

# Kinetic Monte Carlo Simulation

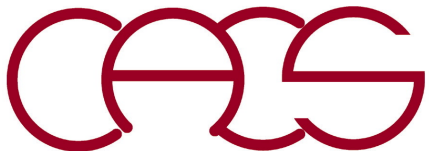
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**Aiichiro Nakano**

*Collaboratory for Advanced Computing & Simulations  
Department of Computer Science  
Department of Physics & Astronomy  
Department of Quantitative & Computational Biology  
University of Southern California*

**Email: [anakano@usc.edu](mailto:anakano@usc.edu)**

**Goal: Predicting long-time dynamics**



# What to Learn with Monte Carlo

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- **Stochastic approaches to obtain approximate solutions to intractable computational problems**

- **Probability-distribution sampling by Markov-chain (or Metropolis) Monte Carlo (MC) algorithm**

<https://aiichironakano.github.io/cs653/06MCbasics.pdf>

1. Random state change
2. Conditional acceptance with probability  $\exp(-\Delta V/k_B T)$

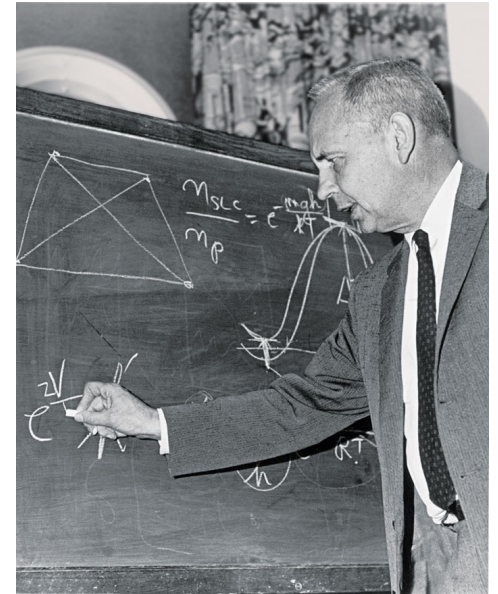
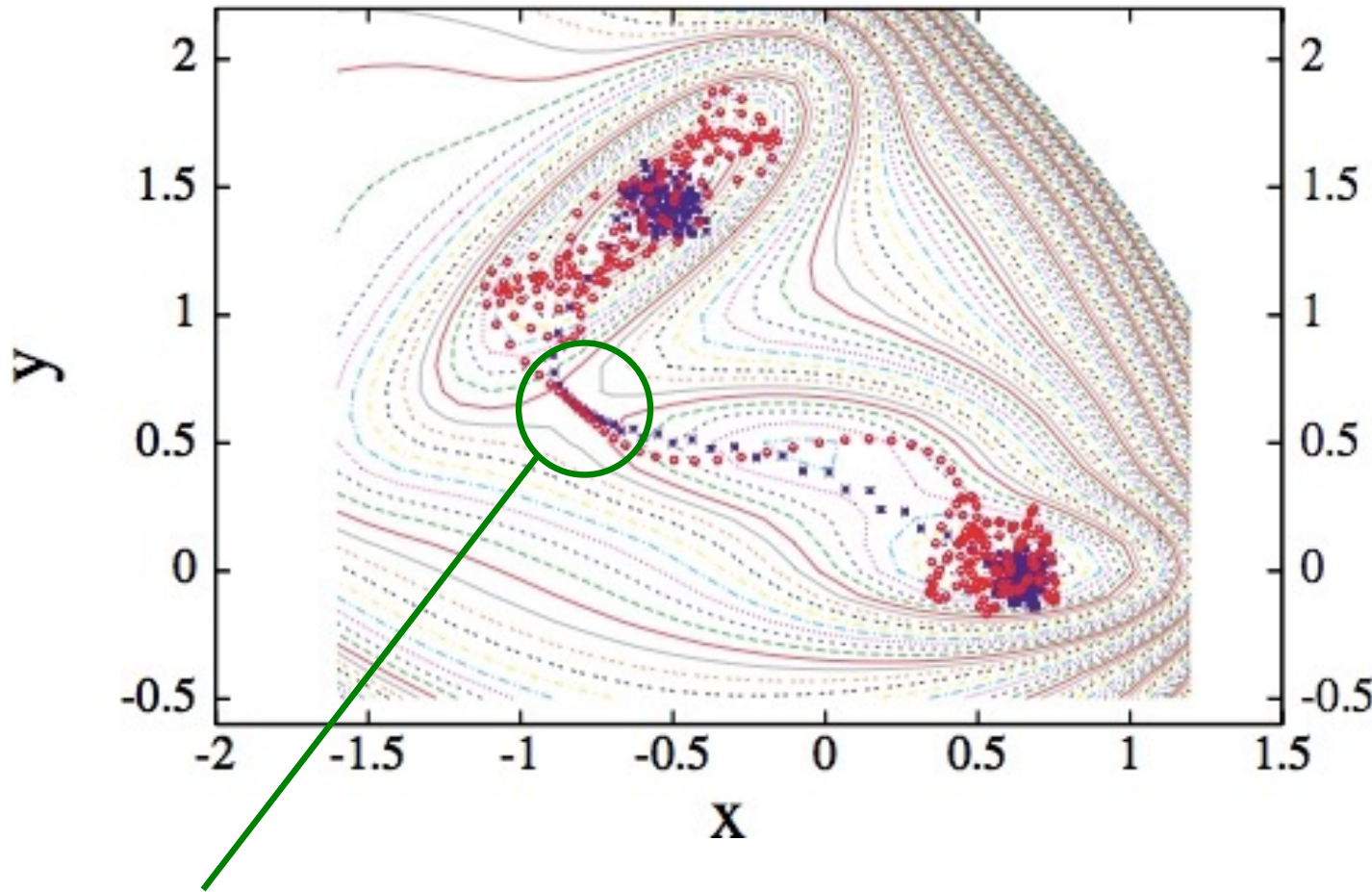
- **Applied to simulated annealing (SA) for global optimization**
- **Kinetic Monte Carlo (KMC) to predict long-time dynamics**

1. Pick the next event  $i$  proportional to its transition rate  $r_i$
2. Advance the time by  $-\ln(\text{random}\# \in [0,1]) / \sum_k r_k$

- **Divide-&-conquer KMC algorithm for scalable parallel computing**

# Rare Events

- Infrequent transitions from a local minimum to another local minimum



- **Transition state** theory to understand chemical reaction rates: Michael Polanyi & Henry Eyring in 1920's & 1930's
- Renewed interests in understanding self-organization (protein folding, life, etc.)

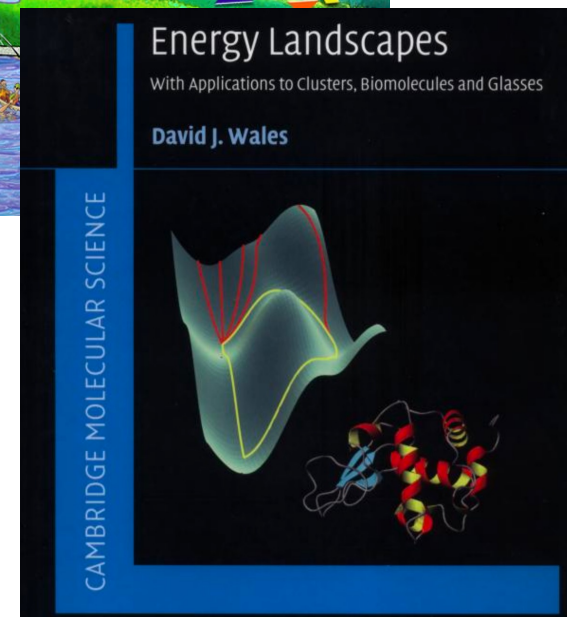
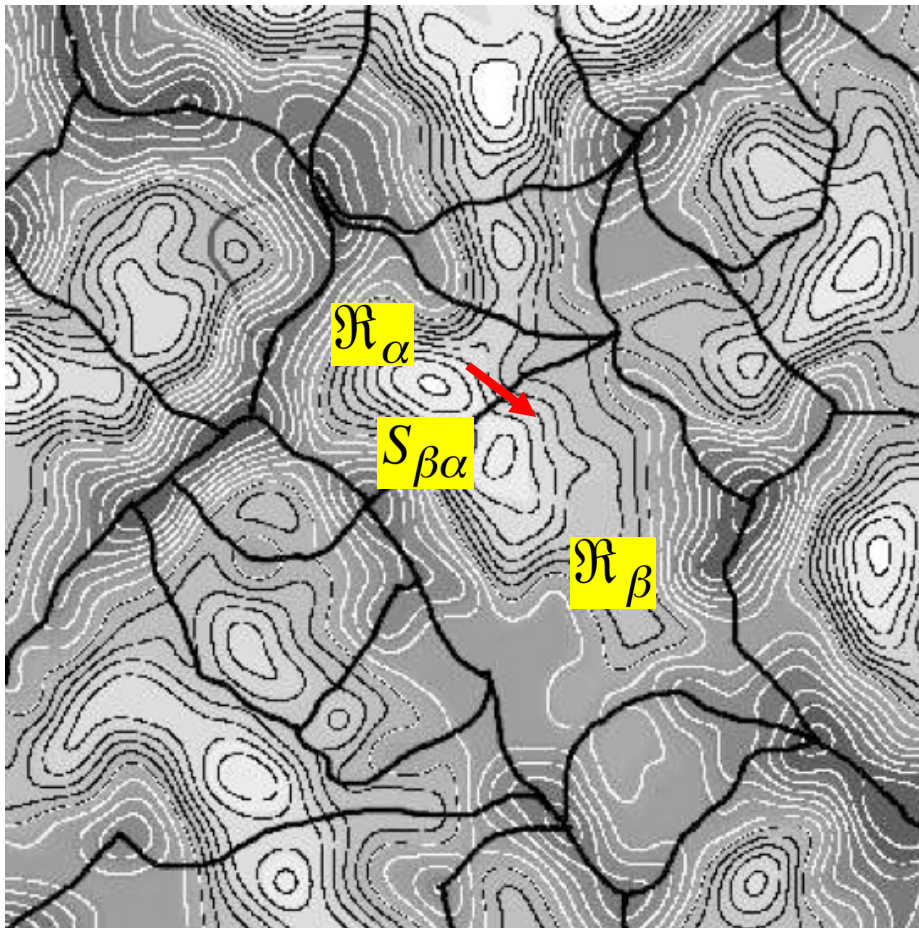
cf. H. Ostrom et al., *Science* **347**, 978 ('15)

# Energy Landscape

- **Discrete abstraction: Partitioned configuration space**

$$\mathfrak{R}^{3N} = \bigcup_{\alpha} \mathfrak{R}_{\alpha}; \mathfrak{R}_{\alpha} \cap \mathfrak{R}_{\beta} = \emptyset$$

where a  $3N$ -dimensional configuration  $q \in \mathfrak{R}_{\alpha}$  converges to the  $\alpha$ -th local minimum upon local minimization ( $N$  is the number of atoms)



