

# Quantum Chemistry Simulations for Dynamic Network Polymers

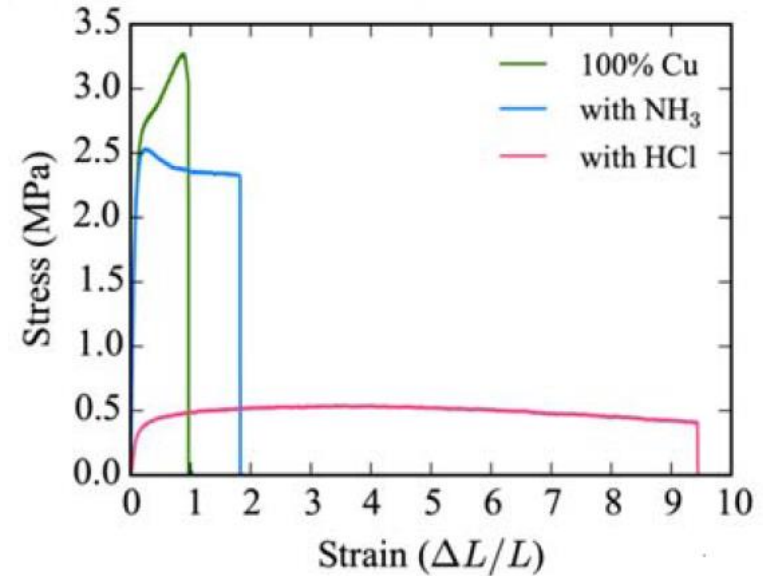
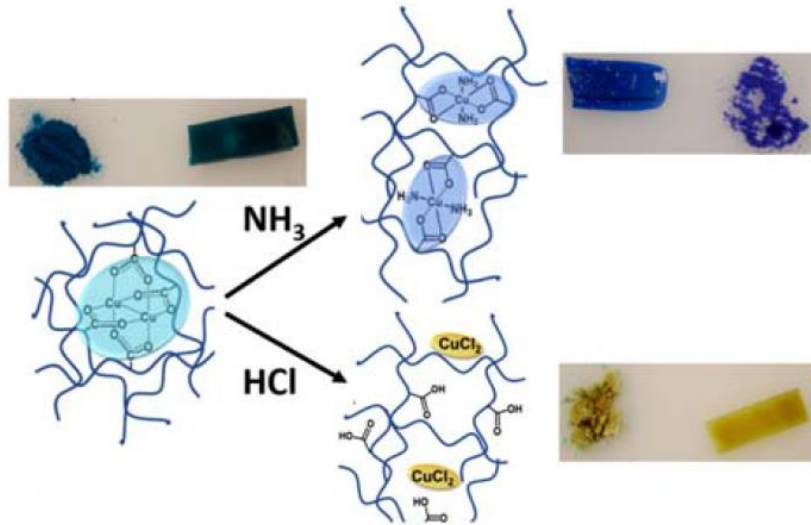
March Meeting of the American Physical Society

**Presenter:** Michael Buche

**Authors:** Michael Buche, Zachary Sparrow, Yuval Vidavsky,  
Robert DiStasio, Meredith Silberstein

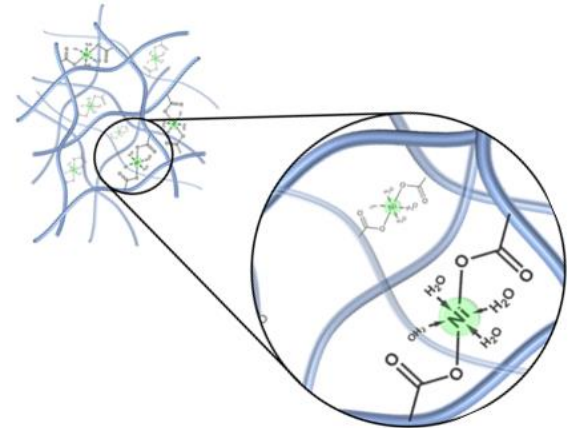
3/5/2019

# Dynamic Network Polymers



# Goals of this Study

- Metal-coordination complexes as crosslinking structures in a polymer
  - Use different ligands to modify bulk material mechanical properties
- Investigate the crosslinking using quantum chemistry simulation
  - Interpret experimental results
  - Inform material design
  - Inform a constitutive model
- Specifically, the crosslinking structure's:
  - Mechanical response
  - Free energy barriers



