

# Accelerating mechanism development for heterogeneous catalysis

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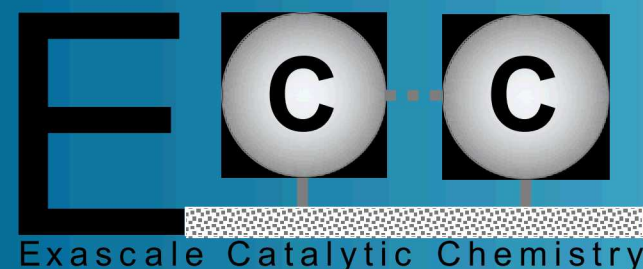
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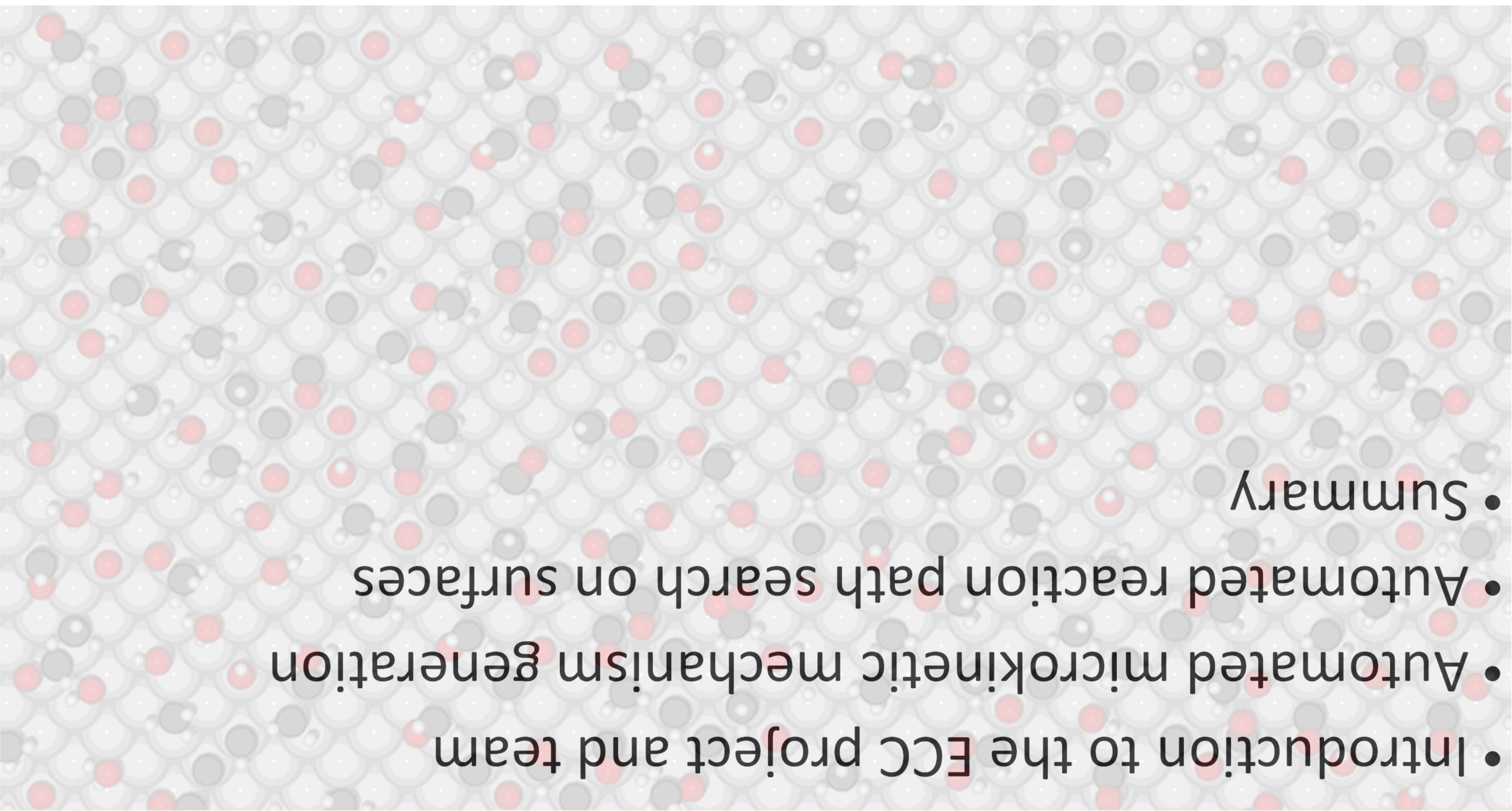
ReaxPro Meeting

July 9, 2020

Virtual

# Outline

- Introduction to the ECC project and team
- Automated microkinetic mechanism generation
- Automated reaction path search on surfaces
- Summary





# The Exascale Catalytic Chemistry (ECC) project

## Goal

Develop an exascale-ready software ecosystem that enables the characterization of catalytic processes faster and more accurately.

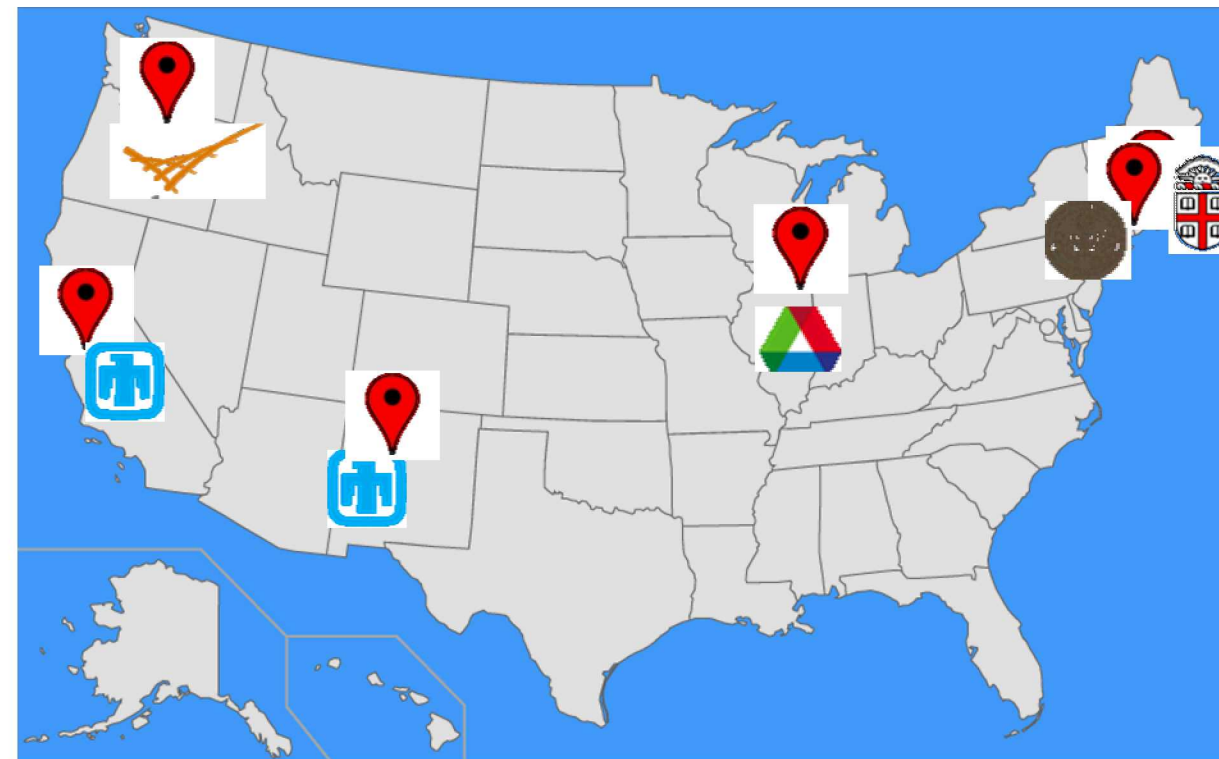
## Target systems

Catalytic systems on ideal catalysts with coupled gas-phase and heterogeneous chemistry.

