

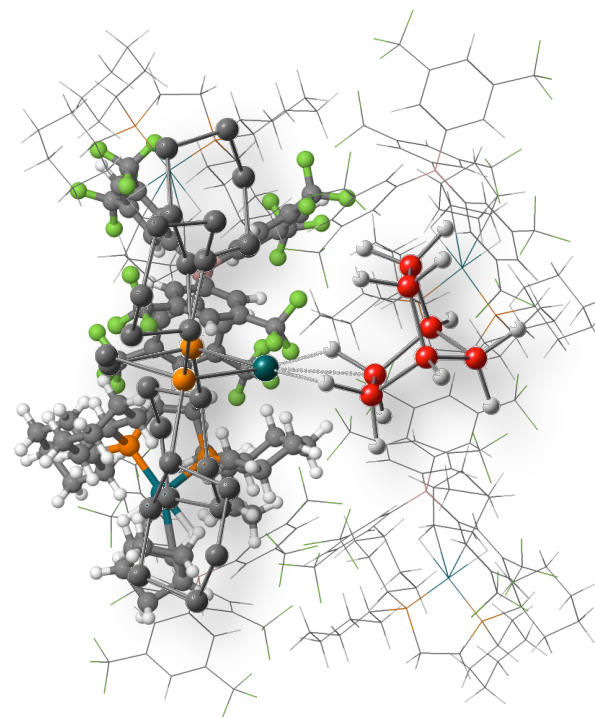
Rhodium(I) Alkane σ -Complexes

Computational Modelling of Organometallic
Reactivity in Condensed Phase

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University of Oxford, UK



Introduction

- (Catalytic) **C–H bond activation** (CHA) important process

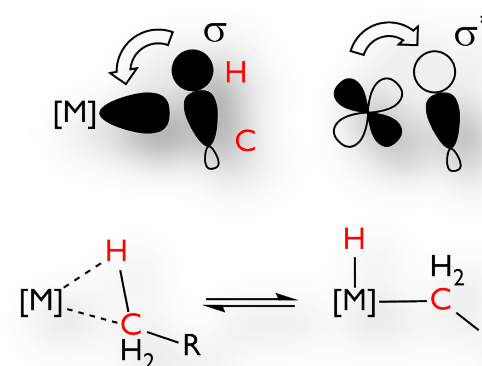
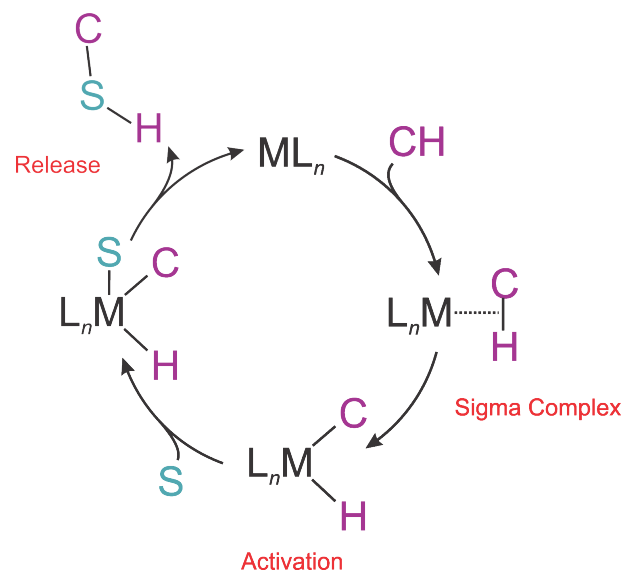
synthesis

functionalisation of alkanes (petrochemical feedstock)

- **σ -Complexes** as key intermediates of CHA

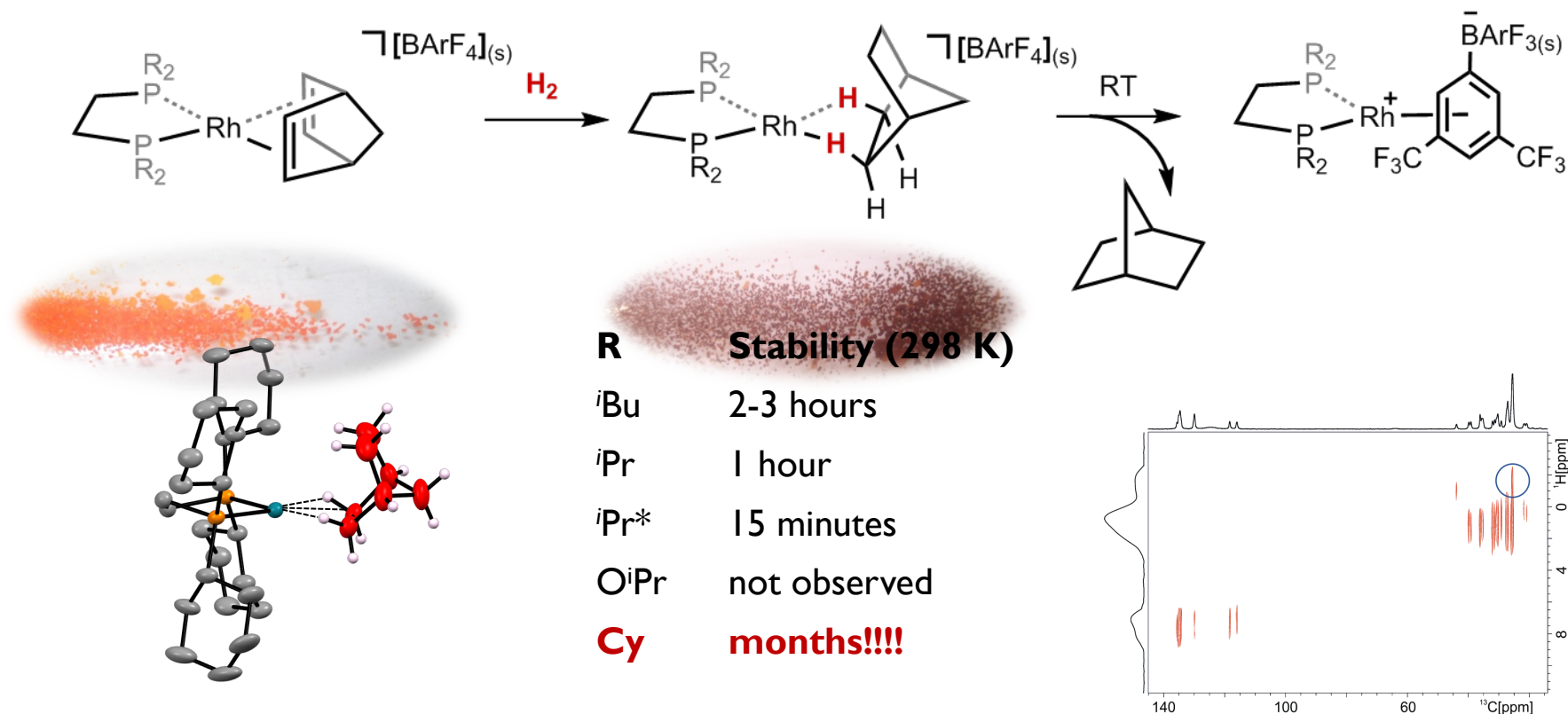
fundamental interest in understanding electronic structure

catalyst design (activity, selectivity)