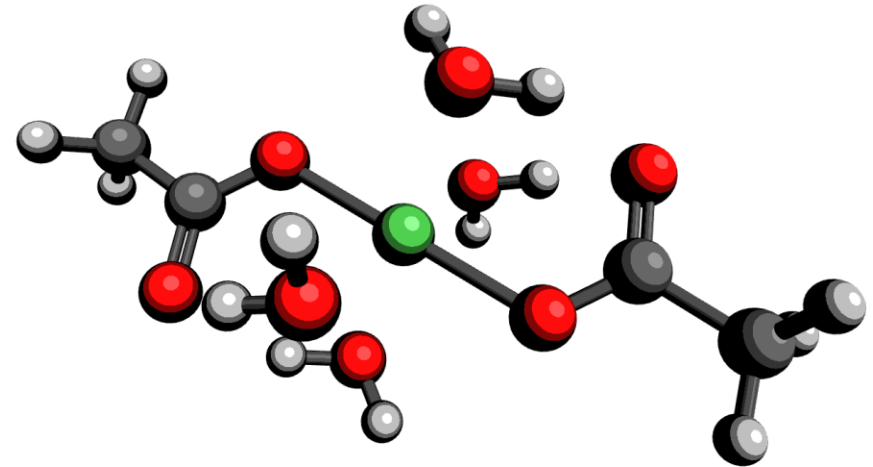
# Quantum Chemistry Simulations

- Density Functional Theory (DFT)
  - Approximately solve many electron Schrödinger equation

