

Progressing nonadiabatic molecular dynamics: User-friendly
development and community-driven benchmarks
VISTA Seminar

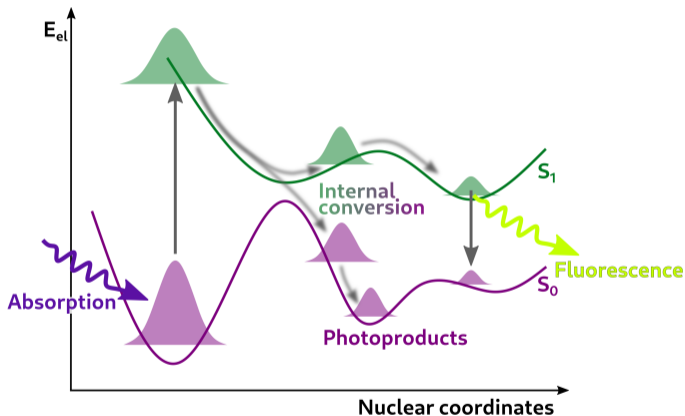
Lea M. Ibele

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January 29, 2025

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Photochemistry



Molecule is in its ground state

Absorbs a photon

Gets excited to e.g. S_1 :
creation of a *wavepacket*

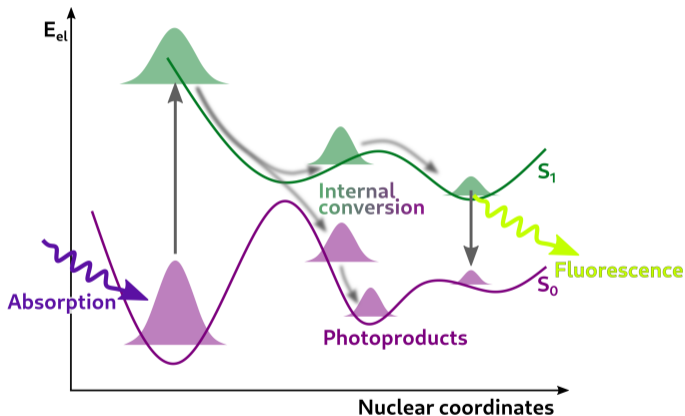
Evolution in S_1

Regions of high nonadiabaticity:
wavepacket splits

Out-of-equilibrium dynamics

Very long timescales: radiative
deactivation

Simulating Photochemistry



Challenge for theoretical chemistry:

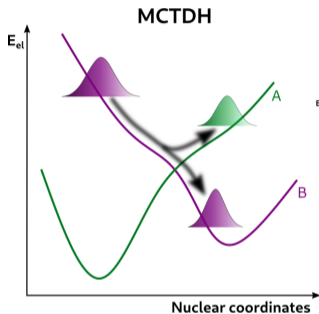
Solving TDSE for molecules:

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}, t) = \hat{H}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}) \Psi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}, t)$$

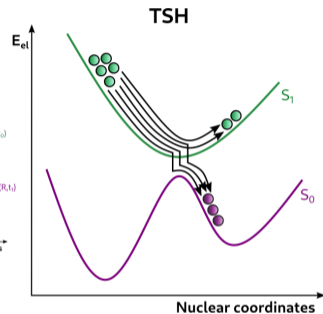
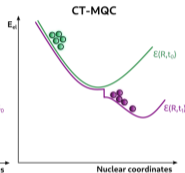
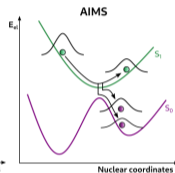
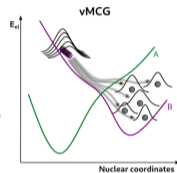
$$\hat{H}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}) = \hat{T}_n(\mathbf{R}) + \hat{H}_{BO}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R})$$

- ▶ Electrons and nuclei coupled!
- ▶ **Beyond Born-Oppenheimer approximation**
- ▶ Accurate electronic structure
- ▶ **Nuclear dynamics**

Nonadiabatic Molecular Dynamics



Wavepacket propagation
Nuclear Quantum Effects
Analytical potentials



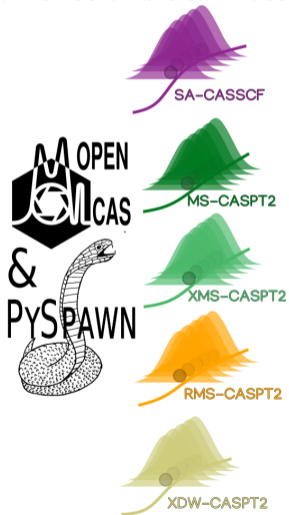
Classical trajectories
Mixed quantum-classical dynamics
Highly efficient dynamics

What limits the usability of different NAMD approaches?

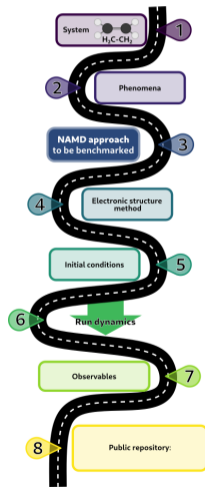
Nonadiabatic Molecular Dynamics – The User’s Perspective

Two important questions:

Which software can I use?



Which method is the best for my problem?



Freely Available/Open-Source NAMD Software

Desired Qualities:

- ▶ Different interfaces
- ▶ Efficient implementation
- ▶ User-friendly
- ▶ Up-to-date documentation
- ▶ Open-source/free

Many different surface hopping codes that fulfill all these criteria!