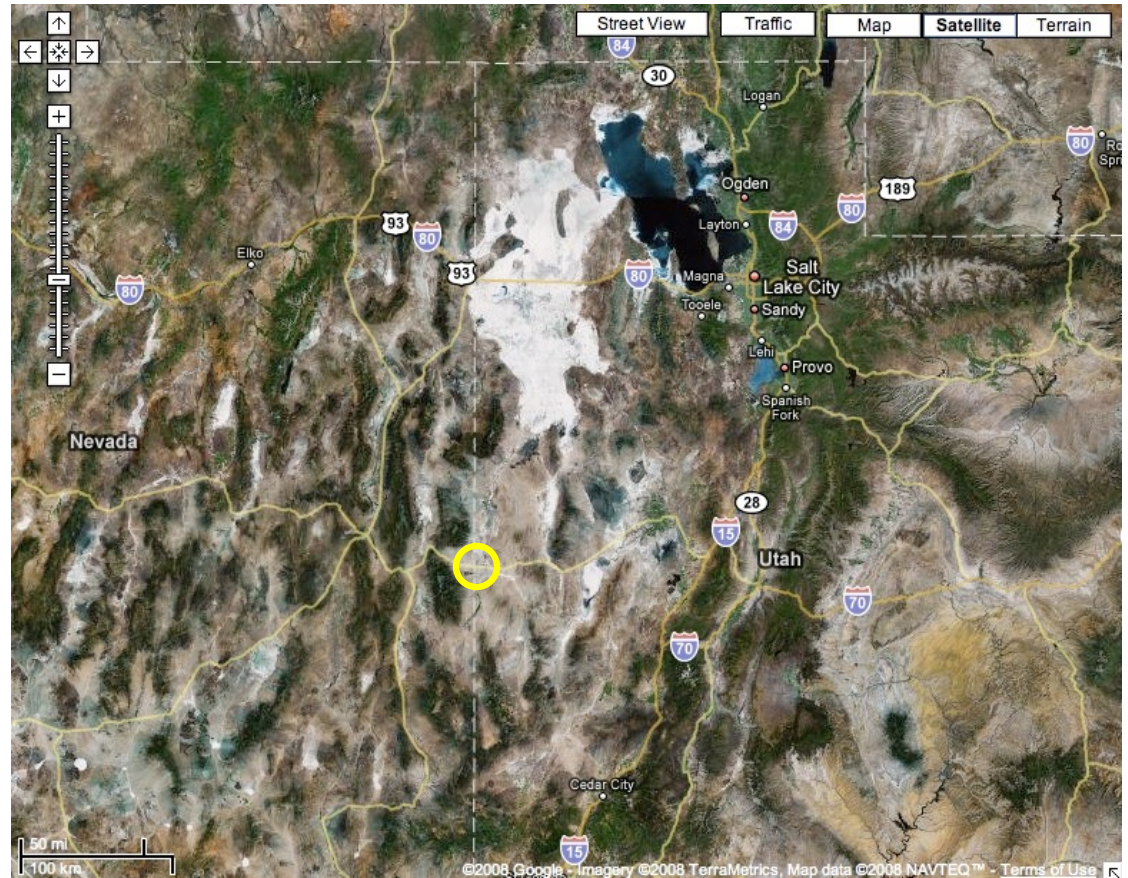
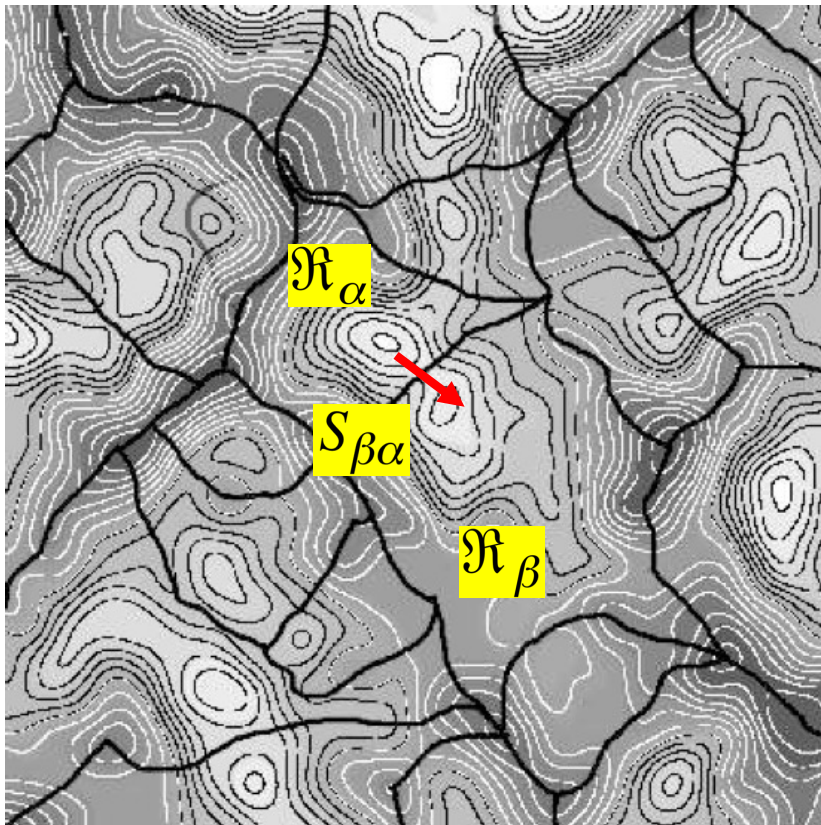
# Phase Space Distribution

- **Phase-space distribution  $f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t)$** : probability to find the system at  $3N$ -dim. position  $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_N)$  &  $3N$ -dim. momentum  $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_N)$  at time  $t$
- **Probability to find the system in  $\mathcal{R}_\alpha$  at time  $t$  ( $h$  is the Planck constant)**

$$P_\alpha(t) = \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\mathcal{R}_\alpha} d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p} f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t)$$

cf. Plane-wave basis

$$\Sigma_k = \frac{L}{2\pi} \int dk = \frac{L}{2\pi\hbar} \int \hbar dk = \frac{L}{h} \int dp \rightarrow \frac{1}{h} \int d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p}$$



# Outline

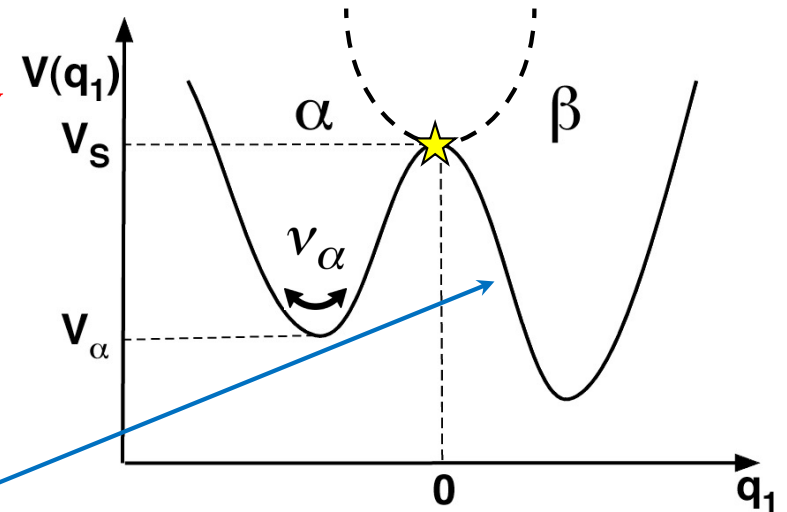
- **Master equation**

$$\frac{dP_\alpha}{dt} = -\sum_{\beta} W_{\beta\alpha} P_\alpha(t) + \sum_{\beta} W_{\alpha\beta} P_\beta(t) \quad W_{\beta\alpha}: \text{Transition rate from state } \alpha \text{ to state } \beta$$

- **How to compute  $W_{\alpha\beta}$ ? Transition state theory**

$$W_{\beta\alpha} \cong \nu_\alpha \exp\left(-\frac{V_s - V_\alpha}{k_B T}\right)$$

Vibration frequency at the  $\alpha$ -th local minimum



Minimum energy path along a saddle point (transition state)

- **How to simulate the master equation: Kinetic Monte Carlo simulation**

Let  $\{r_1, r_2, \dots\}$  be a set of possible escape events,  $r = \sum_i r_i$ , and  $u_1$  &  $u_2$  are uniform random numbers in  $[0,1]$ :

1. Pick the next event  $i$  as  $i = \min_j \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^j \frac{r_k}{r} > u_1 \right\}$
2. Advance the time by  $t = -\ln(u_2)/r$



Transition state

# Dynamics of Phase Space Distribution

- **Phase-space distribution  $f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t)$** : probability to find the system at  $3N$ -dim. position  $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_N)$  &  $3N$ -dim. momentum  $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_N)$  at time  $t$
- **Probability to find the system in  $\mathfrak{R}_\alpha$  at time  $t$**  ( $h$  is the Planck constant)

$$P_\alpha(t) = \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p} f(q, p, t)$$

- **Time derivative ( $L =$  Liouville operator;  $H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) =$  Hamiltonian)**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dP_\alpha}{dt} &= \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(q, p, t) \\ &= \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p} [-Lf(q, p, t)] \\ &= \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p} \left[ - \left( \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \right) f(q, p, t) \right] \end{aligned}$$

See supplementary note 1: [Liouville equation](#)

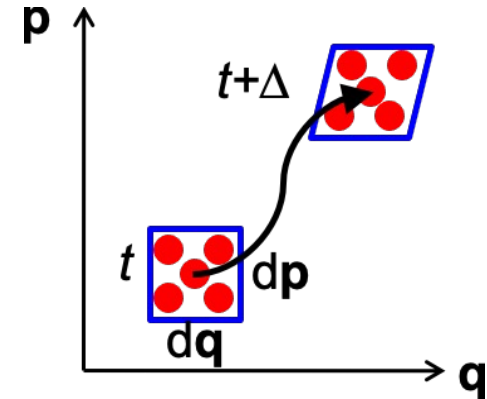
# Sketch of Proof: Liouville Operator

$$\frac{d}{dt} \tilde{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) = \underbrace{\dot{\mathbf{X}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{X}}}_{\tilde{L}} = \dot{\mathbf{q}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} + \dot{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{q}} - \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{p}}$$

Jacobian: Volume magnification factor

Probability density as point crowd

$$N_{\text{sample}} f_0(\mathbf{X}_0) d\mathbf{X}_0 = N_{\text{sample}} f(\mathbf{X}_t, t) \underbrace{d\mathbf{X}_t}_{\left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{X}_t}{\partial \mathbf{X}_0} \right| d\mathbf{X}_0 = d\mathbf{X}_0}$$



Liouville's theorem

$$\left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{X}_t}{\partial \mathbf{X}_0} \right| = 1$$

[Liouville lecture](#), p. 4

$$(1 + \delta t)^{\frac{1}{\delta t}} \xrightarrow{\delta t \rightarrow 0} e$$

$$(1 + \delta t^2)^{\frac{1}{\delta t}} \xrightarrow{\delta t \rightarrow 0} 1$$

$$f(x) = \ln(1+x) \approx 0 \quad (x=0); \quad \frac{df}{dx} = \frac{1}{1+x} = 1 \quad (x=0)$$

$$\therefore \ln(1+x) = f(0) + \left. \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x=0} x + \dots = x + \dots$$

$$\ln(1 + \delta t)^{\frac{1}{\delta t}} = \frac{1}{\delta t} \ln(1 + \delta t) \xrightarrow{\delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta t} \delta t = 1$$

$$\therefore (1 + \delta t)^{\frac{1}{\delta t}} \xrightarrow{\delta t \rightarrow 0} e$$

$$\ln(1 + \delta t^2)^{\frac{1}{\delta t}} = \frac{1}{\delta t} \ln(1 + \delta t^2) \xrightarrow{\delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\delta t} \delta t^2 = 0$$

$$\therefore (1 + \delta t^2)^{\frac{1}{\delta t}} \xrightarrow{\delta t \rightarrow 0} 1$$

population flux

[Liouville lecture](#), p. 6

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(\mathbf{X}, t) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{X}} \cdot (\dot{\mathbf{X}} f) = 0 \quad (\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) \in \mathbb{R}^{6N})$$

$$\text{cf. } \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho + \nabla \cdot \vec{j} = 0 \quad (\text{mass conservation})$$

$$\underbrace{f(\mathbf{X}, dt) + \dot{\mathbf{X}} dt \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{X}}}_{f(\mathbf{X} + \dot{\mathbf{X}} dt, dt)} = f(\mathbf{X}, 0)$$

$$\therefore \frac{f(\mathbf{X}, dt) - f(\mathbf{X}, 0)}{dt} = -\dot{\mathbf{X}} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = -L f$$

$$\text{or } \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + L \right) f = 0$$



# Population Dynamics

- Let

$$H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) = \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} + V(\mathbf{q})$$

then

Note  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dp_i \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} f(p_i) = [f(p_i)]_{-\infty}^{\infty} = 0$  (telescoping)

$$\frac{dP_\alpha}{dt} = -\frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i}{m_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t) + \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{\partial V}{\partial q_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i} f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} d\mathbf{q} \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} \left( \frac{p_i}{m_i} f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t) \right)$$