Software: Q-CHEM

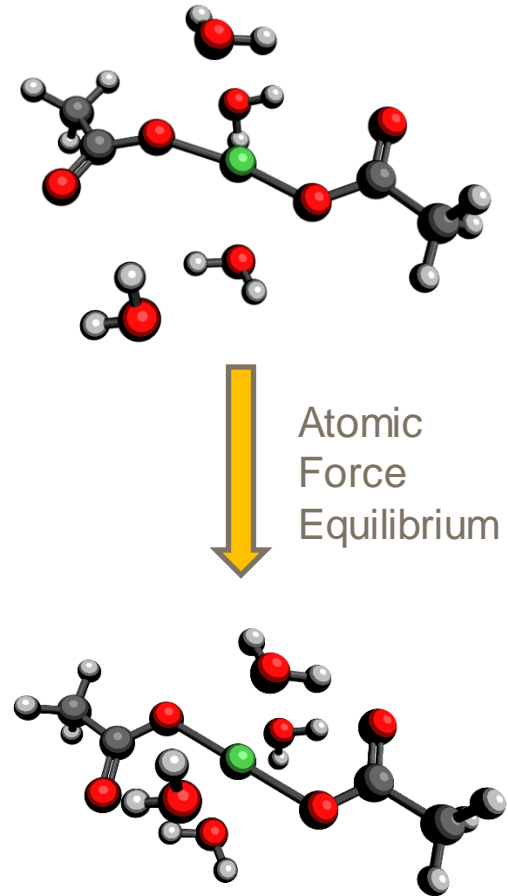
Functional:  $\omega$ B97X-V

Basis set: def2-TZVPP



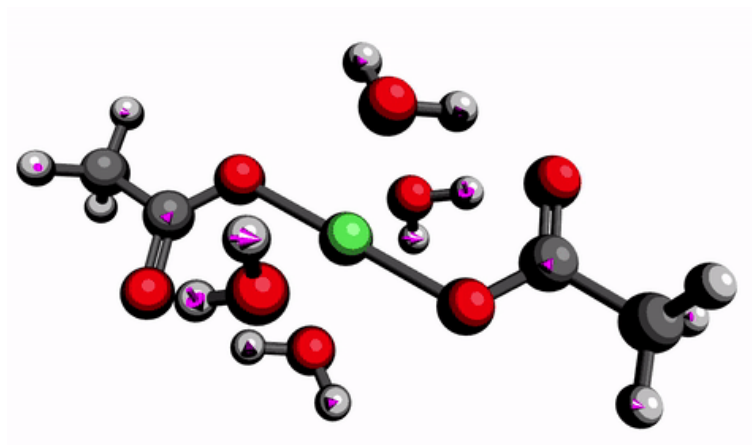
# Simulation Steps

- Mechanical Response
  1. **Minima search (OPT)**
  2. Diagonalize Hessian (FREQ)
  3. Apply external forces (EFEI)
- Free Energy Barriers
  1. Approximate reaction path (FSM)
  2. Transition state search (TS)
  3. Mechanochemical activation



# Simulation Steps

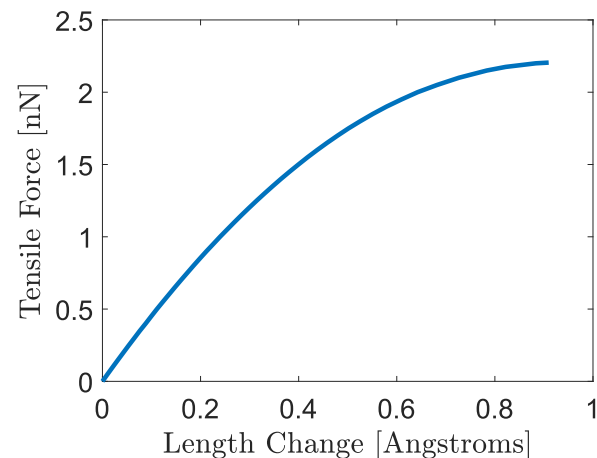
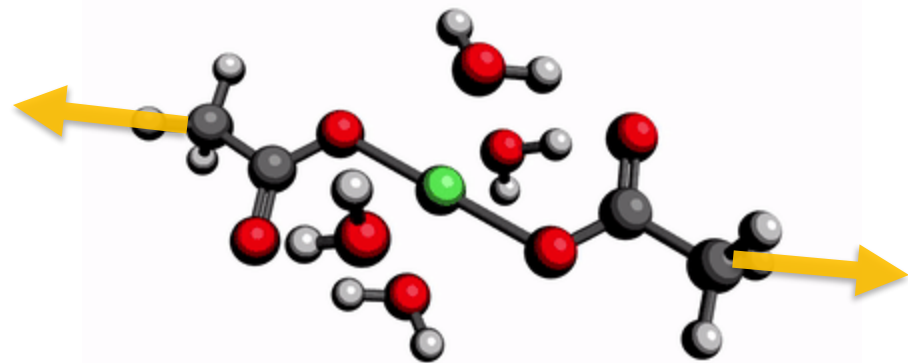
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$$\mathbf{F}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_0 + \Delta\boldsymbol{\xi}) = -\mathbf{H}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_0) \cdot \Delta\boldsymbol{\xi} + O(\Delta\boldsymbol{\xi}^2)$$

