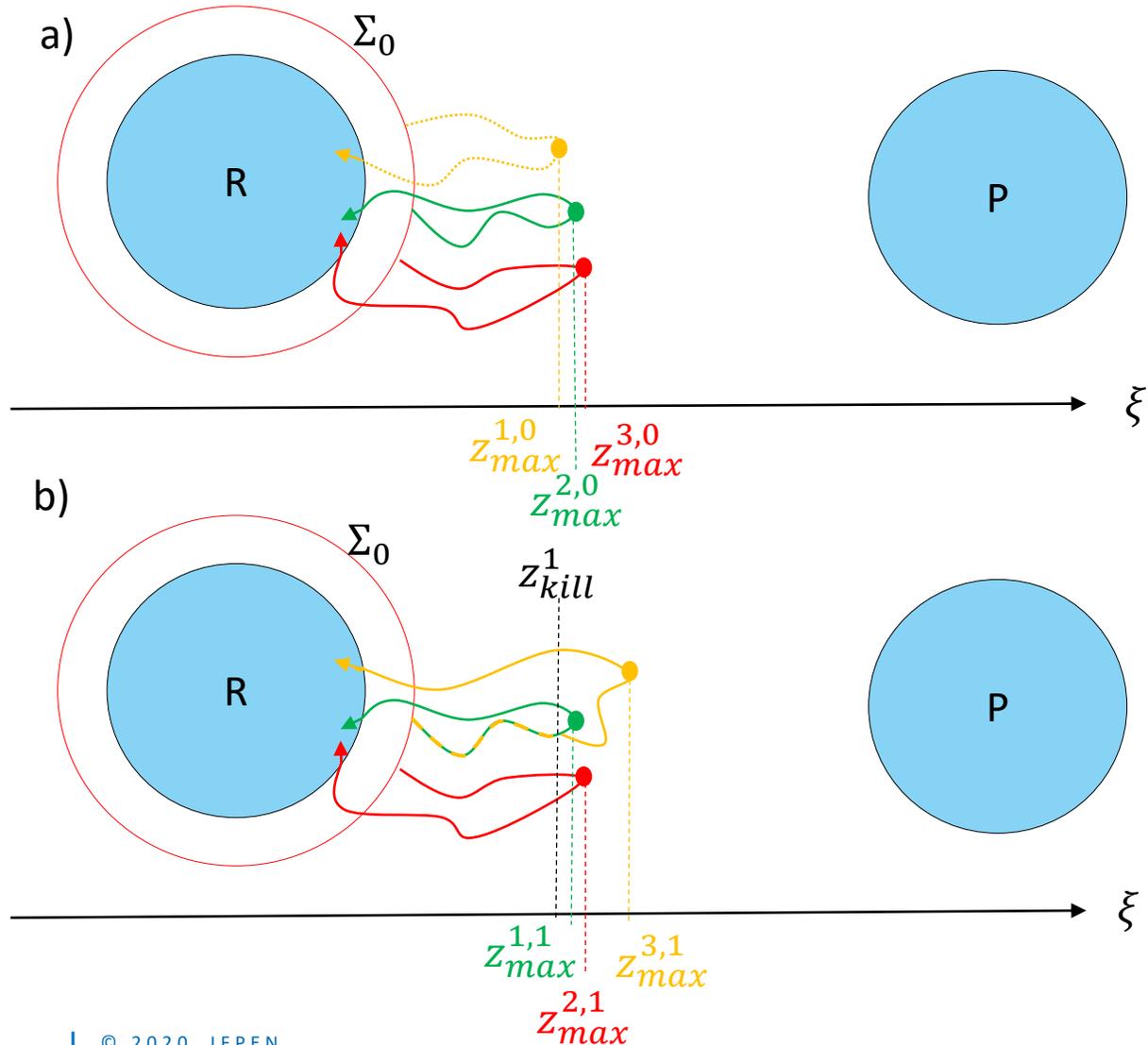


<sup>1</sup> F. Cérou, A. Guyader, *Stochastic Analysis and Applications* **25**, 417-443 (2007).

<sup>2</sup> L. J. S. Lopes, T. Lelièvre, *Journal of computational chemistry* **40**, 1198-1208 (2019).

# I. ADAPTIVE MULTI-LEVEL SPLITTING METHOD FOR REACTION RATES

## 3. AMS iterations



## 3. AMS iterations: $i \geq 0$

a) Save the smallest ( $z_{max}^{1,i}$ ) as  $z_{kill}^{i+1}$  and delete all the trajectories that did not “go above”  $z_{kill}^{i+1}$

b) Randomly select one trajectory within the remaining ones. Copy it until it reaches  $z_{kill}^{i+1}$  and continue it until it reaches R or P.

c) Classify all the replicas by increasing  $z_{max}$ .

$$\tilde{p} = \prod_{i=0}^{i_{max}} \tilde{p}_{\Sigma_{z_{kill}^i} \rightarrow \Sigma_{z_{kill}^{i+1}}} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right)^{i_{max}}$$

Unbiased estimator:

$$\mathbb{E}[\tilde{p}] = p_{R-P}(\Sigma_R)$$

Variance depends on RC:

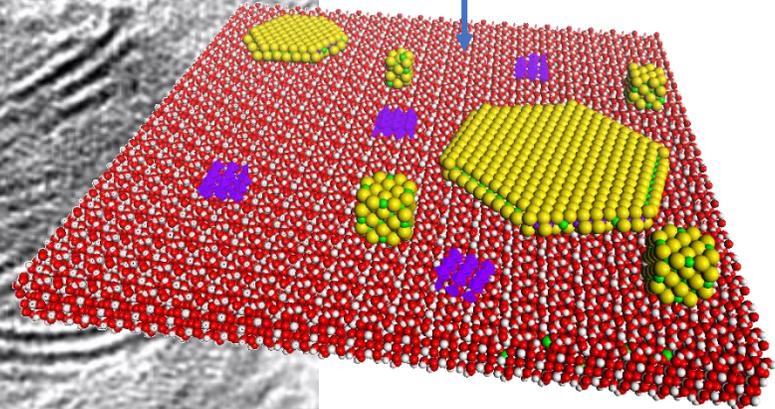
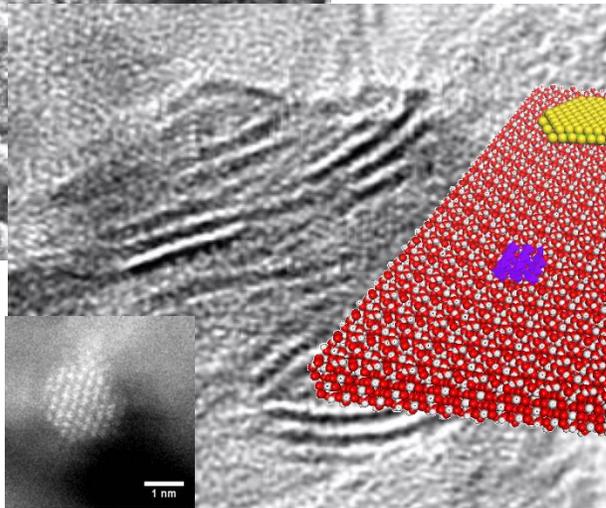
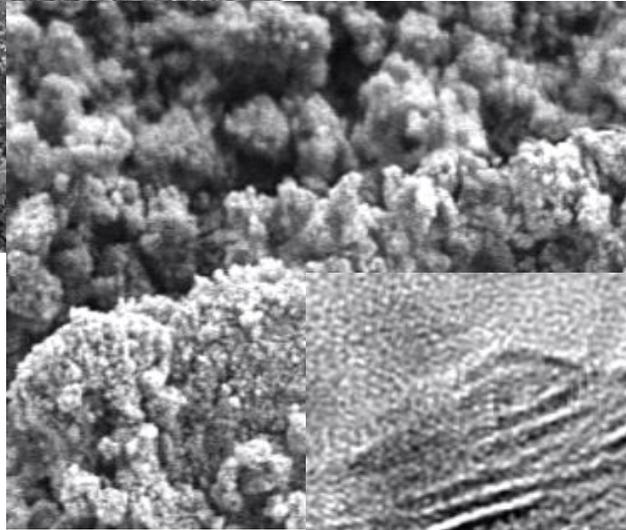
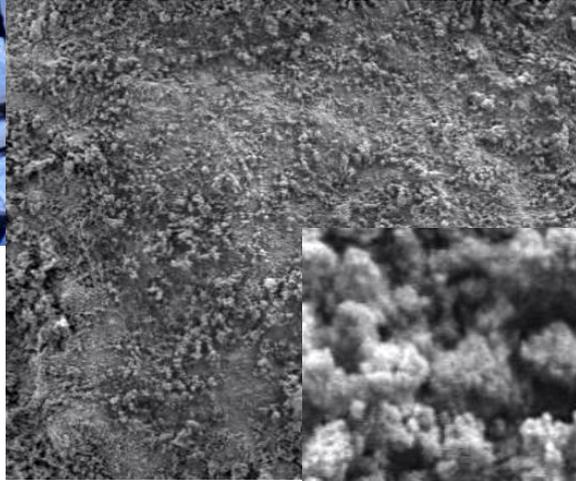
$$\text{Var}[\tilde{p}] = f(\xi)$$

