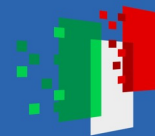




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Future
Artificial
Intelligence
Research

AI for Physics and Chemistry

Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia
Genova

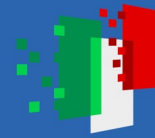




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We need good catalysts to:

Generate H_2

Capture CO_2

Reduce the environmental cost of many energy
intensive chemical processes

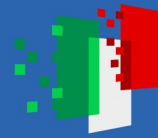
All of this should be done at an industrial scale



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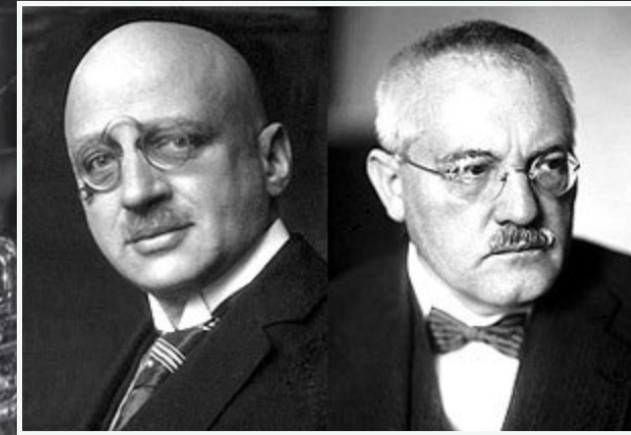


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150 million tons of Ammonia per year produced via the Haber– Bosch process

Consumes 2% of the world energy supply

Responsible for 1.6% of world CO₂ emission

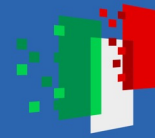




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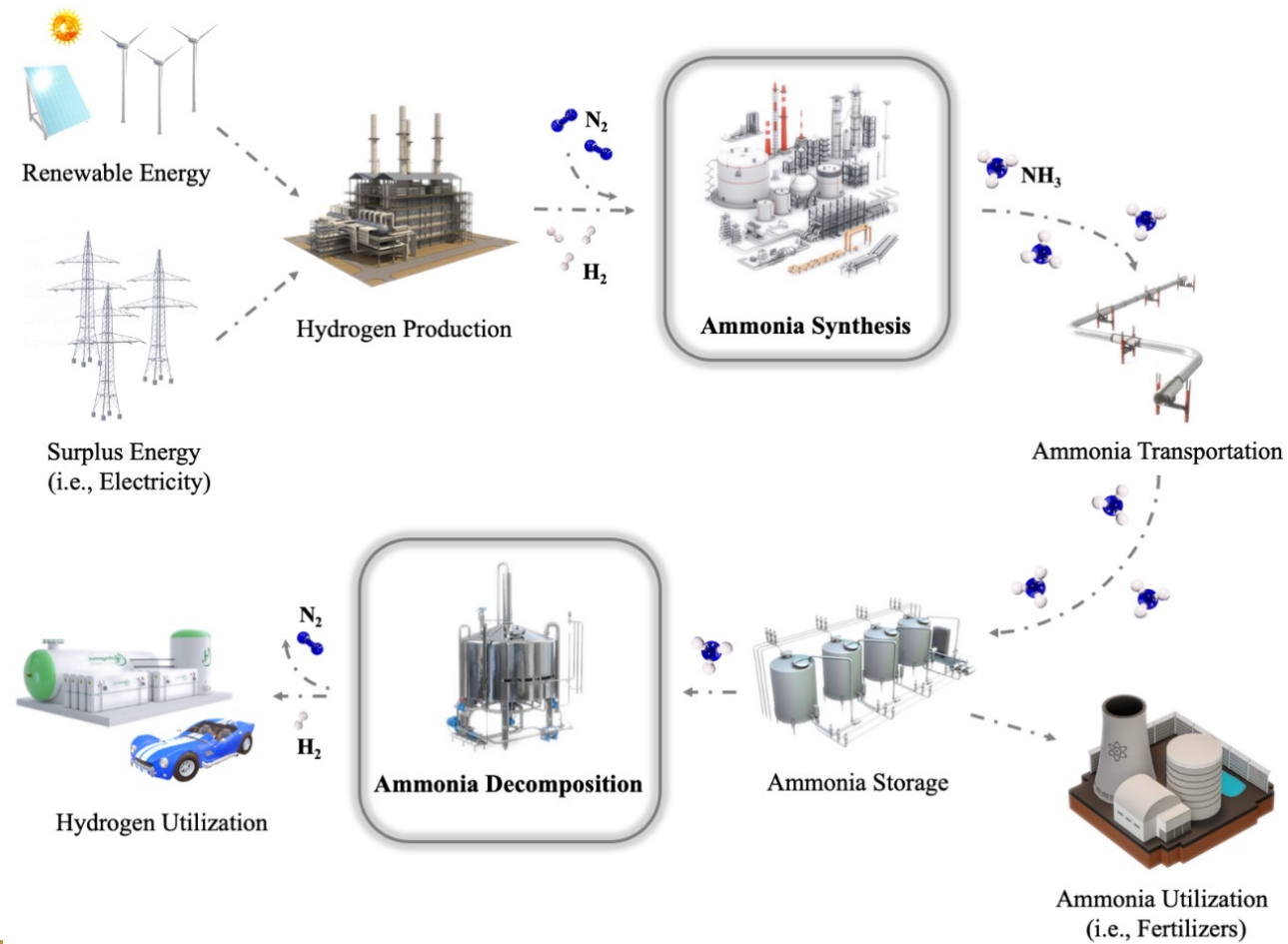