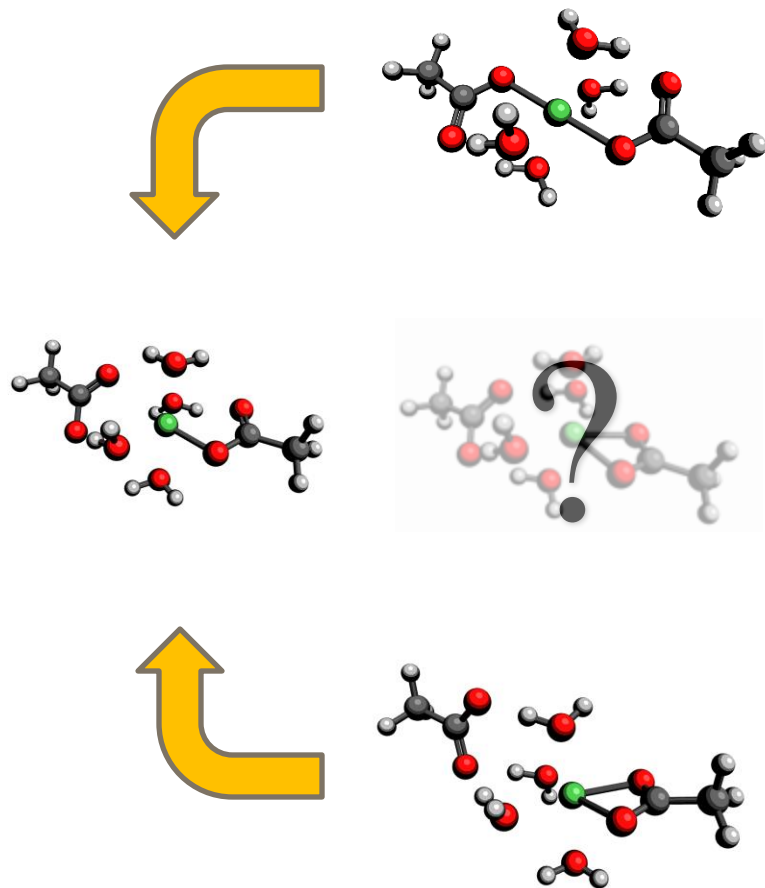
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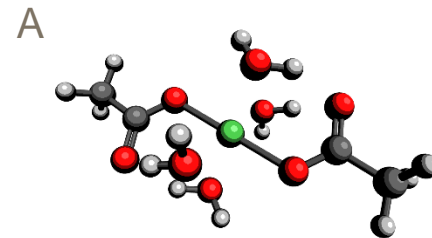




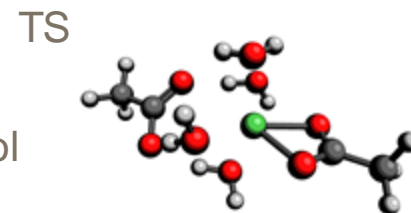
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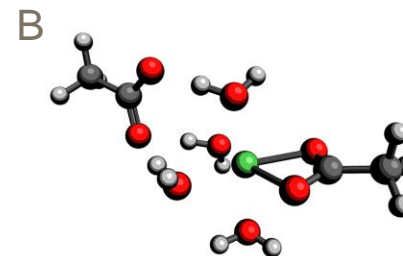
G = 0 kcal/mol