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Software Impacts

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/softimp

Original software publication

Libra: A modular software library for quantum nonadiabatic dynamics

Mohammad Shakiba^a, Brendan Smith^a, Wei Li^b, Matthew Dutra^c, Amber Jain^d, Xiang Sun^{e,f,g}, Sophia Garashchuk^h, Alexey Akimov^{i,j}

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JCTC Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation

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ARTICLE

NEXMD v2.0 Software Package for Nonadiabatic Excited State Molecular Dynamics Simulations

Victor M. Freitas, Walter Malone, Xinyang Li, Huijing Song, Hassiel Negrin-Yuvero, Royle Pérez-Castillo, Alexander White, Tammie R. Gibson, Dmitry V. Makhov, Dmitrii V. Shalashilin, Yu Zhang, Nikita Fedik, Maksim Kulichenko, Richard Messerly, Luke Nambi Mohanam, Sahar Sharifzadeh, Adolfo Bastida, Shaul Mukamel, Sebastian Fernandez-Alberti,^o and Sergei Tretiak^o

Cite This: *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* 2022, 19, 5156–5168

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ABSTRACT: We present NEXMD version 2.0, the second release of the NEXMD (Nonadiabatic Excited-state Molecular Dynamics) software package. Across a variety of new features, NEXMD v2.0 incorporates new implementations of two hybrid quantum-classical dynamics methods, namely, Ehrenfest dynamics (EHR) and the Ab-Initio Multiple Cloning sampling technique for Multiconfigurational Ehrenfest quantum dynamics (MCE-AIMC or simply AIMC), which are alternative options to the previously implemented trajectory surface hopping (TSH) method. To illustrate these methodologies, we outline a direct comparison of these three hybrid quantum-classical dynamics methods as implemented in the same NEXMD framework, discussing their weaknesses and strengths, using the modeled photochemistry of a polyphenylene ethylene

NEXMD v2.0

AIMC, TSH, EHR, FrozeNM

JCTC Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation

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ARTICLE

PySpawn: Software for Nonadiabatic Quantum Molecular Dynamics

Dmitry A. Fedorov, Stefan Seifan, B. Scott Fales, Todd J. Martínez, and Benjamin G. Levine^o

Cite This: *J. Chem. Theory Comput.* 2020, 16, 5485–5498

ACCESS | Metrics & More | Article Recommendations | Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The ab-initio multiple spawning (AIMS) method enables nonadiabatic n -dimensional calculations performed on the replicates software development, of postsimulation data analysis, a package that addresses these n th electronic structure software, is described here. PySpawn algorithm, allowing fine-grained control in a future release. PySpawn includes a user-friendly and interactive n painlessly adopt AIMS. As a demonstration of PySpawn's simulation space self-consistent field based AIMS simulations of the 1,2-dithienyl-1,2-eth.

QUANTICS

Ψ

A suite of programs for molecular QUANTUM dynamics simulations

Worth Group
University College London
Department of Chemistry

Received: 7 May 2021 | Revised: 30 June 2021 | Accepted: 16 June 2021
DOI: 10.1002/jctc.24731

SOFTWARE NOTE

PyUNixMD: A Python-based excited state molecular dynamics package

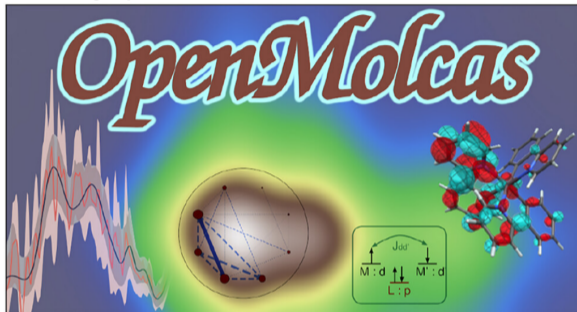
In Seong Lee | Jong-Kwon Ha^o | Daeho Han | Tae In Kim | Sung Wook Moon | Seung Kyu Min^o

