

Annual Report
2011 / 2012

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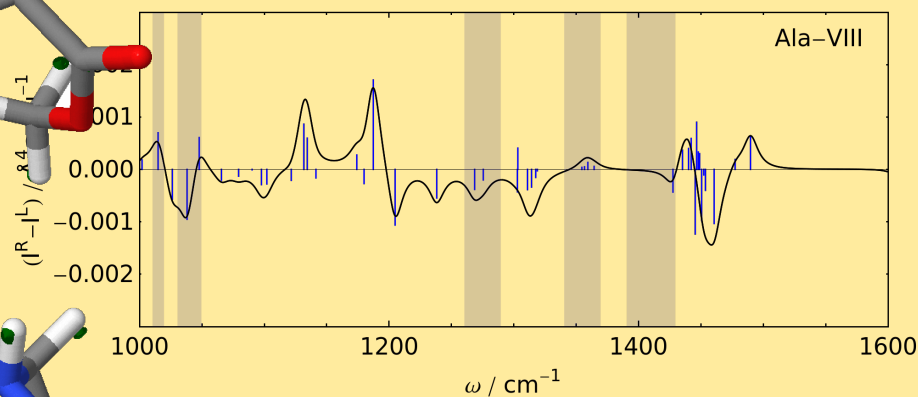
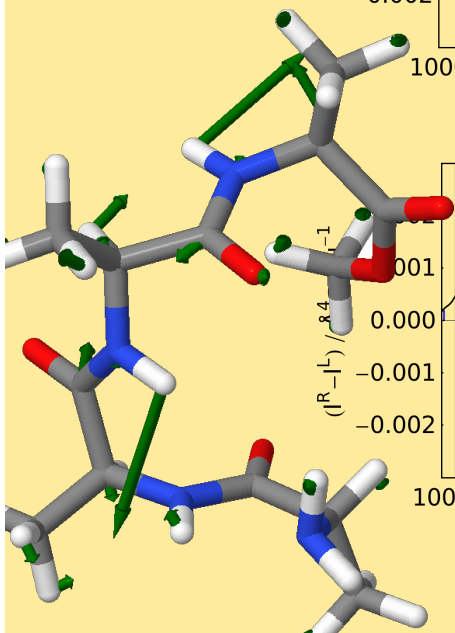
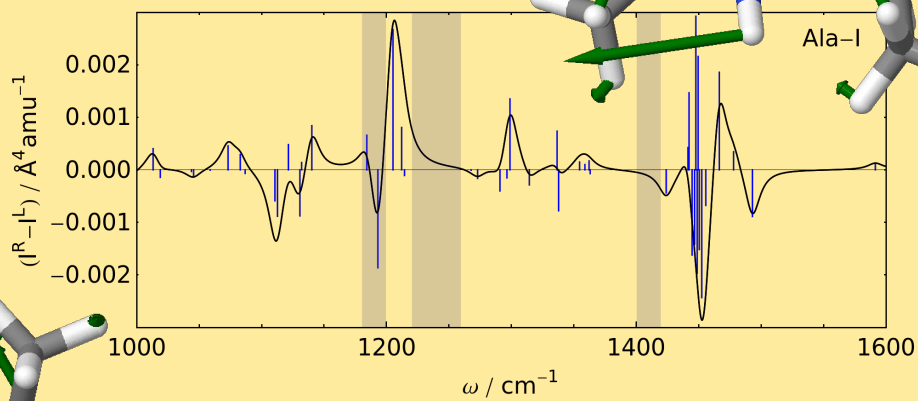
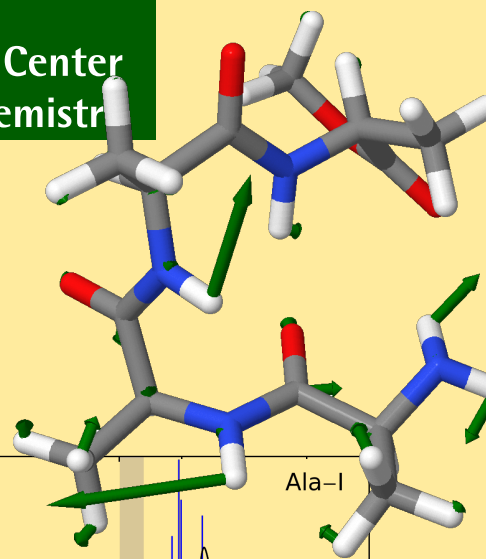
Competence Center
for Computational Chemistry



University of
Zurich



Eidgenössische
Technische Hochschule
Zürich



Annual Report

[C⁴]

Competence Center
for Computational Chemistry

July 2011 to June 2012

Impressum

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C⁴ on the Internet:
www.c4.ethz.ch

Cover:
Thomas Weymuth, one of the two winners of the 2011 IBM Research Forschungspreis

Quantum-chemical calculations allow for the identification of vibrational Raman optical activity signatures of different types of β -turns.

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Contents

1	About C⁴	7
2	The Year in Review	9
3	The C⁴ Network & Areas of Research	11
4	C⁴ Activities in 2011/2012	13
5	IBM Research Forschungspreis	17
6	The C⁴ Compute Resources	21
7	Research Group Portraits & Publications in 2011/2012	23
8	Acknowledgements	89

1 About C⁴

The Competence Center for Computational Chemistry [C⁴] is a network of computational chemists of the IBM Zürich Research Laboratory, the University of Zürich, and the ETH Zürich. The goal of C⁴ is to seek new frontiers and opportunities in molecular modeling and simulation, to cater to the flow of know-how within this community, and to serve as a platform for the interaction with partners from other areas of science or from outside academia. C⁴ was launched twenty years ago as a scientific collaboration between the IBM Research Laboratory and ETH Zürich, and has grown considerably since. Today, the C⁴ network covers a much broader spectrum of research activities, and its output in terms of scientific results and achievements is still on the increase.