*Argonne National Laboratory*

*Pacific Northwest  
National Laboratory*

*Sandia National  
Laboratories*



*Brown University  
Northeastern University*

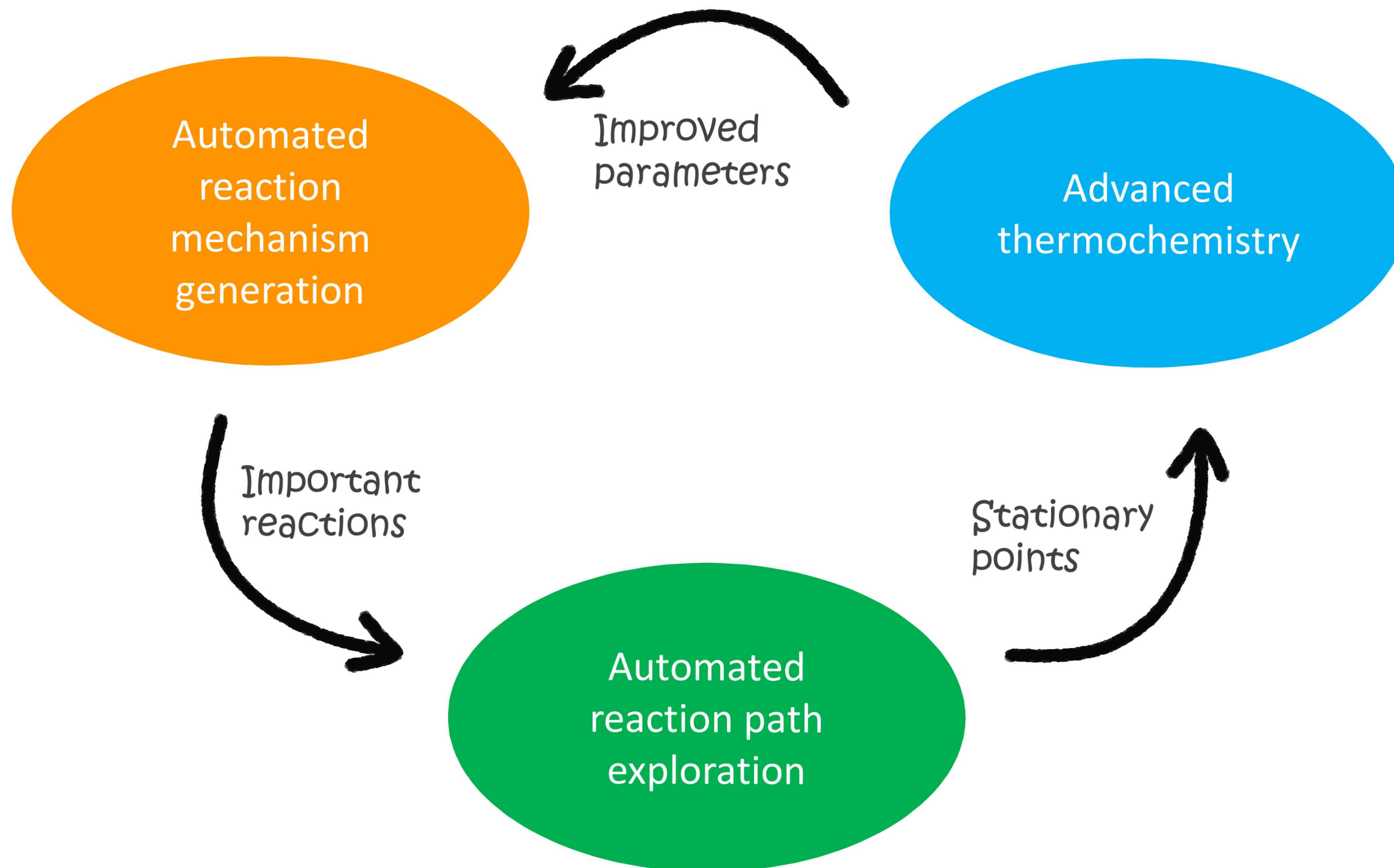
<https://ecc-project.sandia.gov>

## Funding

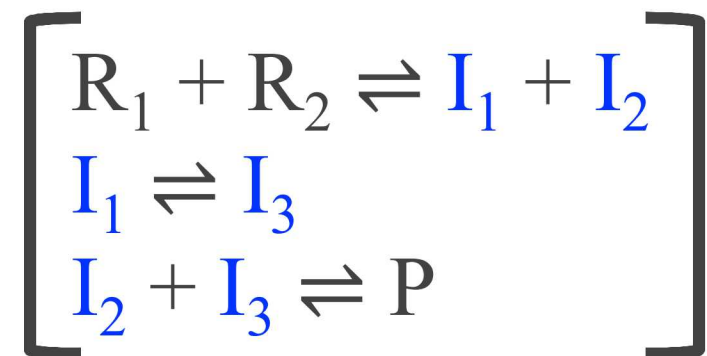
2017-2021

US Department of Energy, Basic Energy Sciences, Computational and Theoretical Chemistry program

# Coupled computational tools will help accelerate mechanism development for catalysis



# Let's use computers to build microkinetic mechanisms!



- The mechanism grows exponentially with the size of the reactants/products
- The number of possible pathways to be considered is orders of magnitude higher

Code needs to

1. represent species
  - *use chemical graph theory*
2. propose new reactions
  - *use reaction families*
3. estimate thermodynamic + kinetic properties
  - *use precompiled databases and estimation methods*
4. keep only the important reactions
  - *use flux-based algorithm*



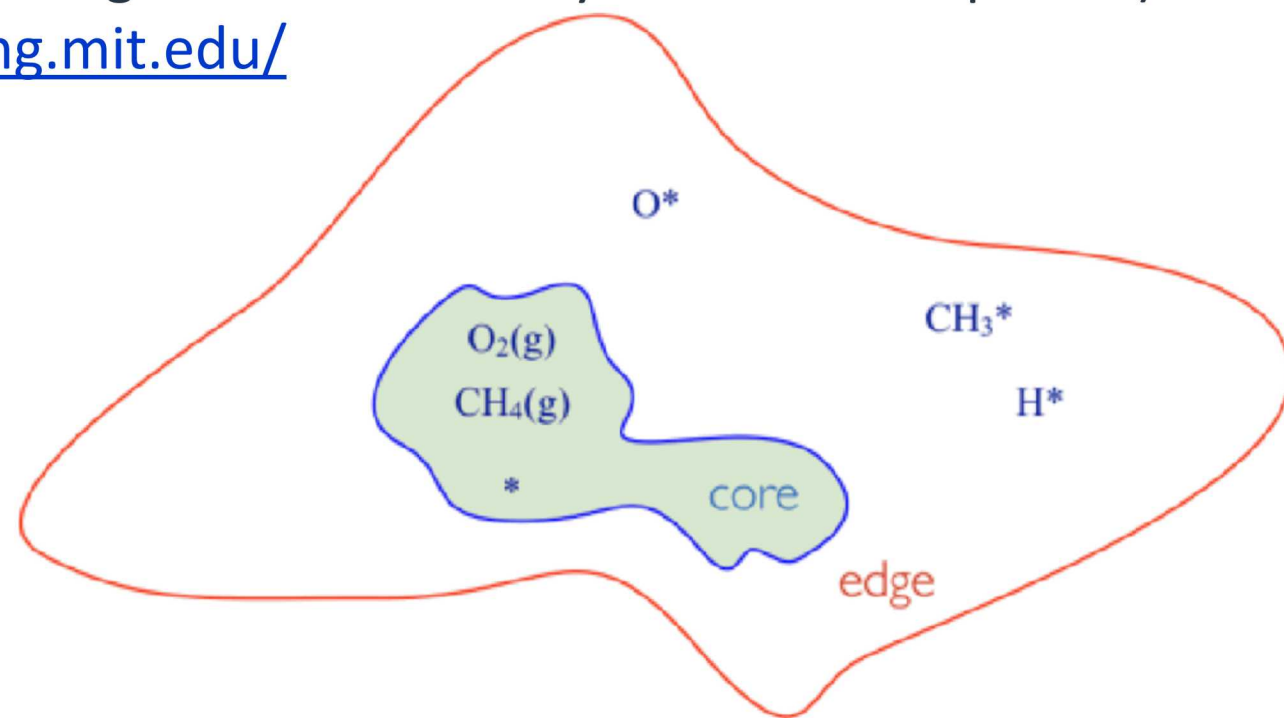
# RMG-Cat



Building, running, and analyzing microkinetic models for gas/solid catalytic systems

Based upon Reaction Mechanism Generator (RMG)