PySpawn / OpenMolcas

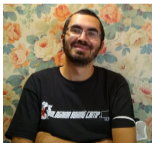
Combining highly accurate nonadiabatic dynamics with highly accurate electronic structure

```

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.MI "Y
'7NMpdMAo.'7M' 'MF' 'Mhb.' '7NMpdMAo.' '6"Yb.' '7M' 'A' 'MF' '7NMpMhb.
MM 'Mb VA ,V 'YMKq. MM 'Mb B) MM VA ,VAA ,V MM MM
MM 'SB VA ,V 'MM MM 'MS ,pr9MM VA ,V VA ,V MM MM
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Fedorov et al., *JCTC* (2020), 16, 9, 5485



Davide Avagliano



Ben Levine



Arshad Mehmood

Li Manni et al., *JCTC* (2023), 19, 20, 6933

JCTC
Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation

pubs.acs.org/JCTC

Article

Ab Initio Multiple Spawning Nonadiabatic Dynamics with Different CASPT2 Flavors: A Fully Open-Source PySpawn/OpenMolcas Interface

Lea M. Ibele,* Arshad Memhood, Benjamin G. Levine, and Davide Avagliano*

Gaussian Based Methods

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}, t) = \sum_J \Phi_J(\mathbf{r}; \mathbf{R}) \chi_J(\mathbf{R}, t)$$

$$\chi_J(\mathbf{R}, t) = \sum_k^{N_{\text{TBF}}} C_k^{(J)}(t) \tilde{\chi}_k^J(\bar{\mathbf{R}}_k^{(J)}(t), \bar{\mathbf{P}}_k^{(J)}(t), \boldsymbol{\alpha})$$

Insert this in the TDSE, project onto an adiabatic state \rightarrow evolution equations for coefficients

$$i \frac{d\mathbf{C}^I}{dt} = -i(\mathbf{S}^{-1})_{II} \left[(\mathbf{H}_{II} - i\dot{\mathbf{S}}_{II}) \mathbf{C}^I + \sum_{J \neq I} \mathbf{H}_{IJ} \mathbf{C}^J \right]$$

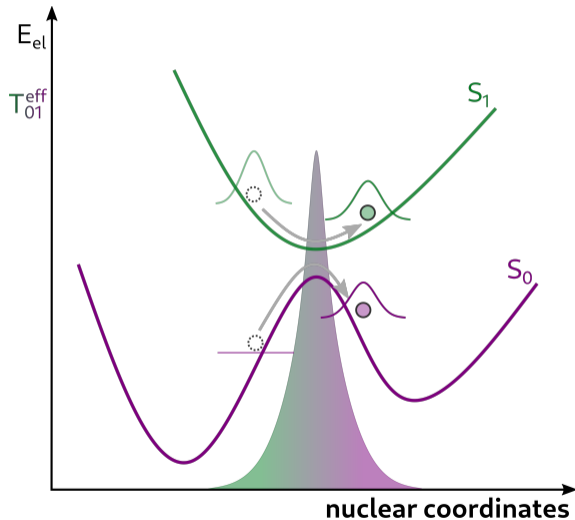
How to evolve the Gaussians?

- ① Using the TDSE/DFVP \rightarrow *variational multiconfigurational Gaussian (vMCG)*
- ② Using mixed quantum/classical dynamics \rightarrow *multiconfigurational Ehrenfest (MCE)*
- ③ Using classical dynamics \rightarrow *full and ab initio multiple spawning (FMS/AIMS)*

Full Multiple Spawning

FMS main principles:

- ▶ Nuclear wavefunction expanded in a set of Gaussians
- ▶ TDSE is replaced by the evolution equations of the complex coefficients
- ▶ FMS uses *frozen Gaussians*: $\alpha_k^{(j)}(t) \rightarrow \alpha$
- ▶ The Gaussians evolve as *classical trajectories*: $\bar{\mathbf{R}}_k^{(j)}(t)$ and $\bar{\mathbf{P}}_k^{(j)}(t)$ evolve according to Newton's equations
- ▶ FMS introduces a *spawning algorithm*, the number of TBFs adapts over time: $N_{\text{TBF}} \rightarrow N_{\text{TBF}}(t)$



Full Multiple Spawning

$$i\dot{\mathbf{C}}^I = -i(\mathbf{S}^{-1})_{II} \left[(\mathbf{H}_{II} - i\dot{\mathbf{S}}_{II})\mathbf{C}^I + \sum_{J \neq I} \mathbf{H}_{IJ}\mathbf{C}^J \right]$$

with the nuclear overlap matrices, $(\mathbf{S}_{II})_{kl}$ and $(\dot{\mathbf{S}}_{II})_{kl}$

The Hamiltonian matrix has different couplings between TBFs on the same and on different electronic states:

$$H_{kl}^{II} = \langle \tilde{\chi}_k^I | \hat{T}_n | \tilde{\chi}_l^I \rangle_{\mathbf{R}} + \langle \tilde{\chi}_k^I | \epsilon_{\text{BO}}^{(I)} | \tilde{\chi}_l^I \rangle_{\mathbf{R}} - \langle \tilde{\chi}_k^I | \sum_{\nu} \frac{1}{2M_{\nu}} \mathbf{D}_{II,\nu}(\mathbf{R}) | \tilde{\chi}_l^I \rangle_{\mathbf{R}}$$