The Steering Committee consists of Prof. Alessandro Curioni, head of computational sciences at IBM Zürich Research, Profs. Jürg Hutter (University of Zürich), Wilfred F. van Gunsteren, and PD Dr. Hans P. Lüthi (both ETH Zürich). C⁴ does not know formal membership. A “member” defines itself by the involvement in the activities of C⁴.

This is the 19th Annual Report of the Competence Center for Computational Chemistry [C⁴] reporting on its activities between July 2011 and June 2012. We also encourage you to visit our website, www.c4.ethz.ch.

2 The Year in Review

About this C⁴ Annual Report

Over the past two decades, the C⁴ Network has grown substantially, and it became increasingly difficult to present the full scope of the research activities the Annual report. Therefore, last year, we decided to go for a change of format: the descriptions of individual projects were removed, and replaced by a page where each research group lists its research interests and, at the same time, directs the interested reader to its home page. This change of format turned out to make sense, and this way the Annual Report still gives a comprehensive overview over the activities of the computational chemistry community of the three partner institutions.

C⁴ Seminar

The actual “backbone” of C⁴ is its Seminar Program. During the 2011 Fall- and 2012 Spring-Term the C⁴ Seminar Program covered 14 lectures, again some of them presented by leaders in the field of computational chemistry. Two additional C⁴ seminars were hosted by the IBM Research Laboratory.

The seminar, which takes place every second Thursday during the semester, enjoys a remarkable popularity bringing together between forty and sixty students and researchers each time. The complete seminar program is listed in this report.

Compute Resource

In May 2011, after five years of uninterrupted service, the C⁴ compute-cluster Obélix, a 32 node quad-core IBM Opteron cluster operated by the Server Group of the ETH Informatikdienste, was decommissioned. At the same time the existing C⁴ Brutus share was extended by 10 standard and 5 fat nodes, i.e. a total of 720 cores, based on an infrastructure-grant of ETH and a matching financial contribution of the ETH Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences.

Many of the members of the C⁴ community have their own computing facilities, or have access to the central compute clusters. In addition, some members are users of the resources of the Centro Svizzero die Calcolo Scientifico (CSCS), i.e. were awarded computing time based on proposals they had submitted. Each of these resources respond to a specific demand, and the results and achievements reported in this report typically involve “machine cycles” drawn from more than just one of these resources.

C⁴ Tutorials

With CECAM being established in Switzerland, the offering for tutorials and workshops has increased considerably, both, in number and in the spectrum of topics covered. The CECAM Zurich node is lead by our colleague Prof. Matthias Troyer of the Institute of Theoretical Physics. C⁴ did not offer its own tutorials.

The IBM Research Award

In 2007, the ETH Schulleitung approved the “IBM Research Forschungspreis”, an award for outstanding MSc and PhD theses sponsored by the IBM Zürich Research Laboratory. This year, the prize was awarded to Marco Schweizer (D-MATL; Group of Prof. Ch. Oettinger) and Thomas Weymuth (D-CHAB; Group of Prof. M. Reiher) for their MSc theses entitled “simulation of dissipative quantum systems “ and “Identifying Protein beta-Turns with Vibrational Raman Optical Activity”, respectively.

The 2011 Award Ceremony, for the second time, took place at the ETH Tag, with the Rector, Prof. Heidi Wunderli-Allenspach, handing out the award to the winner. The two laureates also presented their research at the occasion of a special C⁴ Seminar held on May 31, 2012, at the IBM Research Laboratory in Rüschlikon. For more detail please refer to the respective section in this report.

IBM Shared University Research (SUR) Grant Awarded to C⁴

Based on their grant proposal, Alessandro Curioni and Hans P. Lüthi were awarded an IBM Power 755 server with 32 POWER7 cores and 256 GBytes of (shared) memory. The server is dedicated to method development projects within the C⁴ community.

Outlook

We hope that you will enjoy browsing through the “yellow pages” of “computational chemistry made in Zürich”.

The C⁴ Steering Committee would like to thank the community for its active participation in its program and activities. Also in the next year we will make sure that C⁴ remains a valuable platform for the Zürich computational chemistry community.

Hans P. Lüthi, Leiter C⁴
October 22, 2012

3 The C⁴ Network & Areas of Research

The C⁴ Network involves researchers from different participating institutions. The ETH Zürich is represented by the Departments of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Physics and Materials Science. Further, there are the Institute of Physical Chemistry and the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the University of Zürich as well as the IBM Zürich Research Laboratory.

Note that only a relatively small fraction of the research reported in this document was performed using C⁴ compute resources; its capacity would be much too small to generate the scientific output listed here. The main idea behind this document is to have a compilation of the research in computational chemistry "made in Zürich", and to offer a listing of competencies and skills available.