I. Adaptive Multi-level Splitting (AMS) for reaction rates

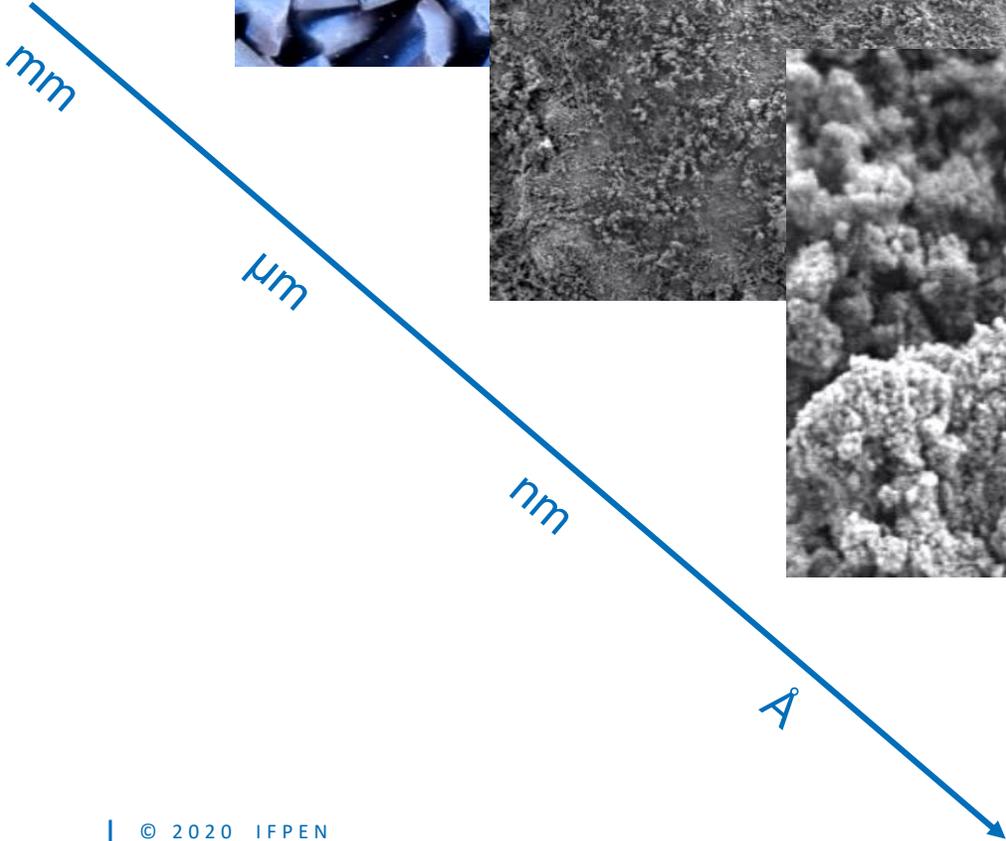
**II. Identifying reaction coordinate with Machine Learning (ML)**

III. Results of the AMS + ML method.

CASE STUDY: Dissociation of H<sub>2</sub>O on  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (100) surface



Catalyst support acidity



## II. IDENTIFYING COLLECTIVE VARIABLES WITH MACHINE LEARNING

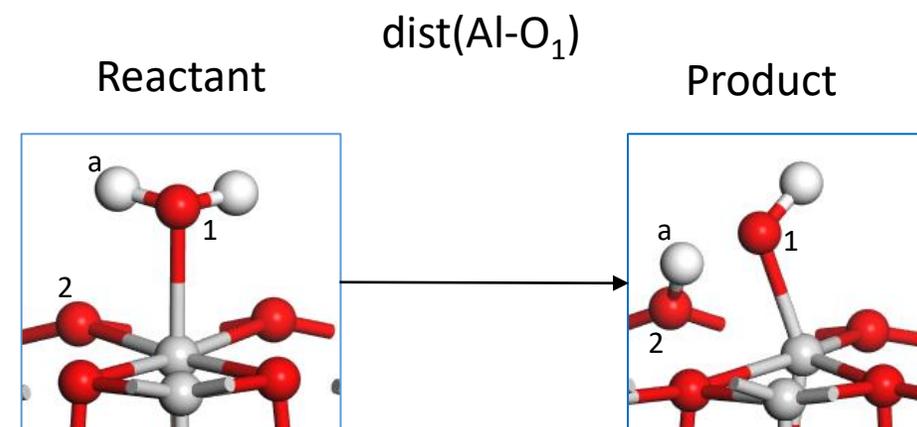
- Each structure of  $N$  atoms is a point in  $\mathbb{R}^{3N}$
- Collective Variables (CV) are synthetic variables in lower dimensions.

$$\xi: \mathbb{R}^{3N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

- A reaction coordinate is one, or a set of collective variables able to discriminate the important states of the system.

- An ideal reaction coordinate answers : **how committed is the dynamic in the process of going from Reactants to Products ?**

Potentially bad RC:



Potentially good RC:

$\text{dist}(\text{O}_1-\text{H}_a)$

$\text{dist}(\text{O}_2-\text{H}_a)$

● H

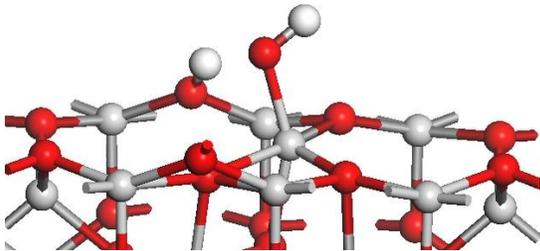
● O

● Al

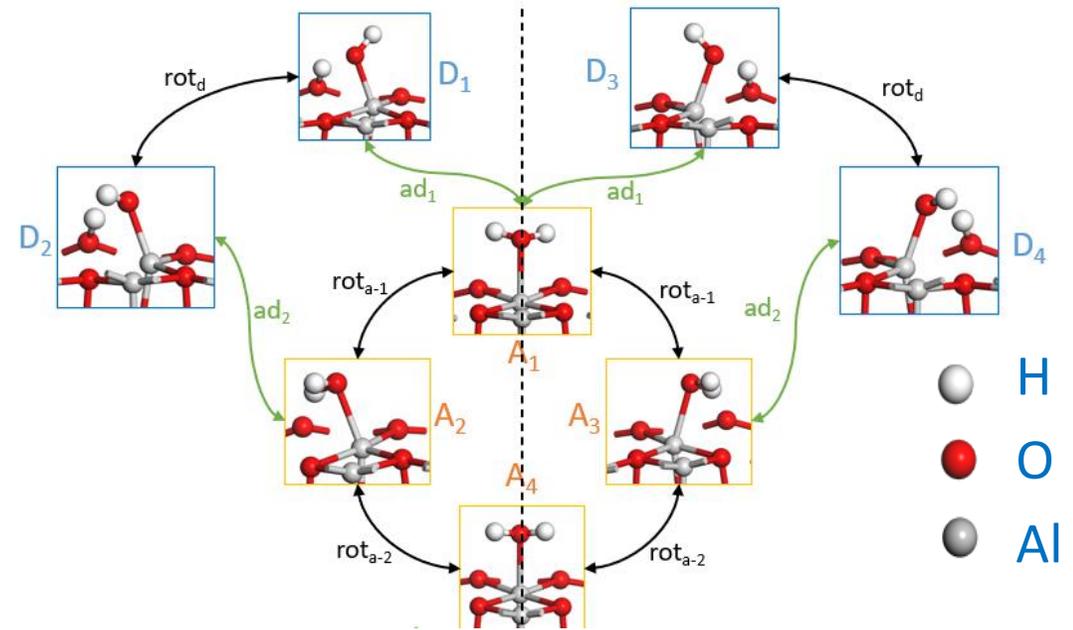
Method:

1. Identify the various metastable states (intermediates)  
→ dissociated ( $D_i$ ) or associated ( $A_i$ )
2. Run short dynamics in these states to sample Potential Energy Surface (PES) around the minima

$D_1$  dissociated structure



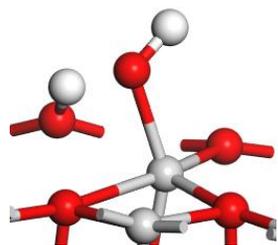
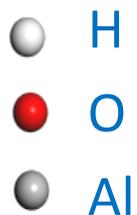
VASP software  
43 atoms  
dt = 1 fs  
Total time = 1 ps  
3 – 4 wall clock hours on 1 node with 36 CPUs



Identified structures and **intuitively** plausible transitions

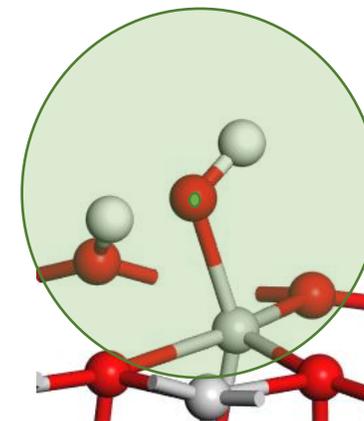
3. Train supervised machine learning model (with the proper labelling)

SOAP<sup>1</sup> atom centered descriptors to numerically encode the structure for training the ML algorithm.



Periodic structures  
(vector of  $3N$  lines)

Select central atom

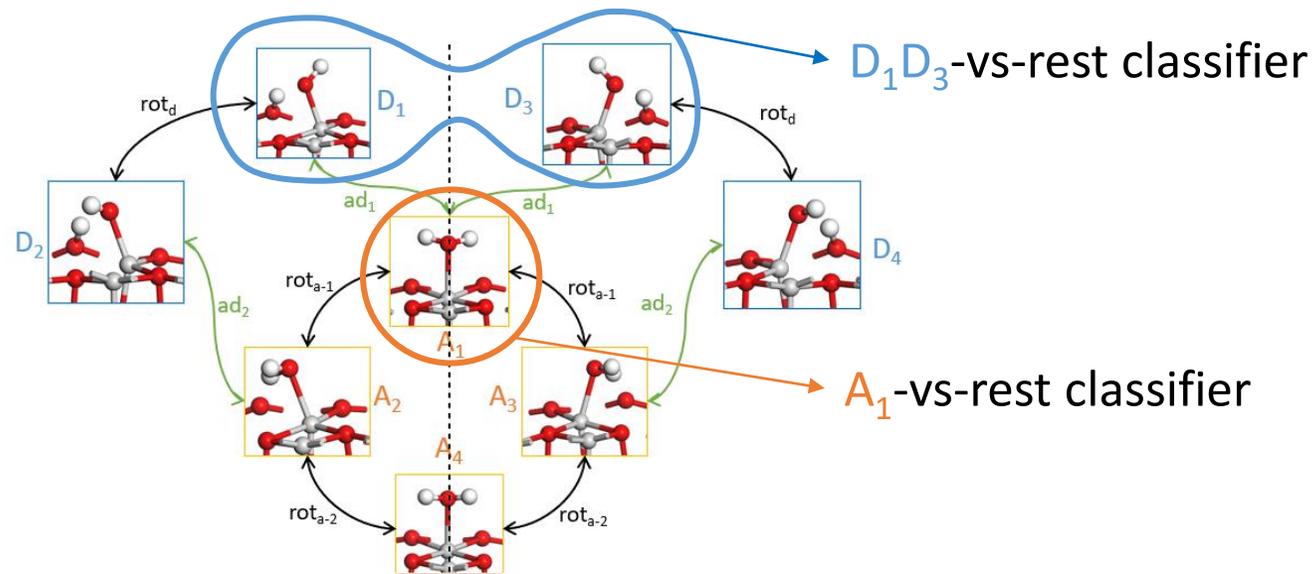


Atom centered description of the structure  
(vector of  $\sim 10^3$ - $10^4$  lines)

## II. IDENTIFYING COLLECTIVE VARIABLES WITH MACHINE LEARNING

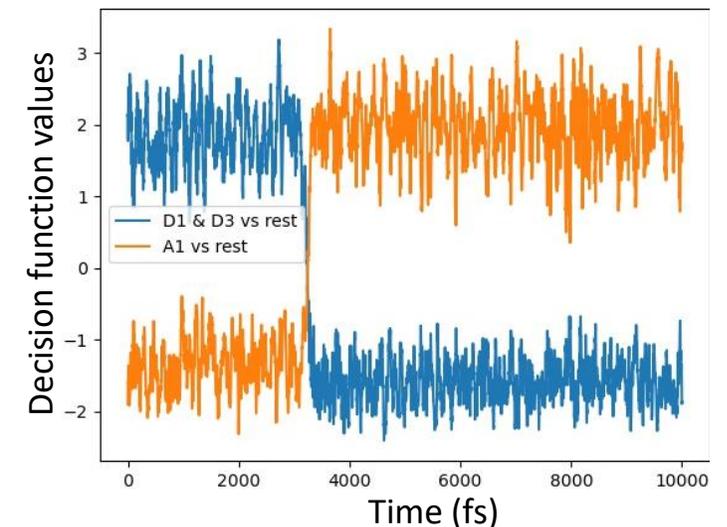
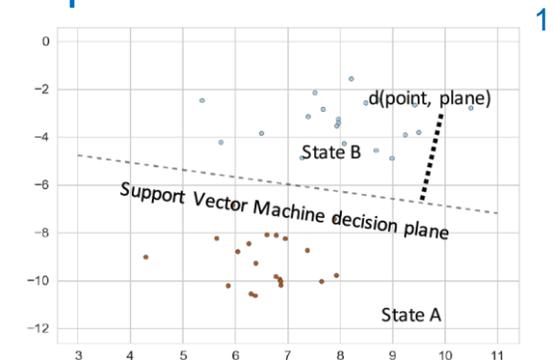
SVM classifiers separate two sets of points by the highest margin plane.

SOAP-SVM CV : classifier decision function ( $f_X$ ): algebraic distance to the plane.



Classifier decision function interpretation:

$$f_X(\mathbf{q}) \in (-\infty, -1] \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{q} \in X$$



<sup>1</sup>Sultan, M. M.; Pande, V. S. (2018) Automated design of collective variables using supervised machine learning *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, 149, 094106.

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# 16 III. RESULTS OF THE AMS + ML METHOD.