$$H_{kl}^{IJ} = - \langle \tilde{\chi}_k^I | \sum_{\nu} \frac{1}{M_{\nu}} \mathbf{d}_{IJ,\nu}(\mathbf{R}) \nabla_{\nu} | \tilde{\chi}_l^J \rangle_{\mathbf{R}} - \langle \tilde{\chi}_k^I | \sum_{\nu} \frac{1}{2M_{\nu}} \mathbf{D}_{IJ,\nu}(\mathbf{R}) | \tilde{\chi}_l^J \rangle_{\mathbf{R}}$$

Ab Initio Multiple Spawning

- ▶ FMS *in principle* exact; for simulation of molecules approximations necessary:
- ▶ → *Ab initio multiple spawning (AIMS)*:
- ▶ Neglect all second order couplings (DBOC and 2nd order NAC)

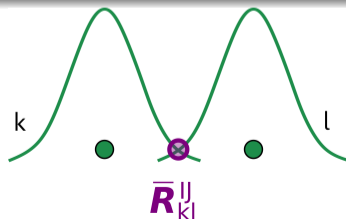
Saddle point approximation (SPA0)

$$H_{kl}^{IJ} = \langle \tilde{\chi}_k^J | \hat{T}_n | \tilde{\chi}_l^I \rangle_{\mathbf{R}} \delta_{IJ} + \underbrace{\langle \tilde{\chi}_k^J | \epsilon_{\text{BO}}^{(I)} | \tilde{\chi}_l^I \rangle_{\mathbf{R}} \delta_{IJ}}$$

integral over all nuclear coordinates

Taylor expansion of order zero around centroid position of Gaussians ($\bar{\mathbf{R}}_{kl}^{IJ}$):

$$\langle \tilde{\chi}_k^J | \theta^{IJ} | \tilde{\chi}_l^I \rangle_{\mathbf{R}} \approx \theta^{IJ} (\bar{\mathbf{R}}_{kl}^{IJ}) \langle \tilde{\chi}_k^J | \tilde{\chi}_l^I \rangle_{\mathbf{R}}$$



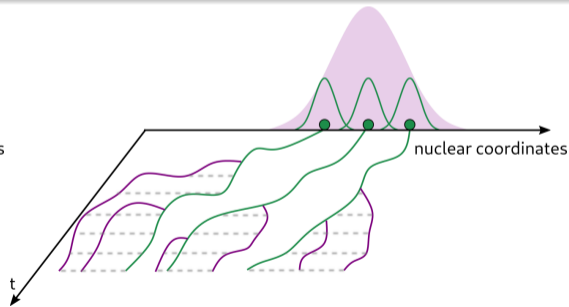
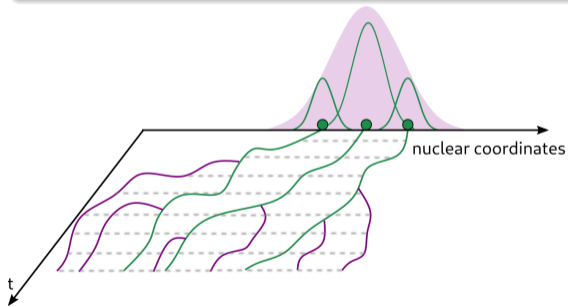
Ab Initio Multiple Spawning

Independent first generation approximation (IFGA)

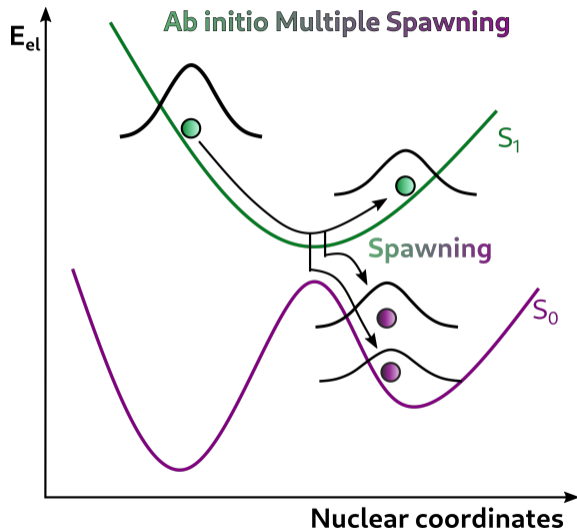
Initial nuclear wave packet usually spreads rapidly in phase space

→ initially coupled TBFs will uncouple rapidly

→ approximate that parent TBFs are uncoupled from the beginning.



Summary Ab Initio Multiple Spawning



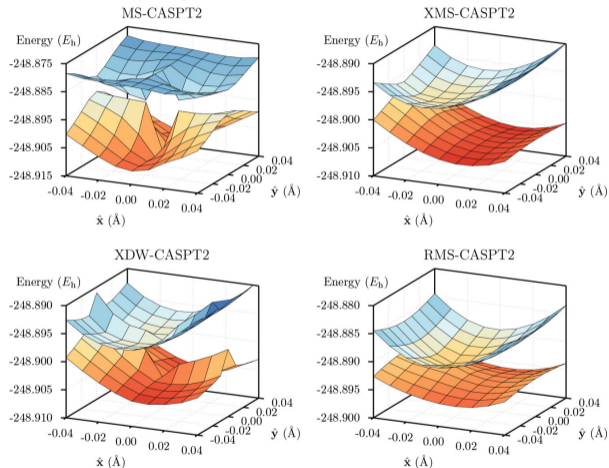
- ▶ Nuclear wavefunction expressed in basis of *Gaussian trajectory basis functions (TBFs)*
- ▶ TBFs propagated classically, but are fully coupled
- ▶ Spawning allows to adapt the size of the basis in regions of high nonadiabaticity
- ▶ Full Multiple Spawning (FMS) *in principle exact*
- ▶ Ab Initio Multiple Spawning (AIMS) for molecules approximates couplings:
 - ▶ Saddle Point Approximation of order zero (SPA0)
 - ▶ Independent First Generation Approximation (IFGA)

Martínez et al., *JPC* (1996), 100, 7884;

Martínez et al., *ACP* (2002), 121, 439-513

Flavours Of CASPT2

CASPT2 widely regarded as the most accurate electronic structure method for NAMD



MS-CASPT2 highly accurate FC energies,
nonsmoothness of PES when states are
close and mixed

XMS-CASPT2 considers full Fock
operator, fixes nonsmoothness but
energies get worse

XDW-CASPT2 best of both worlds,
interpolates between MS and XMS

depending of separation of states
RMS-CASPT2 does not mix states of
different irreps, parameter free.

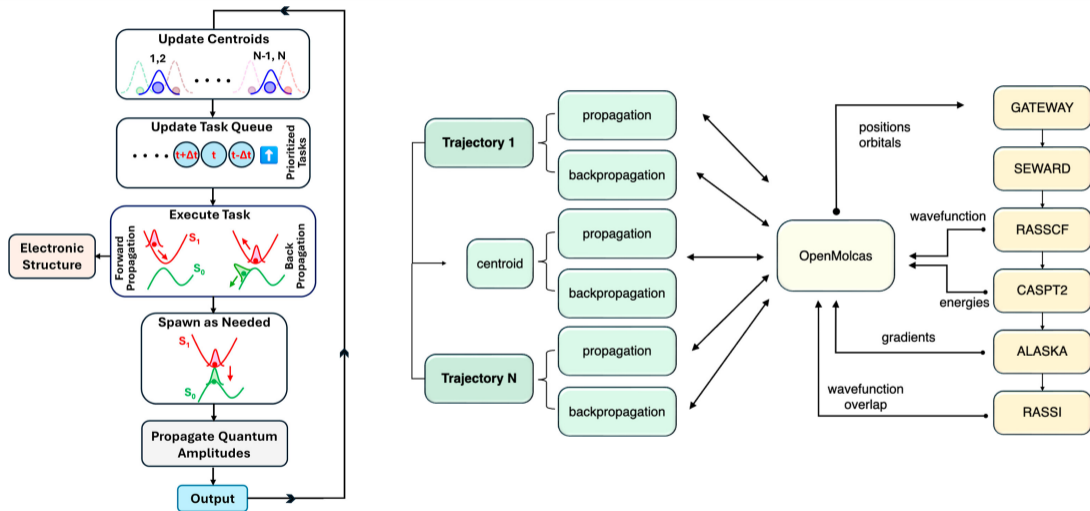
*Efficient analytical gradients in
OpenMolcas*

Nishimoto, *JCP* (2021), 154, 194103

Nishimoto et al., *JCTC* (2022), 18, 4269

Li Manni et al., *JCTC* (2023), 19, 20, 6933

Interface PySpawn / OpenMolcas



PySpawn: A User-Friendly AIMS Code

<https://github.com/blevine37/pySpawn17.git>

Input start.py