The C⁴ community

<i>Research Group</i>	<i>Institute</i>
Prof. K. Baldrige	Organic Chemistry UNI ZH
Prof. P. Chen*	Organic Chemistry ETH
Prof. C. Copéret	Inorganic Chemistry ETH
Prof. A. Curioni	IBM Zürich Research Laboratory
Prof. W. F. van Gunsteren	Physical Chemistry ETH
Prof. A. Gusev*	Polymers ETH
Prof. I. Hermans	Chemical and Bioengineering
Prof. P. Hünenberger	Physical Chemistry ETH

<i>Research Group</i>	<i>Institute</i>
Prof. J. Hutter	Physical Chemistry UNI ZH
PD Dr. H.P. Lüthi	Physical Chemistry ETH
Prof. R. Nesper	Inorganic Chemistry ETH
Prof. M. Parrinello	Physical Chemistry ETH
Prof. M. Quack	Physical Chemistry ETH
Prof. M. Reiher	Physical Chemistry ETH
Prof. G. Schneider*	Pharmaceutical Sciences ETH
Prof. F. Schoenebeck	Organic Chemistry ETH
Prof. N. Spaldin*	Materials Theory ETH
Prof. M. Troyer	Theoretical Physics ETH
Prof. V. Vogel*	Biologically Oriented Materials ETH
Prof. J. VandeVondele**	Biologically Oriented Materials ETH
Prof. P. Werner	Theoretical Physics ETH

*) No contributions for this year's report

***) Newly appointed

4 C⁴ Activities in 2011/2012

C⁴ Seminar

During the 2011 Fall- and 2012 Spring-Term the C⁴ Seminar Program covered 14 lectures, again some of them presented by leaders in the field of computational chemistry. Two additional C⁴ seminars were hosted by the IBM Research Laboratory.

C⁴ Tutorials

During the past year, there were no tutorials offered by C⁴ .

C⁴ Workshop

During the past year, there was no workshop offered by C⁴ . Information about previous workshops can be found at www.c4.ethz.ch/seminarseries/index

On the next two pages you will find the C⁴ Seminar Programs.



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

COMPETENCE CENTER FOR COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY C4
ETH Zürich / University of Zürich / IBM Research

Seminar Programm Herbstsemester 2011

Auditorium HCI J6 / J3, ETH Hönggerberg
13:00-14:00

29. 09. 2011

Prof. Carlos Aleman, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona (Spain)
Molecular Dynamics Simulations on Large Systems:
From Peptide Nanowires to Dendronized Polymers

13. 10. 2011

Prof. Willem M. Klopper, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT),
Karlsruhe (Deutschland)
Coupled-Cluster Theory at the Basis-set Limit

27. 10. 2011

Prof. Alexander MacKerell, University of Maryland, Baltimore (MD, USA)
Progress Towards a Comprehensive Polarizable Macromolecular Force Field Based
on the CHARMM Classical Drude Oscillator Model

10.11. 2011

Prof. Leeor Kronik, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth (Israel)
Spectroscopy With Density Functional Theory: New Ideas for an Old Problem

24. 11. 2011

Prof. Nicola Spaldin, ETH Zürich, Zürich (Schweiz)
Computational Materials and Cosmic Strings

01.12. 2011

Dr. Richard W. Pastor, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda (MD, USA)
Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Membrane Curvature

08. 12. 2011

Dr. Marcello Sega, Universität Stuttgart, Stuttgart (Deutschland)
Computing Dielectric Properties of Charged Soft-Matter



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

COMPETENCE CENTER FOR COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY C4
ETH Zürich / University of Zürich / IBM Research

Seminar Programm Frühjahrssemester 2012

Auditorium HCI J7, ETH Hönggerberg

13:00-14:00

01. 03. 2012

Prof. Núria López, Institut Català d'Investigació Química, Tarragona (Spain)
Selectivity in Hydrogenation Reactions: the Role of Theoretical Simulations

15. 03. 2012

Prof. Dr. Patrick Bultinck, Ghent University, Ghent (Belgium)
The Fukui matrix, an algebraic tool for the understanding of Fukui functions, their magnitude and sign and effects of correlation and degeneracy

12. 04. 2012 **Easter Break** (no seminar)

26. 04. 2012

Dr. Hans Martin Senn, Lecturer, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland (UK)
Insights into enzymatic catalysis using computational chemistry:
From docking to coupled-cluster methods.

03. 05. 2012

Prof. Alán Aspuru-Guzik, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (USA)
Finding renewable energy materials using one screensaver at a time:
The Harvard Clean Energy Project

10. 05. 2012

Dr. Saron Catak, Center for Molecular Modeling, Ghent University, Zwijnaarde, (Belgium)
First principles metadynamics simulations of 'Rare Events' in biological systems

24. 05. 2012

Prof. Tim Clark, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen (Germany)
Simulating soft electronic devices:
High-performance NDDO calculations for new materials

5 IBM Research Forschungspreis

- 2007** Sandra Luber (Group of Prof. M. Reiher)
Towards the Calculation of Raman Optical Activity Spectra of Large Molecules
- 2008** Daan Geerke (Group of Prof. W.F. van Gunsteren)
Classical Hamiltonians in Molecular Simulation: Force-Field Development and Explicit Inclusion of Electronic Polarization and Quantum Effects
- 2009** Sereina Riniker (Group of Prof. W.F. van Gunsteren)
Free Energies of Binding of Benzene Derivatives to Alpha-Cyclodextrin: Sensitivity of the Free-Energy Components to Temperature and to the Restraining of Molecular Motion
- 2010,** Michele Ceriotti (Group of Prof. M. Parrinello)
"A novel framework for enhanced molecular dynamics based on the generalized Langevin equation"

In support of computer modeling and simulation, the IBM Research Zurich Laboratory donated a prize for outstanding Masters and PhD theses in the areas of computational chemistry, physics, biology, and materials science in 2007. In even-numbered years, the Call for Nominations is for PhD theses, in odd-numbered years it is for MS theses.

