



# petBOA – A Python tool for Parameter Estimation of “black box” Macro- and Micro-kinetic Models with Bayesian Optimization

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<https://github.com/VlachosGroup/petboa>

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**VlachosLab**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

# Fine-tuning MKMs

- Microkinetic models are adjusted to ensure better parity with experimental observations
- The adjustments are done to the DFT potential energies of reactant and product intermediates and transition state species (within the DFT error  $\sim 20$ - $30$  kJ/mol)
- MKM parameters are updated by defining an optimization problem which reduces the disparity between model and experimental quantities of interest.

# Literature Example 1: Methanol Synthesis

- Methanol Synthesis on Cu through CO<sub>2</sub> and CO Hydrogenation
- 49 Elementary Steps Included in the Microkinetic Model

Table 2. The 49 Elementary Steps Included in the Microkinetic Model<sup>a</sup>

no.	reaction	$E_{\text{int}}/\text{eV}$ IS/FS	$\Delta E/\text{eV}$	$E_a / \text{eV}$	sticking probability or pre-exponential factor	$\omega$
R1	$\text{CO}_2 + * \rightarrow \text{CO}_2^*$		-0.08		1	
R2	$\text{H}_2 + 2* \rightarrow 2 \text{H}^*$		-0.29		1	
R3	$\text{CO} + * \rightarrow \text{CO}^*$		-0.86		1	
R4	$\text{H}_2\text{O} + * \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}^*$		-0.21		1	
R5	$\text{HCOOH} + * \rightarrow \text{HCOOH}^*$		-0.22		1	
R6	$\text{CH}_2\text{O} + * \rightarrow \text{CH}_2\text{O}^*$		-0.04		1	
R7	$\text{CH}_3\text{OH} + * \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{OH}^*$		-0.28		1	
R8	$\text{HCOOCH}_3 + * \rightarrow \text{HCOOCH}_3^*$		-0.10		1	
R9	$\text{CO}^* + \text{O}^* \rightarrow \text{CO}_2^* + *$	0.14/0.76	-1.12	0.65	$1.195 \times 10^{12}$	0.44
R10	$\text{CO}^* + \text{OH}^* \rightarrow \text{COOH}^* + *$	0/0	0.14	0.56	$4.667 \times 10^{11}$	0.36
R11	$\text{COOH}^* + * \rightarrow \text{CO}_2^* + \text{H}^*$	0.00/0.11	-0.55	1.23	$2.326 \times 10^{13}$	0.32
R12 <sup>b</sup>	$\text{COOH}^* + \text{OH}^* \rightarrow \text{CO}_2^* + \text{H}_2\text{O}^*$	-0.34/0.22	-0.76	0	$1.000 \times 10^{13}$	0.00
R13	$\text{COOH}^* + \text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{HCOOH}^* + *$	-0.01/0.00	-0.59	0.73	$6.793 \times 10^{13}$	0.35
R14	$\text{H}_2\text{O}^* + * \rightarrow \text{OH}^* + \text{H}^*$	0.01/0.08	0.21	1.39	$1.436 \times 10^{11}$	0.60

Table 5. Fully Optimized Parameter Set Used in the Microkinetic Model<sup>a</sup>

