

CH40208

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# TOPICS IN COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY

# WHAT IS COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY AND WHY LEARN ABOUT IT?

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- ▶ examples:

- ▶ what is the groundstate structure of a molecule?
- ▶ what are a molecule's HOMO & LUMO and how does this affect reactivity?
- ▶ what voltage should we get from a new solar cell material?
- ▶ is this proposed synthesis pathway viable?
- ▶ what does this complex dataset tell us about our chemistry?

## EXAMPLES OF COMPUTATIONAL RESEARCH AT BATH

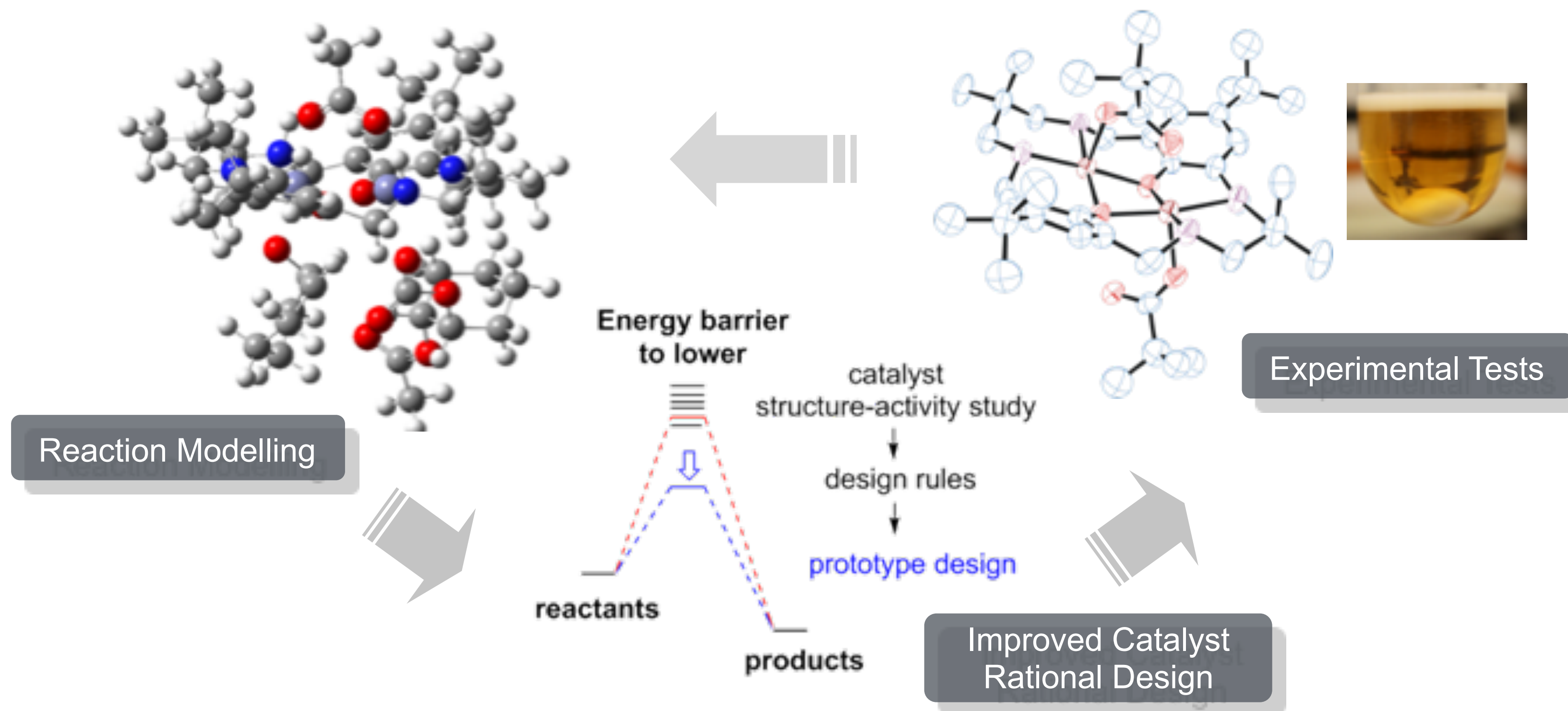
- ▶ How does changing chemistry affect the performance of battery materials? (BJM / MSI)
- ▶ Predicting the performance of new thermoelectric materials (SJC)
- ▶ How do  $K^+$  ions pass through channels in cell membranes? (CD)
- ▶ How does zeolite structure affect catalytic properties (AOM)
- ▶ What are the energy barriers for competing synthetic pathways? (CLM / MNG)
- ▶ What are the magnetic properties of new transition-metal complexes (ES)