```
# finite wigner temperature
wigner_temp = 0

# random number seed
seed=12345

# Velocity Verlet classical propagator
clas_prop = "vv"

# adaptive 2nd-order Runge-Kutta quantum propagator
qm_prop = "fulldiag"

# adiabatic NPI quantum Hamiltonian
qm_ham = "adiabatic"

# use OpenMolcas CASSCF or CASPT2 to compute potentials
potential = "molcas_cas"

# initial time
t0 = 0.0

# time step
ts = 5.0

# final simulation time
tfinal = 1000.00

# number of dimensions
numdims = natoms*3

# number of electronic states
numstates = 2

# OpenMolcas job options
molcas_options = {
    "method": 'caspt2',
    "pt2": 'xms', #only used if caspt2 above
    "basis": '6-31g*',
    "atoms": atoms,
    "charge": 0,
    "spinmult": 1,
    "closed": 7,
    "nactel": 6,
    "actorb": 6,
    "inactive": 18,
    "ipea": 0.0,
    "imaginary": 0.2,
    "casinglets": numstates,
    "castargetmult": 1,
    "cas_energy_states": [0, 1],
    "cas_energy_mults": [1, 1],
    "python3": ## ADD the path to python 3
    "project": 'fulvene_test'
}
```

Analysis and results of dynamics: analysis.py

```
# this analysis script processes the sim.hdf5 file into various human-readable
# formats. This script can be run while the simulation is in progress.
import copy
import pyspawn
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import numpy as np

def plot_total_pop(times):
    """ This plots the total electronic population on each
    electronic state (over all basis functions)"""

    g5 = plt.figure("Total Electronic Populations")
    for n_state in range(nstates):
        plt.plot(times, el_pop[:, n_state], color=colors[n_state],
                 label='S' + str(n_state))
    plt.xlabel('Time, au', fontsize=medium_size)
    plt.ylabel('Population', fontsize=medium_size)
    # plt.text(time[00'][-1] - 13, el_pop[-1, 0] - 0.1,
    #          str(round(el_pop[-1, 0] * 100)) + "%", fontsize=medium_size)
    plt.title('Total Electronic Population', fontsize=large_size)
    plt.tick_params(axis='both', which='major', labelsize=small_size)
    plt.legend(fontsize=medium_size)
    plt.tight_layout()
    g5.savefig("Total_El_pop.png", dpi=300)