parameter	optimized value
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{H})$	-0.07 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{O})$	0.00 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{OH})$	-0.41 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$	0.00 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{CO})$	0.10 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{CO}_2)$	0.00 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{COOH})$	-0.31 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{HCO})$	-0.55 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{HCOO})$	-0.60 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{H}_2\text{COO})$	0.00 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{HCOOH})$	-0.49 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{CH}_3\text{O}_2)$	-0.55 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{CH}_2\text{O})$	-0.43 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{CH}_3\text{O})$	-0.64 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})$	0.00 eV
$\Delta H_{\text{fit}}(\text{CH}_3\text{OH})$	-0.23 eV
$\omega(\text{CO}^* + \text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{HCO}^* + *)$	0.68
$\omega(\text{HCO}^* + \text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{CH}_2\text{O}^* + *)$	0.26
$\omega(\text{CH}_2\text{O}^* + \text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{O}^* + *)$	0.21
$\omega(\text{CO}_2^* + \text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{HCOO}^* + *)$	0.82
$\omega(\text{HCOO}^* + \text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{HCOOH}^* + *)$	0.68
$\omega(\text{HCOO}^* + \text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{CO}_2^* + *)$	0.33
$\omega(\text{HCOOH}^* + \text{H}^* \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{O}_2^*)$	0.30
$\omega(\text{CO}^* + \text{O}^* \rightarrow \text{CO}_2^* + *)$	0.23
$\omega(\text{CO}^* + \text{OH}^* \rightarrow \text{COOH}^* + *)$	0.59
$\omega(\text{COOH}^* + * \rightarrow \text{CO}_2^* + \text{H}^*)$	0.33
$\omega(\text{H}_2\text{O}^* + * \rightarrow \text{OH}^* + \text{H}^*)$	0.87
$\omega(\text{OH}^* + * \rightarrow \text{O}^* + \text{H}^*)$	0.91
$\omega(2 \text{OH}^* + * \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}^* + \text{O}^*)$	0.66

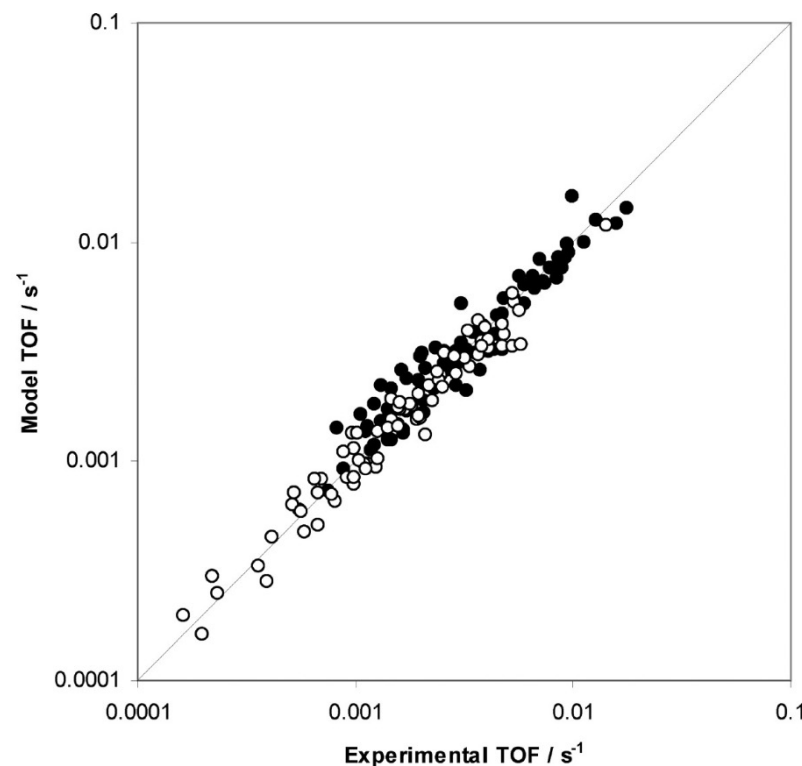
$$E_f = E_{\text{fDFT}} + \omega(\Delta H - \Delta E_{\text{DFT}})_i$$

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$$E_f = E_{f,\text{DFT}} + \omega(\Delta H - \Delta E_{\text{DFT}})_i$$

Figure 4. Parity plot of experimental and calculated TOF. Full circles represent CH<sub>3</sub>OH production rates; open circles, H<sub>2</sub>O production rates. Experimental data is taken from refs 27 and 28. Quality of fit:  $R^2$  (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) = 0.90,  $R^2$  (H<sub>2</sub>O) = 0.94,  $R^2$  (overall) = 0.92.