- open source
- Python based
- developed for combustion
- mature (~50+ graduate-student years of development)
- <https://rmg.mit.edu/>



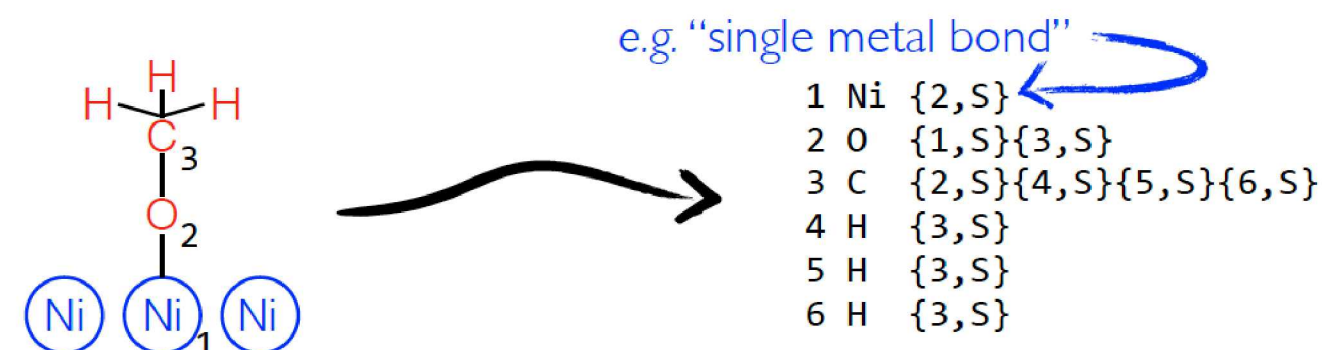
Richard H. West  
Northeastern University



C. Franklin Goldsmith  
Brown University

Reaction families for

- Adsorption
- Dissociation on surfaces
- Abstraction on surfaces



RMG-Cat can estimate thermochemistry of any adsorbate on any metal using Linear Scaling Relationships.

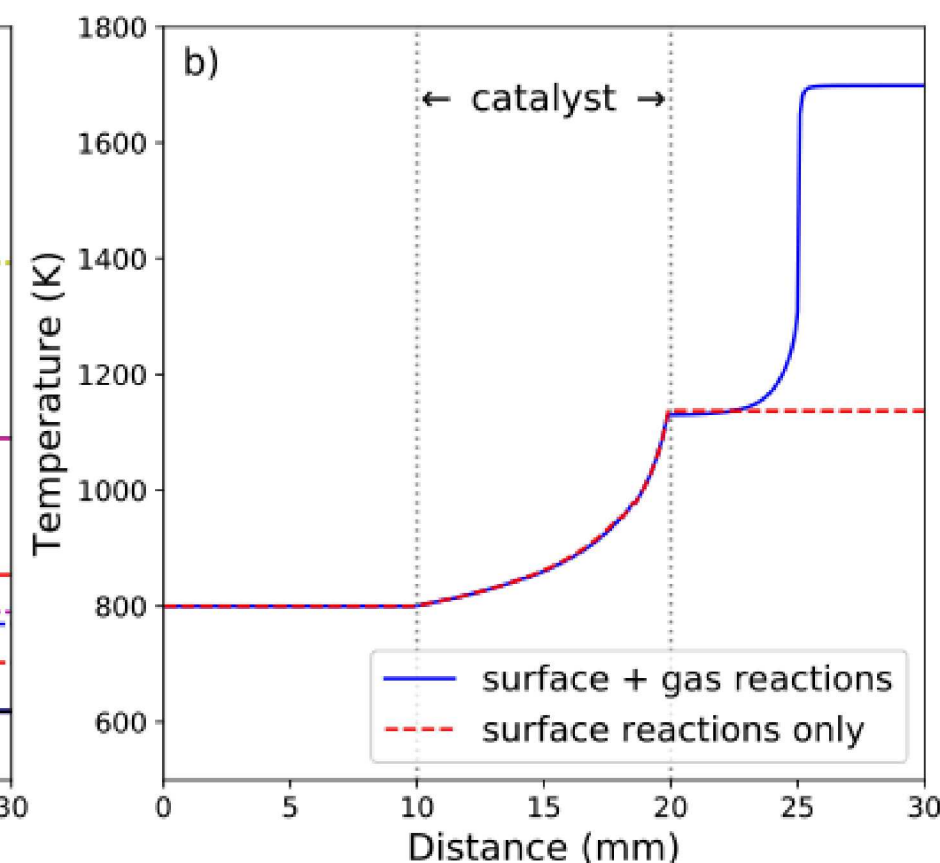
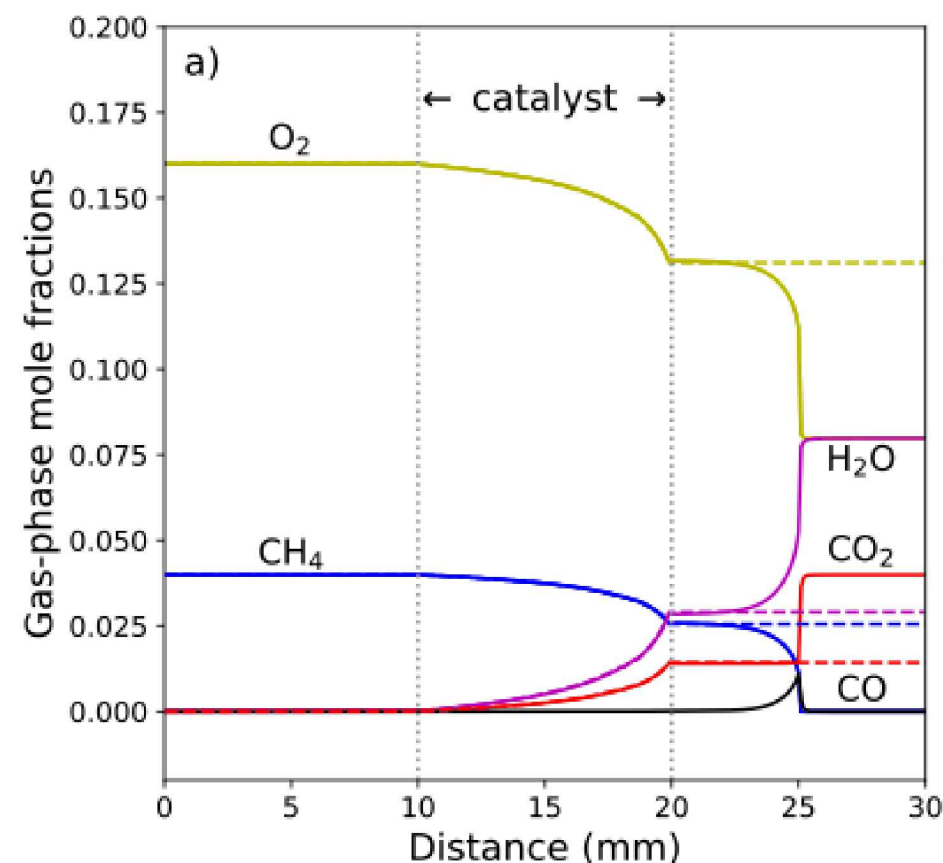
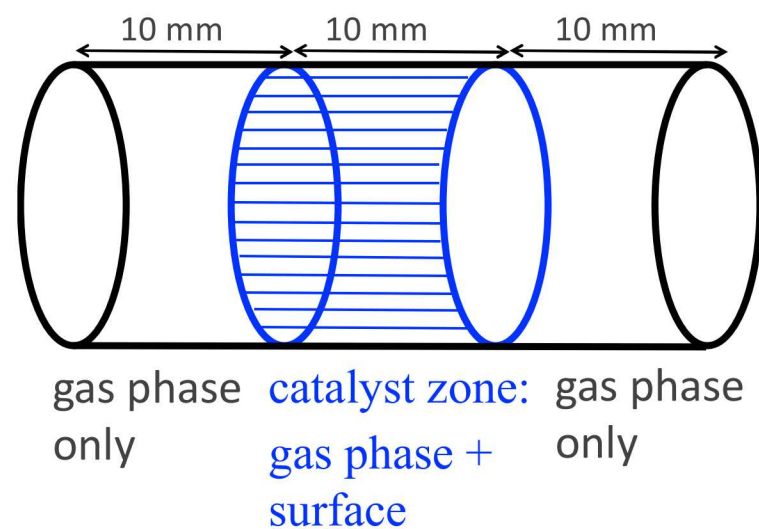
# RMG generated a mechanism for methane oxidation on Pt(111)