G = 18.13 kcal/mol

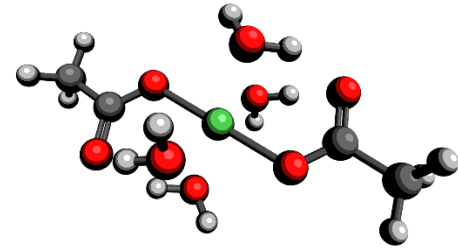


G = 5.06 kcal/mol

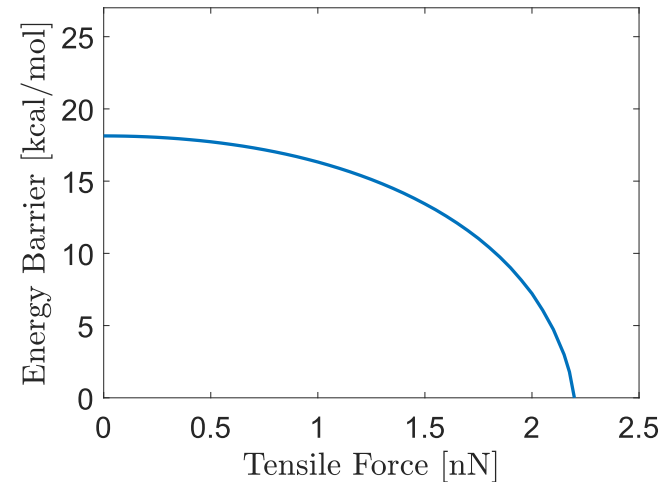


# Simulation Steps

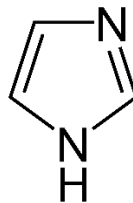
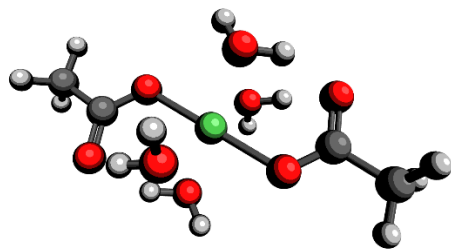
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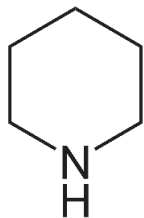
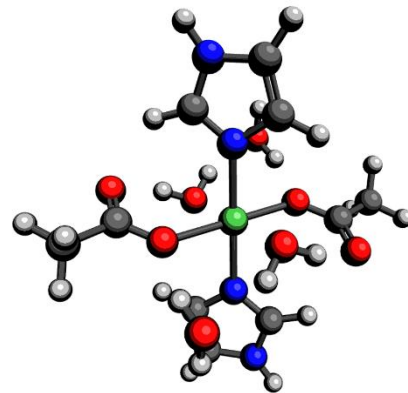
$$\Delta G_f = \Delta G_f^0 - \int \mathbf{F} \cdot d\mathbf{r}$$



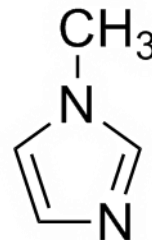
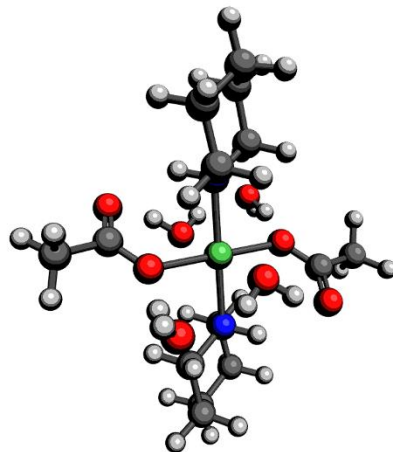
# Adding Different Ligands