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The ammonia cycle

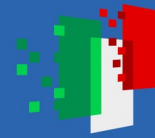




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The challenge

Industrial catalysis takes place at high temperature and pressure.

Experiments are difficult

Modeling the high temperature reactive environment of a catalyst is challenging

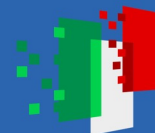
The operando behaviour is inferred from low temperature experiments and theory



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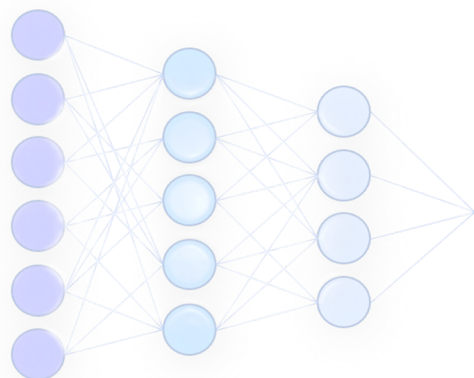


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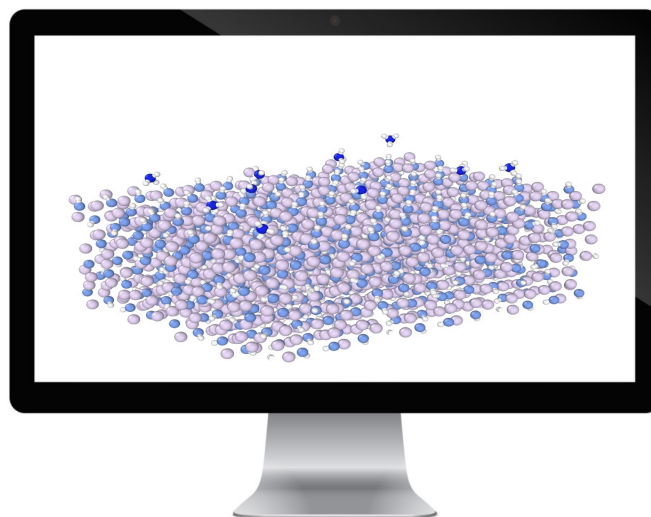