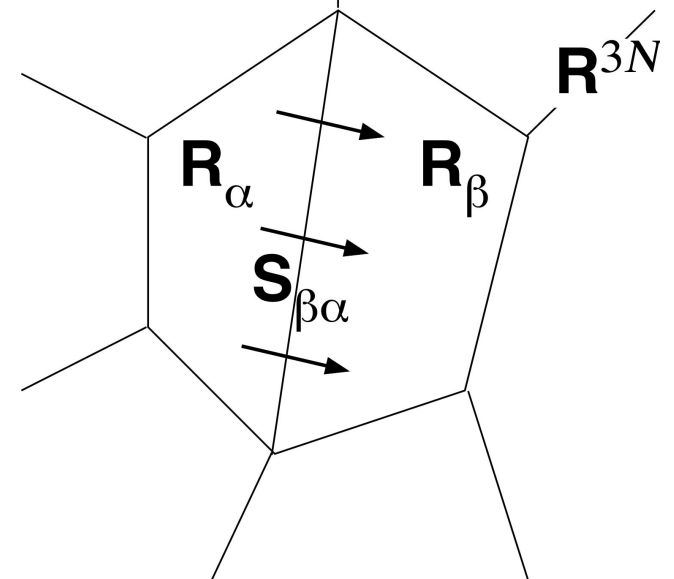
$$= -\frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{\partial \mathfrak{R}_\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} dS_i \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i}{m_i} f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t)$$

Gauss' theorem  
~ telescoping  $\int_{\mathfrak{R}} d\mathbf{q} \nabla = \int_{\partial \mathfrak{R}} d\mathbf{S}$

where  $d\mathbf{S}$  is the surface element pointing outward normal to the surface  $\partial \mathfrak{R}_\alpha$  that outlines  $\mathfrak{R}_\alpha$

- $dP_\alpha/dt$  is negative of the outward flux through  $\partial \mathfrak{R}_\alpha$

$$\int dq \frac{\partial}{\partial q} f = [f]_{\text{lower}}^{\text{upper}} = f dS_+ + f dS_-$$



# Population Flux

- Partition the surface  $\partial\mathcal{R}_\alpha$  into

$$\partial\mathcal{R}_\alpha = \sum_{\beta} S_{\beta\alpha}$$

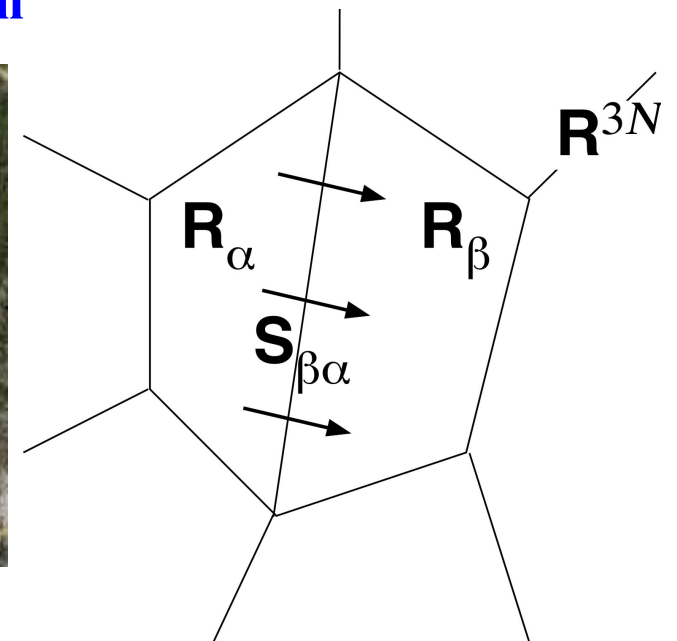
where  $S_{\beta\alpha}$  is the surface splitting  $\mathcal{R}_\alpha$  &  $\mathcal{R}_\beta$  (normal pointing from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$ )

$$\frac{dP_\alpha}{dt} = - \sum_{\beta} \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{S_{\beta\alpha}} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} dS_i \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i}{m_i} \Theta \left( \sum_i dS_i \frac{p_i}{m_i} \right) f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t) \text{ outgoing}$$

$$+ \sum_{\beta} \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{S_{\alpha\beta}} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} dS_i \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i}{m_i} \Theta \left( \sum_i dS_i \frac{p_i}{m_i} \right) f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t) \text{ incoming}$$

Partition of unity  
 $\Theta(-x)$        $\Theta(x)$   
 $\Theta(x) + \Theta(-x) = 1$

where  $\Theta(x) = 1$  ( $x \geq 0$ ) &  $0$  ( $x < 0$ ) is the step function



# Local Equilibration Approximation

- Assume that within each  $\mathfrak{R}_\alpha$ , the phase space distribution is locally in thermal equilibrium, weighted to reproduce the current population (time scale of inter-state population transfer  $\gg$  intra-state thermal equilibration time)

$$f(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}, t) \cong \frac{P_\alpha(t)}{P_\alpha(\text{eq})} f_{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$$

where

$$f_{\text{eq}}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{Q} \exp(-H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) / k_B T)$$

and the partition function is split into

$$Q = \iint \frac{d\mathbf{q}d\mathbf{p}}{h^{3N}} \exp(-H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) / k_B T) = \sum_\alpha \iint_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} \frac{d\mathbf{q}d\mathbf{p}}{h^{3N}} \exp(-H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) / k_B T) = \sum_\alpha Q_\alpha$$

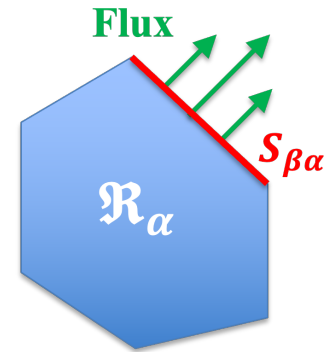
$$\therefore P_\alpha(\text{eq}) = \frac{Q_\alpha}{Q} = \frac{1}{Q} \iint_{\mathfrak{R}_\alpha} \frac{d\mathbf{q}d\mathbf{p}}{h^{3N}} \exp(-H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) / k_B T)$$

# Master Equation

- Substituting the local-equilibration approximation into the population-flux equation, we obtain

$$\frac{dP_\alpha}{dt} = -\sum_\beta \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{S_{\beta\alpha}} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} dS_i \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i}{m_i} \Theta\left(\sum_i dS_i \frac{p_i}{m_i}\right) f_{eq}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) \frac{P_\alpha(t)}{P_\alpha(eq)}$$

$$+ \sum_\beta \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{S_{\alpha\beta}} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} dS_i \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i}{m_i} \Theta\left(\sum_i dS_i \frac{p_i}{m_i}\right) f_{eq}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) \frac{P_\beta(t)}{P_\beta(eq)}$$



$$\therefore \frac{dP_\alpha}{dt} = -\sum_\beta W_{\beta\alpha} P_\alpha(t) + \sum_\beta W_{\alpha\beta} P_\beta(t)$$

$$W_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{S_{\alpha\beta}} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} dS_i \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i}{m_i} \Theta\left(\sum_i dS_i \frac{p_i}{m_i}\right) f_{eq}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) / P_\beta(eq)$$

**Weighted average of flux on surface**

$$= \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \int_{S_{\alpha\beta}} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} dS_i \int d\mathbf{p} \sum_{i=1}^{3N} \frac{p_i}{m_i} \Theta\left(\sum_i dS_i \frac{p_i}{m_i}\right) e^{-H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})/k_B T} / \frac{1}{h^{3N}} \iint_{\mathfrak{R}_\beta} d\mathbf{q} d\mathbf{p} e^{-H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})/k_B T}$$

See supplementary note 2: [Master equation](#)

A. P. J. Jansen, [Introduction to KMC Simulations of Surface Reactions](#) (Springer, '12)

# Transition State Theory

- **Reaction coordinate**  $q_1$  along a **minimum-energy path** separates the phase space into 2 regions — A ( $q_1 < 0$ ) & B ( $q_1 > 0$ ); all the other coordinates & momenta are collectively denoted as  $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p}) = (q_2, \dots, q_{3N}, p_2, \dots, p_{3N})$

- **Probability to find the system being in B**

$$P_B(t) = \iiint \frac{dq_1 dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} \Theta(q_1) f(q_1, p_1, \mathbf{X}, t)$$

- **Time derivative ( $L =$  Liouville operator)**

$$\frac{dP_B}{dt} = \iiint \frac{dq_1 dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} \Theta(q_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(q_1, p_1, \mathbf{X}, t)$$

$$= \iiint \frac{dq_1 dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} \Theta(q_1) (-Lf(q_1, p_1, \mathbf{X}, t))$$

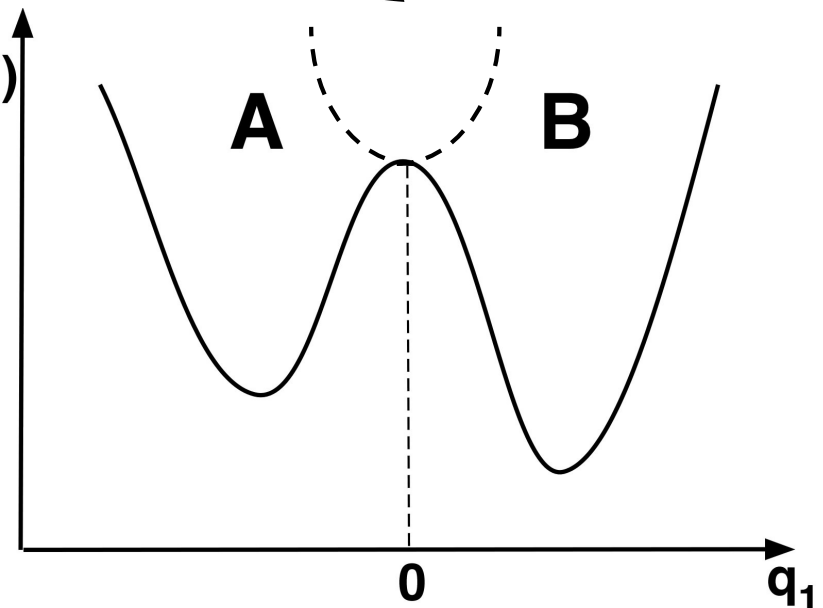
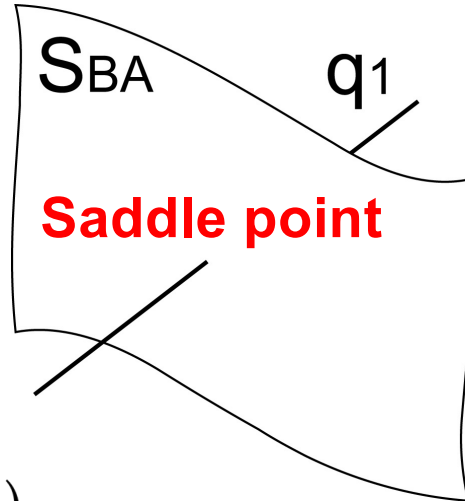
Integration by part

$$= \iiint \frac{dq_1 dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} (L\Theta(q_1)) f(q_1, p_1, \mathbf{X}, t)$$

$$= \iiint \frac{dq_1 dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} \left( \frac{p_1}{m_1} \delta(q_1) \right) f(q_1, p_1, \mathbf{X}, t)$$

$$= \iint \frac{dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} \frac{p_1}{m_1} f(0, p_1, \mathbf{X}, t)$$

Weighted average of flux on surface



# Local Equilibration Approximation

- Split the integral into the gain ( $A \rightarrow B$ ) & loss ( $B \rightarrow A$ ) terms

$$\frac{dP_B}{dt} = \left( \frac{dP_B}{dt} \right)_{A \rightarrow B} + \left( \frac{dP_B}{dt} \right)_{B \rightarrow A} \quad \Theta(p_1) + \Theta(-p_1) = 1$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \frac{dp_1}{h} \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \frac{p_1}{m_1} f(0, p_1, \mathbf{X}, t) + \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{dp_1}{h} \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \frac{p_1}{m_1} f(0, p_1, \mathbf{X}, t)$$

- Regions A & B locally (*i.e.*, within the region) maintain the equilibrium distribution weighted to reproduce the current population