The Call for Nominations for the 2012 IBM Research Forschungspreis was issued at the end of the Spring Term. It is for PhD theses submitted during the past two years.

The Winners of the 2011 IBM Research Prize

The Award Jury, consisting of Profs. Alessandro Curioni, U.W. Suter and PD Dr. H.P. Lüthi awarded Marco Schweizer and Thomas Weymuth the IBM Research Forschungspreis for their innovative MSc theses.

Marco Schweizer (H.C. Oettinger group)
“Simulation of Dissipative Quantum Systems”

Thomas Weymuth (M. Reiher group)
“Can Raman Optical Activity Discriminate Between Different Types of Protein Beta-Turns?”



Marco Schweizer and Thomas Weymuth with the Rektorin, Prof. Heidi Wunderli-Allenspach, and Prof. Alessandro Curioni at the ETH-Tag 2011

“Simulation of Dissipative Quantum Systems”

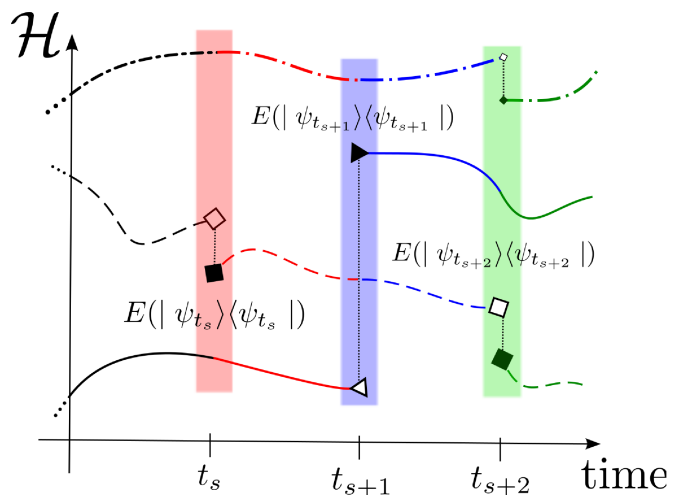
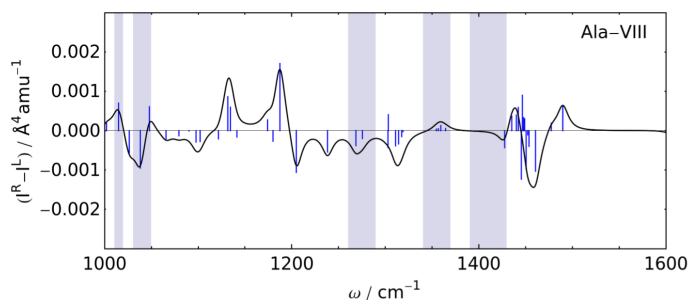
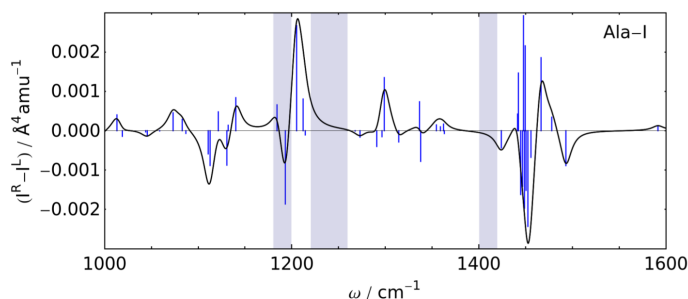


Illustration of the Monte-Carlo technique: stochastic evolution of trajectories in the quantum system of interest.

In all relevant real world applications quantum systems are exposed to their environment possessing an overwhelming number of degrees of freedom so that the exact evolution of the composite system becomes impossible to solve numerically. A coarse-grained approach in the spirit of thermodynamics that focuses only on the relevant features of the system was developed ¹; the environment is treated thermodynamically and most strikingly dynamically while being coupled to the quantum system of interest. The latter is described by a highly nonlinear quantum master equation with many appealing thermodynamic properties as opposed to linear frameworks. In the thesis it is shown that despite of the nonlinear structure problems can be solved by a Monte-Carlo technique. In addition, common stochastic integration schemes are extended and improved to obtain higher order of convergence. While results are presented to the prototypical toy model of a simple qubit coupled to a classical heat bath, extensions are highlighted to treat much more involved problems.

¹H. C. Öttinger, *Phys. Rev. A* 82, 052119 (2010)

“Can Raman Optical Activity Discriminate Between Different Types of Protein Beta-Turns?”



β -turns belong to the most important secondary structure elements in proteins. On the basis of density functional calculations, vibrational Raman optical activity signatures of different types of β -turns were established and compared as well as related to other signatures proposed in the literature earlier. Our findings indicated that there are much more characteristic ROA signals of β -turns than have been hitherto suggested. These suggested signatures were, however, found to be valid for the most important type of β -turns. Moreover, we compared the influence of different amino acid side chains on these signatures and investigated the discrimination of β -turns from other secondary structure elements, namely α - and 3_{10} -helices.

6 The C⁴ Compute Resources

IBM Cluster e1350 “Obélix”

Obélix, a 32 node IBM cluster was decommissioned on the July 30, 2011, after an uninterrupted uptime of 1'846 days of the fileserver, the most essential part of the cluster. The Obélix cluster served more than 100 users over more than 6 years as a reliable computing facility. By this date, an era reached its end: Obélix was the last stand-alone compute server for C⁴.