- fuel lean conditions for  $T = 500, 1500, 1800$  K &  $P = 1$  bar
- core:
  - 21 adsorbates + 51 surface reactions
  - 38 gas-phase species + 340 reactions
- edge:
  - 196 species + 298 reactions

4% CH<sub>4</sub>  
+ 16% O<sub>2</sub>  
+ 80% N<sub>2</sub>

→

$T_0 = 800$  K  
 $u_0 = 1.9$  cm/s  
 $\epsilon = 0.567$   
 $A/V = 545$  m<sup>-1</sup>



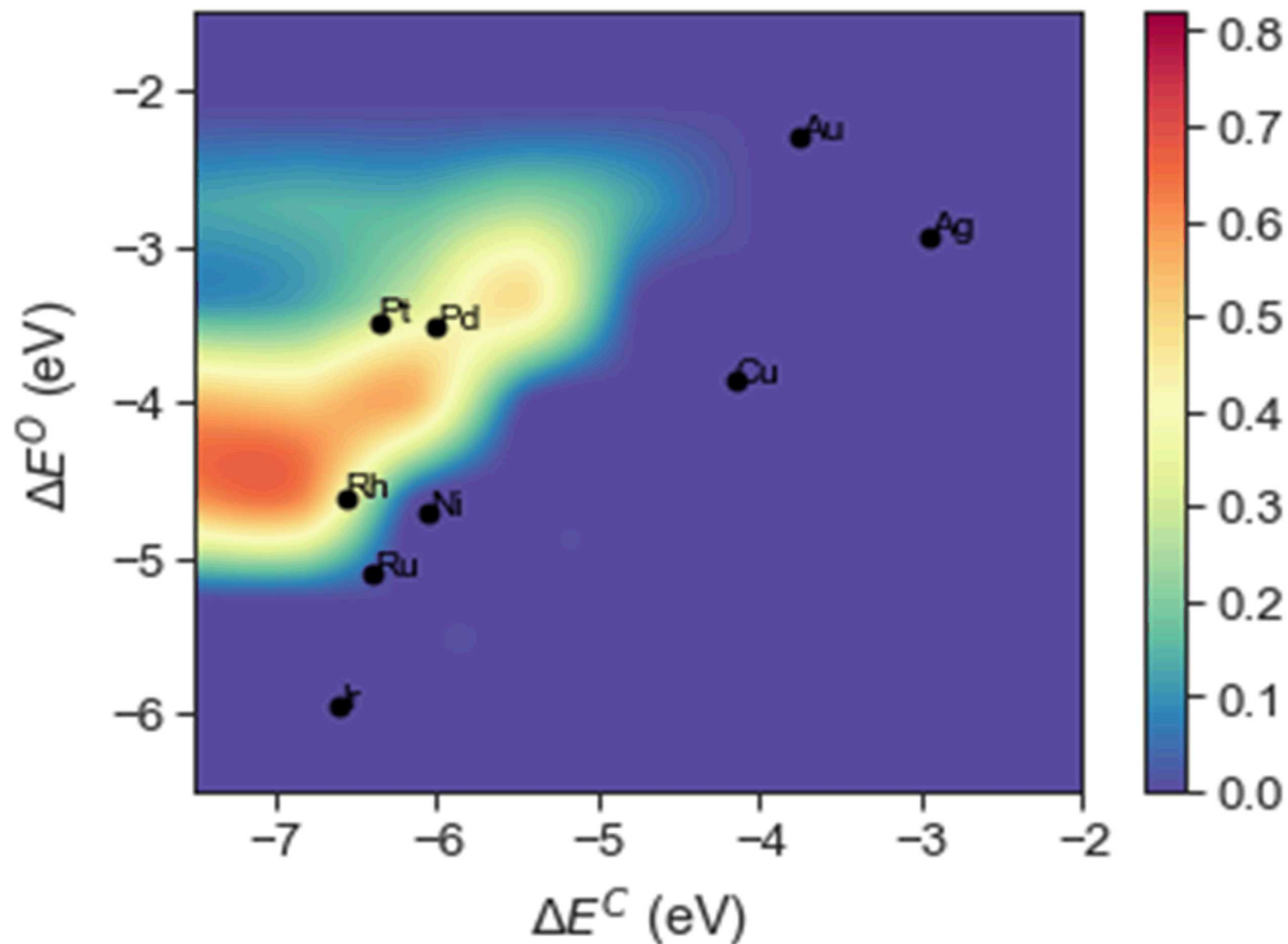
We demonstrated the coupled gas-surface capabilities of RMG.  
Such coupling is necessary to predict correct behavior.



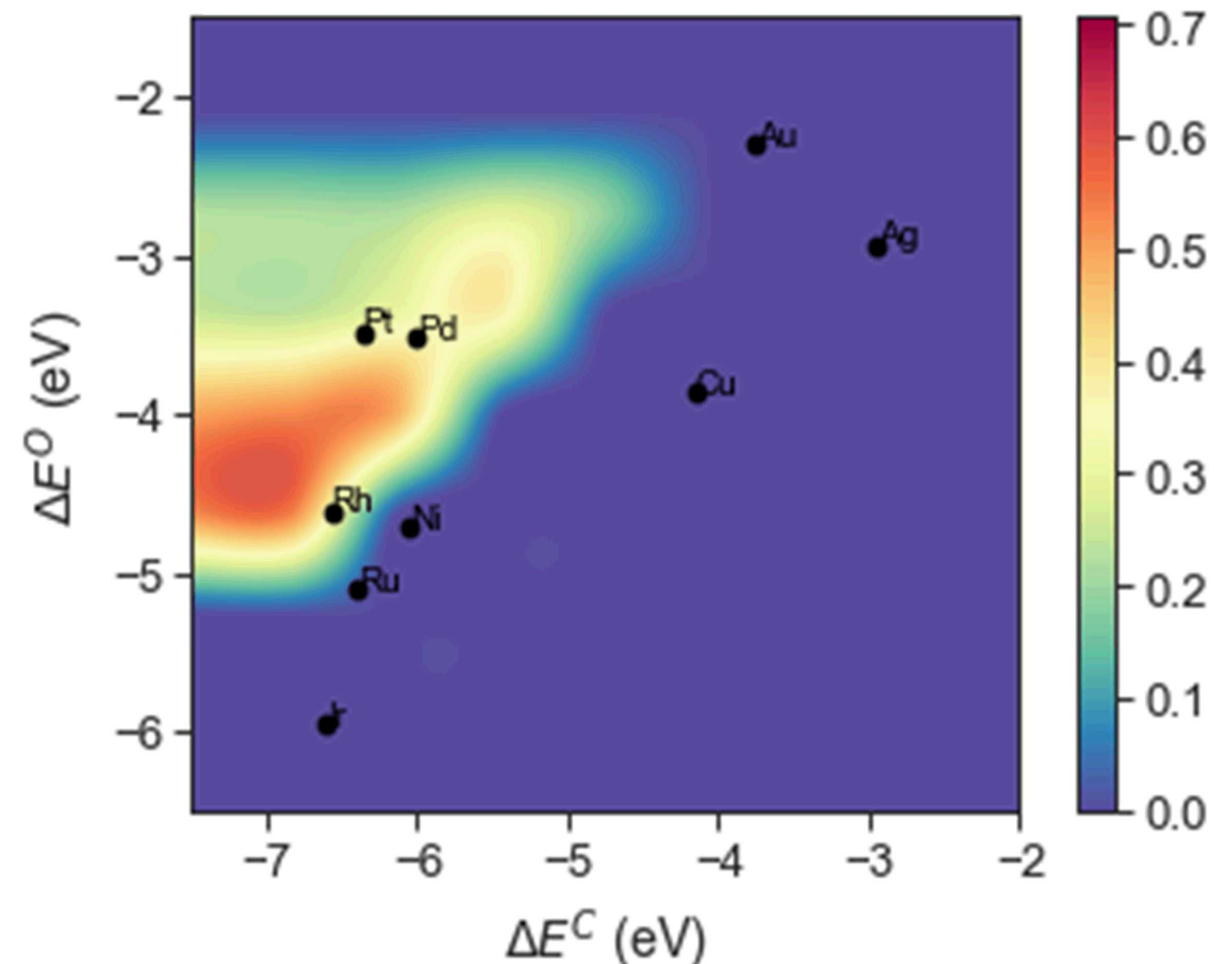
# RMG allows systematic and automatic investigation of many metals