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AI comes to the rescue

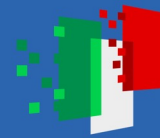


**ML-based interatomic
potentials**

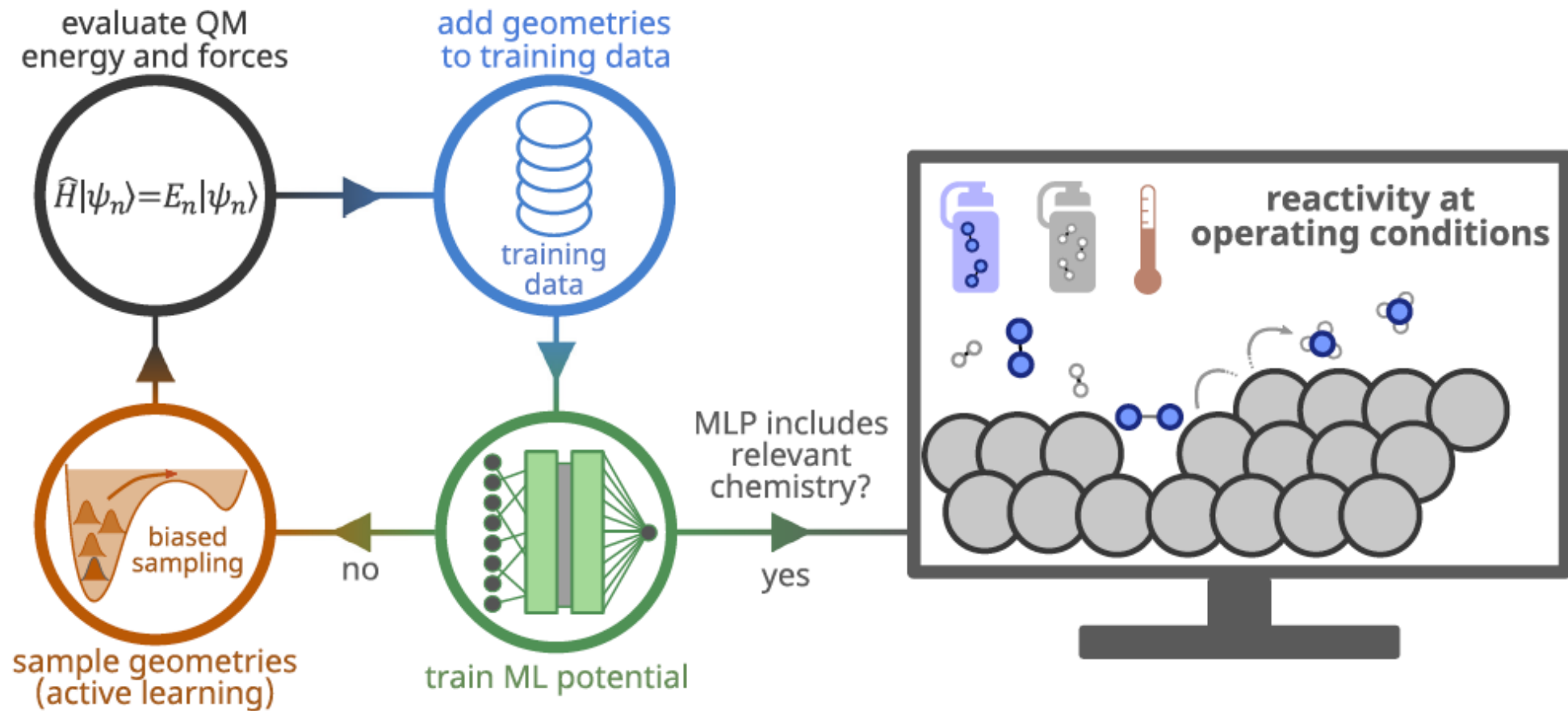


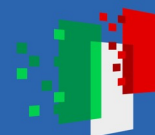
Study large systems (>1k atoms) on long
time scales (> 100 ns) with DFT accuracy

Unravelling the workings of a
catalyst *in operando* conditions
through **machine-learning
accelerated molecular dynamics**