Brutus Share

As a replacement, C⁴ obtained an extension of its existing Brutus share. Based on an infrastructure proposal supported by the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences (D-CAB), the VP Research granted an extension of the active share on Brutus by another ten standard- and five fat-nodes. The fifteen nodes with 48 cores each (12 core AMD 6174 CPUs; 4CPUs per node). The 720 core share went into production in November 2011. At this point, the D-CHAB is the biggest Brutus shareholder.

7 Research Group Portraits & Publications in 2011/2012

Overview

Group of Kim K. Baldrige	25
Group of Christophe Copéret	29
Group of Alessandro Curioni	31
Group of Ive Hermans	35
Group of Philippe H. Hünenberger	37
Group of Jürg Hutter	43
Group of Martin Quack	49
Group of Hans P. Lüthi	53
Group of Reinhard Nesper	55
Group of M. Parrinello	57
Group of Markus Reiher	61
Group of Franziska Schoenebeck	65
Groups of M. Troyer and P. Werner	69
Group of Joost VandeVondele	75
Group of Wilfred F. van Gunsteren	79

Group of Kim K. Baldrige
Organic Chemistry Institute
UZH Zürich

www.oci.uzh.ch/research/baldrige.html

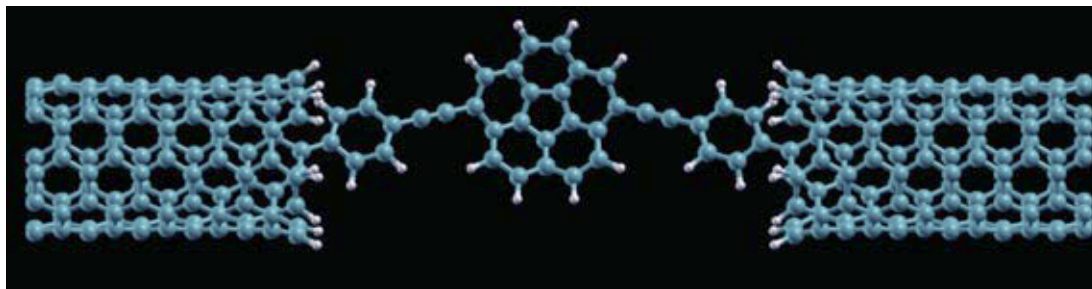
Areas of Research:

Electronic Structure Theory Development and Applications, Computational Science, Grid Technologies

Keywords:

Quantum Chemistry, Electronic Transport, Optical Properties, Chemical reactivity, Dispersion-DFT

Main research topics:



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Effect of molecular packing on corannulene-based materials electroluminescence.
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Co- and Ni-sandwich analogues.
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King, B. T.; Olmstead, M.M.; Baldrige, K.K.; Kumar, B.; Balch, A.L.; Gharamaleki, J.A.

Molecular nesting in co-crystals of tetrabenzoquadrannulene and C₆₀,

ChemComm, (2012). DOI:10.1039/c2cc34472F

Group of Christophe Copéret
Laboratory of Inorganic Chemistry
ETH Zürich

www.coperetgroup.ethz.ch

Areas of Research:

Surface and Interfacial Chemistry

The group of Surface and Interfacial Chemistry aims at the molecular understanding of the structure and the chemistry of oxide and metal surfaces by combining advanced spectroscopic methods and computational chemistry with the goal to generate single-site catalysts and supported nanoparticles, where the structure and the interface between the metal and the support are controlled at the molecular level.

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Optimal water coverage on alumina: a key to generate Lewis acid-base pairs reactive towards the C-H bond activation of methane.
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 50, 3202 (2011).

Group of Alessandro Curioni
IBM Research – Zurich Research Laboratory

www.zurich.ibm.com/mcs/compsci/

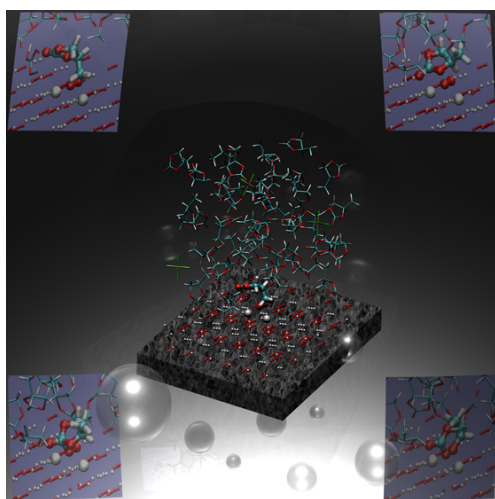
Areas of Research:

Simulation of complex systems in material sciences and biochemistry, parallel computing.

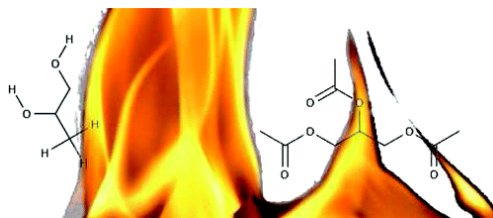
Keywords:

Computational sciences, multiscale simulations, density functional theory and applications, algorithms re-engineering for massively parallel computers, simulations for energy storage and conversion.