## Example: Synthesis gas on different metal surfaces

CO Yield



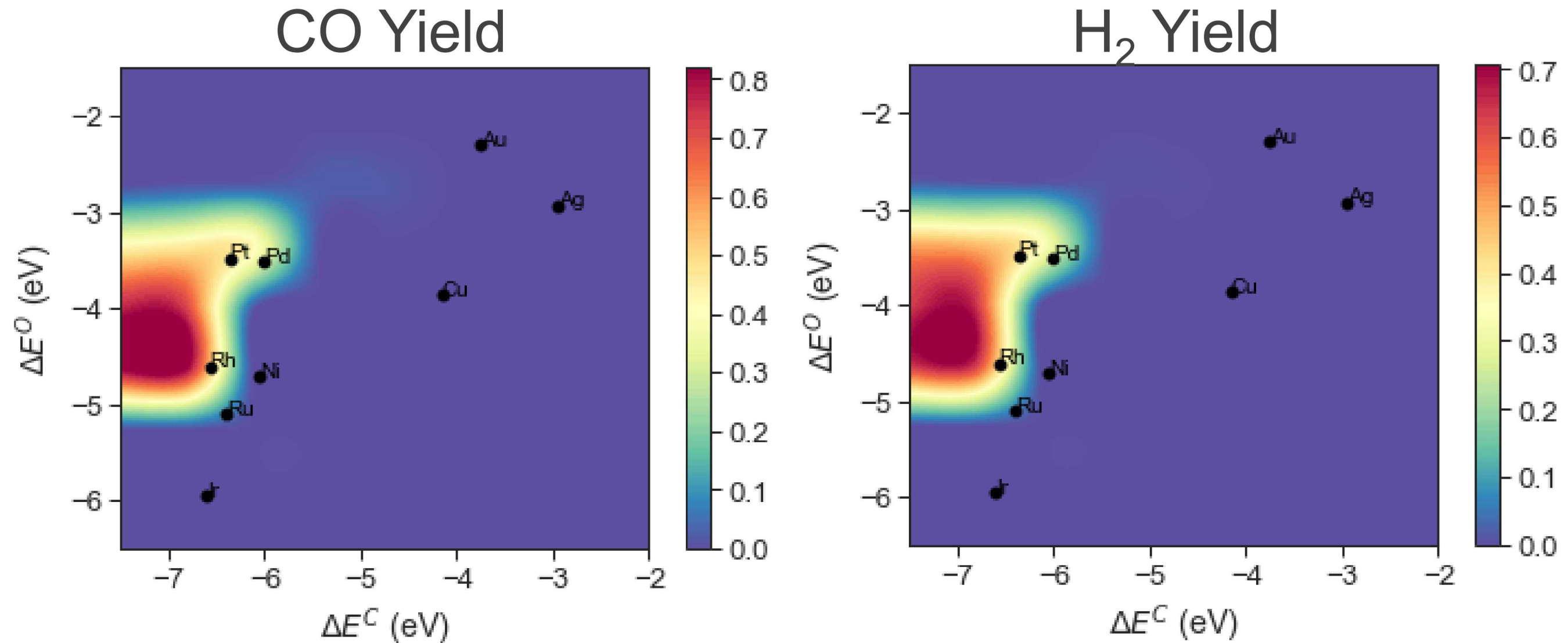
H<sub>2</sub> Yield



Some metals have higher selectivity but lower yield.

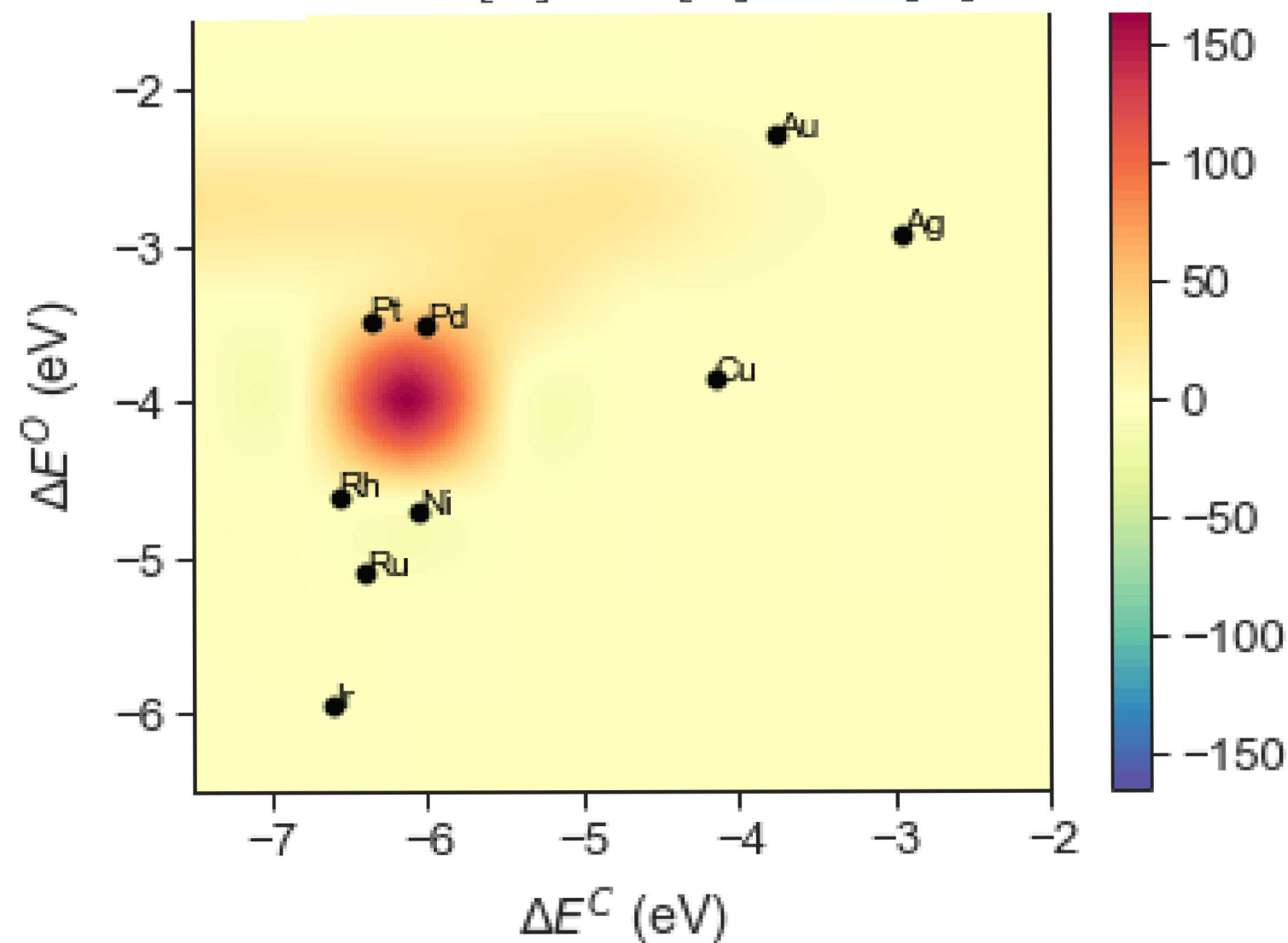
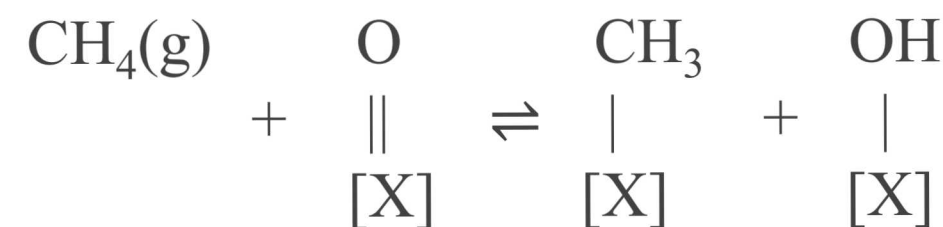
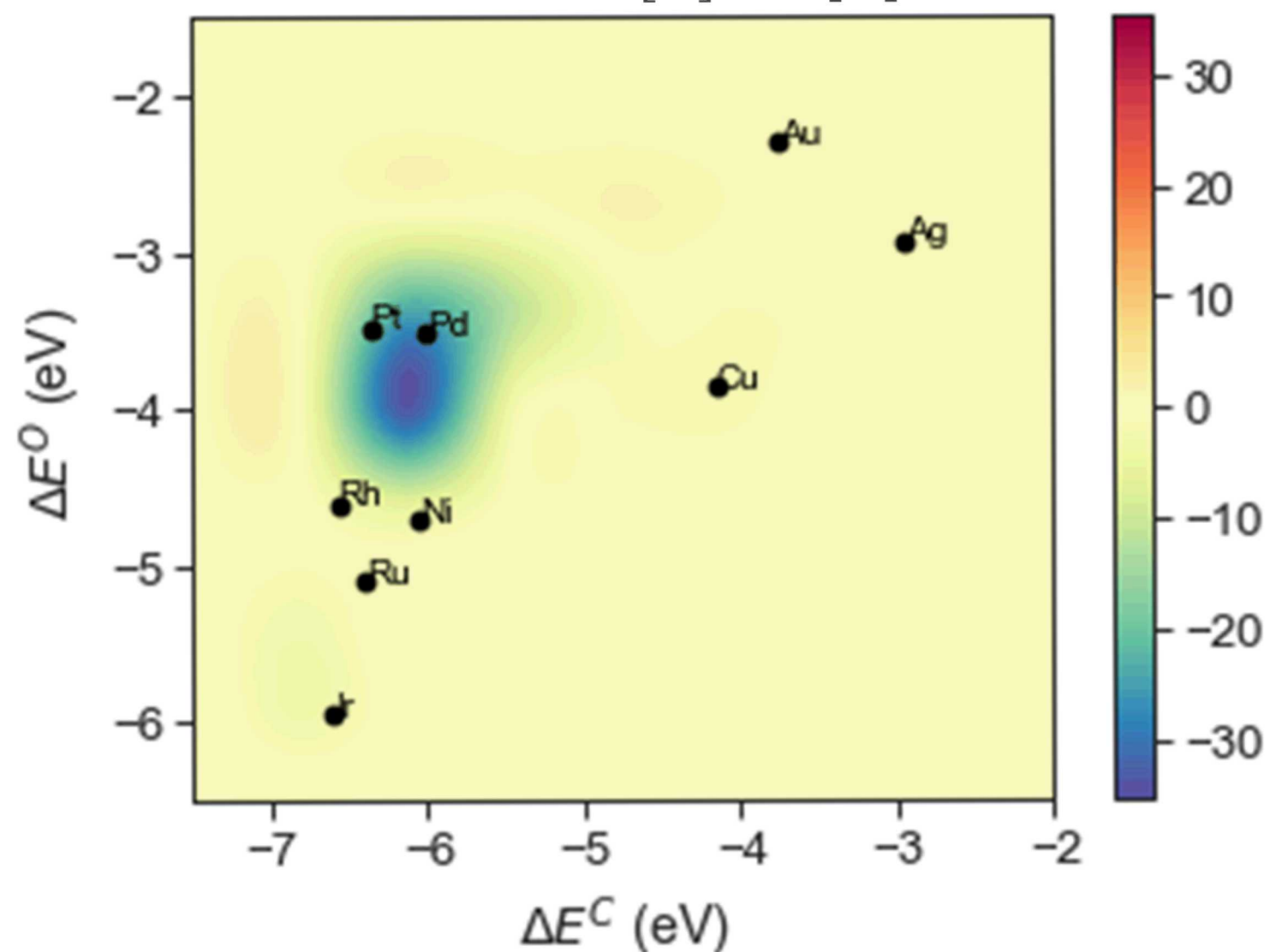
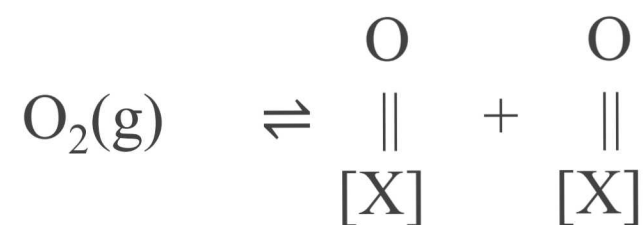