# NOT JUST THE “COMPUTATIONAL” SECTION

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## ► Antoine Buchard

Understanding/predicting catalyst structure/activity relationship



# NOT JUST THE “COMPUTATIONAL” SECTION

- ▶ Mike Hill / Mary Mahon  
(Claire McMullin)

## ORGANOMETALLICS

### Organocalcium-mediated nucleophilic alkylation of benzene

Andrew S. S. Wilson,<sup>1</sup> Michael S. Hill,<sup>1\*</sup> Mary F. Mahon,<sup>1</sup>  
Chiara Dinoi,<sup>2</sup> Laurent Maron<sup>2\*</sup>

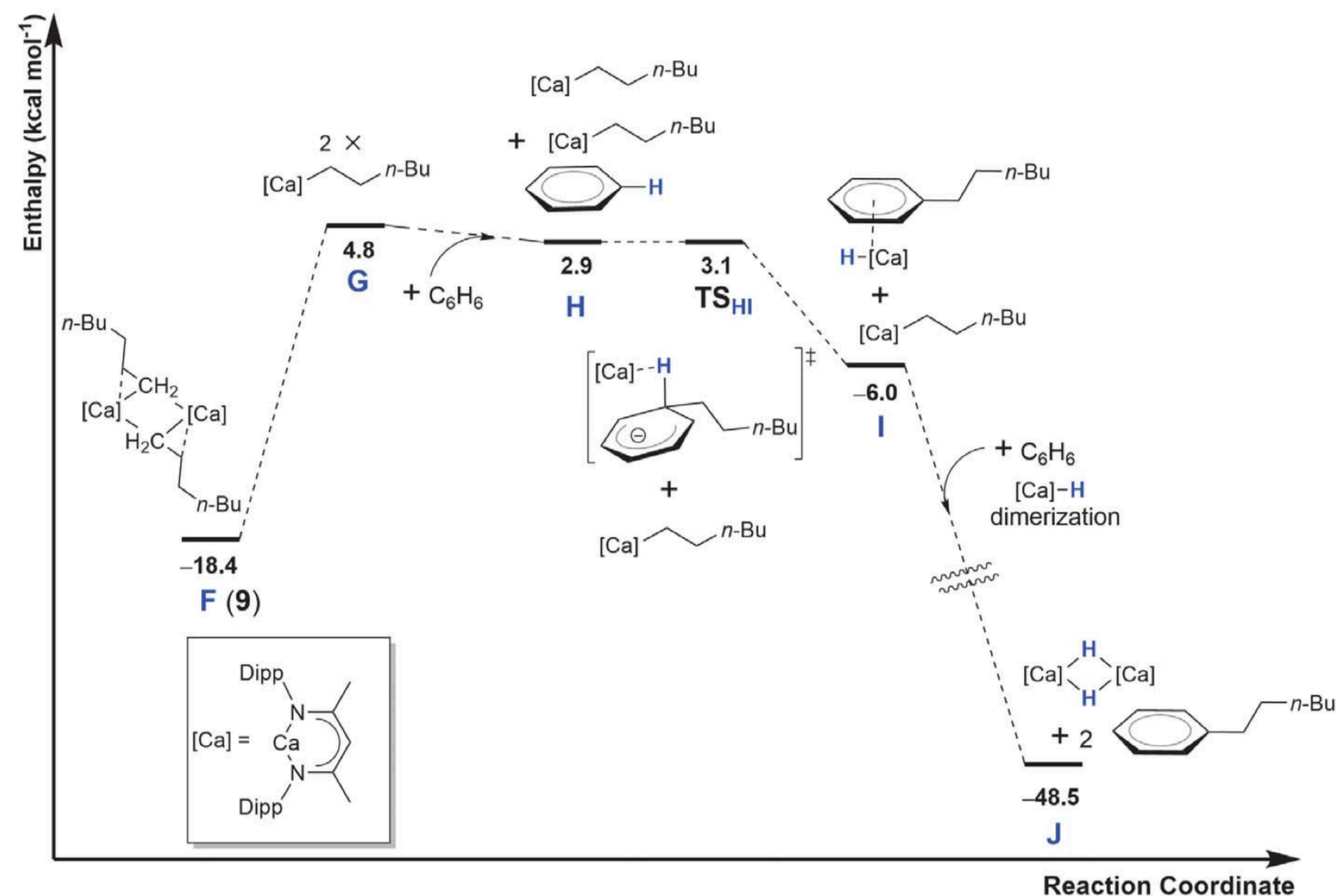
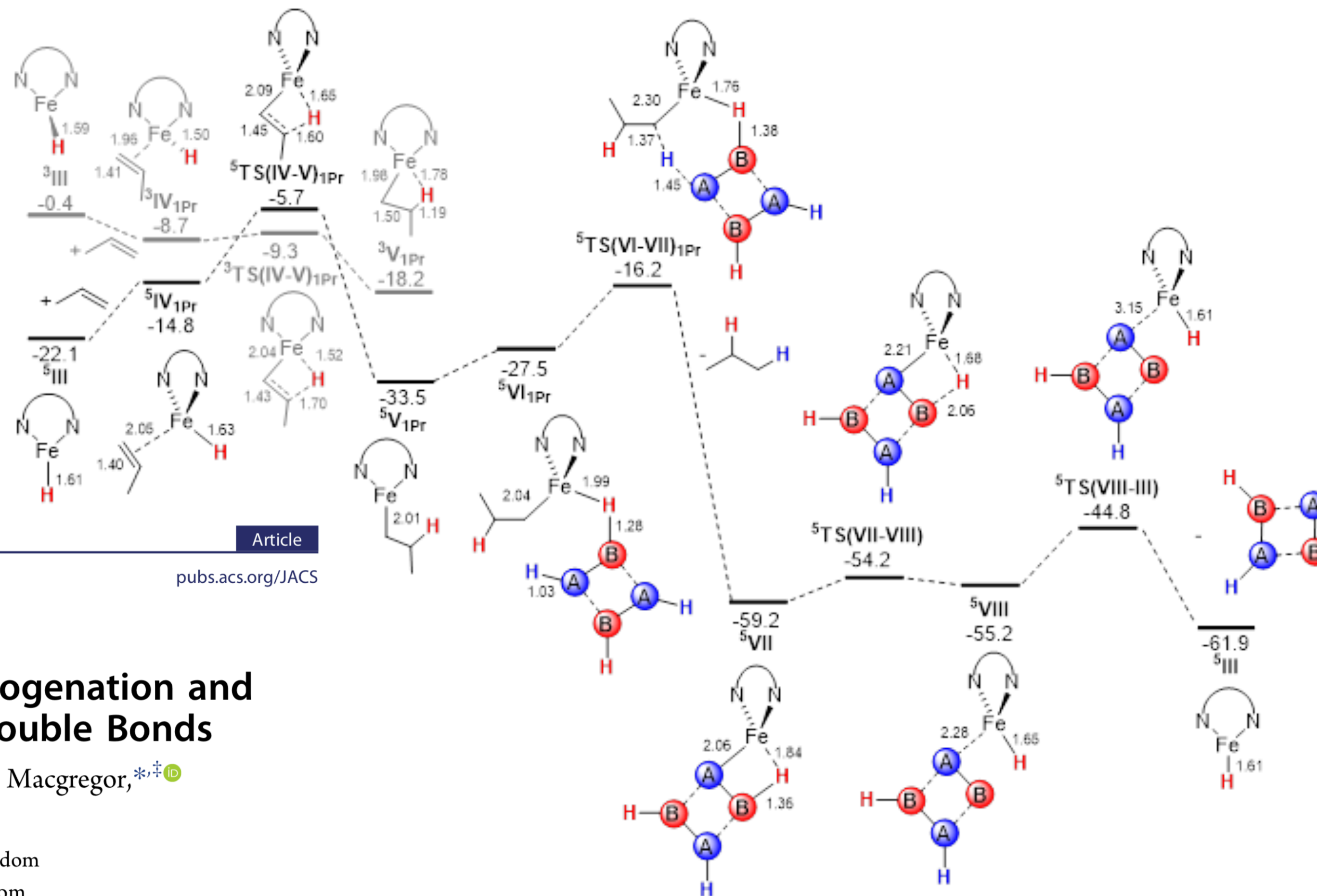


Fig. 5. Computed (DFT, B3PW91) energy profile for the reaction between compound 9 and benzene.