Main research topics:



(a) Simulation of chemical processes at complex interfaces in Li/Air batteries



(b) Simulation of pyrolytic decomposition of organic molecules

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Bond-Order Discrimination by Atomic Force Microscopy

Science 337 (6100), 1326-1329 (2012)

Yves Ineichen, Andreas Adelman, Costas Bekas, Alessandro Curioni, Peter Arbenz
A fast and scalable low dimensional solver for charged particle dynamics in large particle accelerators

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Multiscale Quantum Simulation of Resistance Switching in Amorphous Carbon *Procedia Computer Science* 9, 641-650 (2012)

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A simple model of molecular imaging with noncontact atomic force microscopy

New Journal of Physics 14 (8), 083023 (2012)

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Imaging the charge distribution within a single molecule

Nature nanotechnology 7 (4), 227-231 (2012)

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Understanding the Self-Healing Hydrophobic Recovery of High-Voltage Insulators

The Journal of Physical Chemistry B 116 (24), 7351-7356 (2012)

A. Fuhrer, F. Rueß, N. Moll, A. Curioni, D. Widmer

Atomic structure of Mn wires on Si (001) resolved by scanning tunneling microscopy

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Mechanisms of Propylene Glycol and Triacetin Pyrolysis

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Regularizing Binding Energy Distributions and the Hydration Free Energy of Protein Cytochrome C from All-Atom Simulations
J. Chem. Theory Comput., 2012, 8 (9), pp 3409–3415

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Physical review letters 107 (8), 86101 (2011)

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Low-cost data uncertainty quantification
Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience 24 (8), 908-920 (2011)

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Areas of Research:

Sustainable Chemistry and Catalysis

Keywords:

DFT, transition state theory (TST), selective oxidations, chemical kinetics, renewable substrates

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**Group of Philippe H. Hünenberger
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Areas of Research:

Computer simulation of molecular systems

Keywords:

Computer simulation, molecular dynamics, method development, force field, electrostatics, boundary conditions, conformational sampling, free-energy calculations, ionic systems, (bio)molecular systems

Main research topics:

The research of our group focuses on the development and application of methods for the *classical computer simulation of molecular systems*, namely in terms of *method development* :

- Treatment of electrostatic interactions
- Force-field parametrization (GROMOS)
- Thermodynamic boundary conditions
- Enhanced conformational sampling
- Extended-system methods
- Free-energy calculations
- Development of simulation algorithms
- Development of trajectory analysis methods

and in terms of *applications* :

- Single-ion solvation (book: www.csms.ethz.ch/single_ion_solvation)
- Properties of ionic systems (electrolyte solutions, crystals)
- Simulation of biomolecular systems (with a main focus on carbohydrates and lipids)
- Role of electrostatic interactions (hydrogen bonding, salt bridges) in (bio)molecular systems

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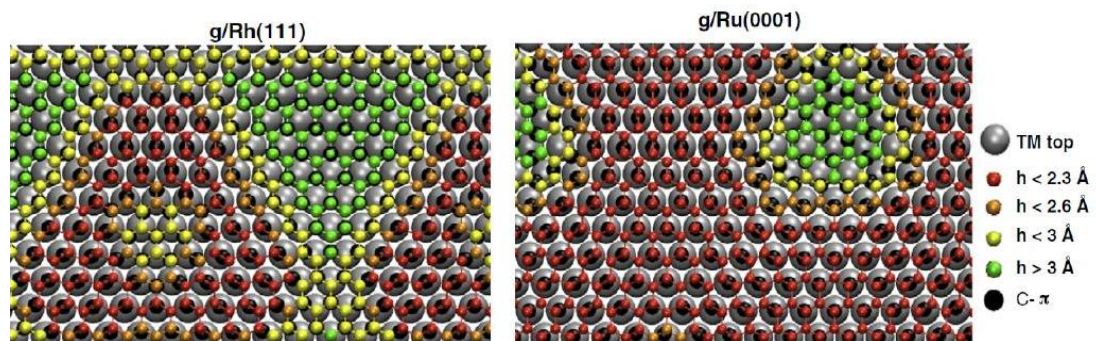
P.F.J. Fuchs, H.S. Hansen, P.H. Hünenberger, B.A.C. Horta,
A GROMOS parameter set for vicinal diether functions: properties of polyethyleneox-
ide and polyethyleneglycol,
J. Chem. Theory Comput., in press (2012)

Areas of Research:

Method development and applications of ab initio molecular dynamics, molecules at interfaces (solid/liquid, liquid/vapor), chemical reactions in solution

Keywords:

Electronic structure theory, molecular dynamics, density functional theory, condensed phase, interfaces, liquids, solutions, chemical reactions



Top view of the Moiré superstructure formed by 12×12 g over 11×11 Ru(0001) and Rh(111). The gray spheres are the metal atoms of the topmost layer of the slab. The C atoms of the overlayer are colored according to distance from the substrate. Red are C closer than 2.3 Å orange are C between 2.3 and 2.6 Å yellow between 2.6 and 3 Å and green above 3 Å The black spheres represent the centers of the C- π MLWO.

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Phys. Rev. B 84 075426 (2011)

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Areas of Research:

Molecular Kinetics and Spectroscopy

Keywords:

Molecular Kinetics, Spectroscopy, Parity Violation, Chiral Molecules, Quantum Dynamics, Fundamental Symmetries, Quantum Chemical Kinetics, Tunneling, Infrared Spectroscopy, Terahertz Spectroscopy, Atmospheric Spectroscopy, Methane, Astrophysical Spectroscopy.