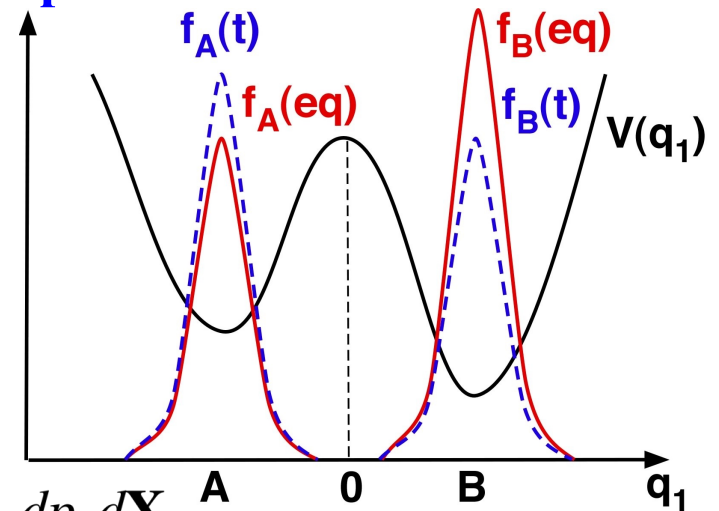
$$f_{\alpha, \text{local}} \cong \frac{P_\alpha(t)}{P_\alpha(\text{eq})} f_{\text{eq}} \quad (\alpha = A, B)$$

$$f_{\text{eq}} = \frac{1}{Q} \exp(-H / k_B T)$$

$$Q = \iiint \frac{dq_1 dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} \exp(-H / k_B T) = Q_A + Q_B$$

$$Q_A = \iiint_{q_1 < 0} \frac{dq_1 dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} \exp(-H / k_B T) \quad Q_B = \iiint_{q_1 > 0} \frac{dq_1 dp_1 d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N}} \exp(-H / k_B T)$$

$$P_\alpha(\text{eq}) = \frac{Q_\alpha}{Q} \quad (\alpha = A, B)$$



# Transition State Theory

- Substituting the local equilibration approximation to the flux equation

$$\left(\frac{dP_B}{dt}\right)_{A \rightarrow B} = \int_0^\infty \frac{dp_1}{h} \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \frac{p_1}{m_1} f_{\text{eq}}(0, p_1, \mathbf{X}) \frac{P_A(t)}{P_A(\text{eq})}$$

$$\left(\frac{dP_B}{dt}\right)_{B \rightarrow A} = -\int_0^\infty \frac{dp_1}{h} \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \frac{p_1}{m_1} f_{\text{eq}}(0, p_1, \mathbf{X}) \frac{P_B(t)}{P_B(\text{eq})}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dP_B(t)}{dt} = k_{BA} P_A(t) - k_{AB} P_B(t)$$

$$k_{BA} = \int_0^\infty \frac{dp_1}{h} \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \frac{p_1}{m_1} f_{\text{eq}}(0, p_1, \mathbf{X}) \frac{1}{P_A(\text{eq})}$$

$$k_{AB} = \int_0^\infty \frac{dp_1}{h} \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \frac{p_1}{m_1} f_{\text{eq}}(0, p_1, \mathbf{X}) \frac{1}{P_B(\text{eq})}$$

- Analytical integration over  $p_1$

$$k_{BA} = \int_0^\infty \frac{dp_1}{h} \frac{p_1}{m_1} \exp\left(-p_1^2 / 2m_1 k_B T\right) \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \frac{\exp(-H / k_B T)_{q_1=p_1=0}}{Q} \frac{Q}{Q_A} = \frac{k_B T}{h} \frac{Q^*}{Q_A}$$

$$Q^* = \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \exp(-H / k_B T)_{q_1=p_1=0}$$

$k_B T / h \sim 10^{13} \text{ s}^{-1}$   
at room temperature

# Harmonic Transition State Theory

- In region A, we assume

$$V(q_1, \dots, q_{3N}) = V_A + \frac{1}{2} \sum_j m_j (\omega_j^A)^2 (q_j - b_j)^2$$

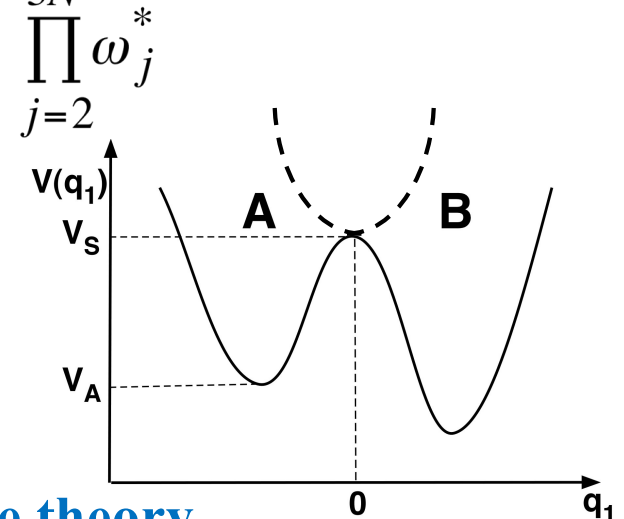
$$\therefore Q_A = \left( \frac{2\pi k_B T}{h} \right)^{3N} \frac{\exp(-V_A / k_B T)}{\prod_{j=1}^{3N} \omega_j^A}$$

- At the dividing surface, we assume

$$V(q_1, \dots, q_{3N}) = V_S - \frac{1}{2} a_{11} q_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=2}^{3N} m_j (\omega_j^*)^2 q_j^2$$

$$Q^* = \int \frac{d\mathbf{X}}{h^{3N-1}} \exp(-H / k_B T)_{q_1=p_1=0} = \left( \frac{2\pi k_B T}{h} \right)^{3N-1} \frac{\exp(-V_S / k_B T)}{\prod_{j=2}^{3N} \omega_j^*}$$

$$\therefore k_{BA} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \exp\left(-\frac{V_S - V_A}{k_B T}\right) \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{3N} \omega_j^A}{\prod_{j=2}^{3N} \omega_j^*} \cong \underbrace{\frac{\omega_1^A}{2\pi}}_{\text{attempt frequency}} \underbrace{\exp\left(-\frac{V_S - V_A}{k_B T}\right)}_{\text{acceptance probability}}$$



See supplementary note 3: [Transition state theory](#)

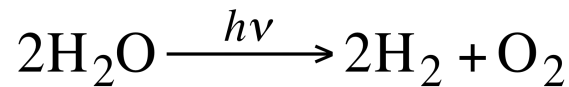


# Digression: Save the World?

- **Solar land-area requirement (with 10% energy conversion efficiency) to supply the global energy** [Nathan Lewis, Caltech]



- **Need better catalyst for splitting water** [Lewis & Nocera, *PNAS* 103, 15729 ('06)]



COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

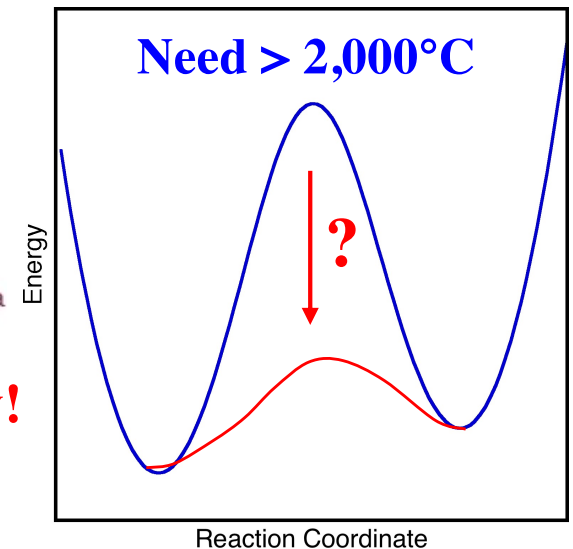
## A search engine for catalysts

Trial and error has been the traditional method of finding the best catalyst for a reaction. A computational approach can reduce the lab work required.

**Just bring down the transition-state energy!**

**MANOS MAVRIKAKIS**  
is in the Department of Chemical & Biological  
Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison,  
Wisconsin 53706, USA.

*Nature Mater.* 5, 847 ('06)



# Hydrogen Production@Home

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# A Job for Superatom

PRL 104, 126102 (2010)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
26 MARCH 2010

## Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Rapid Hydrogen Production from Water Using Aluminum Clusters as Catalysts

Fuyuki Shimojo,<sup>1,2</sup> Satoshi Ohmura,<sup>1,2</sup> Rajiv K. Kalia,<sup>1</sup> Aiichiro Nakano,<sup>1</sup> and Priya Vashishta<sup>1</sup>

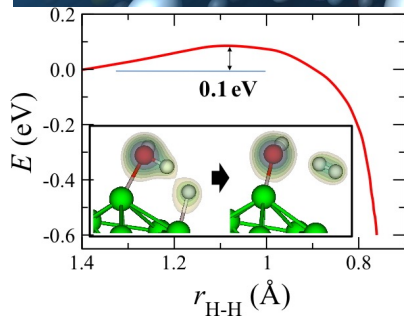
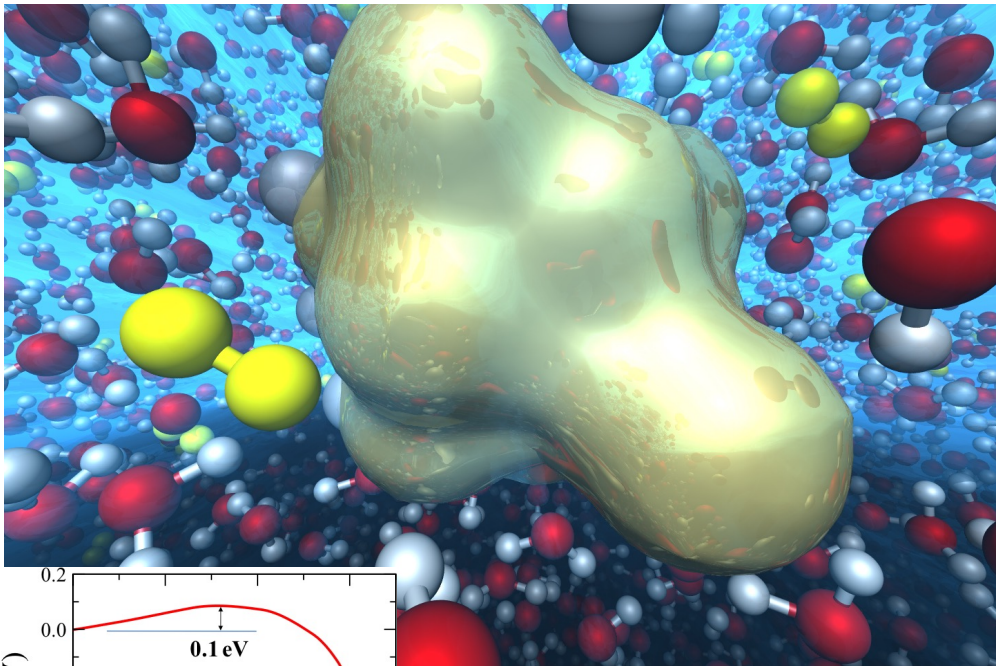
<sup>1</sup>*Collaboratory for Advanced Computing and Simulations, Department of Computer Science, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Department of Chemical Engineering & Materials Science, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California 90089-0242, USA*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Physics, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto 860-8555, Japan*  
(Received 1 December 2009; published 26 March 2010)