# Literature Example 2: Sequential Optimization

- A sequential optimization algorithm for parameter estimation of MKMs

## Objective Function

$$Z_{\text{Param.Est}} = \min \sum_{c \in C} (y_c - \bar{y}_c)^T W (y_c - \bar{y}_c) + \delta(\pi - \pi_{\text{nom}})^T (\pi - \pi_{\text{nom}})$$

$$\frac{dx_c}{dt} = f(x_c, k_c, u_c)$$

$$g(x_c, k_c, u_c) = 0$$

$$y_c = Bx_c(t \rightarrow \infty); \quad x_c(0) = x_0(u_c);$$

$$u_c = \{F_{\text{in},c}, P_{\text{tot},c}, T_c\}$$

$$h(y_c, u_c, k_c) \geq 0$$

$$k_c = \psi(p, \pi_c, u_c)$$

## MKM

$$\Delta H_j = \sum_{i \in I_j} \nu_{ij} H_i \quad \forall j \in J$$

$$H_i = H_i^{\text{DFT}} + \Delta \text{BE}_i \quad \forall i \in I$$

## Binding Energy Deviation

$$E_{a,j} = E_{a,j}^{\text{DFT}} + \Delta E_{a,j}$$

$$H_{\text{TS},j} = H_{\text{TS},j}^{\text{DFT}} + \Delta E_{\text{TS},j} \quad \forall j \in J$$

## Transition State Deviation

$$k_{\text{for},j} = k_{0j} e^{-E_{a,j}/RT} \quad \forall j \in J$$

$$k_{\text{for},j} = K_j k_{\text{rev},j} \quad \forall j \in J$$

$$K_j = e^{-\Delta H_j/RT} e^{\Delta S_j/R} = K_{0j} e^{-\Delta H_j/RT} \quad \forall j \in J$$

## Rate/Equilibrium constants

$$E_{a,j} \geq 0 \quad \forall j \in J$$

$$E_{a,j} \geq \Delta H_j \quad \forall j \in J$$

$$\pi_{\text{LB},n} \leq \pi_n \leq \pi_{\text{UB},n} \quad \forall n \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$$

## Thermodynamic Constraints

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## Objective Function

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$$\frac{dx_c}{dt} = f(x_c, k_c, u_c)$$

$$g(x_c, k_c, u_c) = 0$$

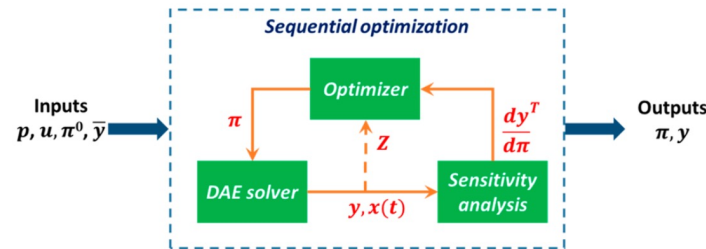
$$y_c = Bx_c(t \rightarrow \infty); \quad x_c(0) = x_0(u_c);$$