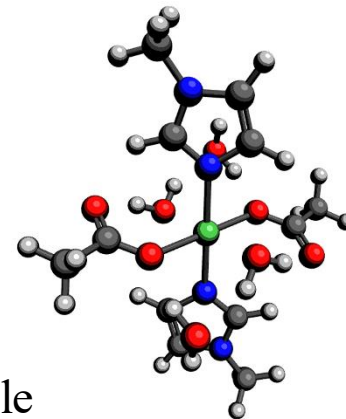
Imidazole



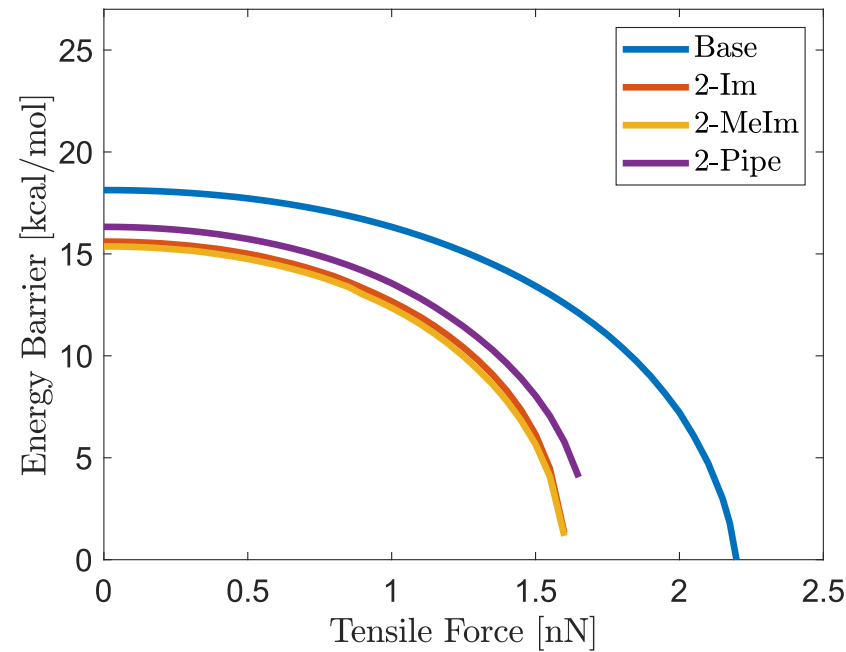
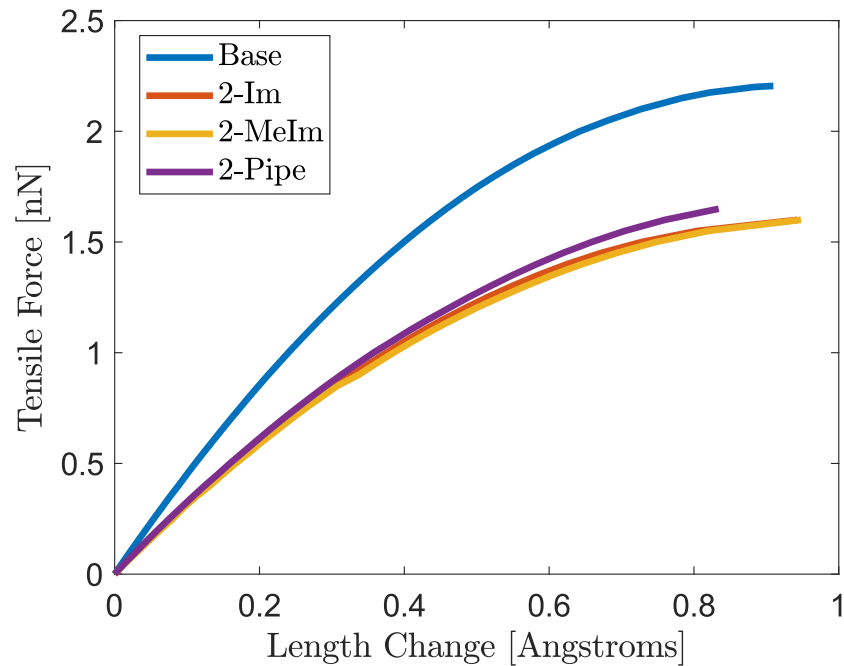
Piperidine



Methylimidazole

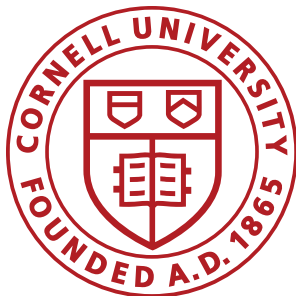


# Simulation Results



# Conclusions and Future Work

- Simulation illustrates differences in crosslinking structures when adding different ligands
  - Adding ligands reduces bond stiffness and strength
  - Force-modified free energy barriers vary with ligands
- Qualitative predictions can be made about the bulk material from these quantitative simulation results
- These and other simulation results will be used to inform a physics-based constitutive model



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Discovery Environment



# Thank you

Michael Buche

[mrb289@cornell.edu](mailto:mrb289@cornell.edu)

Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Cornell University

**Collaborators:** Zachary Sparrow<sup>2</sup>, Yuval Vidavsky<sup>1</sup>,  
Robert DiStasio<sup>2</sup>, Meredith Silberstein<sup>1</sup>

**MMD Lab<sup>1</sup>:** Meredith Silberstein, Yuval Vidavsky,  
Suwon Bae, Steven Yang, Joy Zhang, Prathamesh  
Raiter, Alison Rzepka

<sup>1</sup>Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Cornell University

<sup>2</sup>Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Cornell University