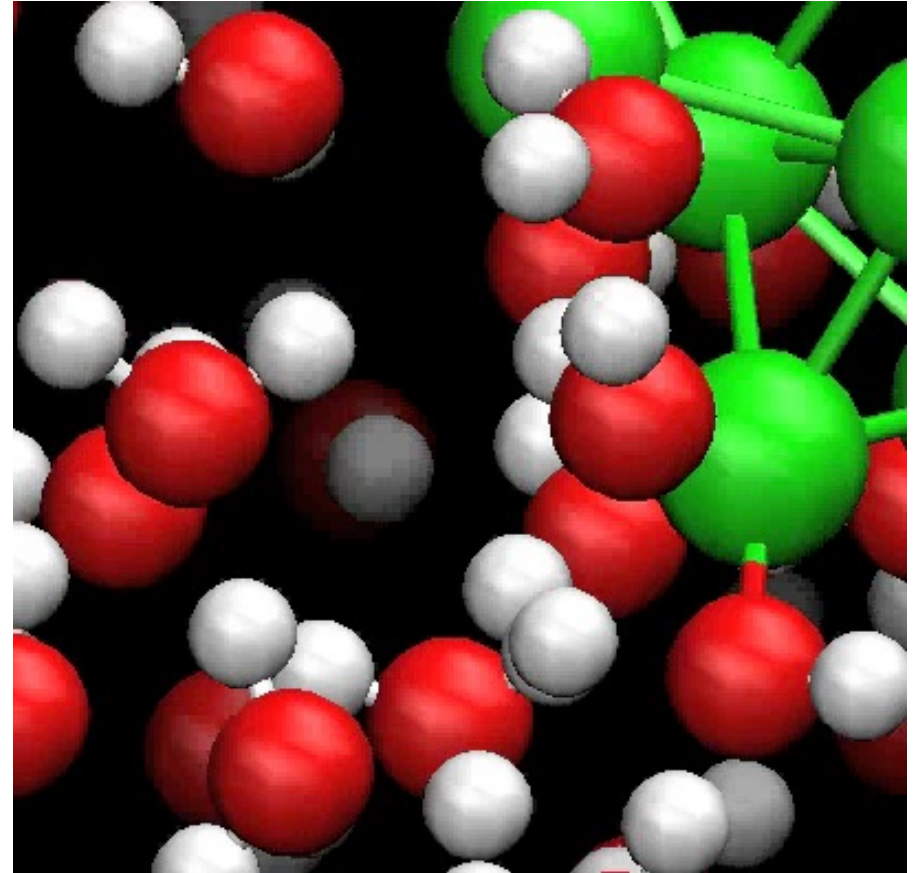
$$k_B T_{\text{room}}/h \sim 10^{13} \text{ (s}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$1 \text{ eV}/k_B \sim 10,000 \text{ K}$$

$$e^{-x} \sim 10^{-x/2}$$

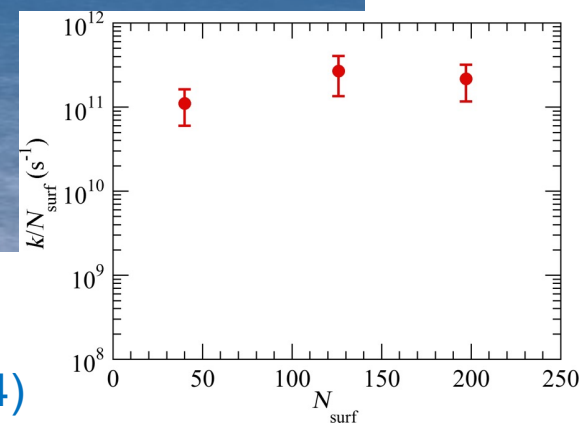
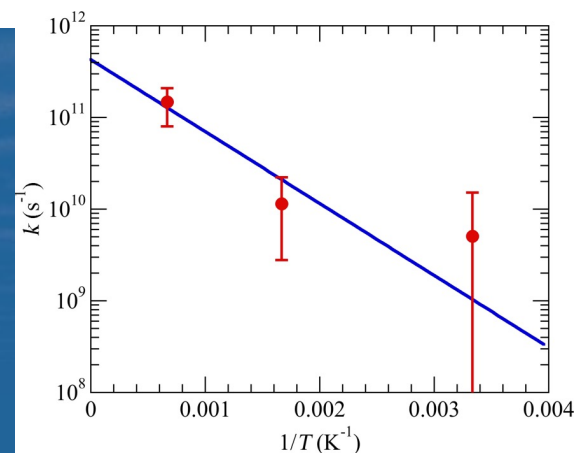
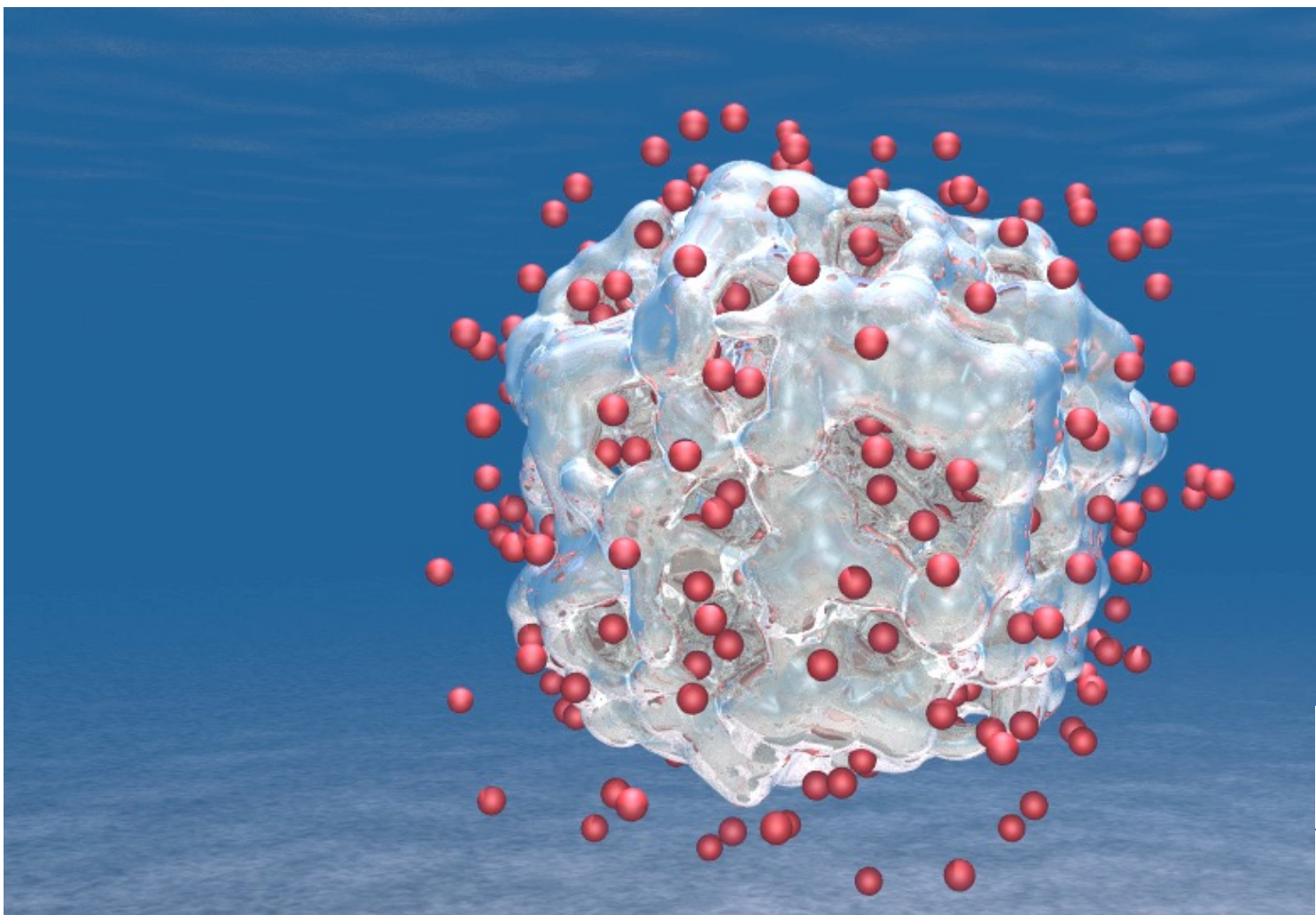


$$k_{\text{H}_2} = \frac{k_B T}{h} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta}{k_B T_{\text{room}}}\right) = 10^{11} \text{ (s}^{-1}\text{)}$$



# H<sub>2</sub> Production from Water Using LiAl Particles

16,661-atom QMD simulation of Li<sub>441</sub>Al<sub>441</sub> in water  
on 786,432 IBM Blue Gene/Q cores

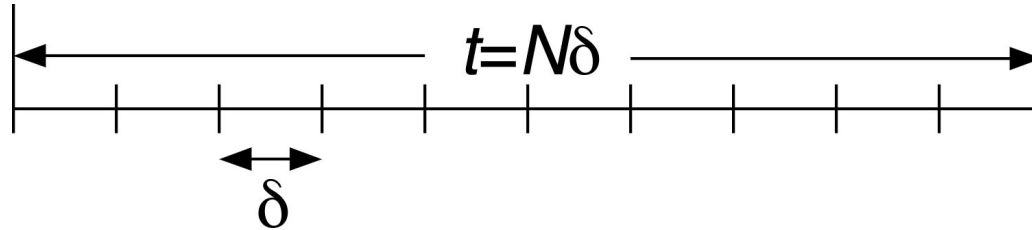


- Scalable to industrially relevant particle sizes

K. Shimamura *et al.*, *Nano Lett.* **14**, 4090 ('14)

# Poisson Process

- **Poisson process** = sequence of events, in which the probability of an event to occur in time  $[t, t+\delta]$  is  $r\delta$  ( $r$  is the rate) independent of history as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$
- **Probability  $P(n, t)$**  that  $n$  events occur in time interval  $t = N\delta$



$$P(n, t) = C(N, n)(r\delta)^n (1 - r\delta)^{N-n} = \frac{N!}{n!(N-n)!} (r\delta)^n (1 - r\delta)^{N-n}$$

$$\xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(rt)^n}{n!} e^{-rt}$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} (1 - rt/N)^{N/rt} \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} e^{-1} \\ N! \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{2\pi N} N^N e^{-N} \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 \pm \frac{1}{N}\right)^N = e^{\pm 1}$$

$$\therefore \ln \left(1 \pm \frac{1}{N}\right)^N = N \ln \left(1 \pm \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} N \left(\pm \frac{1}{N}\right) = \pm 1$$

- **Sum rule:**

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(n, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(rt)^n}{n!} e^{-rt} = 1$$

# Kinetic Monte Carlo Simulation

- **Probability density  $P(t)$  of time  $t$  between successive events**

$P(t)dt = \text{probability}(\text{no event in } [0, t] \wedge 1 \text{ event in } [t, t + dt])$

$$= P(0, t) \times rdt = e^{-rt} \times rdt$$

$$\therefore P(t) = re^{-rt}$$

$$dt \left(1 - r \frac{dt}{N}\right)^N \times rdt = \left(\frac{e^{-1}}{\left(1 - \frac{rt}{N}\right)^{N/rt}}\right)^{rt} rdt \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} e^{-rt} rdt$$

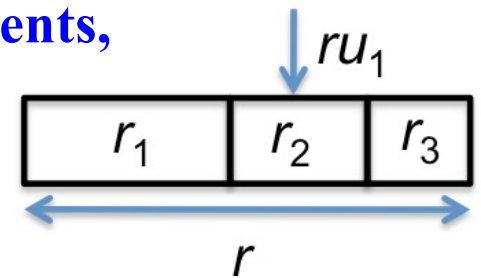
- **Random time-interval generation:** Let  $u$  be a uniform random number in  $[0, 1]$  & generate  $t = -\ln(u)/r \in [0, \infty]$

$$\because P(t) = P(u) \left| \frac{du}{dt} \right| = 1 \times r e^{-rt} = r e^{-rt}$$

$u = e^{-rt}$

- **Kinetic MC algorithm:** Let  $\{r_1, r_2, \dots\}$  be a set of possible events,  $r = \sum_i r_i$ , and  $u_1$  &  $u_2$  are uniform random numbers in  $[0, 1]$ :

1. **Pick the next event  $i$  as**  $i = \min_j \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^j \frac{r_k}{r} > u_1 \right\}$   
Pick  $i$ -th event with probability  $p_i = r_i/r$



2. **Advance the time by  $t = -\ln(u_2)/r$**

$$P(t)dt = \underbrace{e^{-rt}}_{\text{no evt in } [0, t]} \underbrace{(r_1 + r_2 + \dots) dt}_{\text{evt 1 or 2 or ... in } [t, t+dt]}$$

K. A. Fichthorn & W. H. Weinberg, *J. Chem. Phys.* **95**, 1090 ('91)

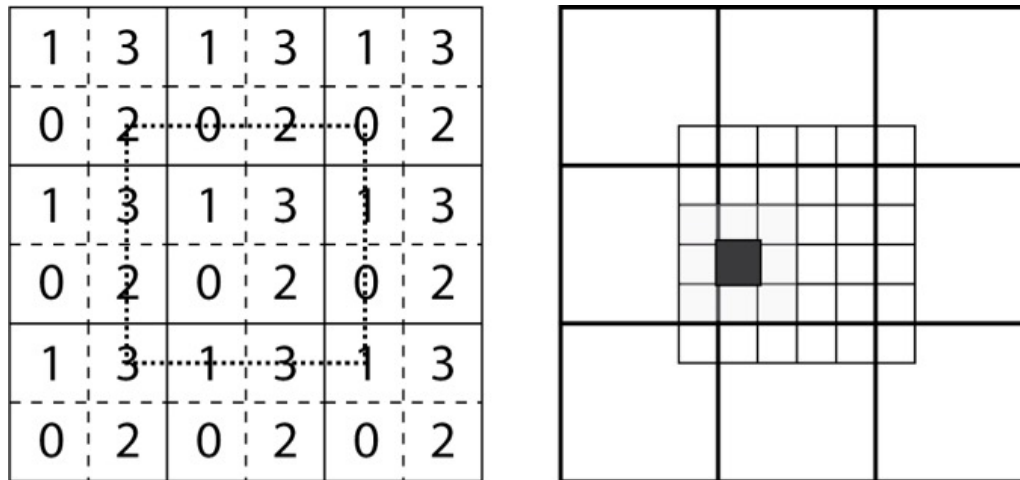
See supplementary note 4: [Kinetic Monte Carlo simulation](#)