# Automated investigation of the effect of the inlet composition



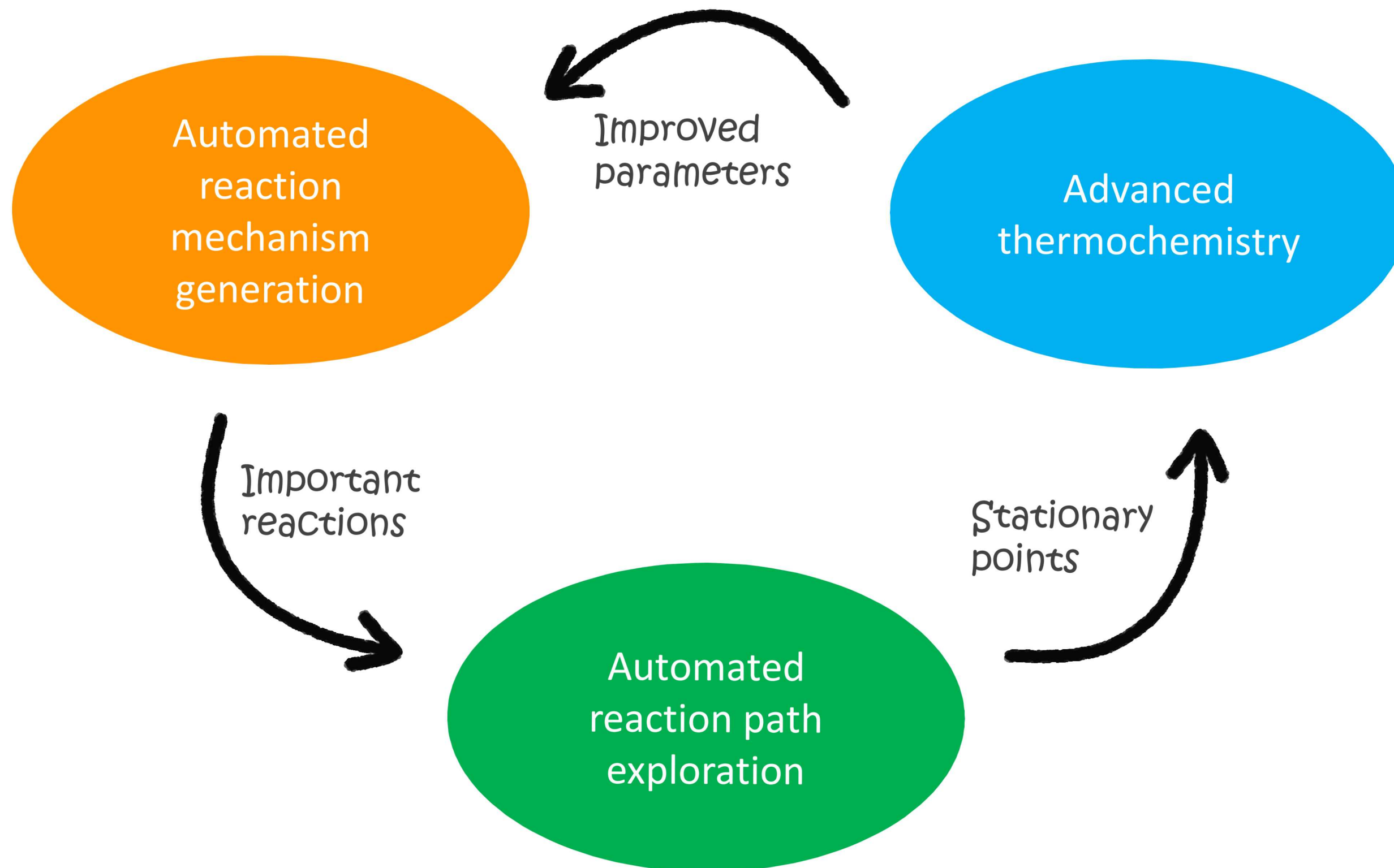
Not only does each metal affect yield,  
feed gas composition does as well