$$u_c = \{F_{\text{in},c}, P_{\text{tot},c}, T_c\}$$

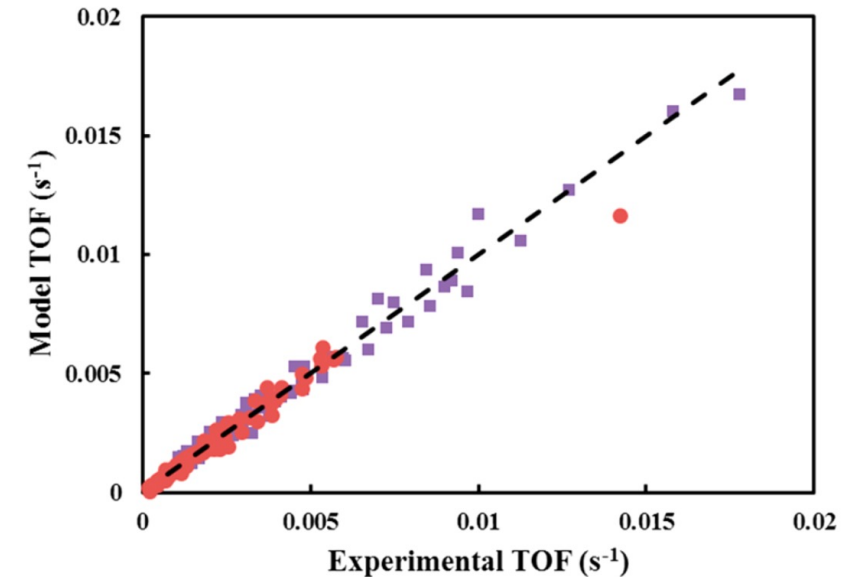
$$h(y_c, u_c, k_c) \geq 0$$

$$k_c = \psi(p, \pi_c, u_c)$$

## MKM



**Figure 1.** Schematic of the information flow in the sequential method for solving nonlinear optimization problems with an embedded system of DAEs. The flow of decision variables  $\pi$ , objective  $Z$ , state profiles  $y$ ,  $x(t)$ , and sensitivities  $\left(\frac{dy}{d\pi}\right)^T$  have been marked explicitly. Inputs to the optimization block are constants  $p$  such as the DFT-derived kinetics and thermochemistry, initial guesses of decision variables  $\pi^0$ , reactor inputs  $u$  such as the temperature, pressure, and feed composition, and experimental data  $\bar{y}$ , while the outputs are the optimal values of the decision variables  $\pi$  and model predictions  $y$ .



**Figure 3.** Model versus experiment turnover frequency (TOF) parity plot of the primary solution for the parameter estimation problem for methanol synthesis. Purple squares (■) indicate methanol TOF, red circles (●) indicate water TOF, and the dashed line is the parity line.

- petBOA uses Bayesian Optimization for a gradient-free parameter estimation
- petBOA relies on NEXTorch<sup>1</sup> for the Bayesian Optimization routines
- Parameter updates for MKMs i.e., (adsorbate reactant/product/transition state deviations) are handled “on-the-fly” leveraging pMuTT and OpenMKM
- Code and detailed example templates can be found at
  - GitHub: <https://github.com/vlachosGroup/petBOA>

# petBOA



## Folder Tree for the main project

```

.
├── petboa
├── examples
├── LICENSE.md
├── setup.py
└── README.md
  
```

# Source files: classes and methods for BO based parameter estimation  
# All example templates with respective input data and results

## Examples folder tree

This describes the folder tree for the templates.

```

.
├── example_1_rosenbrock
│   ├── evaluate_GSA
│   ├── petboa
│   └── scipy
├── example_2_python_EDH_model
│   ├── evaluate_gsa
│   ├── gen_data
│   ├── petboa_all_params
│   ├── petboa_noisy_data
│   └── scipy_all_params
  
```

# Generic PE template for a parametrized model  
# Global sensitivity analysis using SALib to identify  
# Fit parameters using petBOA  
# Fit parameters using SciPy Nelder-Mead  
# Python Macrokinetic model: Batch Reactor for the et  
# Global sensitivity analysis using SALib to identify  
# Generate simulated data used for fitting the macro  
# Fit parameters using petBOA  
# Fit parameters with noisy simulated data using pet  
# Fit parameters using SciPy

[1] <https://github.com/vlachosGroup/nextorch>

[1] Y. Wang, T.-Y. Chen, and D.G. Vlachos, NEXTorch: A Design and Bayesian Optimization Toolkit for Chemical Sciences and Engineering, J. Chem. Inf. Model. 2021, 61, 11, 5312–5319