Exploring the Scope of the Solid-Gas Reaction

- vary substituents/phosphine backbone to identify more stable alkane complexes
 - in most cases displacement of NBA by counterion occurs, on varying timescales:

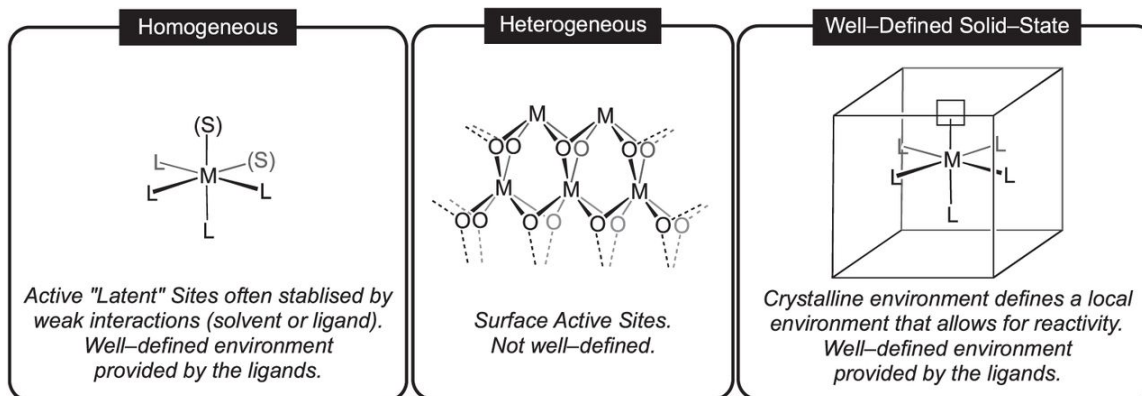


* $-(\text{CH}_2)_3-$ backbone

Pike, Thompson, Algarra, Apperley, Macgregor, Weller, *Science*, **2012**, 337, 1648.

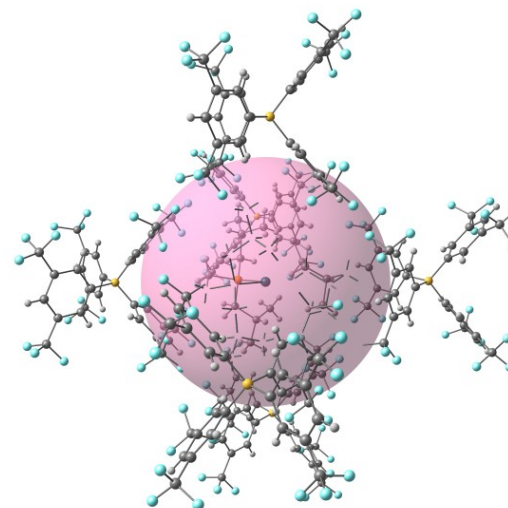
Pike, Chadwick, Rees, Scott, Weller, Krämer, Macgregor, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2015**, 137, 820.

Organometallic transformations in the solid-state



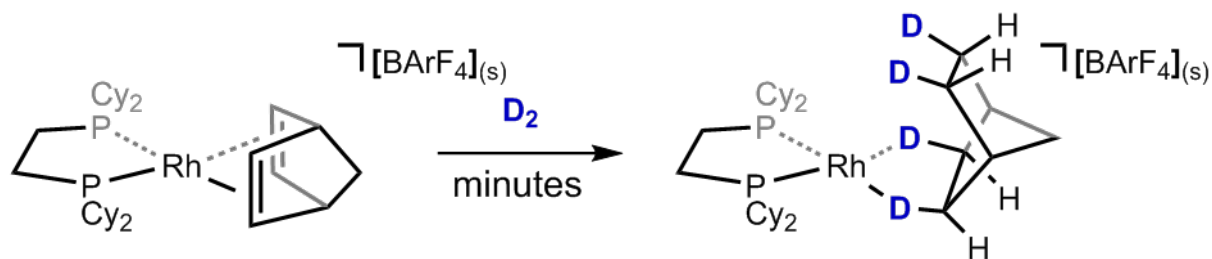
Synthesis, reactivity and catalysis using well-defined single-site species

- small structural reorganisation (crystallinity, ~4% vol.)
- rigid porous framework (bulky ligands / anions)
- well-defined channels and voids (diffusion of gases)
- constrained environments allowing for small movements around metal centre

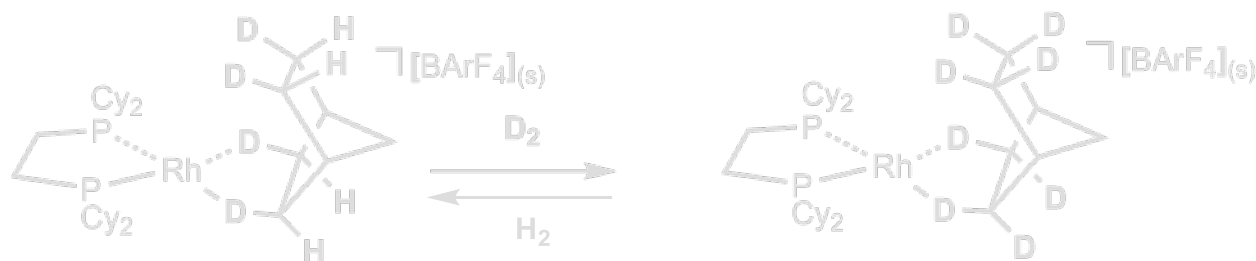


Solid State Reactivity

- with D_2 the alkane σ -complex of the *endo-endo* product is seen exclusively:



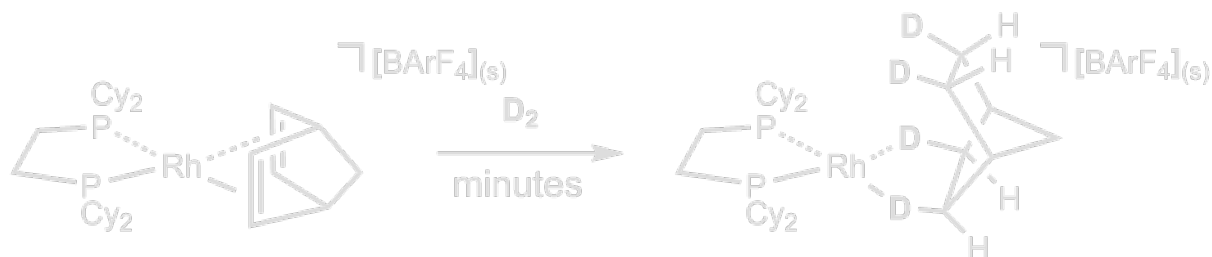
- further reaction (hours) with D_2 leads to d_8 -norbornane products:



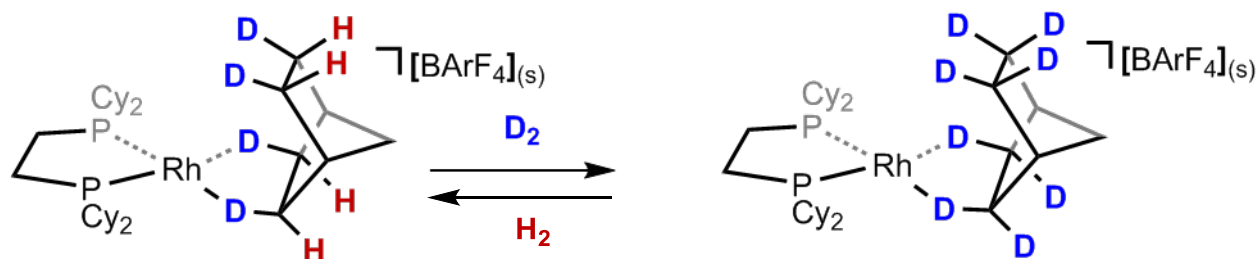
- C-H/D activation is reversible and selective for the *exo*-positions

Solid State Reactivity

- with D_2 the alkane σ -complex of the *endo-endo* product is seen exclusively:

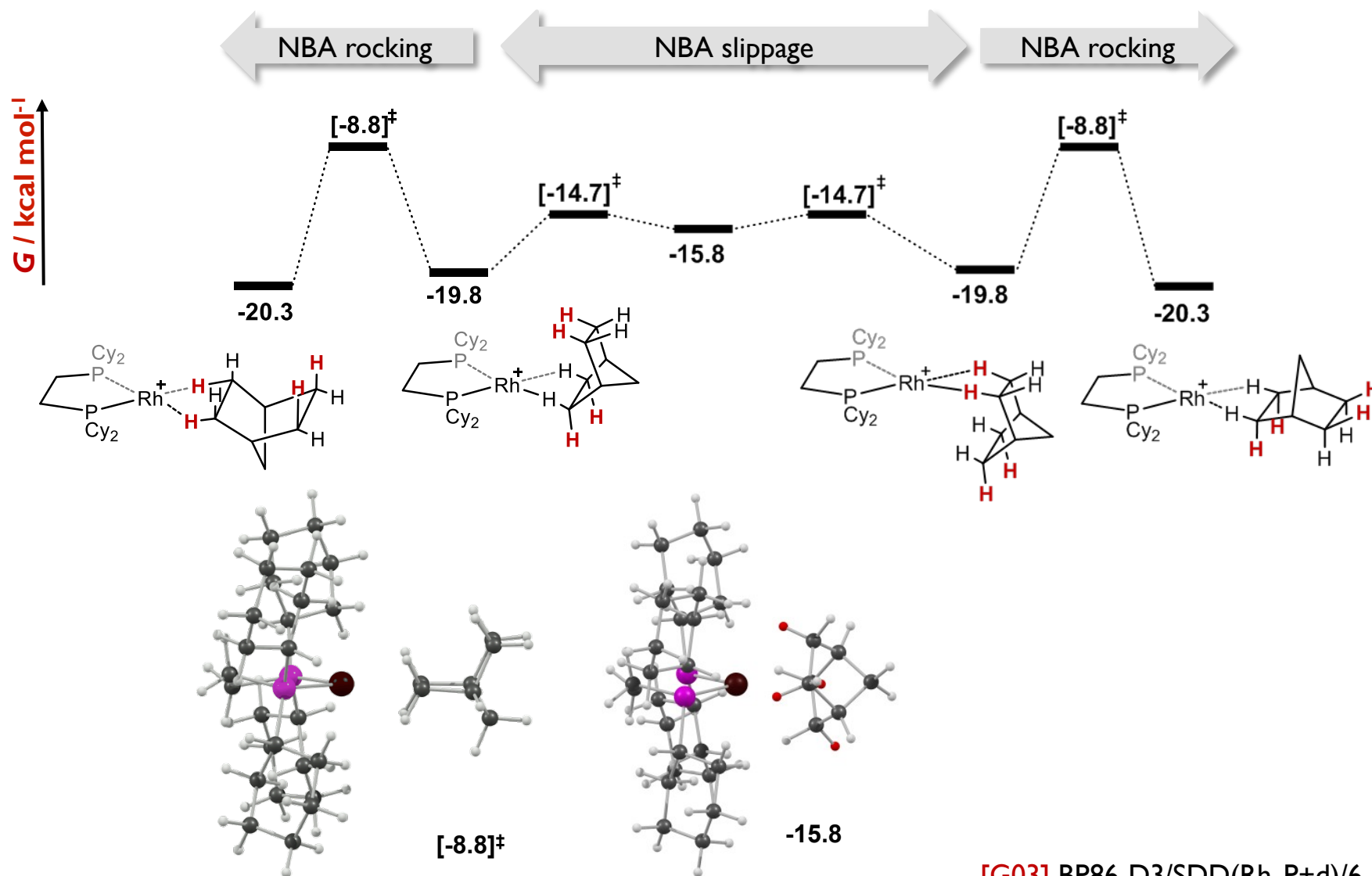


- further reaction (hours) with D_2 leads to d_8 -norbornane products:



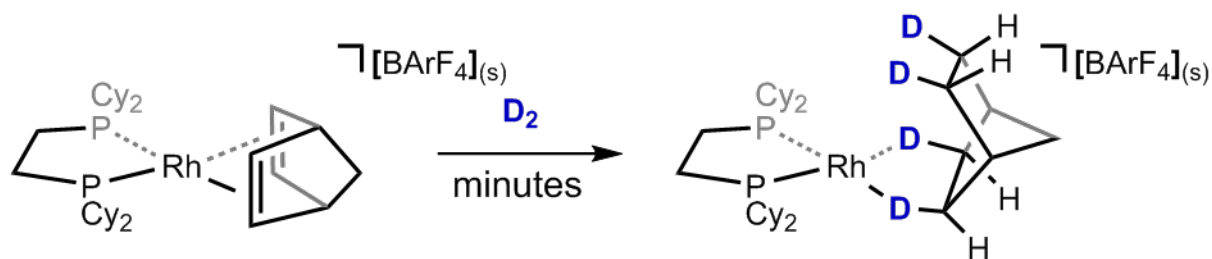
- C–H/D activation is reversible and selective for the *exo*-positions
 - implies significant rearrangement of the initially formed ligand (NBA)

NBA rearrangement: rocking and slipping...