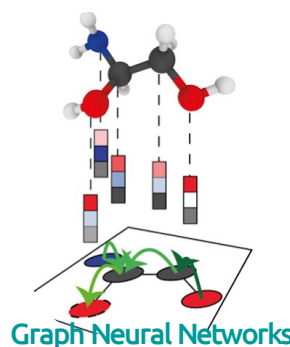
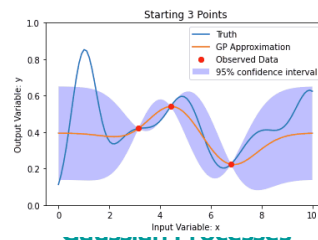
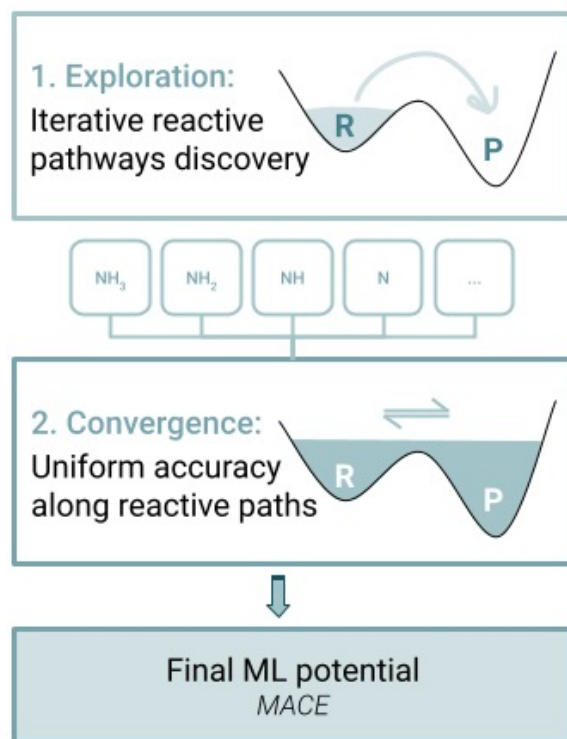
Veronique Van Speybroeck^{a,1}





Data-efficient machine learning potentials

Combine machine learning, enhanced sampling and active learning (AL) to construct training datasets for *reactive potentials* in a data-efficient way



Build uniformly accurate MLP along
reactive pathways with just ~ 1k
reference calculations
per reaction step

	Standard	Data Efficient
NH3 decomposition	110000 (Fe)	5000 (FeCo)
Lateral interactions	230000 (Fe)	8000 (FeCo)

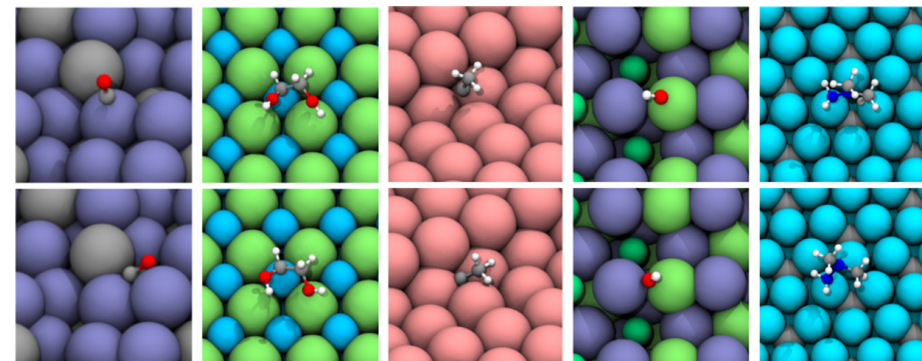
20-30x less calculations!

Transfer learning from atomistic foundation models

How do we learn efficiently ML potentials for atomistic systems with few and/or costly reference data?