def plot_energies(keys, numstates, istates, colors,
                  linetypes, xlims, ylims):
```


Fulvene Dynamics

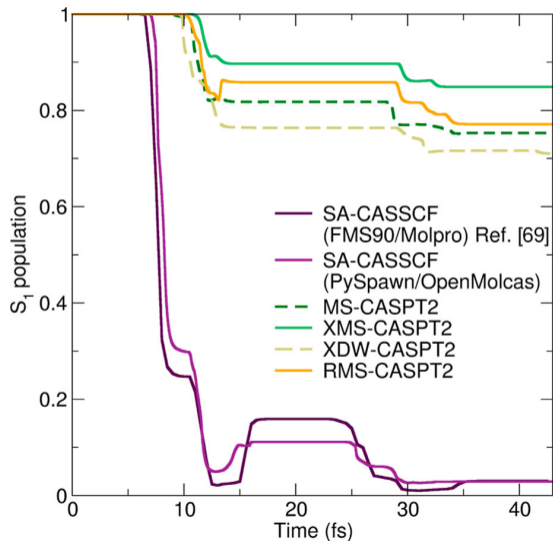
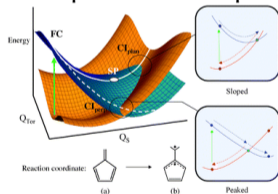
Testsystem: Fulvene

CAS(6,6)/6-31G*, 20 initial conditions

(Wigner sampled, $\mathbf{p} = 0$)

"Molecular Tully model III"

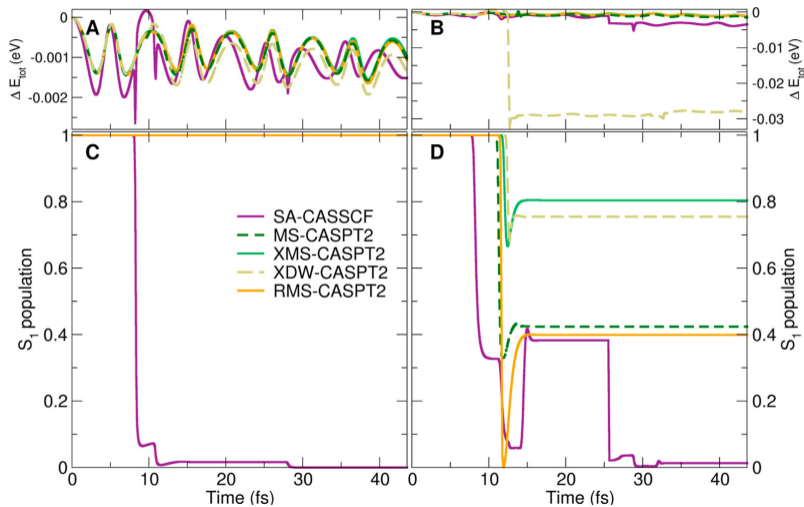
With CASSCF two accessible conical intersections: peaked and sloped



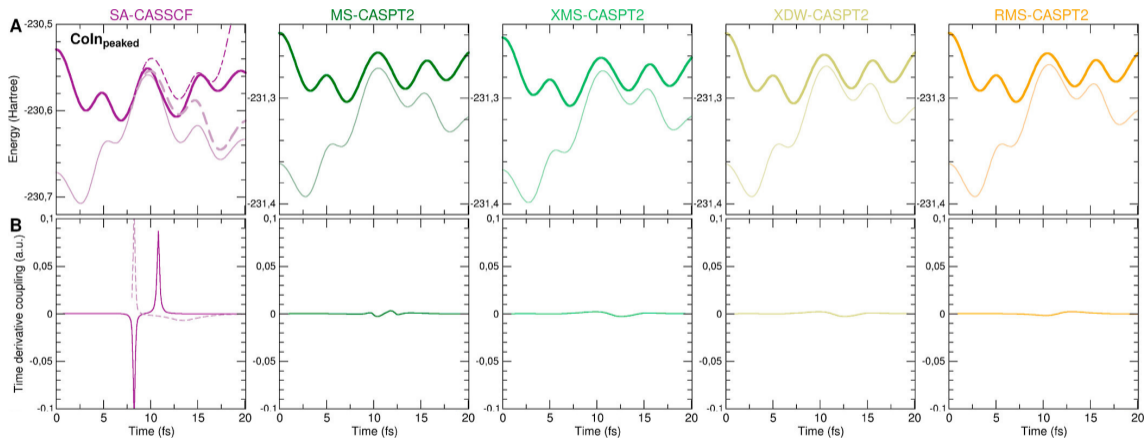
Mendive-Tapia et al., *PCCP* (2010), 12, 15725

Ibele and Curchod, *PCCP* (2020), 22, 15183

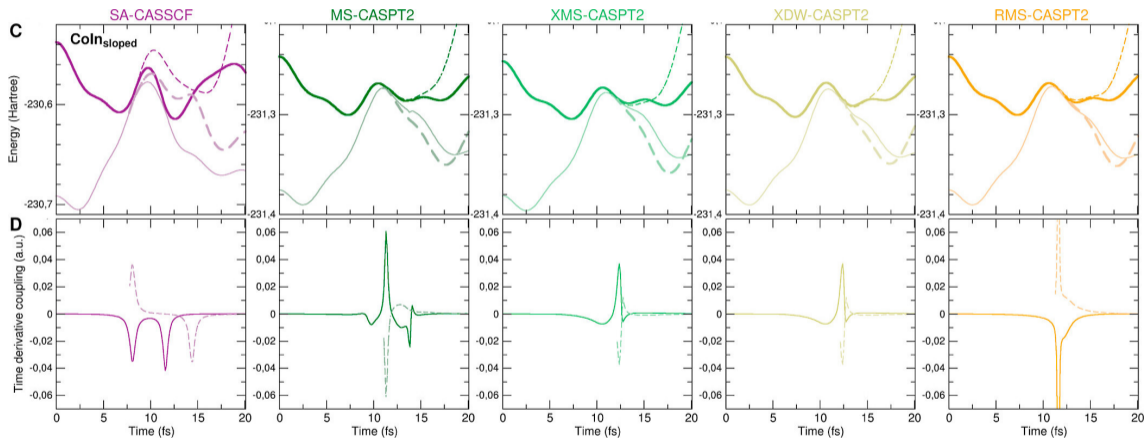
Fulvene Dynamics



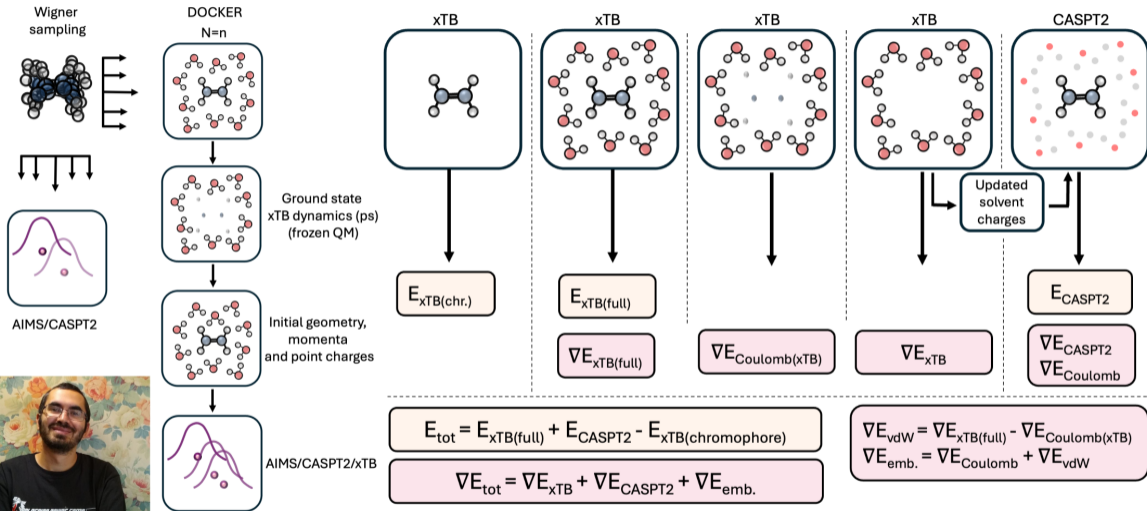
Fulvene Dynamics



Fulvene Dynamics



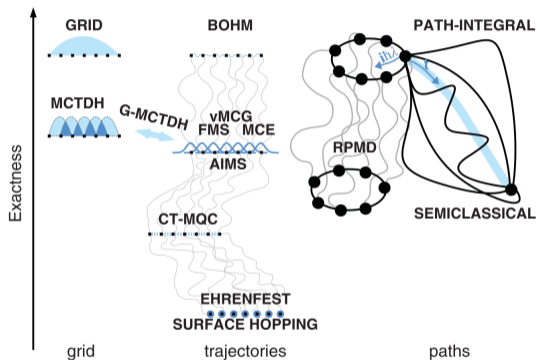
Future Developments



D. Avagliano, *in revision*

Benchmarks for NAMD

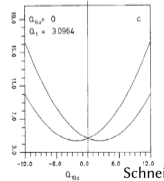
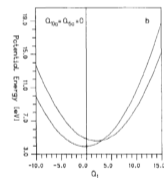
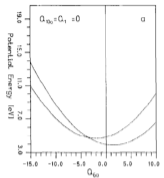
Which method is the best for my problem?



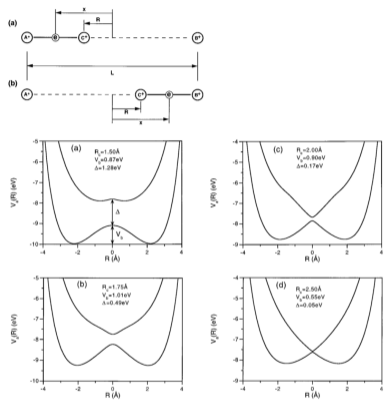
Not a clear hierarchy of nonadiabatic dynamics methods.

Gómez et al. (2020) *Motivation and Basic Concepts*. In *Quantum Chemistry and Dynamics of Excited States* (eds González and Lindh).

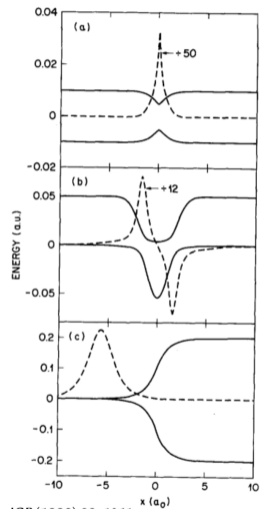
Existing Benchmarks - Low Dimensional Models



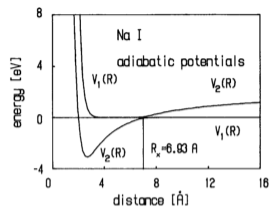
Schneider and Domcke, *CPL* (1988) 150, 235



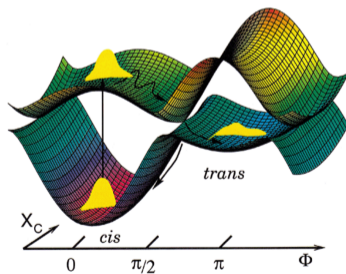
Shin and Metiu, *JCP* (1995) 102, 9285



Tully, *JCP* (1990) 93, 1061



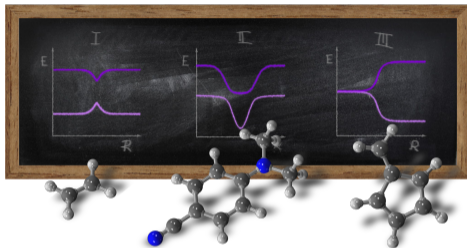
Engel and Metiu, *JCP* (1989) 90, 6116



Hahn and Stock, *JPCB* (2000) 104, 1146.

Existing Benchmarks - Molecular Models

Molecular Tully models