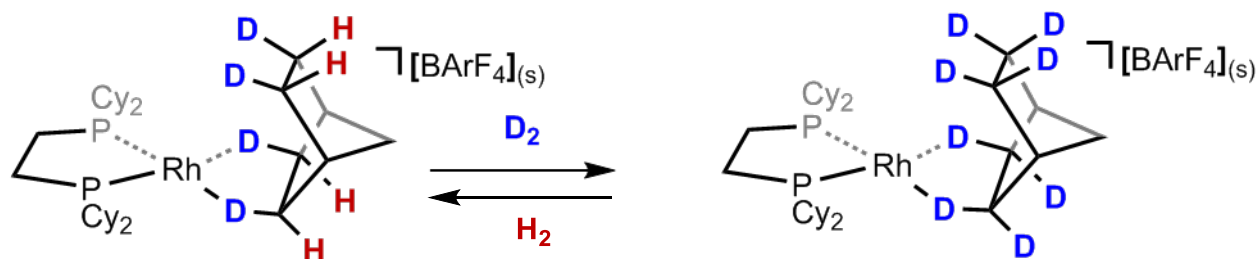


Solid State Reactivity: Summary of Molecular Calculations vs. Experiment

✓ calculations readily account for the observed *endo-endo* selectivity:

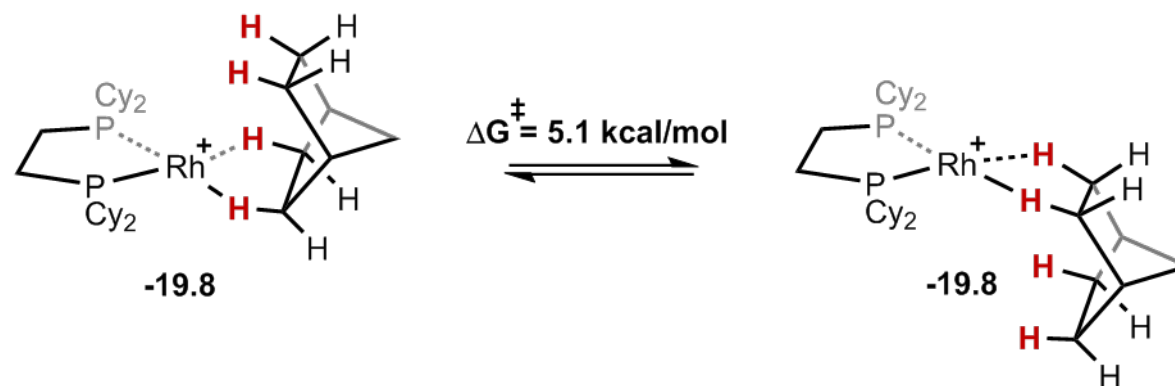


✓ and favour reversible *exo-C-H* activation over *endo-C-H* activation:



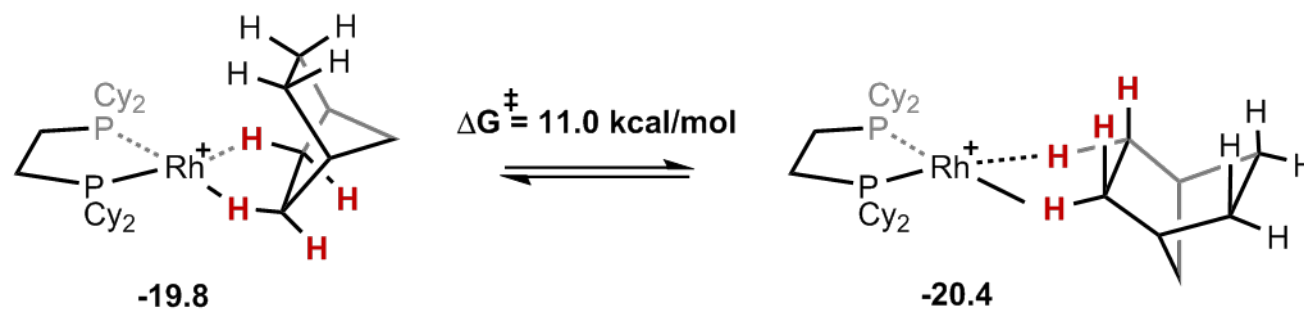
Solid State Reactivity: Summary of Molecular Calculations vs. Experiment

✗ **BUT**: indicate low barriers to reorganisation:

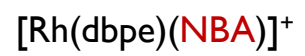



→ inconsistent with static SSNMR and lack of disorder in X-ray


✗ predict the wrong geometry of the σ -alkane complex!



Cation embedded in cavity



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Computational Model for Solid Phase

unit cell



+ full unit cell

- + QM (periodic DFT)
- + CP2K
- large system (>600 atoms)
- “spectator” sites

slab model



+ 3x3x4 “block”

- + QM/MM
- + Gaussian
- FF parameters not well-defined
- rigid framework (frozen atoms)

embedded cluster



- + QM cluster embedded in large array of MM atoms
- + QM/MM
- + ChemShell interface
- + surrounding point charges