# Volcano plots for the sensitivity of a reaction on $\text{H}_2$ yield as a function of atomic binding energies



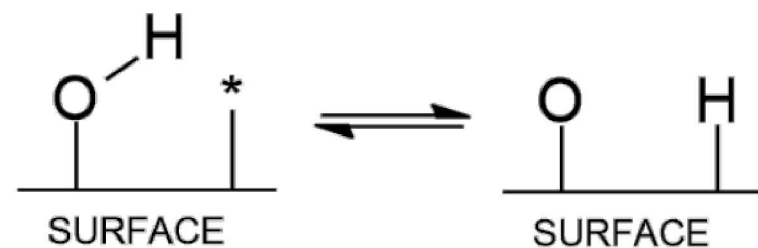


# RMG-Cat works, but we have work to do



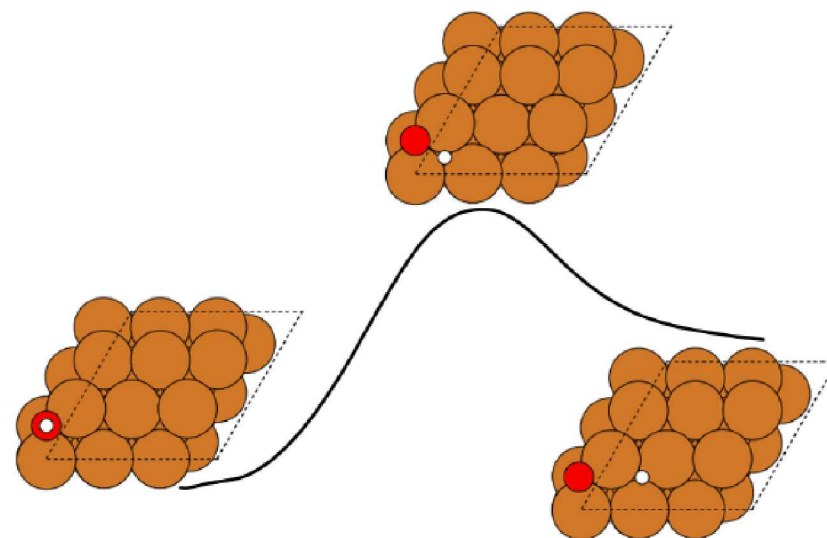
# From formal catalytic reactions to *ab initio* kinetics

We need tools to take us from a proposed chemical reaction to a rate coefficient for gas/solid catalytic systems.



RMG reaction  
representation

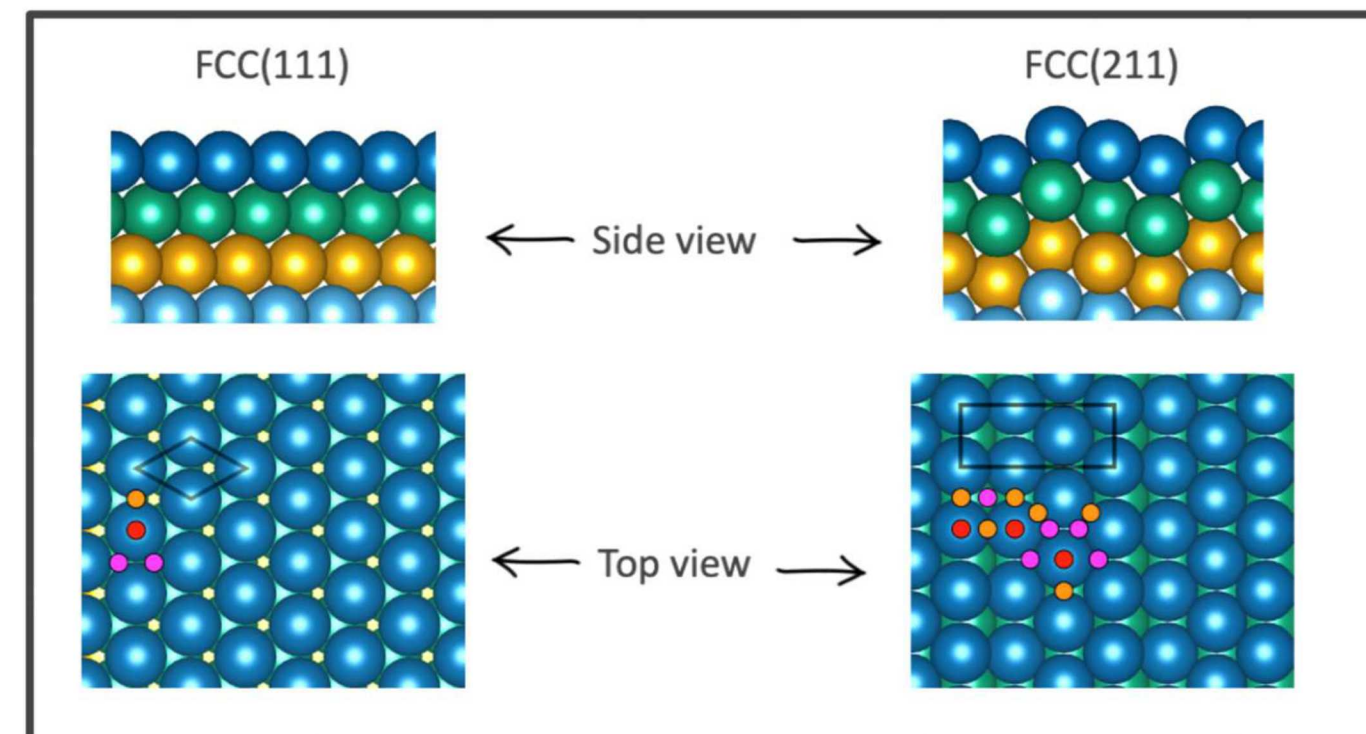
```
- index: 0
reaction: OHX + X <=> OX + HX
reaction_family: Surface_Abstraction
reactant: |
multiplicity -187
1 *1 O u0 p0 c0 {2,S} {4,S}
2 *2 H u0 p0 c0 {1,S}
3 *3 X u0 p0 c0
4 X u0 p0 c0 {1,S}
product: |
multiplicity -187
1 *1 O u0 p0 c0 {4,S}
2 *2 H u0 p0 c0 {3,S}
3 *3 X u0 p0 c0 {2,S}
4 X u0 p0 c0 {1,S}
```