Molecular model consisting of:

System, electronic structure, initial conditions

Problems:

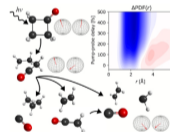
- ▶ Comparison based on adiabatic populations
- ▶ Trajectory oriented initial conditions
- ▶ Commercial electronic structure software

Ibele and Curchod, *PCCP* (2020), 22, 15183

Prediction Challenge: Cyclobutanone Photochemistry

Prediction Challenge: Cyclobutanone Photochemistry

The simulation of photochemical molecular dynamics has been a major challenge to theoretical chemistry because of the need to simultaneously describe quantum mechanical effects of both nuclei and electrons. Numerous advances have been made over the past decade and many would agree that excited state simulations have demonstrated their value in the interpretation of experiments. However, one can question whether these simulations have been unambiguously predictive. True predictive capabilities would pave the way to rational design of light-driven molecular systems, with revolutionary implications for renewable solar energy (directly to electricity or to fuels), biomaging, optogenetics, and photochemical synthesis. Thankfully, new ultrafast diffraction experiments¹ have come on-line which provide both spatio-temporal resolution on the atomic scale, i.e. molecular movies. This provides a novel opportunity — a double-blind test of the accuracy of excited state simulations.



Roadmap



🔍 MENU

← BACK

Flagship Workshop

Standardizing nonadiabatic dynamics: towards common benchmarks

May 21, 2024 - May 24, 2024

Registration deadline: March 14, 2024

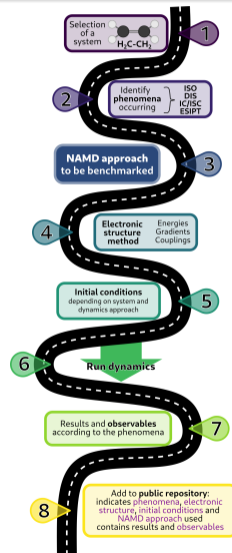
Location: CECAM-FR-MOSER

Hosting node: CECAM-FR-MOSER