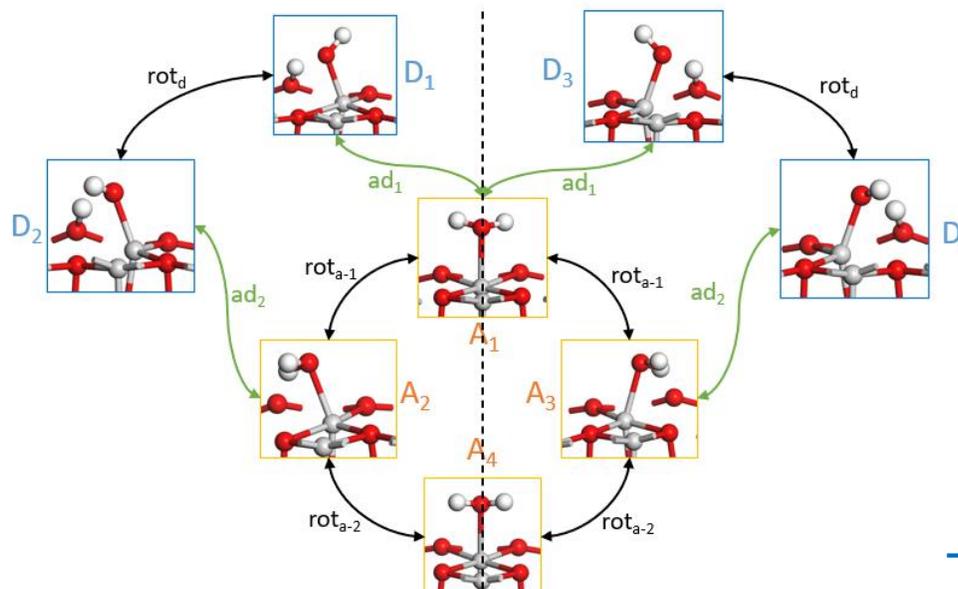
With  
 $R = A_1$   
 $\Sigma_R = \Sigma_{A_1}$   
 $P = A_2A_3 \cup A_4 \cup D_1D_3 \cup D_2D_4$

AMS can sample :

$A_1 \rightarrow A_2A_3$   
 $A_1 \rightarrow A_4$   
 $A_1 \rightarrow D_1D_3$   
 $A_1 \rightarrow D_2D_4$

→ Answers how  $A_1$  can decompose ?

The most probable transition will be sampled, with precision conditioned by  $\xi$



With  
 $R = A_1 \cup A_2A_3 \cup A_4 \cup D_2D_4$   
 $\Sigma_R = \Sigma_{A_1}$   
 $P = D_1D_3$

AMS can sample :

$A_1 \rightarrow D_1D_3$

→ Focus specifically on one dissociation

Quality of the sampling depends on  $\xi$

# 17 III. RESULTS OF THE AMS + ML METHOD.

Multiple type of trajectories:

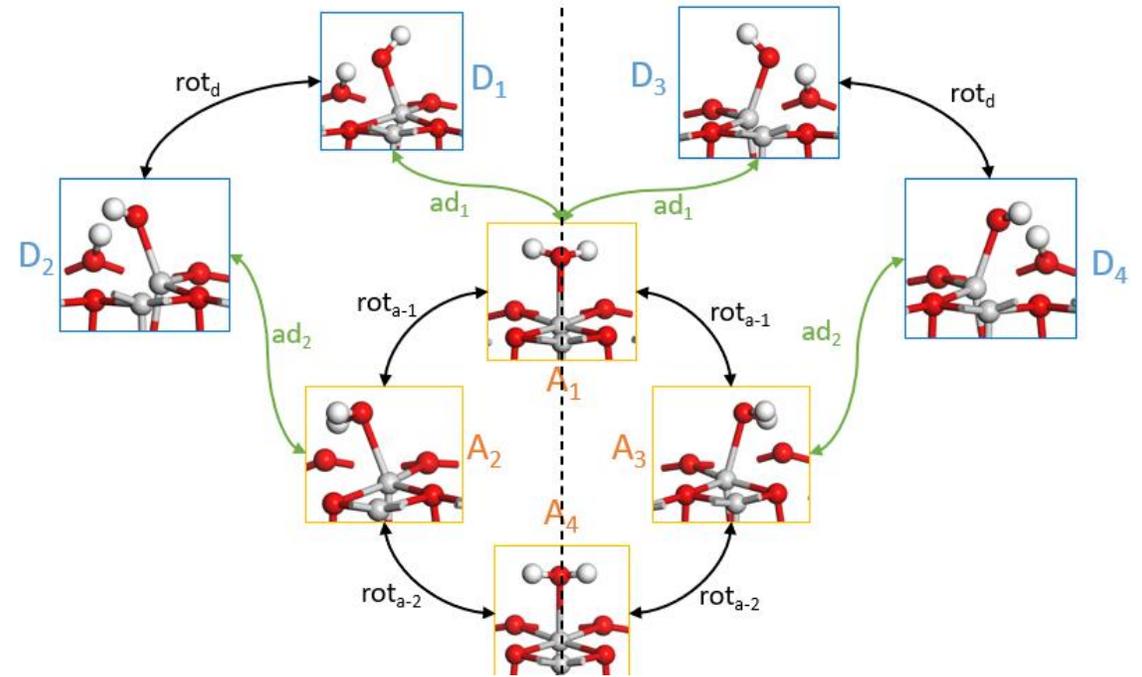
$\tilde{p}_{A_1 \rightarrow \text{any}}$ ,  $\tilde{p}_{A_2 A_3 \rightarrow \text{any}}$ ,  $\tilde{p}_{A_4 \rightarrow \text{any}}$ ,  $\tilde{p}_{D_1 D_3 \rightarrow \text{any}}$  and  $\tilde{p}_{D_2 D_4 \rightarrow \text{any}}$

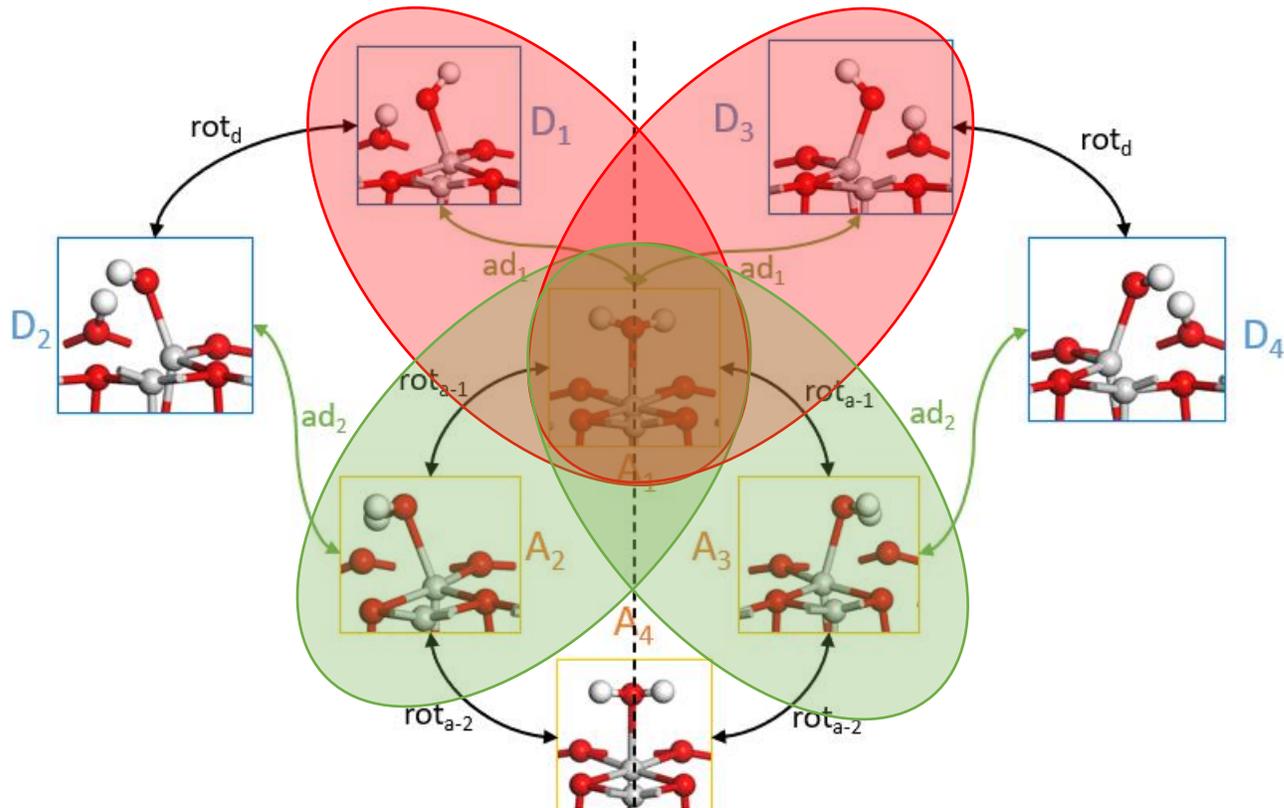
Final state can be identified using all CVs