# NOT JUST THE “COMPUTATIONAL” SECTION

## ► Ruth Webster



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Article  
pubs.acs.org/JACS

## Room Temperature Iron-Catalyzed Transfer Hydrogenation and Regioselective Deuteration of Carbon–Carbon Double Bonds

Maialen Espinal-Viguri,<sup>†,§</sup> Samuel E. Neale,<sup>‡</sup> Nathan T. Coles,<sup>†,§</sup> Stuart A. Macgregor,<sup>\*,‡</sup> and Ruth L. Webster<sup>\*,†</sup>

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<sup>‡</sup>Institute of Chemical Sciences, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh EH14 4AS, United Kingdom

# NOT JUST THE “COMPUTATIONAL” SECTION

- Mike Whittlesey, Mary Mahon  
(Vera Krewald)

Dalton  
Transactions

PAPER



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Cite this: *Dalton Trans.*, 2018, **47**, 769

## Mono- and dinuclear Ni(I) products formed upon bromide abstraction from the Ni(I) ring-expanded NHC complex $[\text{Ni}(\text{6-Mes})(\text{PPh}_3)\text{Br}]^\dagger$

William J. I  
Andrea Fol  
Emma Ricl

Israel J. Page,<sup>a</sup>  
Murphy,<sup>b</sup>

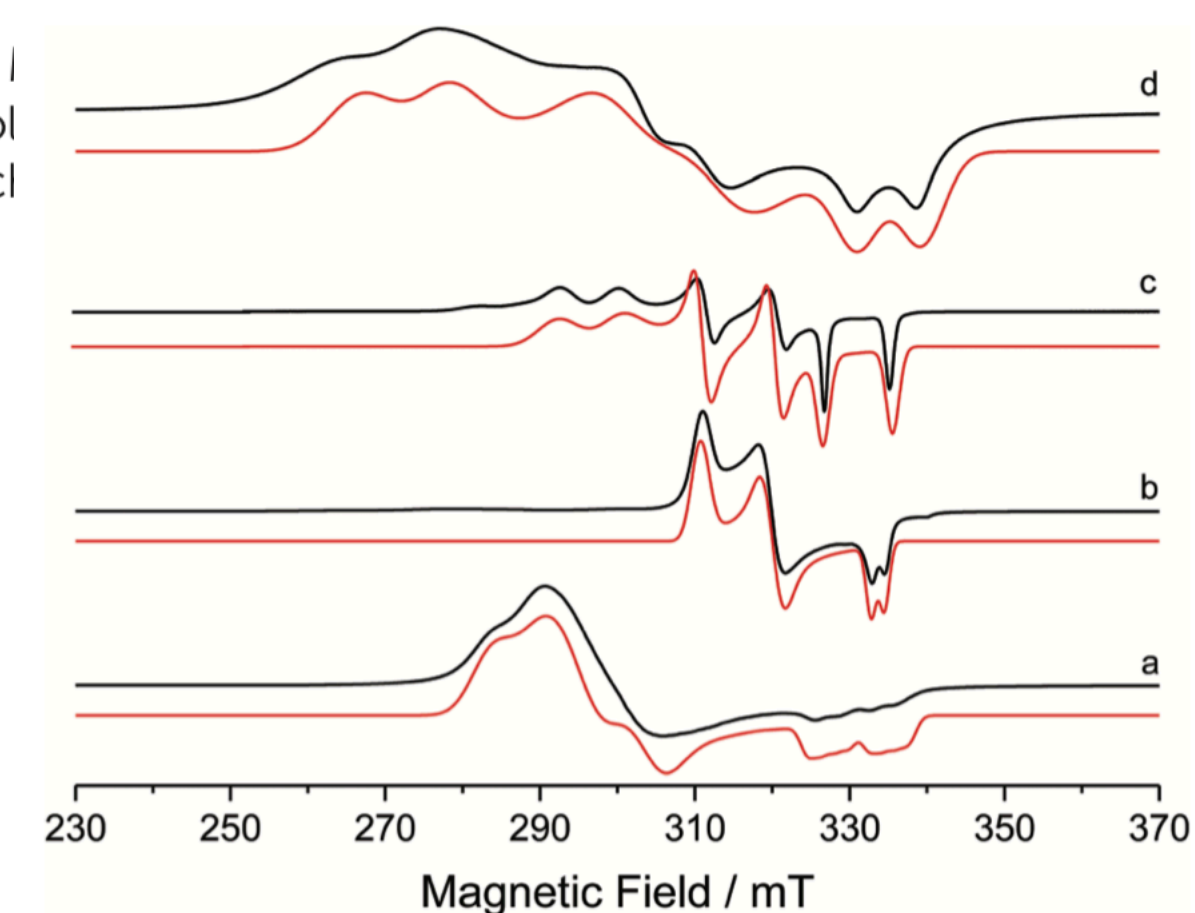
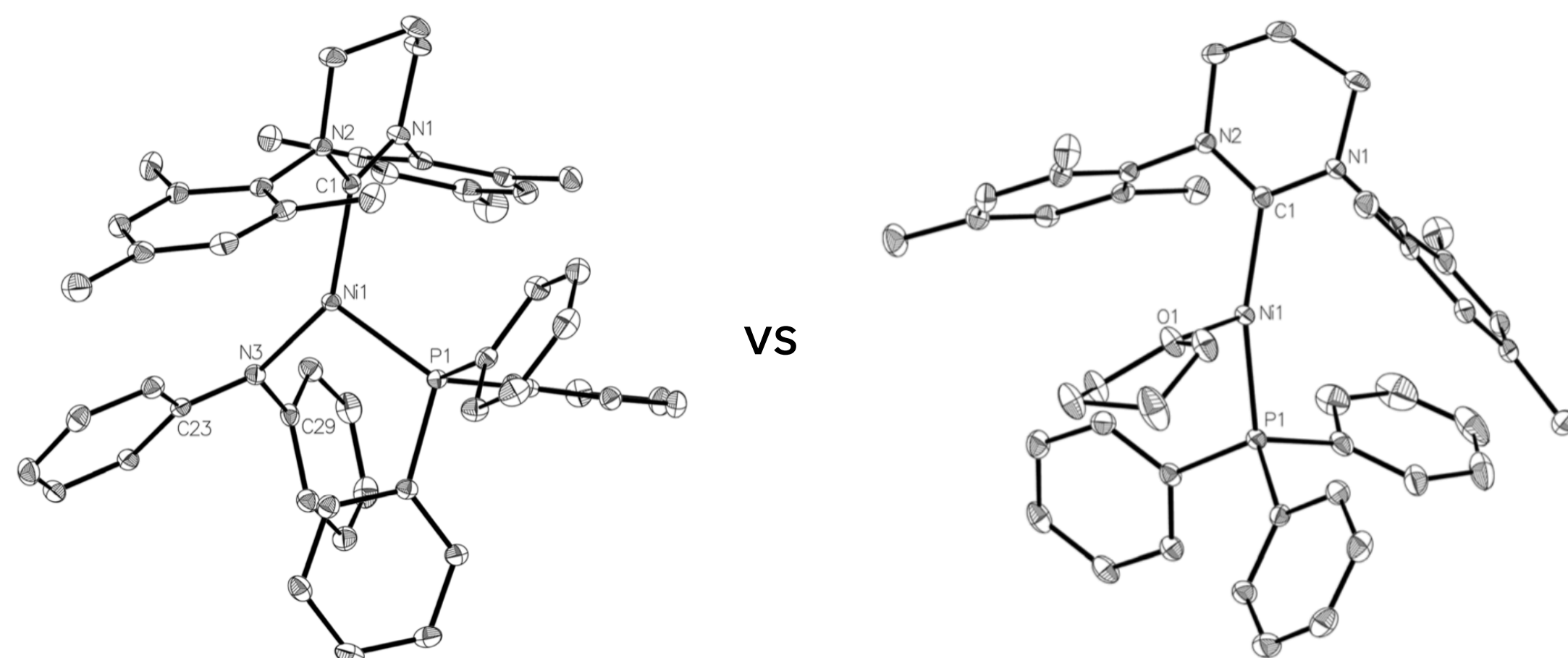
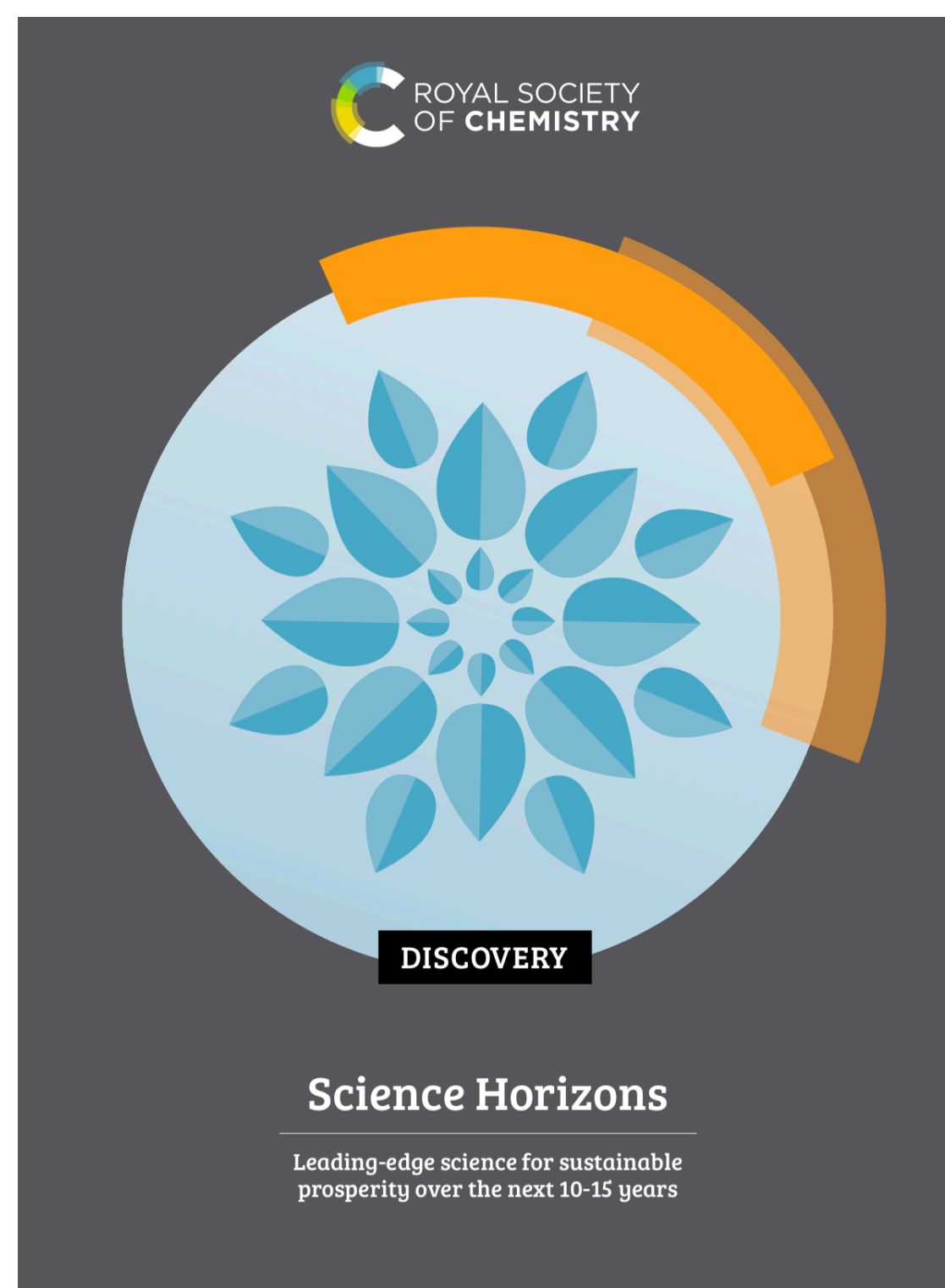