Leverage the availability of large datasets

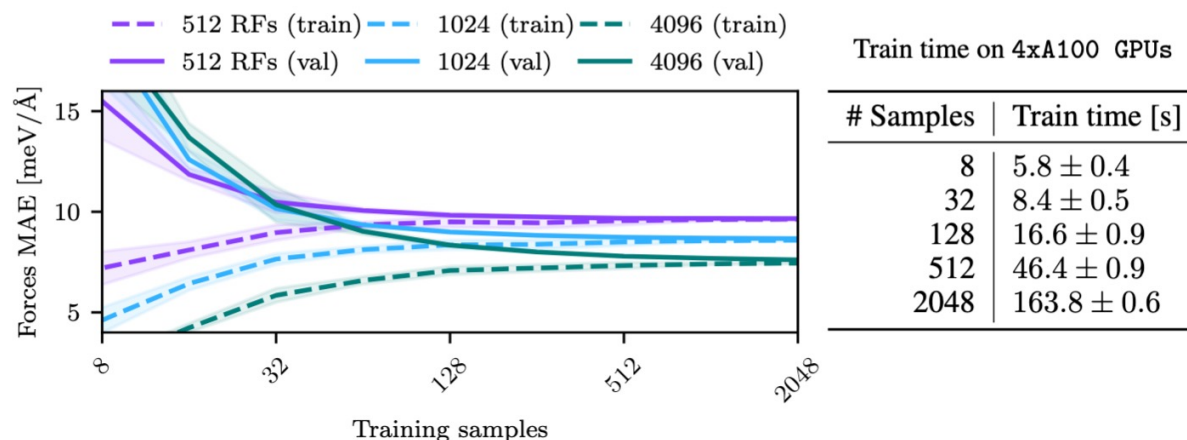
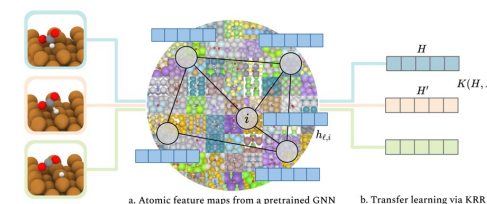
- "Foundation models" based on graph neural networks (GNNs) trained, e.g. on the OC20 dataset
- Not easy to fine-tune them to specific systems



e.g. OPEN CATALYST:
270 millions of DFT calculations

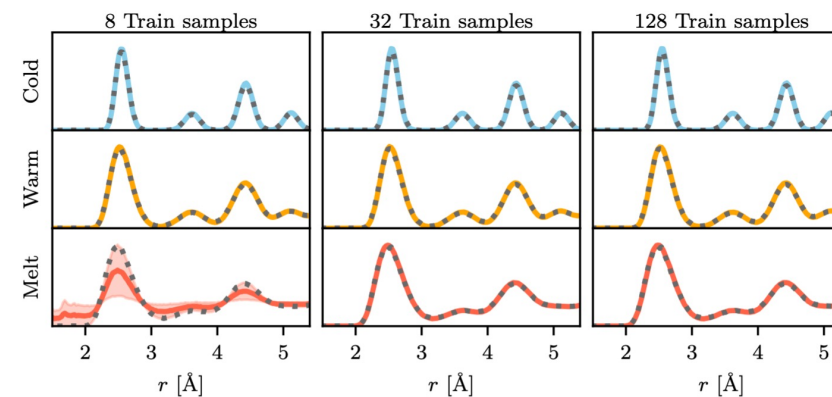
Fine tuning of atomistic foundation models for molecular dynamics

- Extract a representation from a pre-trained GNN atomistic foundation model
- Learn energy and forces for MD via large-scale kernel techniques**



Accurate and data-efficient force predictions

Requires ~seconds to fine-tune models

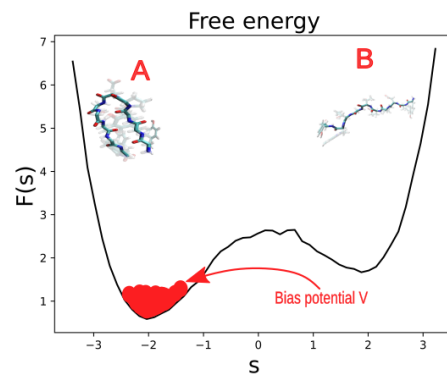


Reliable MD simulations with just a handful of training samples

Learning dynamics from static calculations

Langevin dynamics

$$dX_t = -\frac{1}{\gamma m} \nabla U(X_t) dt + \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{\gamma m}} dW_t$$