# Divide-&-Conquer KMC Algorithm

- **Domain decomposition:** Concurrent events among multiple domains,  $d$

$$\Delta t = -\ln(\text{rnd}) / \sum_d r_d = O(N^{-1}) \Rightarrow -\ln(\text{rnd}) / \max_d (r_d) = O(1)$$

- **Colored domain blocks:** Avoids conflicting events by allowing concurrent events only with domains of the same color, which are well-separated



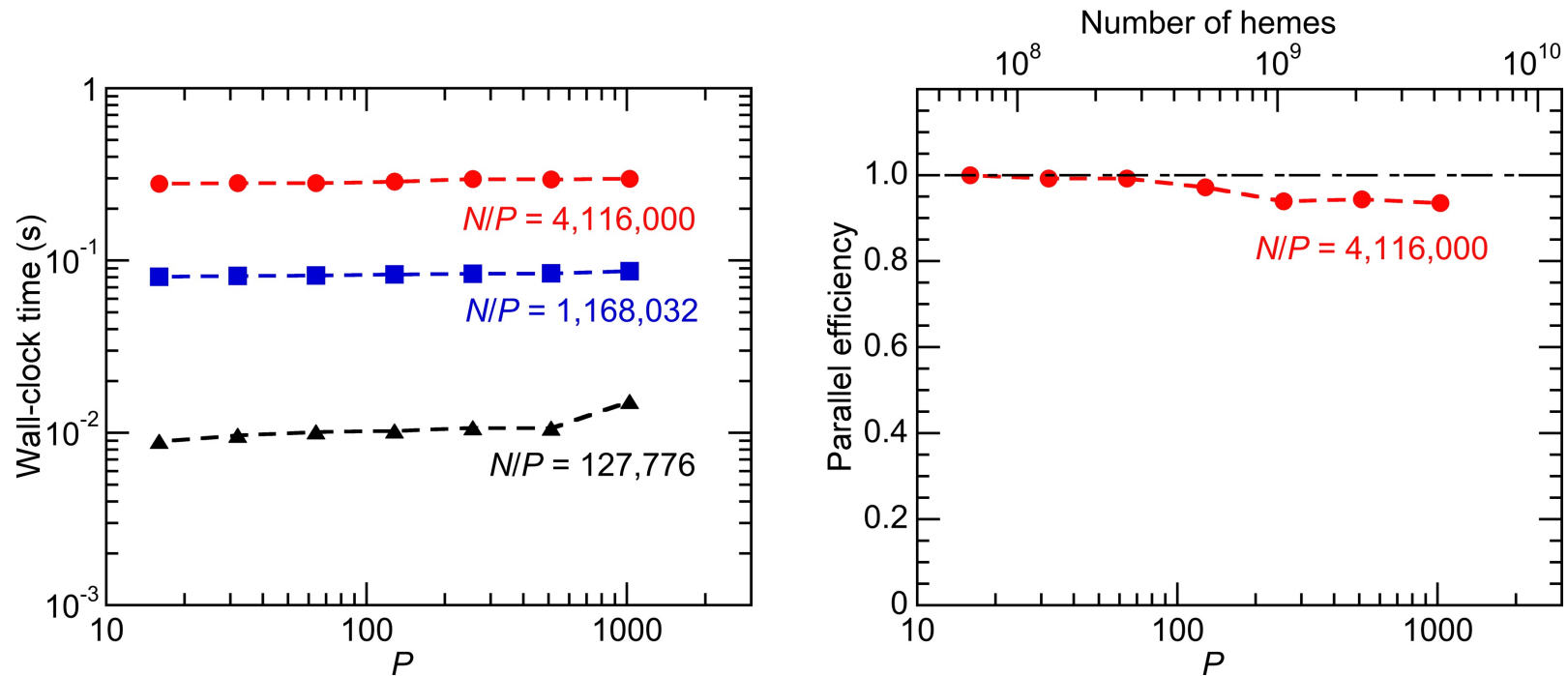
E. Martinez *et al.*, *J. Comp. Phys.* **230**, 1359 ('11)

- **Neighbor-domain caching** for spatial decomposition via message-passing
- **Dual linked-list cell method:** (1) small cells for constructing neighbor lists for nearest-neighbor hopping events; (2) large cells for domain-block coloring

H. Byun *et al.*, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **219**, 246 ('17)

# Scalable Parallel KMC

- Benchmark tests on electron transfer in heme aggregates
- Better weak-scaling for coarser granularity ( $N$  hemes on  $P$  procesors)



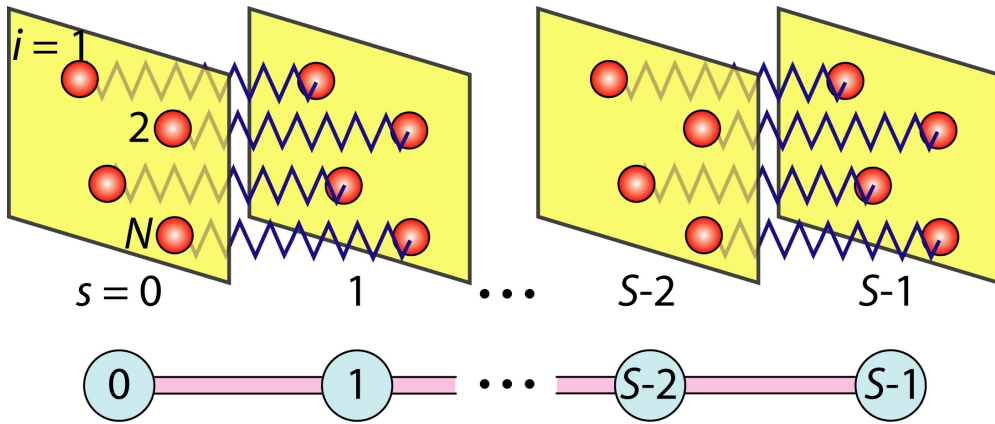
- Weak-scaling parallel efficiency 0.935 for a 4.2 billion-heme system on 1,024 Intel Xeon processors



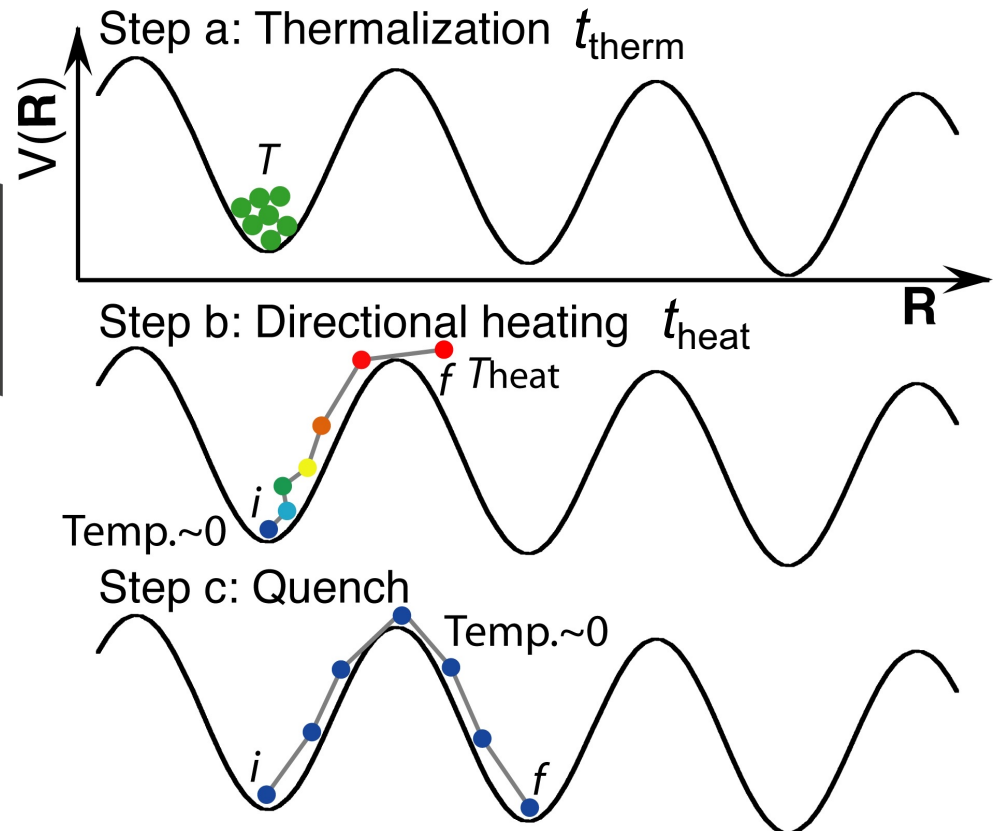
# Temporal Locality in Long-Time Dynamics

- **Temporal locality:** Rare transitions between local minimum-energy states
- **Transition state theory:** Reformulate *sequential* long-time dynamics as *parallel search* for low activation-barrier transition events
- **Discrete graph abstraction:** Linear combinations of atomistic events (LCAE)  
A. Nakano, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **176**, 292 ('07)
- **Directionally heated nudged elastic band (NEB) method:** Search for thermally activated events without the knowledge of final states

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{R}}_s = \mathbf{F}_s - M\gamma_s\dot{\mathbf{R}}_s \quad (s = 0, \dots, S-1)$$



$$\mathbf{F}_s = \begin{cases} -\frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{R}_s} \Big|_{\perp} + \mathbf{F}_s^{\text{spr}} \Big|_{\parallel} & (1 \leq s \leq S-2) \\ -\frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{R}_s} & (s = 0, S-1) \end{cases}$$

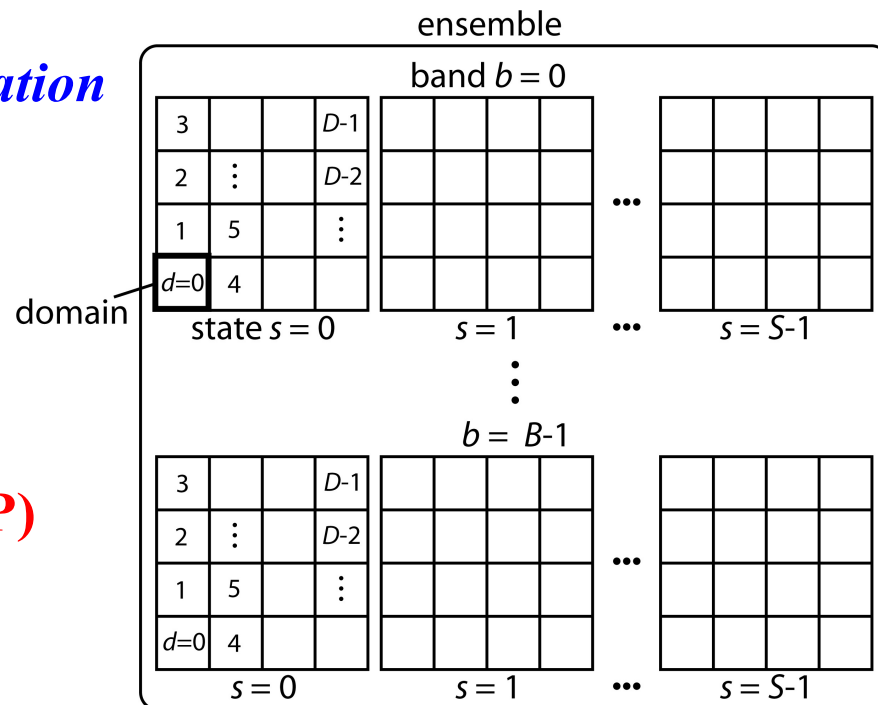


# Space-Time-Ensemble Parallel (STEP) NEB

- **Path ensemble method (PEM): Long-time simulation in the framework of kinetic Monte Carlo—molecular kinetics simulation**