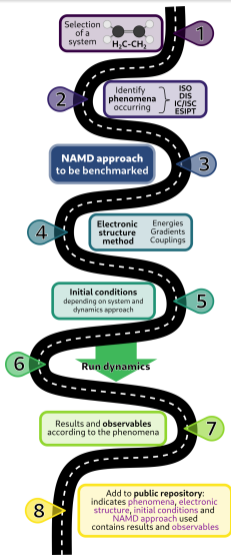
Discussions around a workplan how to benchmark

NAMD

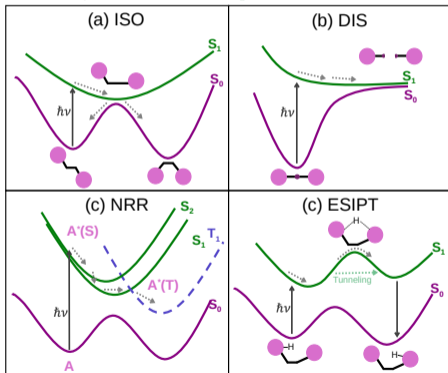
Result: Roadmap



Roadmap



System selection:
Choose from common **phenomena**



Electronic structure:

*Fixed method, freely available software.
Analytical potentials only if parametrized with exact same electronic structure*

Initial Conditions:

Define the initial wavefunction and use appropriate sampling techniques for trajectory methods. Sudden excitation approximation.

Results and Observables:

Evaluate experimental observables. No representation-dependent quantities.

Benchmark by comparison:

Difficult to have a ground-truth. Experiment not always reliable as a reference.

Public repository

Roadmap

Preprint of the Roadmap expected in 2-3 weeks!

Main responsables: Federica Agostini, Sandra Gómez, Lea Ibele, Antonio Prlj

Chapter contributions: Léon Cigrang, Basile Curchod, Rebecca Ingle, Aaron Kelly, Jonathan Mannouch

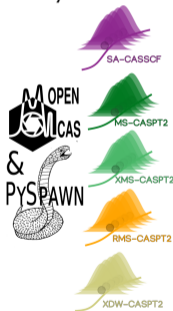
Contributions: Davide Accomasso, Alexander Alijah, Mario Barbatti, Wiem Chebbi, Nađa Došlić, Antonio Freibert, Leticia González, Giovanni Granucci, Federico Hernandez, Javier Hernández-Rodríguez, Amber Jain, Jiří Janoš, David Lauvergnat, Briec Le Dé, Yeha Lee, Seung Kyu Min, David Picconi, Eduarda Sangiogo Gil, Marin Sapunar, Peter Schürger, Patricia Vindel-Zandbergen, Graham Worth

Input, comments and contributions from the community highly desired!

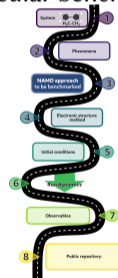
Summary

Advancing nonadiabatic dynamics can only be a community effort!

Reliable, freely available software



Molecular benchmarks



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