The group “Molecular Kinetics and Spectroscopy” of Martin Quack at ETH has as main research theme the understanding of fundamental, physical-chemical molecular primary processes. The basic research question concerns the fully quantum mechanical molecular motion, which is at the origin of all chemical reactions. An essential aspect of the research is the systematic combination of experimental and theoretical studies. The experimental studies concentrate on high resolution infrared spectroscopy, infrared multiphoton excitation and time resolved kinetic spectroscopy. While most of the experiments address fundamental questions, some practical applications relate to atmospheric and astrophysical spectroscopy and to isotope separation. The theory covers full-dimensional quantum dynamics by discrete variable representation techniques, finite basis set representation as well as diffusion quantum Monte Carlo methods. Approximate theories are developed and tested in relation to exact theories (an example is the quadiabatic channel reaction path hamiltonian theory for tunneling reactions). Another focus of theory is the time dependent quantum dynamics in intramolecular energy flow and vibrational redistribution, coherent infrared multiphoton excitation and laser chemistry as well as time dependent quantum statistical mechanical approaches to these processes. Finally, the group studies fundamental symmetry principles in molecular processes and molecular chirality in relation to parity violation. Our theoretical developments have led to large increases in the predicted parity violating energy differences between enantiomers, making these now a realistic goal for our current experiments.

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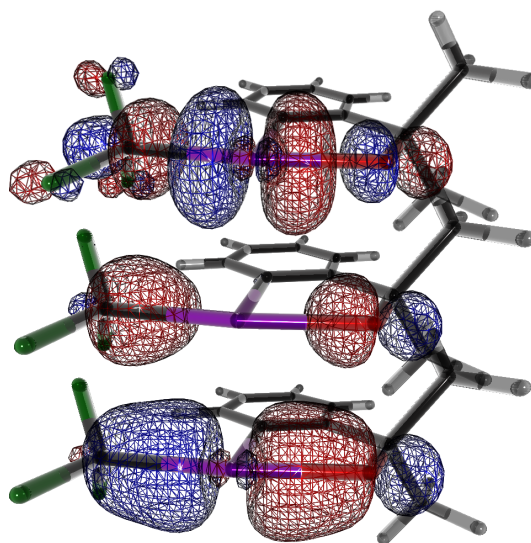
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Representation of the localized (NBO)
3-center-4-electron bond in Togni's reagent

Areas of Research:

Electronic Structure Theory and Applications, Computational Science

Keywords:

Quantum chemistry, chemical bonding, quantitative structure-property relationships (QSPR), chemical reactivity; wave function theory, density functional theory, data processing, data analysis

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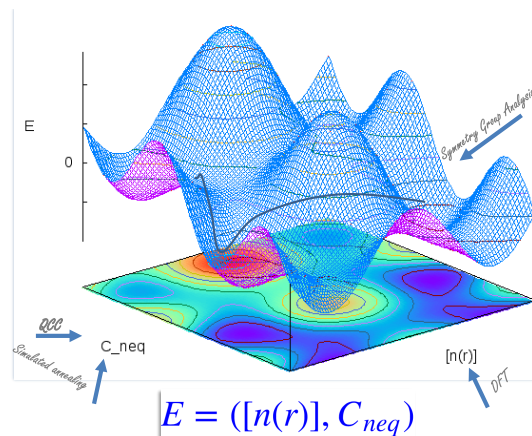
Areas of Research:

Crystal structure prediction, Enthalpy of formation, Electronic Structure calculations

Keywords:

Simulated Annealing, DFT total energy calculations, Symmetry group analysis and representation

The concept of inorganic crystal structure prediction from a complete first-principles approach, by using the chemical formula as the sole starting knowledge, is still a challenging task. Several methodologies have been proposed and adopted along decades, adapting them to specific systems under study. Our methodology combines Quantum Chemistry Cluster calculations (QCC), Simulated Annealing optimization (SA)², total energy calculations via DFT, and Symmetry Group Relations (SGR)³ to explore the Potential Energy Surface of a system. Depending on whether we search for structural transformations of a system with a given stoichiometry, or study absorption processes, the atomic ratio can be a constant or a variable, respectively, but in both cases the final target is the identification of the ground-state and local minima. The case studies are represented by complex borohydrides (1), in particular LiBH_x , $x \leq 4$, and $\text{Mg}(\text{BH}_4)_2$ (2). For LiBH_x , $x = 2$ (3), the predicted lowest energy structure shows the formation of anionic linear chains.



²in collaboration with Prof A. Tekin, Istanbul Technical University.

³in collaboration with Prof W. Sikora, AGH University of Science and Technology, Cracow

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Lithium dihydroborate. First-principles structure prediction of LiBH_2 ,
Inorg. Chem., 51, 9757 (2012)

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Areas of Research:

Computer Simulations of Materials and Biomolecules

Keywords:

Ab-initio molecular dynamics, enhanced sampling methods, collective variables, nucleation, phase change materials, hydrogen bonded systems, ligand protein interaction, large motions in proteins and RNA.