$$r_b = \left\{ t_{\text{therm}} + t_{\text{heat}} \exp \left[ \frac{\Delta_b}{k_B} \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_{\text{heat}}} \right) \right] \right\}^{-1}$$

$$P_b = \frac{r_b}{r} = \frac{r_b}{\sum_{b=0}^{B-1} r_b}$$



- **Space-time-ensemble parallelism (STEP)**

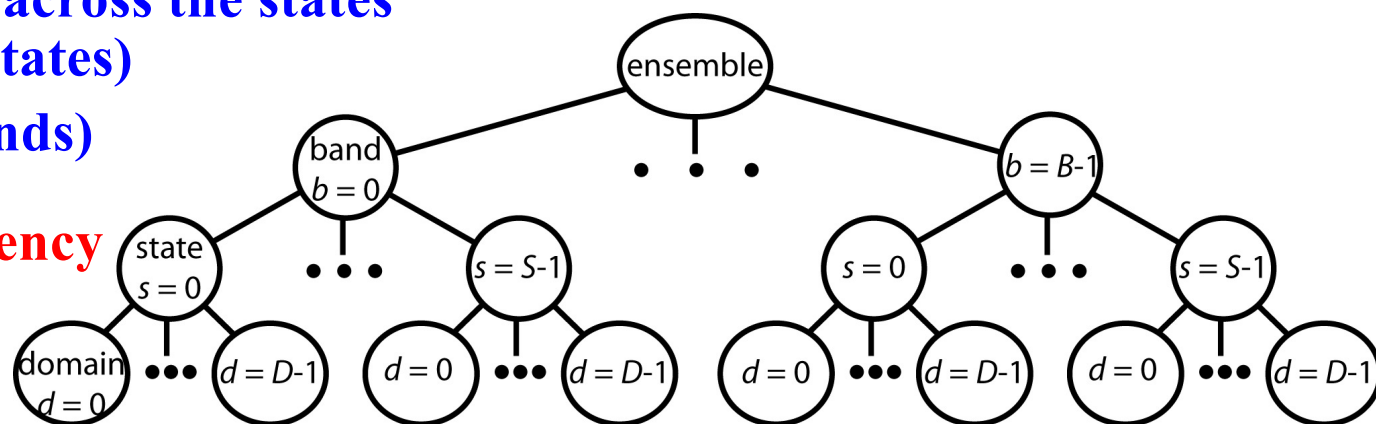
= spatial decomposition within each state ( $D$  domains)

+ temporal parallelism across the states within each band ( $S$  states)

+ band ensemble ( $B$  bands)

- **Hierarchical concurrency**

$$P = BSD$$



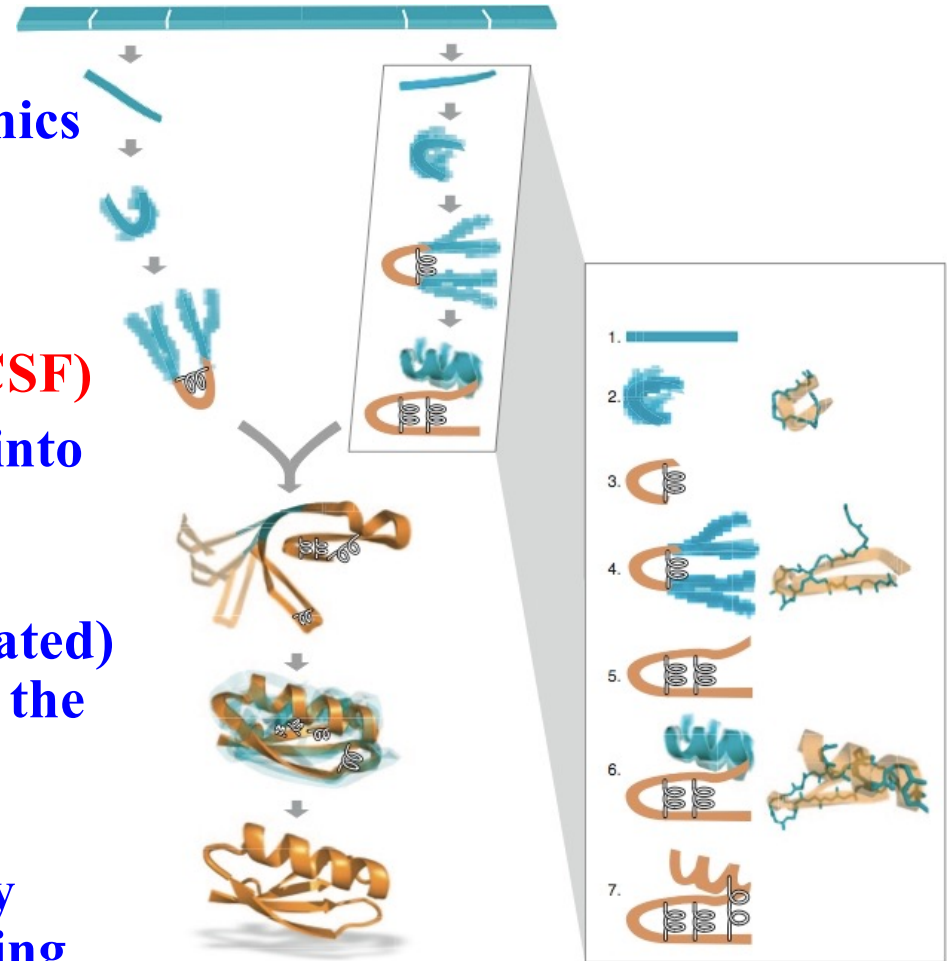
A. Nakano, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **178**, 280 ('08)

# Divide-&-Conquer Protein Folding

- **Levinthal paradox (1968):** How the Nature folds an amino-acid sequence into a global energy minimum 3D structure (which is known to be NP complete) within microseconds (~ billion molecular-dynamics steps).
- Sequential KMC not good enough.

## Zip-&-assembly algorithm (Ken Dill at UCSF)

1. **(Divide)** Chop the amino-acid sequence into ~10 residue fragments.
2. **(Conquer)** For each fragment, perform replica-exchange (~ temperature accelerated) molecular dynamics simulation & detect the formation of any stable hydrophobic contacts.
3. **(Combine)** Grow the stable fragments by adding surrounding residues while freezing (~ constraint) the found stable contacts.

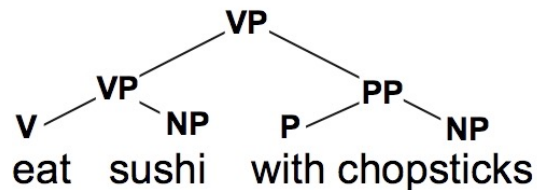
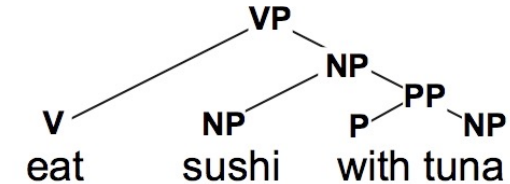
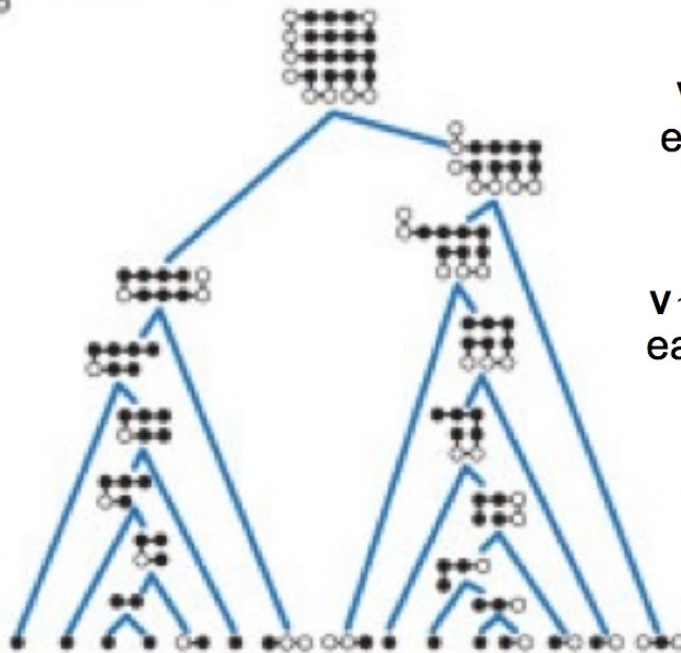


S. B. Ozkan *et al.*, *PNAS* **104**, 11987 ('07)

# Parsing Protein-Folding Routes

## Computational linguistics

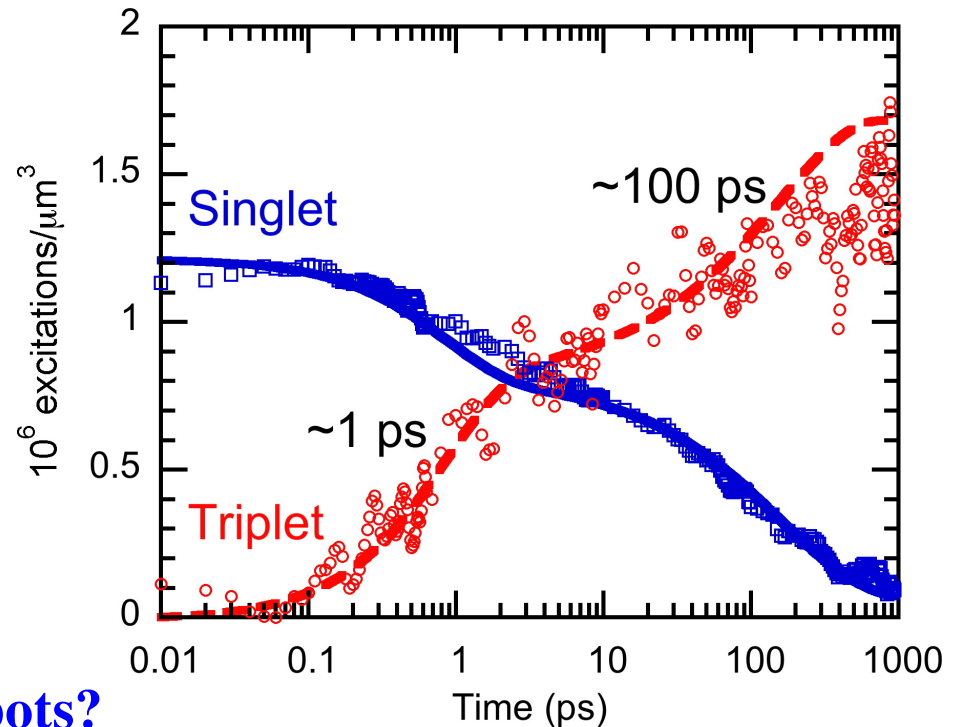
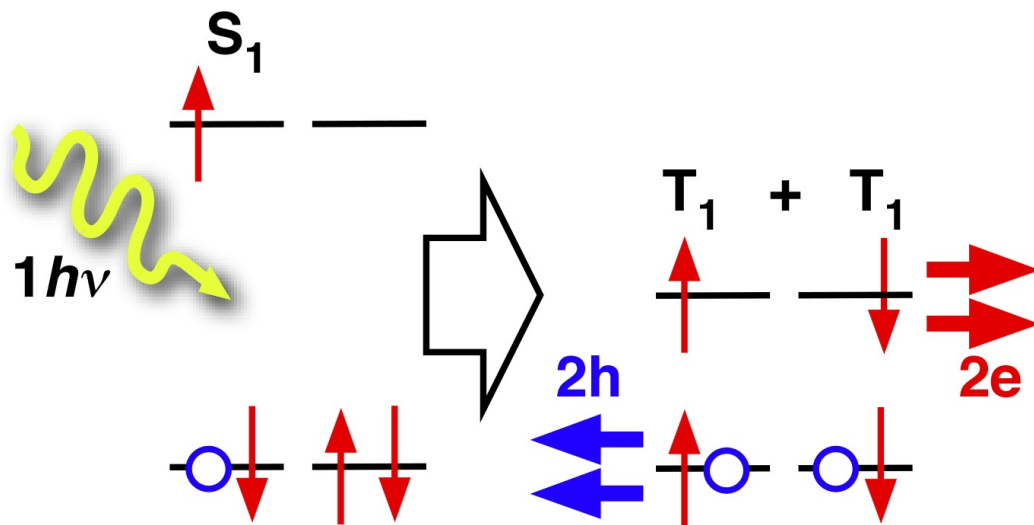
- (1) Formal grammar to describe protein-folding routes
- (2) Dynamic programming for an efficient algorithm for the folding routes