Count the number of replicas  $n_X^{\text{in}}$  finishing in the state  $X$

$$\tilde{p}_{A_1 \rightarrow X} = \frac{n_X^{\text{in}}}{N} \tilde{p}_{A_1 \rightarrow \text{any}}$$

$$\tilde{k}_{A_1 \rightarrow X} \approx \frac{\tilde{p}_{A_1 \rightarrow X}}{t_{\text{loop}-A_1}}$$



**Dissociation**

$$k_{A_1 \rightarrow D_1 D_3} =$$

$$k_{D_1 D_3 \rightarrow A_1} =$$

Hill

$$1.6 \cdot 10^9 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$2.3 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

hTST

$$3.4 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$1.1 \cdot 10^{12} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

**Rotation**

$$k_{A_1 \rightarrow A_2 A_3} =$$

$$k_{A_2 A_3 \rightarrow A_1} =$$

Hill

$$3.8 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$1.5 \cdot 10^{11} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

hTST

$$7.6 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$2.1 \cdot 10^{12} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

hTST rates are larger

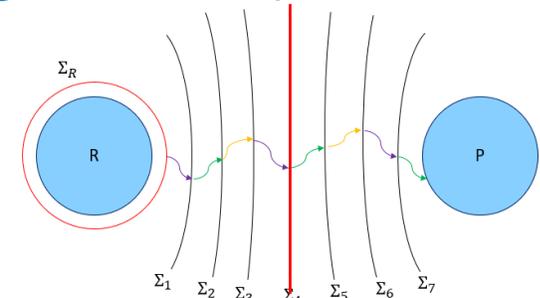
Might come from entropy estimation.

## Identify TS structures

TS in the sense of committor function  $p_{R \rightarrow P}$  (probability of reaching P before R)<sup>1</sup>

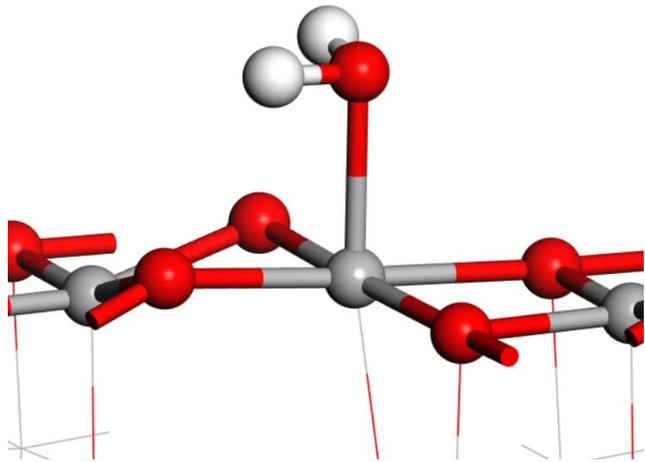
Find the level of the RC  $z_{kill}^n$  such that  $p_{R \rightarrow P} = 0.5$

$$\prod_{i=n}^{i_{max}} \tilde{p}_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_{z_{kill}^{i+1}}}(\Sigma_{z_{kill}^i}) = 0.5$$

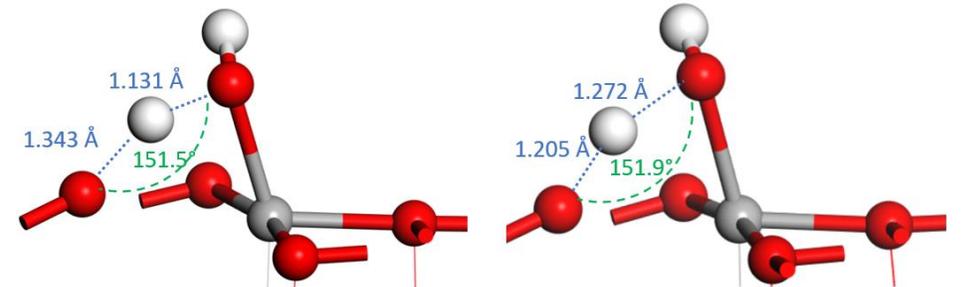


$$p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_1}(\Sigma_R) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_2}(\Sigma_1) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_3}(\Sigma_2) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_4}(\Sigma_3) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_5}(\Sigma_4) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_6}(\Sigma_5) p_{R \rightarrow \Sigma_7}(\Sigma_6) p_{R \rightarrow P}(\Sigma_7)$$

Along each trajectory, take the structure right after the level  $\Sigma_{z_{kill}^n}$  is crossed, then find the average structure



Example for the  $A_1 \rightarrow D_1D_3$  reaction



Saddle point

AMS estimated

$$p_{A_1 \rightarrow D_1D_3} = 0.5$$

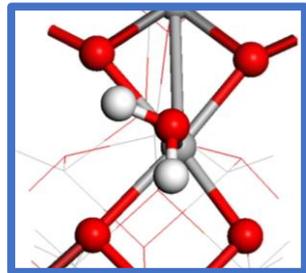
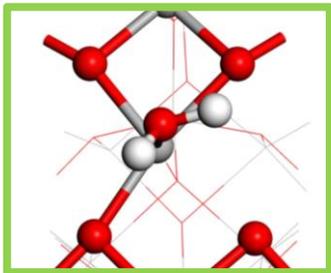
<sup>1</sup>Vanden-Eijnden, E. Transition Path Theory (2006) in Computer Simulations in Condensed Matter Systems: From Materials to Chemical Biology Volume 1 Springer Berlin Heidelberg: Berlin, Heidelberg p. 453-493

### III. RESULTS OF THE AMS + ML METHOD.

Use K-means clustering method to identify groups of trajectories.

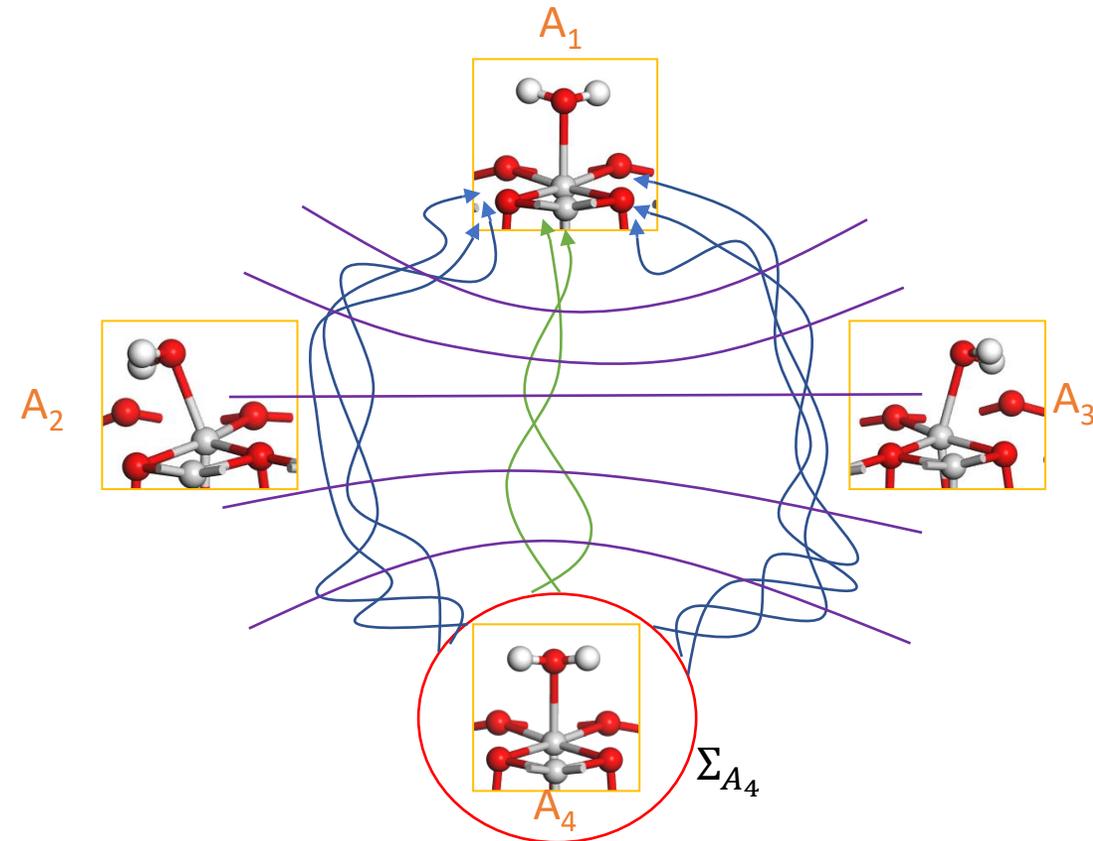
Based on SOAP descriptor + PCA to describe 5 structures per trajectory.