Eric D. Hermes  
Sandia postdoc

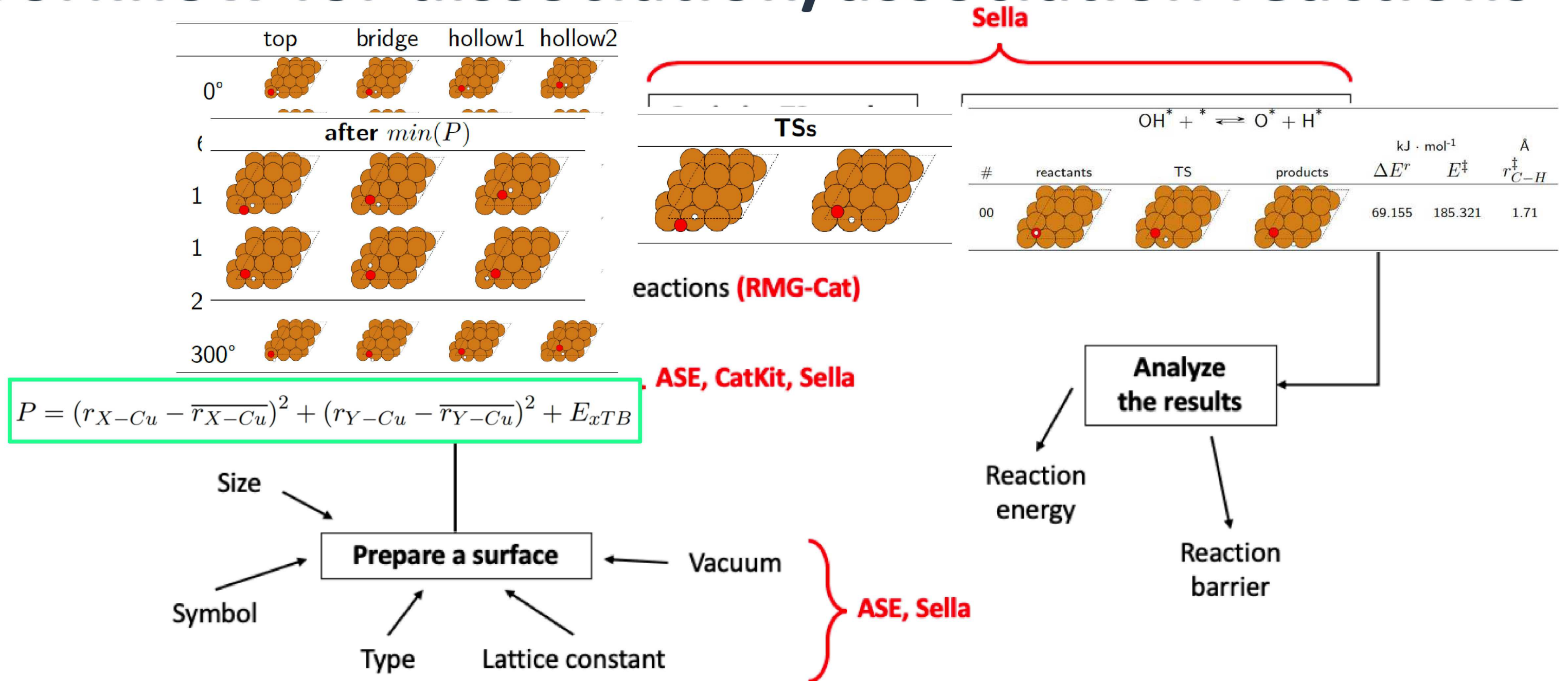


Maciej Gierada  
Sandia postdoc





# Workflow for dissociation/association reactions



The workflow is ASE based.

Symmetrically equivalent structures are filtered between steps.

Geometry optimization is done with Sella, our own optimizer.

<https://github.com/grimme-lab/xtb>

<https://gitlab.com/ase/ase>

<https://github.com/SUNCAT-Center/CatKit>

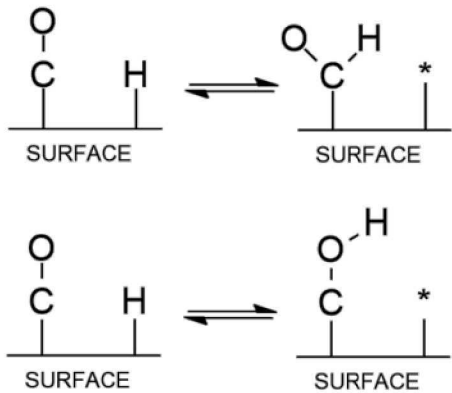
<https://github.com/zadorlab/sella>



# Further examples

$\text{CH}^* + * \rightleftharpoons \text{C}^* + \text{H}^*$						
#	reactants	TS	products	$\Delta E^r$ kJ · mol <sup>-1</sup>	$E^\ddagger$ kJ · mol <sup>-1</sup>	$r_{\text{C-H}}^\ddagger$ Å
00				132.836	183.297	1.82
01				117.379	197.932	2.00

$\text{CO}^* + \text{H}^* \rightleftharpoons \text{HCO}^* + *$						
#	reactants	TS	products	$\Delta E^r$ kJ · mol <sup>-1</sup>	$E^\ddagger$ kJ · mol <sup>-1</sup>	$r_{\text{X-H}}^\ddagger$ Å
00				93.809	103.403	1.52
01				123.530	223.419	1.28
02				86.842	96.120	1.41



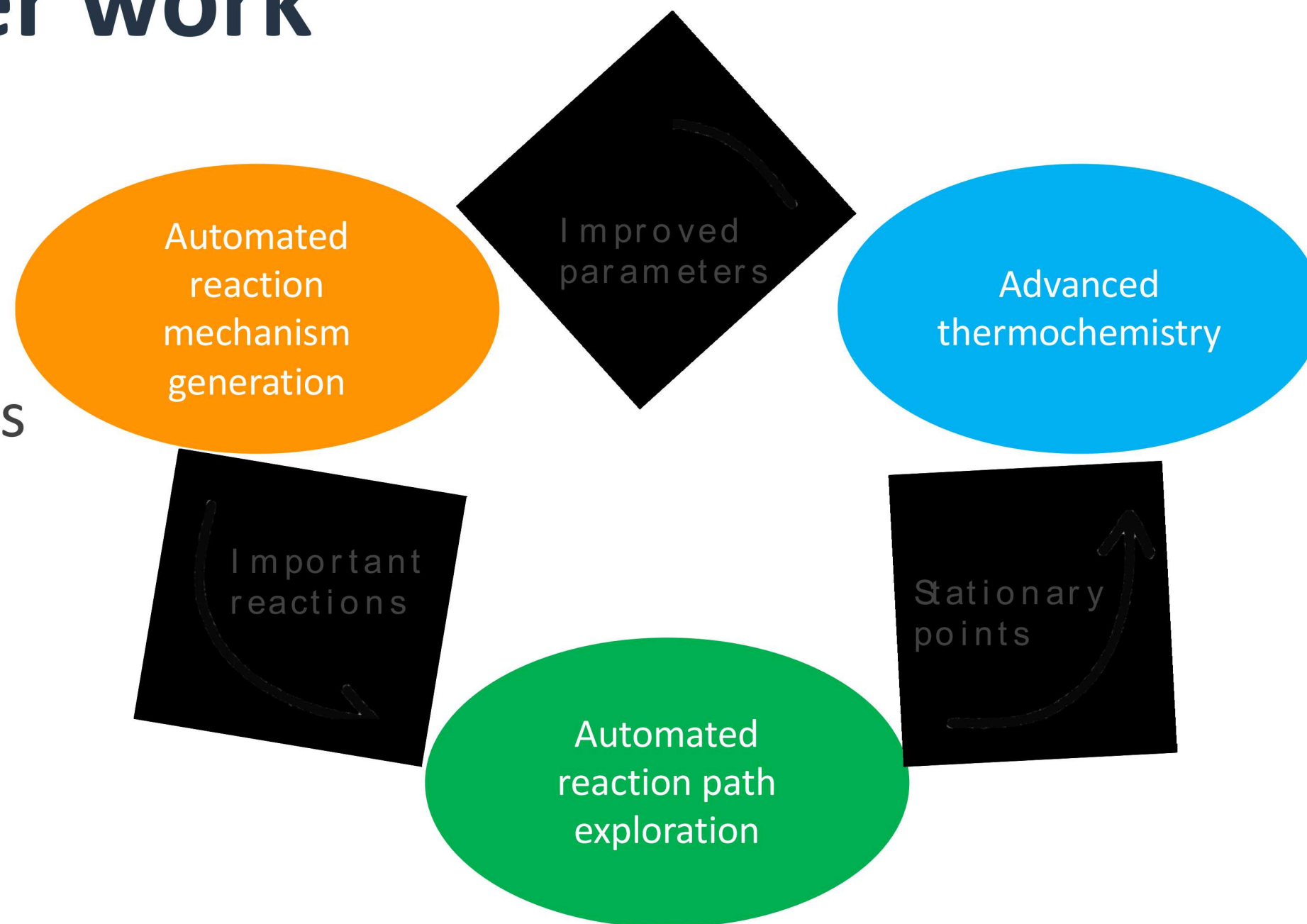
$\text{CO}^* + \text{O}^* \rightleftharpoons \text{CO}_2^* + *$						
#	reactants	TS	products	$\Delta E^r$ kJ · mol <sup>-1</sup>	$E^\ddagger$ kJ · mol <sup>-1</sup>	$r_{\text{C-O}}^\ddagger$ Å
00				-111.682	50.449	1.77
01				-118.958	46.756	1.82

$\text{OH}^* + * \rightleftharpoons \text{H}^* + \text{O}^*$						
#	reactants	TS	products	$\Delta E^r$ kJ · mol <sup>-1</sup>	$E^\ddagger$ kJ · mol <sup>-1</sup>	$r_{\text{X-H}}^\ddagger$ Å
03				69.598	157.963	1.57
05				95.090	148.133	1.69
07				63.890	150.247	1.55
08				114.593	200.130	1.64
11				23.954	107.021	1.53



# Summary and further work

- Coverage dependence
- Bifunctional materials, oxides
- Kinetic Monte Carlo simulations



- Extend methodology to other reaction types
- Scale the code