K. A. Dill *et al.*, *Polymer* **48**, 4289 ('07)  
W. Dyrka *et al.*, *Alg. Mol. Biol.* **8**, 31 ('13)

# Singlet Fission in Amorphous DPT

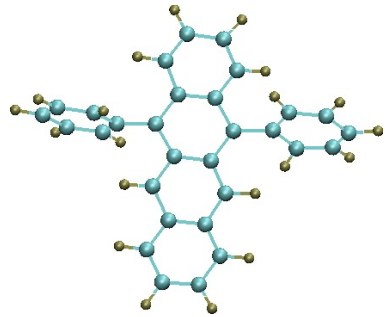
- Photo-current doubling by splitting a singlet exciton into 2 triplet excitons
- Singlet fission (SF) in mass-produced disordered organic solid  
→ efficient low-cost solar cells
- **Exp'l breakthrough:** SF found in amorphous diphenyl tetracene (DPT)
- Ultrafast transient absorption measurements identified *two time-scales* (1 & 100 ps) for exciton population dynamics
- **Hypothesis:** Existence of *SF hot spots* [S. T. Roberts *et al.*, *JACS* **134**, 6388 ('12)]



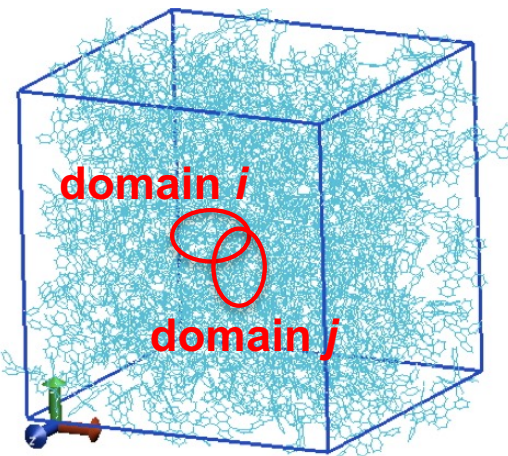
- **Problem:** *Molecular origin* of SF hot spots?

# Divide-Conquer-Recombine KMC

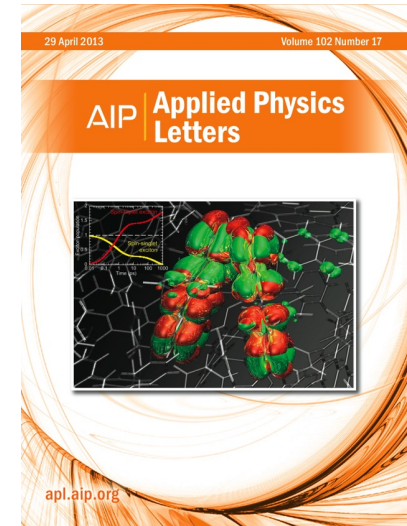
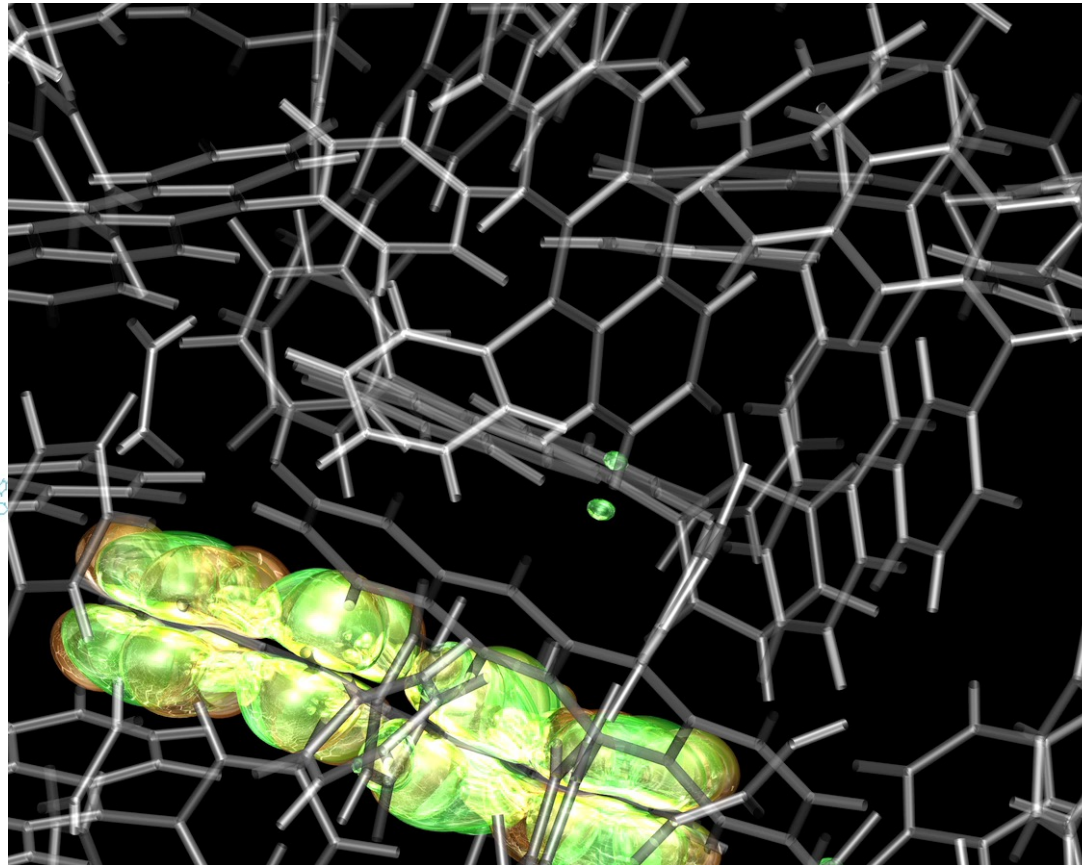
- Move up from molecules to microstructures
- **Challenge:** Unprecedented  $10^4$ -atom NAQMD simulation
- **Computational approach:** Divide-conquer-recombine (DCR) NAQMD



DPT molecule



Amorphous DPT



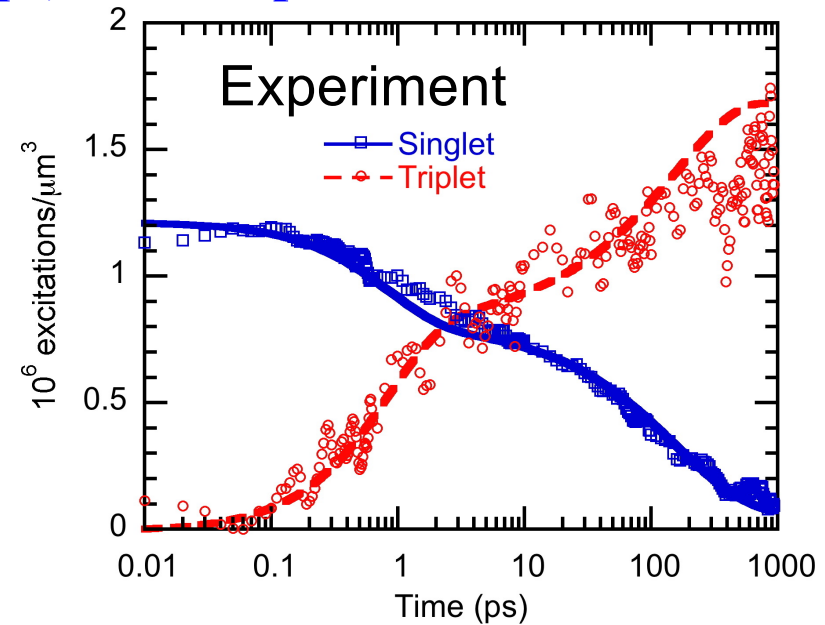
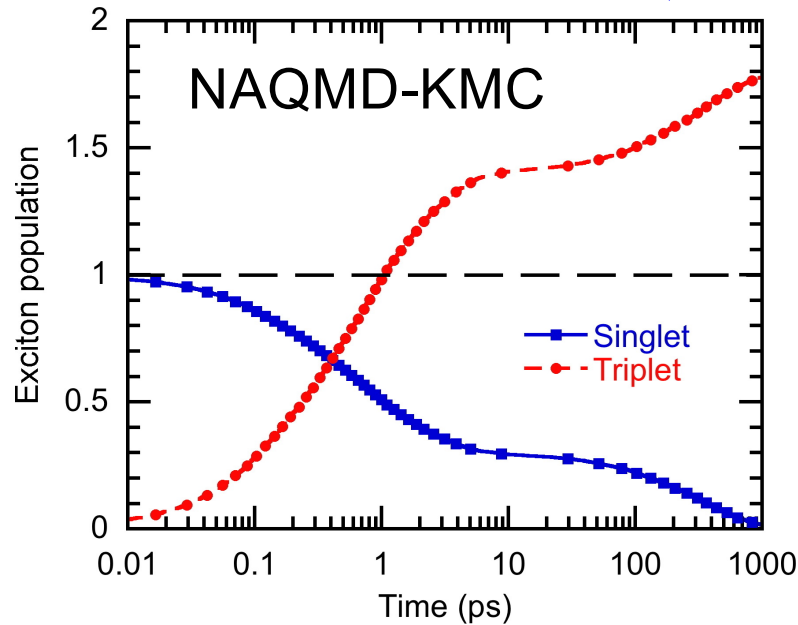
Quasi-electron  
Quasi-hole

- **DCR-NAQMD (phonon-assisted exciton dynamics) + time-dependent perturbation theory (singlet-fission rate) + kinetic Monte Carlo calculations of exciton population dynamics in 6,400-atom amorphous DPT**

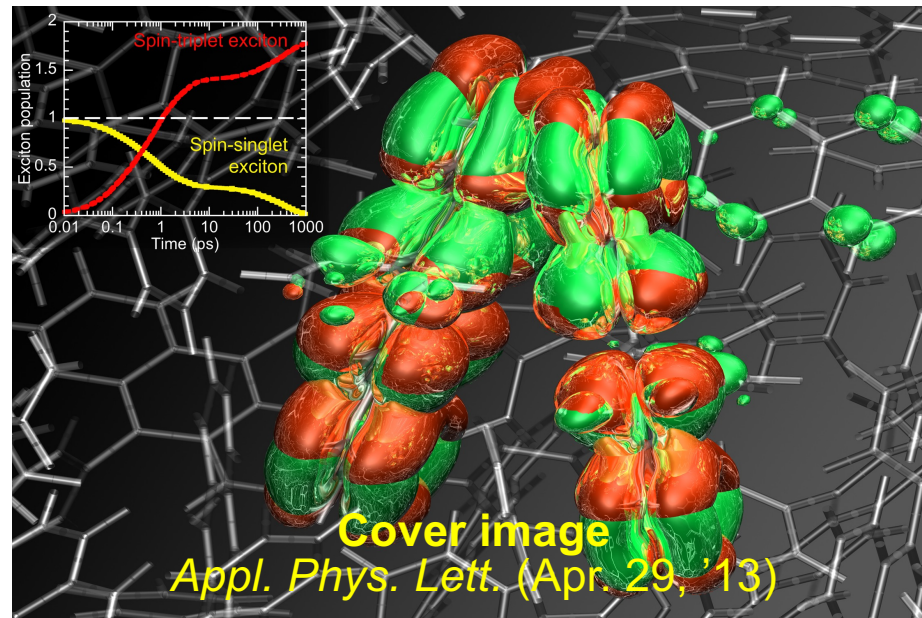
F. Shimojo *et al.*, *J. Chem. Phys.* **140**, 18A529 ('14)

# NAQMD-informed Kinetic Monte Carlo

- NAQMD-KMC exciton population dynamics reproduces the experimentally observed two time scales ( $\sim 1$  &  $100$  ps) in amorphous DPT



W. Mou *et al.*,  
*APL* **102**, 173301 ('13)



S. T. Roberts *et al.*,  
*JACS* **134**, 6388 ('12)