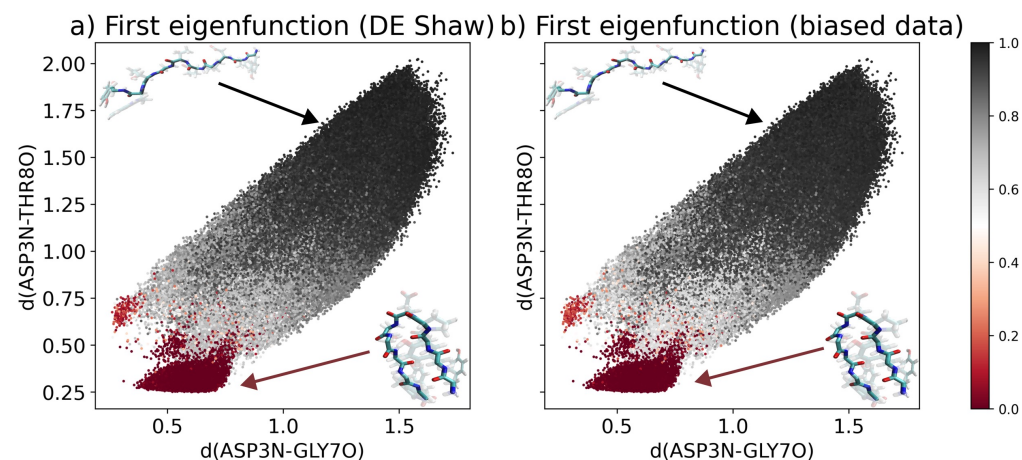
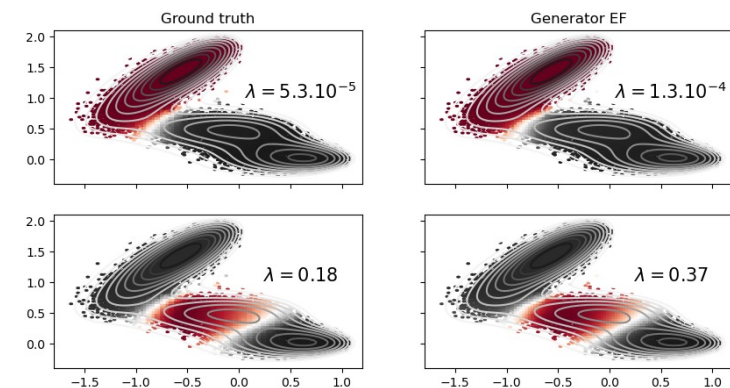
Biased Langevin dynamics

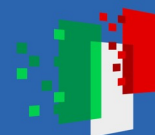
$$dX_t = -\frac{1}{\gamma m} \nabla (U(X_t) + V(X_t)) dt + \sqrt{\frac{2k_B T}{\gamma m}} dW_t$$

Validation on a toy model :