5 Structures = First time trajectory cross RC iso-levels

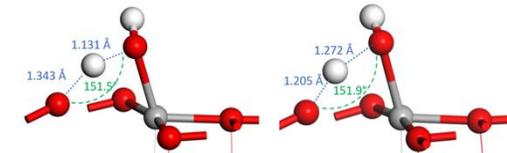
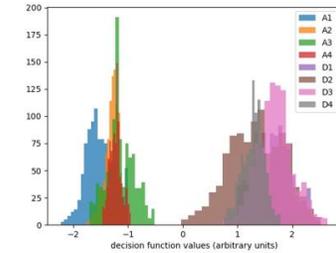


→ Reactive trajectories

— Iso-levels of a reaction coordinate



- Collective Variables :
  - ✓ SVM Allows to define RCs discriminating the metastable states
- AMS :
  - ✓ SOAP – SVM RCs allow to sample transitions
- Analysis of reactive trajectories:
  - ✓ Some key structures for the transition can be identified
  - ✓ Clustering allows to differentiate types of paths



# PERSPECTIVES

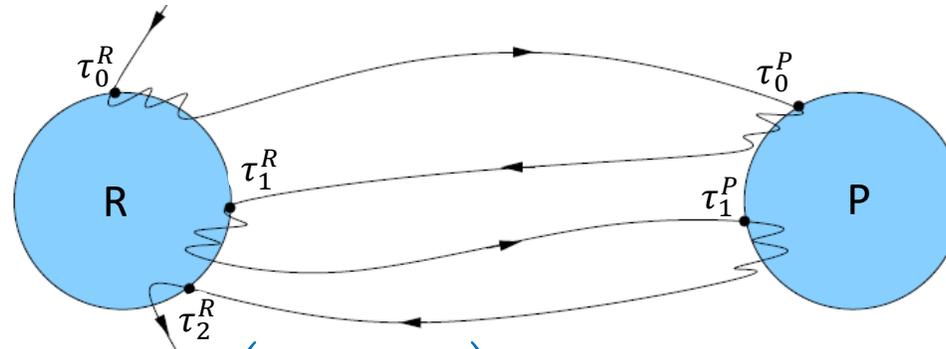
- Application:
  - ✓ Apply this method to a more challenging reaction on alumina (such as Alcohol dehydration)
- Theoretical aspects:
  - ✓ Auto-encoders models can be used to define RCs.

<sup>1</sup> Jinnouchi, R., Miwa, K., Karsai, F., Kresse, G., & Asahi, R. (2020). *The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters*, 11(17), 6946-6955.

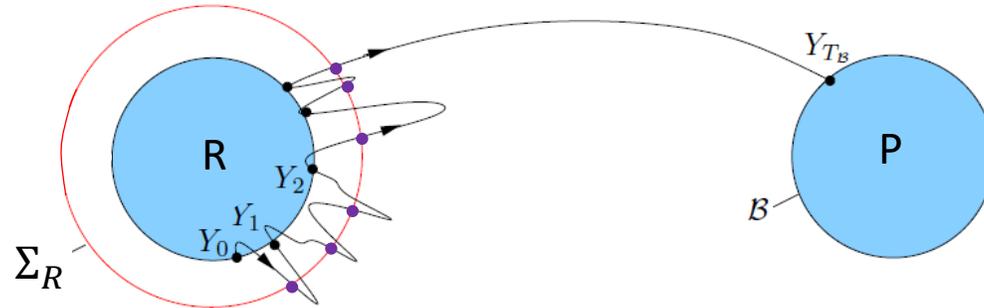
Thank you for you attention

# I. ADAPTIVE MULTI-LEVEL SPLITTING METHOD FOR REACTION RATES

Transition time:  $\frac{1}{k_{RP}} = t_{RP} = \text{mean}(\tau_i^R - \tau_i^P)$



We model the reaction time as:  $\frac{1}{k_{RP}} = t_{RP} = \left( \frac{1}{p_{\Sigma_R \rightarrow P}} - 1 \right) (t_{R \rightarrow \Sigma} + t_{\Sigma \rightarrow R}) + t_{R \rightarrow \Sigma}^\dagger + t_{\Sigma \rightarrow P} \approx \frac{t_{R \rightarrow \Sigma \rightarrow R}}{p_{\Sigma_R \rightarrow P}} = \frac{1}{p_{\Sigma_R \rightarrow P} \phi_R}$



$p_{\Sigma_R \rightarrow P}$ : probability of reaching P before R when starting from  $\Sigma_R$ .

<sup>1</sup> Baudel, M., Guyader, A., & Lelièvre, T. (2020). On the Hill relation and the mean reaction time for metastable processes. *arXiv preprint, arXiv:2008.09790*.

### III. RESULTS OF THE AMS + ML METHOD.

Path Collective Variable (PCV) with proper definition of states allows precise estimation

RC	$t_{\text{loop-R}\Sigma A_1 R}$ (fs)	$p_{\Sigma A_1 \rightarrow D_1 D_3}$	$k_{A_1 \rightarrow D_1 D_3}$
$R = A_1 ; P = A_2 A_3 \cup A_4 \cup D_1 D_3 \cup D_2 D_4$			
$A_1$ -vs-all-SOAP-SVM	$110 \pm 5$	$(1.79 \pm 1.86) 10^{-3}$	$(1.63 \pm 1.70) 10^{10}$
$A_1$ -vs- $D_1$ -SOAP-SVM	$105 \pm 3$	$(1.81 \pm 1.98) 10^{-5}$	$(1.72 \pm 1.88) 10^8$
interpolated SOAP PCV	$104 \pm 4$	$(1.95 \pm 2.26) 10^{-4}$	$(1.87 \pm 2.17) 10^9$
$R = A_1 \cup A_2 A_3 \cup A_4 \cup D_2 D_4 ; P = D_1 D_3$			
$A_1$ -vs- $D_1$ -SOAP-SVM	$105 \pm 2$	$(3.31 \pm 2.97) 10^{-4}$	$(3.15 \pm 2.83) 10^9$
interpolated SOAP PCV	$108 \pm 2$	$(1.78 \pm 1.73) 10^{-4}$	$(1.64 \pm 1, 59) 10^9$