GEO_OPT Input Sections



```
&FORCE_EVAL
METHOD QS
&DFT
  (usual DFT stuff)
  &SCF
    SCF_GUESS ATOMIC
    EPS_SCF 1.0E-7 (testing)
    &OT ON
      MINIMIZER DIIS
    &END OT
    MAX_SCF 30
  &OUTER_SCF
    MAX_SCF 30
    EPS_SCF 1.0E-7
  &END OUTER_SCF
&END SCF
  &XC_FUNCTIONAL PBE
  &END XC_FUNCTIONAL
  &vdW_POTENTIAL
    DISPERSION_FUNCTIONAL PAIR_POTENTIAL
    &PAIR_POTENTIAL
      TYPE DFTD3 (Grimme D3)
      PARAMETER_FILE_NAME /work/e338/e338/kraemer/DATA/dftd3.dat
      REFERENCE_FUNCTIONAL PBE
    &END PAIR_POTENTIAL
  &END vdW_POTENTIAL
&END XC
&END DFT
&SUBSYS
  &CELL
    ABC 17.2650 19.2495 19.8297 (size of cell)
    ALPHA_BETA_GAMMA 88.0526 87.5056 89.1472
    PERIODIC XYZ (periodic boundary conditions)
  &END CELL
  &TOPOLOGY
    COORDINATE XYZ
    COORD_FILE_NAME input.xyz (external xyz)
    CONNECTIVITY OFF
  &END TOPOLOGY
```

```
&KIND Rh
  BASIS_SET DZVP-MOLOPT-SR-GTH
  POTENTIAL GTH-PBE-q17
&END
&KIND C
  BASIS_SET DZVP-MOLOPT-SR-GTH
  POTENTIAL GTH-PBE-q4
&END
&KIND P
  BASIS_SET DZVP-MOLOPT-SR-GTH
  POTENTIAL GTH-PBE-q5
&END
  [...]
&END SUBSYS
&END FORCE_EVAL

&MOTION
  &GEO_OPT
    OPTIMIZER BFGS
    MAX_DR [bohr] 3.0E-3 (default)
    RMS_DR [bohr] 1.5E-3 (default)
    MAX_FORCE [bohr^-1*hartree] 1.0E-4 (testing)
    RMS_FORCE [bohr^-1*hartree] 3.0E-4 (default)
  &END GEO_OPT
  &PRINT
    &TRAJECTORY
    &EACH
      GEO_OPT 1
    &END EACH
  &END TRAJECTORY
  &END
&END MOTION

&GLOBAL
  PROJECT Rh-dcype-nbd_bulk_opt
  PRINT_LEVEL MEDIUM
  RUN_TYPE GEO_OPT
&END GLOBAL
```

check stress tensor
(< 1 GPa)

VIB_ANALYSIS Input Sections



```
&FORCE_EVAL
METHOD QS
STRESS_TENSOR ANALYTICAL
&DFT
  (usual DFT stuff)
  &SCF
    SCF_GUESS RESTART (in combination with WFN_RESTART_FILE_NAME)
    EPS_SCF 1.0E-8 (testing)
    &OT ON
      MINIMIZER DIIS
    &END OT
    MAX_SCF 30
    &OUTER_SCF
      MAX_SCF 30
      EPS_SCF 1.0E-8
    &END OUTER_SCF
  &END SCF
  &XC_FUNCTIONAL PBE
  &END XC_FUNCTIONAL
  &vdW_POTENTIAL
    DISPERSION_FUNCTIONAL PAIR_POTENTIAL
    &PAIR_POTENTIAL
      TYPE DFTD3 (Grimme D3)
      PARAMETER_FILE_NAME /work/e338/e338/kraemer/DATA/dftd3.dat
      REFERENCE_FUNCTIONAL PBE
    &END PAIR_POTENTIAL
  &END vdW_POTENTIAL
&END XC
&END DFT
&SUBSYS
  &CELL
    ABC 17.2650 19.2495 19.8297 (size of cell)
    ALPHA_BETA_GAMMA 88.0526 87.5056 89.1472
    PERIODIC XYZ (periodic boundary conditions)
  &END CELL
  &TOPOLOGY
    COORDINATE XYZ
    COORD_FILE_NAME finalt.xyz (external xyz)
    CONNECTIVITY OFF
  &END TOPOLOGY

&KIND Rh
  BASIS_SET DZVP-MOLOPT-SR-GTH
  POTENTIAL GTH-PBE-q17
&END
&KIND C
  BASIS_SET DZVP-MOLOPT-SR-GTH
  POTENTIAL GTH-PBE-q4
&END
&KIND P
  BASIS_SET DZVP-MOLOPT-SR-GTH
  POTENTIAL GTH-PBE-q5
&END
[...]
```

```
&END SUBSYS
&END FORCE_EVAL
```

&VIBRATIONAL_ANALYSIS

```
NPROC_REP 64
DX 0.01
FULLY_PERIODIC TRUE
INTENSITIES
&PRINT
  &PROGRAM_RUN_INFO ON
  &END
  &MOLDEN_VIB
    FILENAME=frequencies.mol
  &END
&END
```

```
&END VIBRATIONAL_ANALYSIS
```

&GLOBAL

```
PROJECT Rh-dcype-nbd_bulk_freq
PRINT_LEVEL MEDIUM
RUN_TYPE VIBRATIONAL_ANALYSIS
```

```
&END GLOBAL
```

GEO_OPT

VIB_ANALYSIS

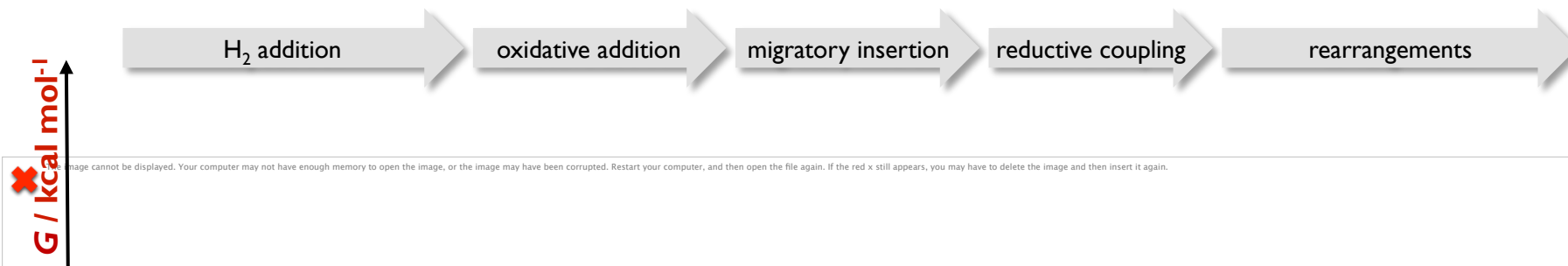
EPS_SCF	MAX_DR	RMS_DR	MAX_FORCE	RMS_FORCE	EPS_SCF	#Imag
10 ⁻⁶	0.00300	0.00150	0.00045	0.00030	10 ⁻⁶	>80
10 ⁻⁷	0.00300	0.00150	0.00045	0.00030	10 ⁻⁷	10
10 ⁻⁸	0.00300	0.00150	0.00045	0.00030	10 ⁻⁸	2
10 ⁻⁷	0.00300	0.00150	0.00045	0.00030	10 ⁻⁷	10
10 ⁻⁷	0.00300	0.00150	0.00010	0.00030	10 ⁻⁷	9
10 ⁻⁷	0.00300	0.00150	0.00010	0.00030	10 ⁻⁸	0