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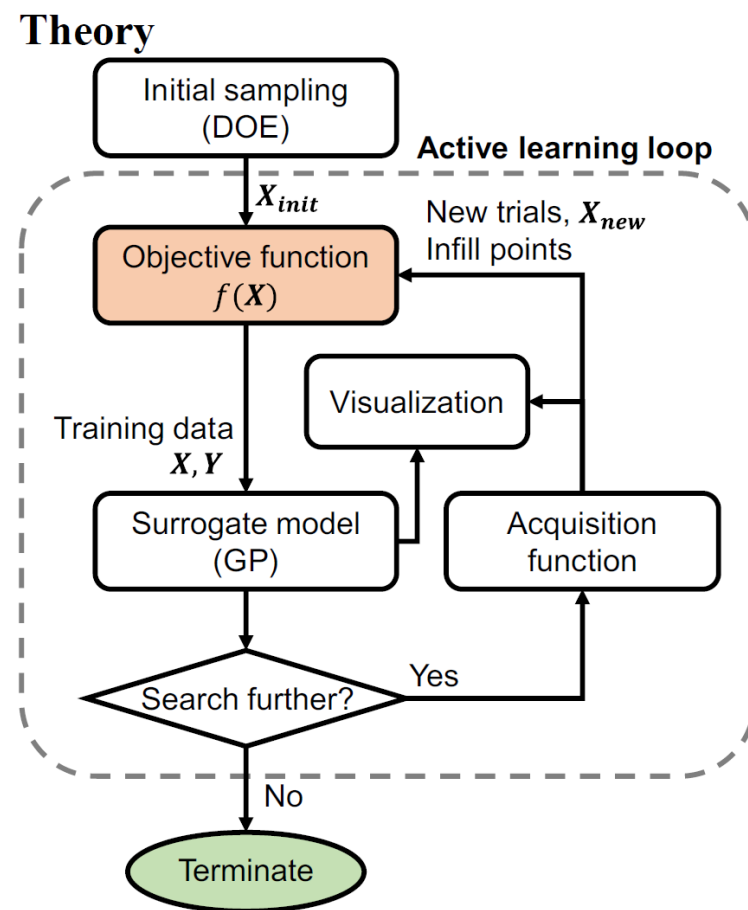


Figure 1. Overview of the active learning framework.

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# petBOA with OpenMKM

- MKM's solved using OpenMKM
- Parameter tuning using NEXTorch's Bayesian Optimization
- All input files are generated using pMuTT during optimization
- Species binding energies are updated by changing the coefficients ( $a_5$ ,  $F$ ) of
- Nasa Polynomials

$$\bullet \frac{H}{RT} = a_0 + a_1 \frac{T}{2} + a_2 \frac{T^2}{3} + a_3 \frac{T^3}{4} + a_4 \frac{T^4}{5} + a_5 \frac{1}{T}$$

- Shomate Polynomials

$$\bullet \frac{H}{RT} = \frac{1}{RT} \left( At + B \frac{t^2}{2} + C \frac{t^3}{3} + D \frac{t^4}{4} - E \frac{1}{t} + F \right)$$

- When making OpenMKM input files with using updated NASA/Shomate polynomials:
  - pMuTT updates thermo (yaml/xml) for new thermochemistry
  - pMuTT recalculated activation energy ( $E_a$ ) of all elementary steps in which the species participates
  - pMuTT ensure newer activation energy is thermodynamically consistent

# petBOA Workflow

- Use pMuTT-Excel link to develop OpenMKM input files.
- Decide on what parameters to fit/tune in this exercise i.e., deviations to ground-state species, transition state energies, or explicit activation barriers.
  - Perform sensitivity analysis to identify key params!
- Using Python Programming and pMuTT
  - Editing “reactor.yaml” input file based on experimental data to change operating conditions: P, T, Q, V, initial X, etc.
  - Thermodynamic specification file with new perturbations
  - Edit the “loss function” routine to decide on the logic used for evaluation the loss of the objective function.
- Parts of this workflow are automated, but some tweaks must be done manually.
- Run the parameter estimation and repeat it by “bracketing” the bounds, or multi-starting it identify optimal solution!

```
...
def loss_function(params, **kwargs):
    create_thermo_yaml(params, *args)
    create_reactor_yaml(params, *args)
    qois = model_wrapper.run(OpenMKM)
    loss = calculate(qois, input_data)
    return loss

def create_thermo_yaml(params):
    parse_params(params)
    new_thermo = perturb_species_thermo(params, old_species_thermo)
    kin_params = recalculate_kinetic_params(new_thermo)
    write_thermo_file(new_thermo, kin_params)

def main:
    # Transform experimental data
    ...
    # Read Parameter Data
    param_data = read_param_input_file()
    # Populate Model Wrapper with data
    ...
    # Run Bayesian Optimization
    result = run_BO_optimizer(wrapper, params, loss, *, **)
    # plot and save results
    ...
...
```

# Demo 1: petBOA – NH<sub>3</sub> Model

See Example at:

[VLAB-Workshop/petBOA/](https://vlab-workshop.github.io/petBOA/)

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