### Summary of AMS results vs hTST results

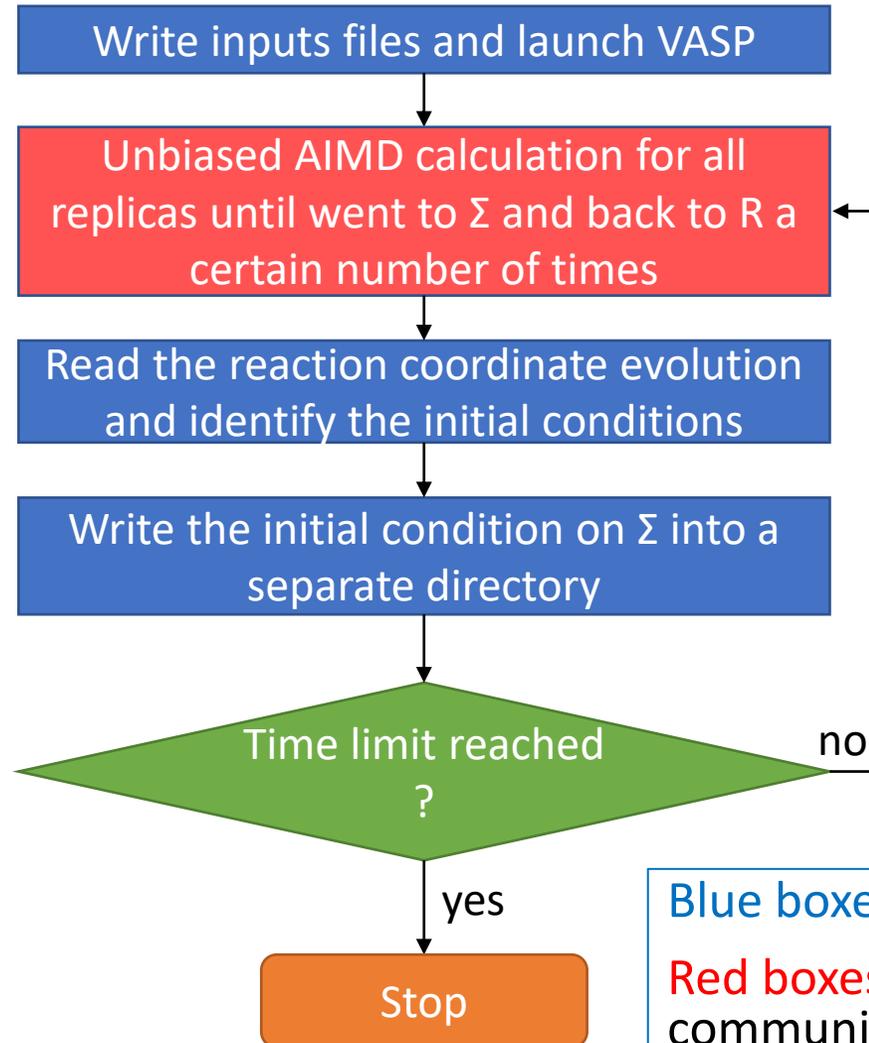
Transition	$k_{\text{Transition-AMS}}(\text{s}^{-1})$	$k_{\text{Transition-hTST}}(\text{s}^{-1})$
Water rotations		
$A_1 \rightarrow A_2 A_3$	$(3.08 \pm 1.43) 10^{10}$	$7.55 10^{10}$
$A_2 A_3 \rightarrow A_1$	$(1.49 \pm 0.46) 10^{11}$	$2.06 10^{12}$
$A_2 A_3 \rightarrow A_4$	$(4.33 \pm 2.20) 10^{10}$	$3.64 10^{10}$
$A_4 \rightarrow A_2 A_3$	$(2.35 \pm 0.87) 10^{11}$	$5.66 10^{11}$
$A_1 \rightarrow A_4$	$(3.34 \pm 6.56) 10^6$	$2.04 10^8$
$A_4 \rightarrow A_1$	$(1.34 \pm 0.68) 10^{10}$	$8.65 10^{10}$
Hydroxyl rotation		
$D_1 D_3 \rightarrow D_2 D_4$	$\emptyset$	$2.38 10^9$
$D_2 D_4 \rightarrow D_1 D_3$	$(2.86 \pm 4.71) 10^8$	$4.15 10^9$

Transition	$k_{\text{Transition-AMS}}(\text{s}^{-1})$	$k_{\text{Transition-hTST}}(\text{s}^{-1})$
Hydroxyl rotation		
$D_1 D_3 \rightarrow D_2 D_4$	$\emptyset$	$2.38 10^9$
$D_2 D_4 \rightarrow D_1 D_3$	$(2.86 \pm 4.71) 10^8$	$4.15 10^9$
Formation and dissociation of water		
$A_1 \rightarrow D_1 D_3$	$(1.64 \pm 1, 59) 10^9$	$3.37 10^{11}$
$D_1 D_3 \rightarrow A_1$	$(2.32 \pm 1.59) 10^{10}$	$1.13 10^{12}$
$A_2 A_3 \rightarrow D_2 D_4$	$(7.86 \pm 7.53) 10^9$	$5.45 10^{13}$
$D_2 D_4 \rightarrow A_2 A_3$	$(1.28 \pm 0.54) 10^{11}$	$1.17 10^{13}$
$A_2 A_3 \rightarrow D_1 D_3$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$D_1 D_3 \rightarrow A_2 A_3$	$(2.33 \pm 3.14) 10^8$	$\emptyset$