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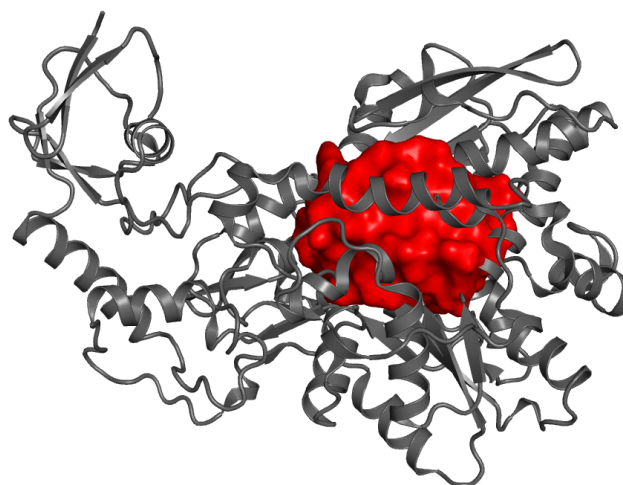
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Cartoon representation of [FeFe] hydrogenase crystal structure⁴.
In red highlighted the extended model of the enzyme active site (700 atoms).

Synopsis:

Our research concentrates on theory in chemistry with a special emphasis on so-called first-principles methods, which are deeply rooted in quantum mechanics.

Areas of Research:

Relativistic Quantum Chemistry and Atomic Physics, Electron-Electron Interaction – DMRG and DFT, Theoretical Bio-Inorganic Chemistry and Coordination Chemistry, Quantum Chemical Analysis of Novel Compounds, Vibrational Spectroscopy of Large Molecules

Keywords:

Relativistic Quantum Chemistry and Atomic Physics; Electron-Electron Interaction – DMRG, TNS, and DFT; Theoretical Bio-Inorganic Chemistry and Coordination Chemistry; Quantum Chemical Analysis of Novel Compounds; Vibrational Spectroscopy of Large Molecules; Haptic Quantum Chemistry

⁴ PDB entry 3C8Y: A.S. Pandey et.al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* (2008), 130, 4533.

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J. Phys. Chem. C, 116, 14274 (2012)

**Group of Franziska Schoenebeck
Institute for Organic Chemistry
ETH Zürich**

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Areas of Research:

Physical organic chemistry, computational and experimental chemistry

Research interests in the Schoenebeck group are in the area of physical organic chemistry. The emphasis is on understanding reactivity and mechanisms, ultimately seeking the design of new catalysts and the development of novel applications in organic, bioorganic and materials chemistry.

Keywords:

Reactivity, Design, Mechanisms, QM

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with an intense, low-energy charge-transfer band
Chem. Commun., 47 (15), 4520, (2011).

Groups of M. Troyer and P. Werner
Theoretische Physik
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Areas of Research:

Computational condensed matter physics and high performance computing

Keywords:

Computational physics, strongly correlated fermions, ultracold quantum gases, Bose Einstein condensation, quantum devices, quantum Monte Carlo methods, tensor network methods, computational provenance

Special highlights:

We have developed a density functional theory for ultracold atomic quantum gases, and applied it to the study of the phase diagram of fermionic atoms captured in an optical lattice. This new density functional allows to use quantum chemistry methods for quantum gases, where controlled high precision experiments are possible that can be used to test predictions by static, time dependent, and finite temperature DFT calculations ⁵

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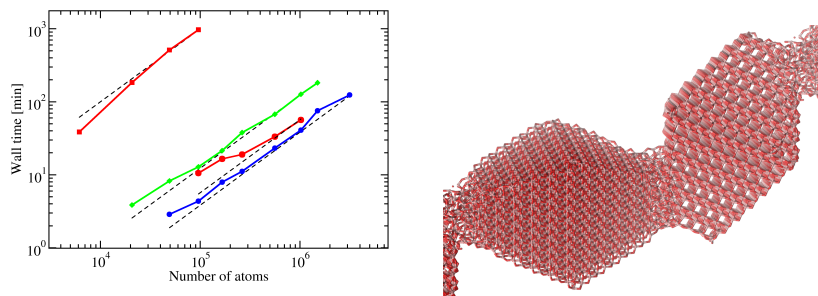
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Areas of Research:

modeling and simulation of atomistic systems, density functional theory, algorithms and high performance computing, solar cells.

Keywords:

Materials and chemistry, aqueous systems, interfaces, nanocrystals, electron transport, energy, spectroscopy, molecular dynamics, ultrafast systems, high performance computing, accelerators, algorithms, linear scaling, sparse linear algebra, CP2K.



Left panel, computational cost of large DFT calculations with CP2K now scale linearly with system size as demonstrated for condensed phase systems with full 3D periodic boundary conditions. Dashed lines represent ideal linear scaling. Right panel, model of two aggregated anatase TiO₂ nanoparticles, annealed using classical molecular dynamics. Linear scaling DFT calculations allow the electronic structure of this system to be computed in 13 minutes per SCF cycle on just 75 nodes of a Cray XE6.

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Areas of Research:

1. Development of algorithms for efficient searching and sampling of configuration space
2. Simulation of long-time scale events
3. Testing and improvement of molecular models and force fields by comparison of simulation results to experimental data
4. Simplification of force fields
5. Methods for calculating free energy and entropy differences in molecular systems
6. Representation of electrostatic interactions in molecular simulations
7. Role of electrostatic interactions in (bio-)molecular systems
8. Determination of spatial molecular structure on the basis of NMR data
9. Determination of spatial molecular structure on the basis of X-ray diffraction data
10. Quantum-mechanical simulation of biochemical phenomena
11. Development of simulation software
12. Application of simulation techniques to dynamically or functionally interesting systems or phenomena

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A.P. Eichenberger, J.R. Allison, J. Dolenc, D.P. Geerke, B.A.C. Horta, K. Meier, C. Oostenbrink, N. Schmid, D. Steiner, D. Wang, W.F. van Gunsteren

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different structures
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