VIB| NORMAL MODES - CARTESIAN DISPLACEMENTS

VIB	1	2	3
VIB Frequency (cm ⁻¹)	-408.337558	-385.206963	-356.051407
VIB Intensities	0.005867	0.003045	0.005495
VIB Red.Masses (a.u.)	2.907822	2.843022	2.136175
VIB Frc consts (a.u.)	-0.000207	-0.000160	-0.000088

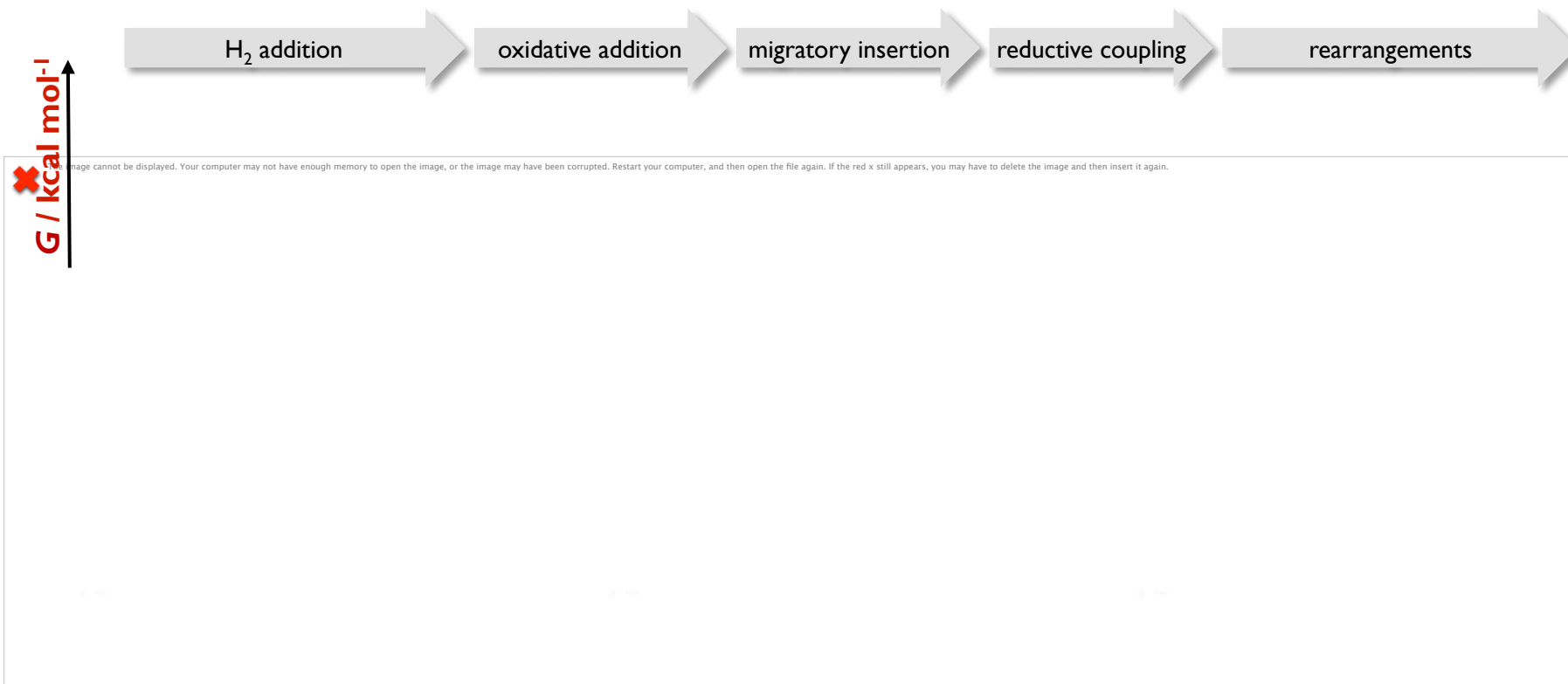
Hydrogenation in the Solid State

- NBD to NBE @NBD unit cell



Hydrogenation in the Solid State

- NBD to NBE @NBD unit cell



MEP_{oa}

MEP_{mi}

MEP_{rc}

BAND Input Sections



```
&FORCE_EVAL
METHOD QS
&DFT
  (usual DFT stuff)
  &SCF
    SCF_GUESS ATOMIC
    EPS_SCF 1.0E-6 (testing)
    &OT ON
      MINIMIZER DIIS
    &END OT
    MAX_SCF 30
    &OUTER_SCF
      MAX_SCF 30
      EPS_SCF 1.0E-6
    &END OUTER_SCF
  &END SCF
  &XC_FUNCTIONAL PBE
  &END XC_FUNCTIONAL
  &vdw_POTENTIAL
    DISPERSION_FUNCTIONAL PAIR_POTENTIAL
    &PAIR_POTENTIAL
      TYPE DFTD3 (Grimme D3)
      PARAMETER_FILE_NAME /work/e338/e338/kraemer/DATA/dftd3.dat
      REFERENCE_FUNCTIONAL PBE
    &END PAIR_POTENTIAL
  &END vdw_POTENTIAL
&END XC
&END DFT
&SUBSYS
  &CELL
    ABC 17.2650 19.2495 19.8297 (size of cell)
    ALPHA_BETA_GAMMA 88.0526 87.5056 89.1472
    PERIODIC XYZ (periodic boundary conditions)
  &END CELL
  &TOPOLOGY
    COORDINATE XYZ
    COORD_FILE_NAME start.xyz (external xyz)
    CONNECTIVITY OFF
  &END TOPOLOGY
```

```
&KIND Rh
  BASIS_SET DZVP-MOLOPT-SR-GTH
  POTENTIAL GTH-PBE-q17
&END
  [...]
&END SUBSYS
&END FORCE_EVAL

&MOTION
  &BAND
    NPROC_REP 48
    BAND_TYPE CI-NEB (optimizes to TS)
    NUMBER_OF_REPLICA 16
    &CONVERGENCE_CONTROL
      MAX_FORCE [bohr^-1*hartree] 8.0E-4 (testing)
    &END CONVERGENCE_CONTROL
    &OPTIMIZE_BAND
      OPT_TYPE DIIS
      &DIIS
        MAX_STEPS 1000
        N_DIIS 3
      &END DIIS
    &END OPTIMIZE_BAND
    &REPLICA
      COORD_FILE_NAME start.xyz (external xyz)
    &END REPLICA
    ! &REPLICA
    ! COORD_FILE_NAME inter.xyz (external xyz)
    ! &END REPLICA
    &REPLICA
      COORD_FILE_NAME end.xyz (external xyz)
    &END REPLICA
  &END BAND
&END MOTION

&GLOBAL
PROJECT Rh-dcype-nbd_HH_bulk_ts
PRINT_LEVEL MEDIUM
RUN_TYPE BAND
&END GLOBAL
```