# III. RESULTS OF THE AMS + ML METHOD.

## AMS IMPLEMENTATION WITH VASP (PLANE WAVE DFT)

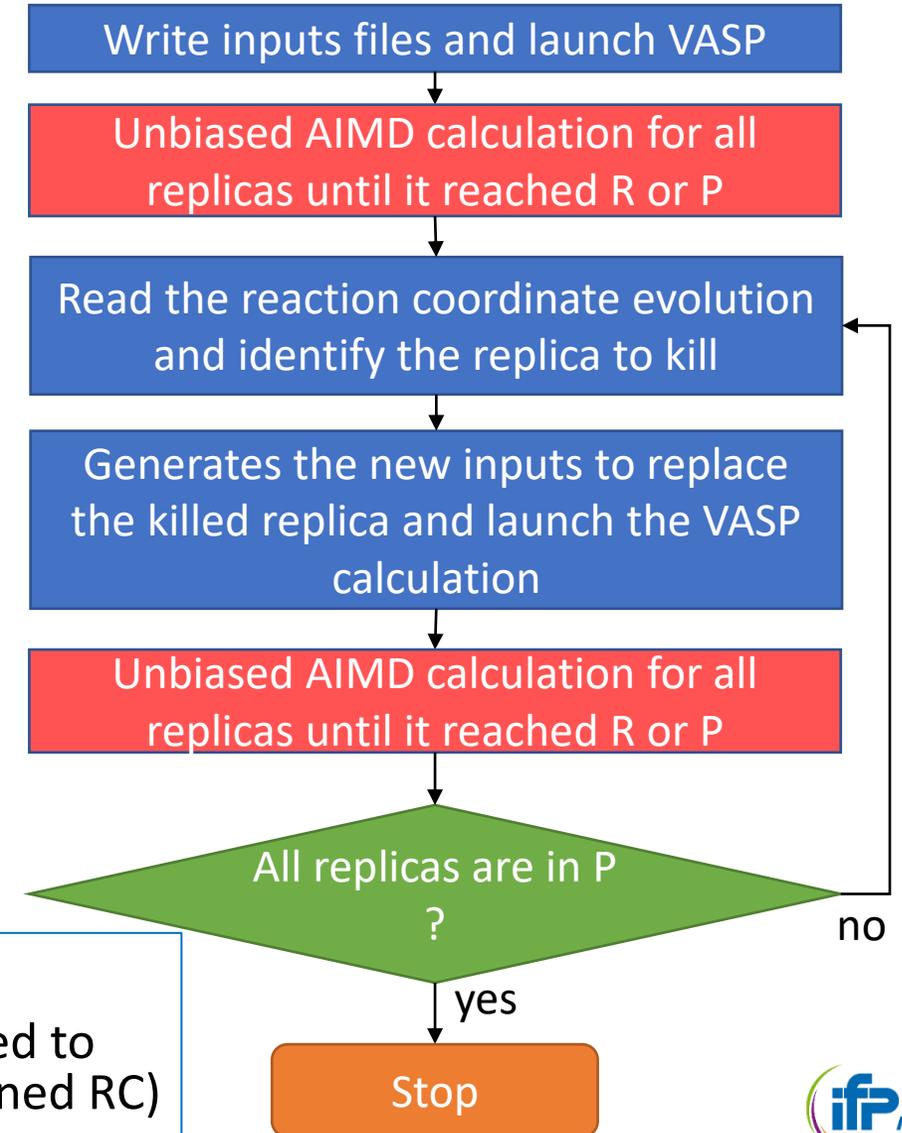
### Sampling of initial conditions



Blue boxes: python code

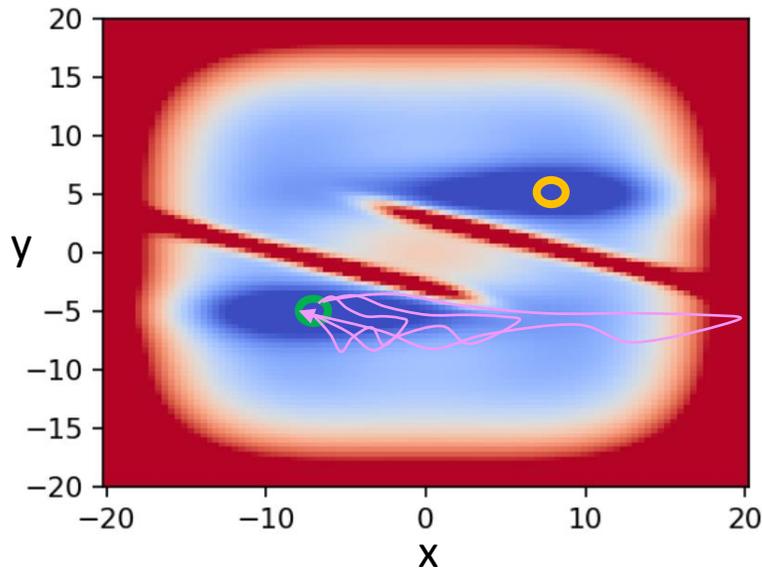
Red boxes: VASP code. (modified to communicate with python defined RC)

### Probability estimation with AMS



# I. ADAPTIVE MULTI-LEVEL SPLITTING METHOD FOR REACTION RATES

AMS extinction case, illustration on the Z-potential<sup>1</sup>:



○ P State  
○ R State  
— "final" trajectory

No reactive trajectories !

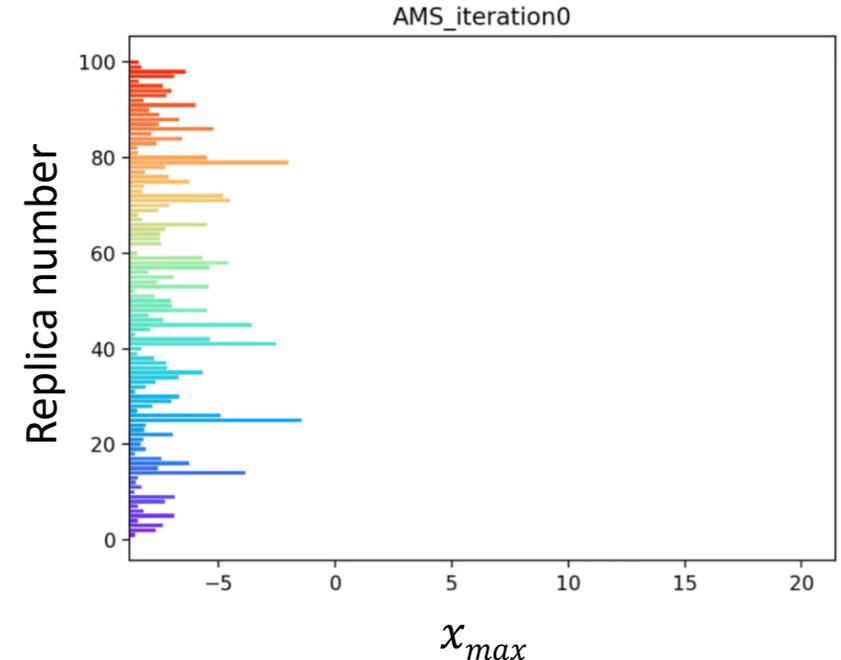
$$\tilde{p} = 0$$

Algorithm "extinction"

Langevin dynamics with  $m = 1, \beta = 4, \Delta t = 0.1$

AMS with  $N_{rep} = 100, k_{min} = 1$

$$\xi(x, y) = x$$



AMS favors high values of the Reaction coordinate.

Bad indexation of the reaction path by the RC  $\xi$  can lead to frequent "extinction".

→ Alternative RC needed!

<sup>1</sup>Lechner, W.; Rogal, J.; Juraszek, J.; Ensing, B.; Bolhuis, P. G. (2010) *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, 133, 174110.

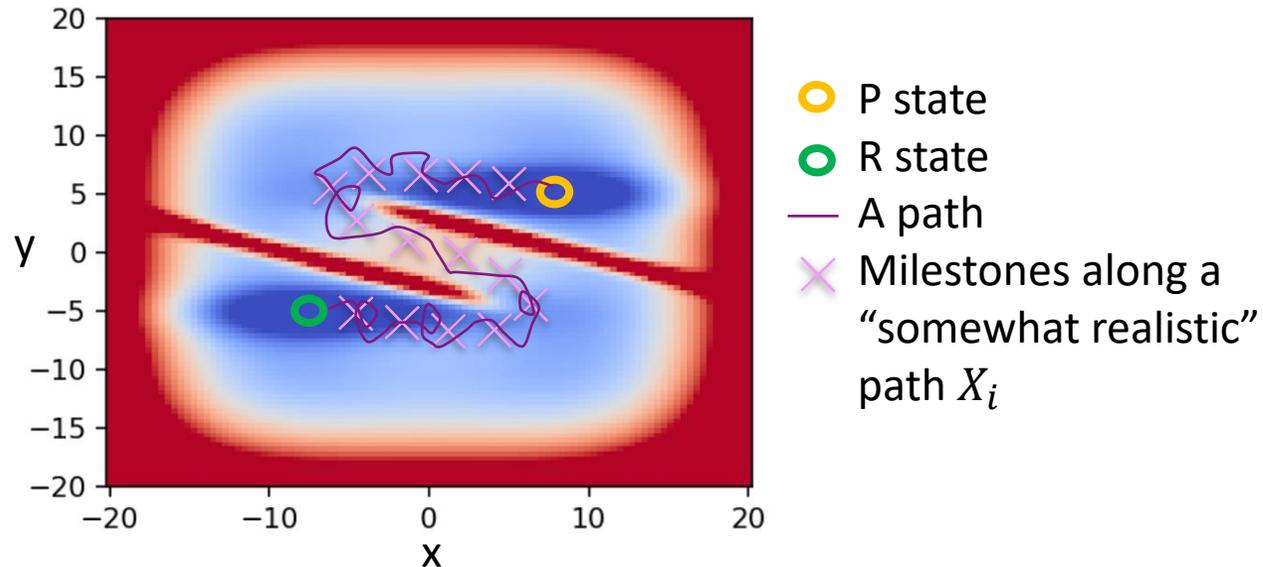
# I. ADAPTIVE MULTI-LEVEL SPLITTING METHOD FOR REACTION RATES

Alternative approach, Path Collective Variable (PCV):

Langevin dynamics with  $m = 1, \beta = 4, \Delta t = 0.1$

AMS with  $N_{rep} = 100, k_{min} = 1$

Initial condition:  $\begin{cases} q = (2.01, -5.75), \\ p = (0.61, -0.15). \end{cases}$



$$\text{PCV : } \xi(q) = \frac{1}{14} \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{14} i e^{-\lambda|q-X_i|^2}}{\sum_{i=0}^{14} e^{-\lambda|q-X_i|^2}}$$

	DNS	AMS $\xi(x, y) = x$	AMS $\xi(x, y) = y$	AMS PCV
$FM(\tilde{p})$	$3.14 \times 10^1$	$1.57 \times 10^0$	$6.41 \times 10^1$	$6.45 \times 10^2$

Figure of merit:  $FM(\tilde{p}) = \frac{1}{c \text{Var}(\tilde{p})}$   
 $c$ : computational cost per evaluation

A “somewhat realistic path” is needed (reverse reaction path, NEB path ...)

Decent milestones definition method has to be considered (Intuition based milestones, unsupervised clustering)

\* Results presented via a poster during the workshop “Méthodes machine-learning pour la modélisation des matériaux” organized by the GDR MODMAT from the 22<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021