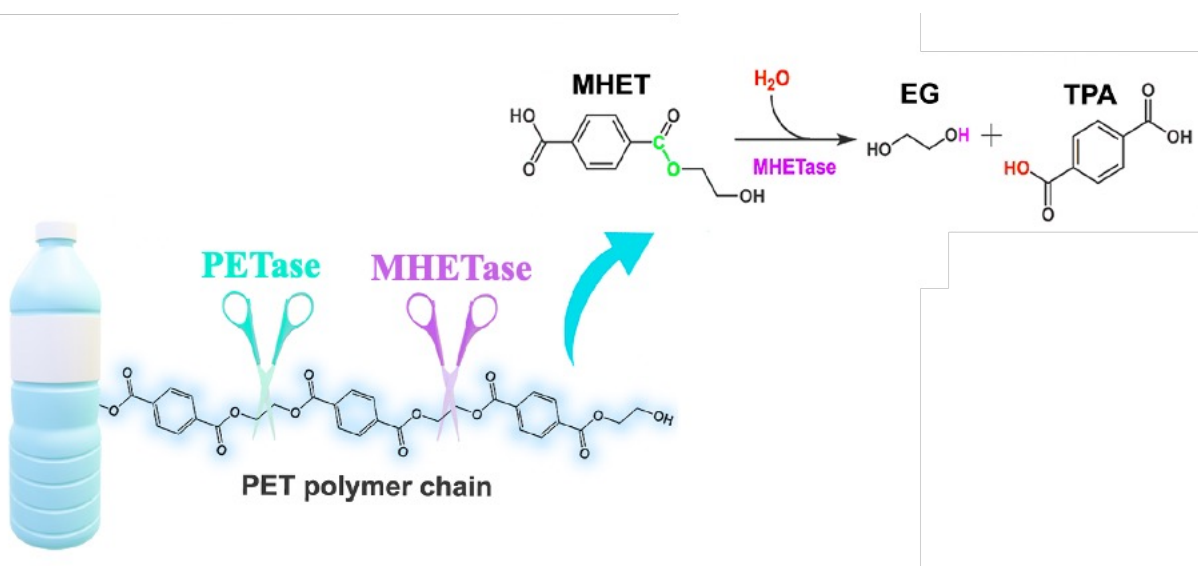
Neural Network to get actual dynamics

Large scale dataset : chignolin miniprotein folding



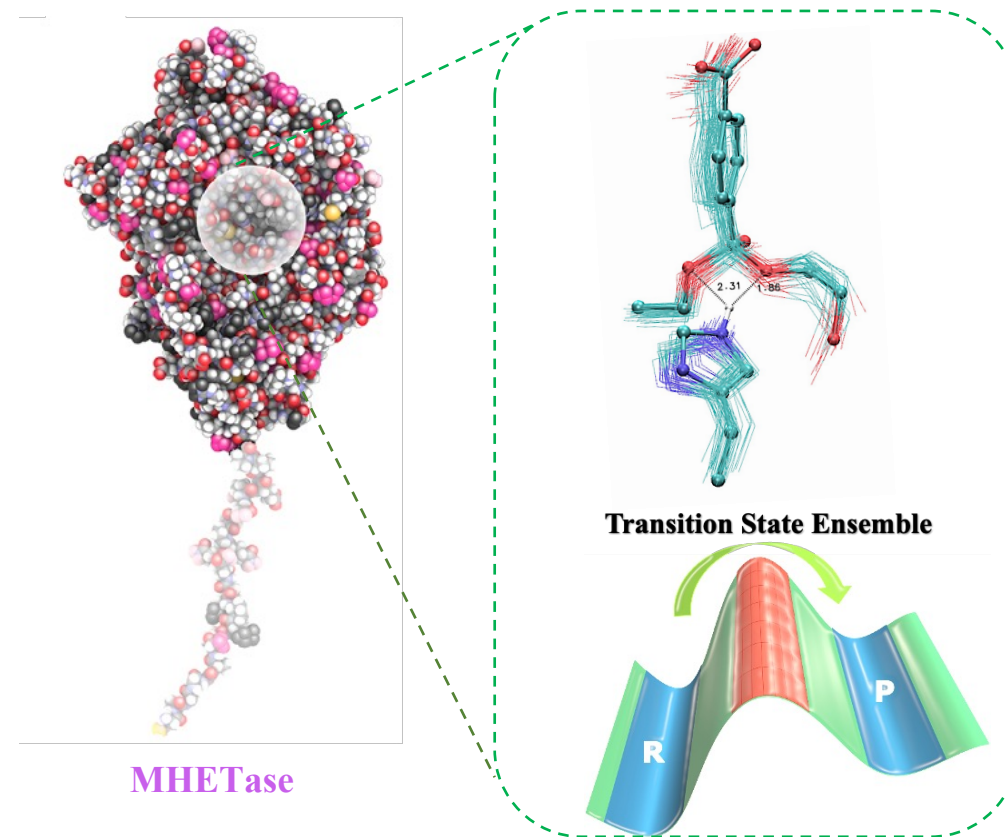


Computational Design of PET Degrading Enzymes



MHETase shows a strong ability to degrade the PET monomer at room temperature, converting it back into the precursors used in PET production¹

Designing mutations to stabilize the **Transition State Ensemble** via a ML-based committor function²



[1] ACS Catal. 2021, 11, 10416

[2] Nat. Comput. Science 2024, 4, 451