DIMER Input Sections



```
&FORCE_EVAL
METHOD QS
&DFT
  (usual DFT stuff)
  &SCF
    SCF_GUESS RESTART (in combination with WFN_RESTART_FILE_NAME)
    EPS_SCF 1.0E-7 (testing)
    &OT ON
      MINIMIZER DIIS
    &END OT
    MAX_SCF 30
    &OUTER_SCF
      MAX_SCF 30
      EPS_SCF 1.0E-7
    &END OUTER_SCF
  &END SCF
  &XC_FUNCTIONAL PBE
  &END XC_FUNCTIONAL
  &vdW_POTENTIAL
    DISPERSION_FUNCTIONAL PAIR_POTENTIAL
    &PAIR_POTENTIAL
      TYPE DFTD3 (Grimme D3)
      PARAMETER_FILE_NAME /work/e338/e338/kraemer/DATA/dftd3.dat
      REFERENCE_FUNCTIONAL PBE
    &END PAIR_POTENTIAL
  &END vdW_POTENTIAL
&END XC
&END DFT
&SUBSYS
  &CELL
    ABC 17.2650 19.2495 19.8297 (size of cell)
    ALPHA_BETA_GAMMA 88.0526 87.5056 89.1472
    PERIODIC XYZ (periodic boundary conditions)
  &END CELL
  &TOPOLOGY
    COORDINATE XYZ
    COORD_FILE_NAME start.xyz (external xyz)
  &END TOPOLOGY
[...]
```

```
&END FORCE_EVAL
```

```
&MOTION
  &GEO_OPT
    TYPE TRANSITION_STATE
    &TRANSITION_STATE
      METHOD DIMER
      &DIMER
        DR [angstrom] 0.01
        INTERPOLATE_GRADIENT T
        &ROT_OPT
          OPTIMIZER CG
          MAX_ITER
          &CG
            MAX_STEEP_STEPS 0
            &LINE_SEARCH
              TYPE 2PNT
            &END LINE_SEARCH
          &END CG
        &END ROT_OPT
      &DIMER_VECTOR
        @include 'vector' (external file)
      &END DIMER_VECTOR
    &END DIMER
  &END TRANSITION_STATE
  OPTIMIZER CG
  &CG
    &LINE_SEARCH
      TYPE 2PNT
    &END LINE_SEARCH
  &END CG
  MAX_FORCE 1.0E-4
  MAX_ITER 1000
&END GEO_OPT
&PRINT
  &TRAJECTORY
    &EACH
      GEO_OPT 1 &GLOBAL
    &END EACH
  &END TRAJECTORY
  PRINT_LEVEL MEDIUM
  RUN_TYPE GEO_OPT
&END MOTION &END GLOBAL
```

“SCAN” Input Sections



```
&FORCE_EVAL
METHOD QS
&DFT (usual DFT stuff)
&SCF
  SCF_GUESS ATOMIC
  EPS_SCF 1.0E-5
  &OT ON
    MINIMIZER DIIS
  &END OT
  MAX_SCF 30
&OUTER_SCF
  MAX_SCF 30
  EPS_SCF 1.0E-5
&END OUTER_SCF
&END SCF
&XC_FUNCTIONAL PBE
&END XC_FUNCTIONAL
&vdW_POTENTIAL
  DISPERSION_FUNCTIONAL PAIR_POTENTIAL
  &PAIR_POTENTIAL
    TYPE DFTD3 (Grimme D3)
    PARAMETER_FILE_NAME /work/e338/e338/kraemer/DATA/dftd3.dat
    REFERENCE_FUNCTIONAL PBE
  &END PAIR_POTENTIAL
&END vdW_POTENTIAL
&END XC
&END DFT
&SUBSYS
&CELL
  ABC 17.2650 19.2495 19.8297
  ALPHA_BETA_GAMMA 88.0526 87.5056 89.1472
  PERIODIC XYZ
&END CELL
&COLVAR (define collective variable)
  &DISTANCE
    ATOMS 648 307
  &END DISTANCE
  &PRINT
  &END PRINT
&END COLVAR
```

```
[...]
&END SUBSYS
&END FORCE_EVAL

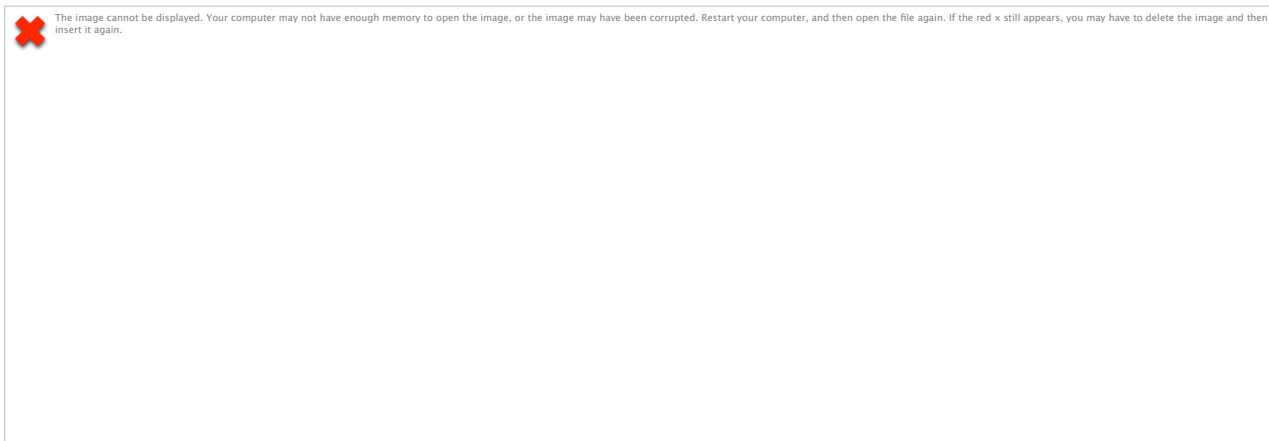
&MOTION
  &CONSTRAINT
    &COLLECTIVE
      COLVAR 1
      INTERMOLECULAR T
      &RESTRAINT
        K=10.0 (force constant for harmonic
                restraint)
    &END RESTRAINT
      TARGET [angstrom] 2.72
    &END COLLECTIVE
  &END CONSTRAINT
&GEO_OPT
  OPTIMIZER BFGS
  MAX_FORCE 1.0E-3
&END GEO_OPT
&PRINT
  &TRAJECTORY
    &EACH
      GEO_OPT 1
    &END EACH
  &END TRAJECTORY
&END PRINT
&END MOTION

&GLOBAL
  PROJECT scan
  PRINT_LEVEL MEDIUM
  RUN_TYPE GEO_OPT
&END GLOBAL
```


NBA Rearrangement in the Solid State (@NBA unit cell)

$E / \text{kcal mol}^{-1}$

NBA rotation



MEP_{rot}


Non-covalent interactions

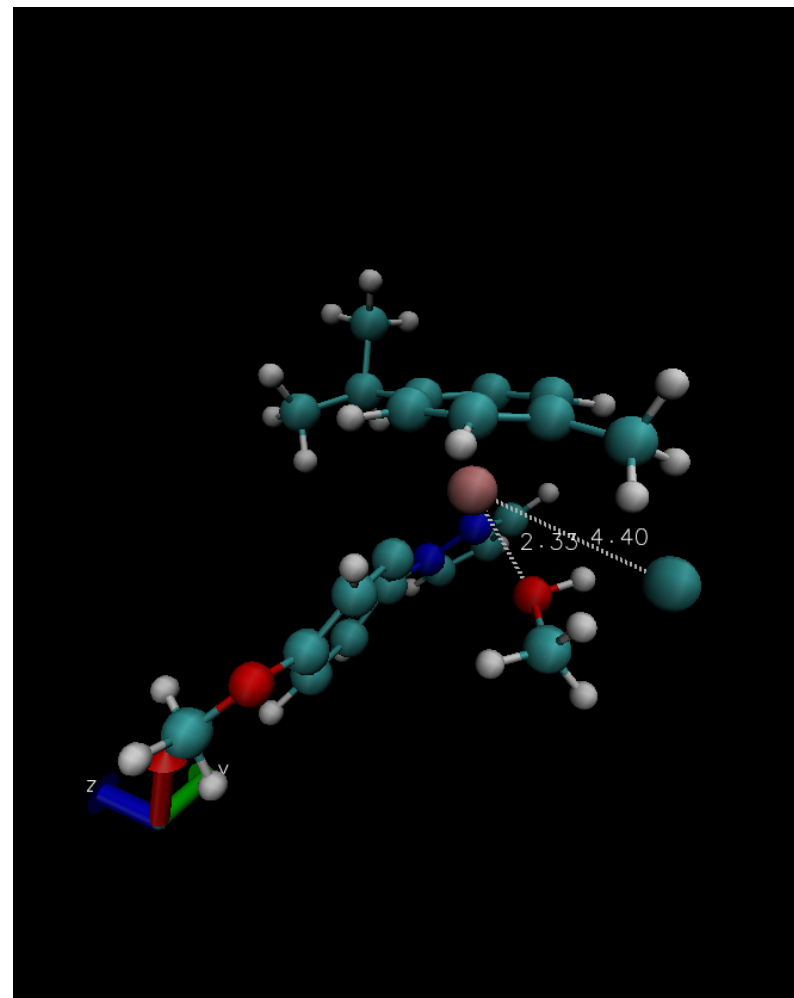
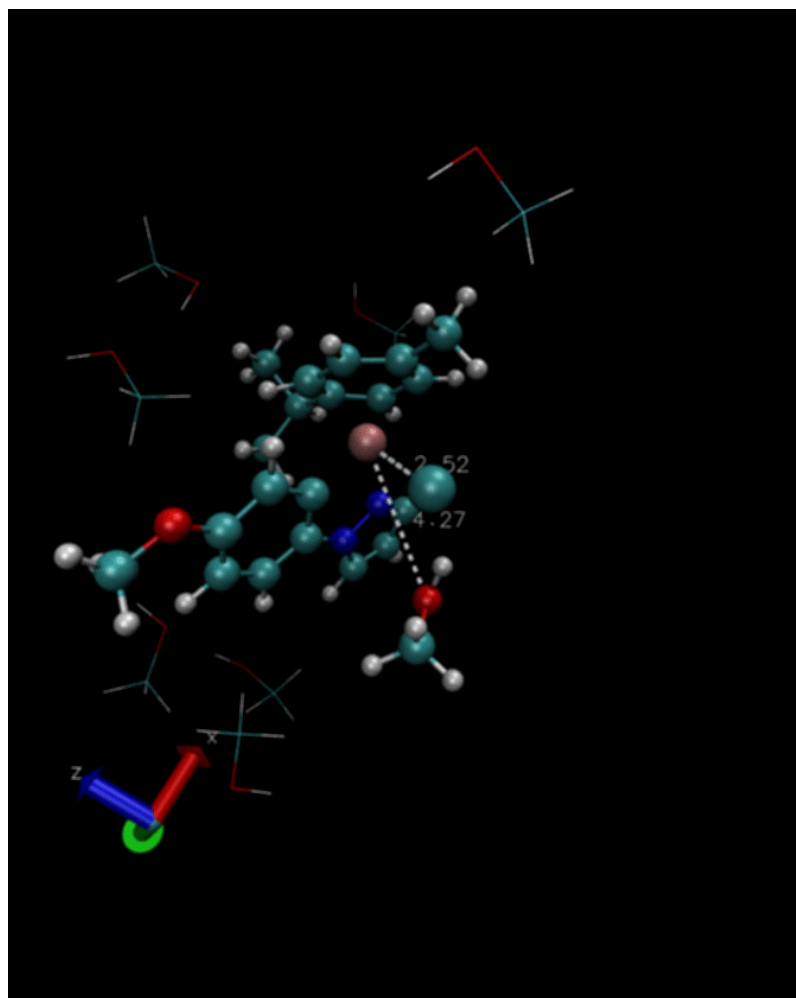


Contreras-García, Johnson, Keinan, Chaudret, Piquemal, Beratan, Yang *J. Chem.Theo. Comp.* **2011**, 373, 625.

[NCIPLOT]

Ionic Ligand Exchange

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Established protocols for running periodic DFT calculations

Mechanistic study of Hydrogenation steps in Solid Phase

Mapping out H₂ addition PES, substrate rearrangement

Stereoselectivity (*endo/endo*)

Considering changes in unit cell

Molecular dynamics

Dynamical behaviour of substrate and cavity

NMR Spectroscopy

Estimate chemical shifts of species in solid phase (impact of crystal environment)

Long-term goal

“The real test of understanding is prediction” Roald Hoffmann

Understanding – Prediction – Design

Acknowledgements



Prof Andrew S. Weller

Dr Alex Simperler

NSCCS

Dr Mark Chadwick

Dr Sebastian Pike

Dr Nick Rees (SSNMR)

Dr Iain Bethune

epcc



Prof Stuart A. Macgregor

Dr Fiona Reid



Dr Dave Johnson



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

Prof Jürg Hutter

Dr Marcella Iannuzzi

EPSRC

Pioneering research
and skills



Thank you for your attention...