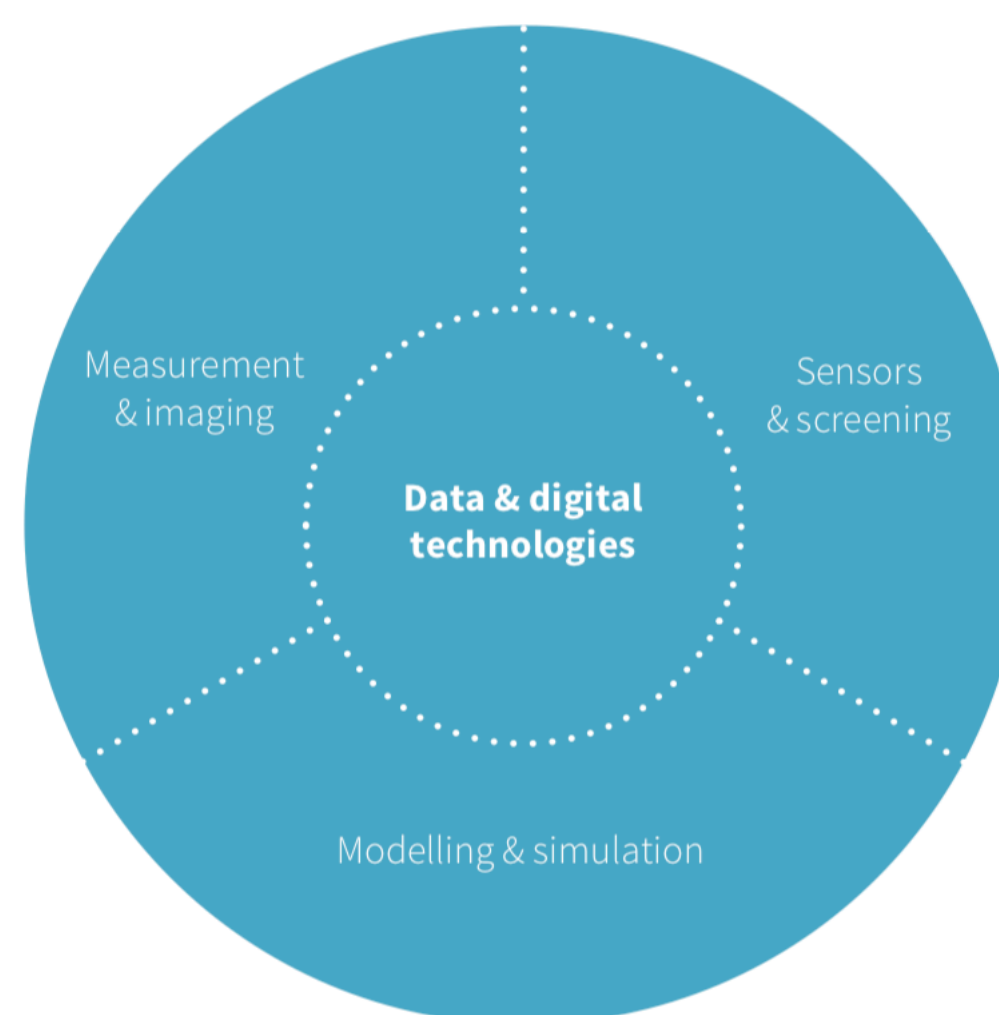
Fig. 2 Experimental (black) and simulated (red) X-band CW EPR spectra of (a) **1**, (b) **5**, (c) **8** and (d) **2** in frozen THF solution at 140 K.

# COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY IS EXTREMELY BROAD AND NOT JUST FOR “SPECIALISTS”

- ▶ Key area of research in the next 10–15 years.



## 3.3 Frontier techniques



### Modelling & simulation

“Advances in theoretical and computational techniques for predicting the structure, function and properties of molecules, proteins, catalysts and materials.

Modelling & simulation is critical for the analysis and interpretation of data and for using data to make predictions and new discoveries.”

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- ▶ Learning by **doing**:
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- ▶ Why programming?
  - ▶ Have to understand what the computer is doing / not just a “black box”
  - ▶ Learn how to deconstruct a problem into an “algorithm”
  - ▶ Useful practical skill (both in chemistry and outside)

**BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PROGRAM!**

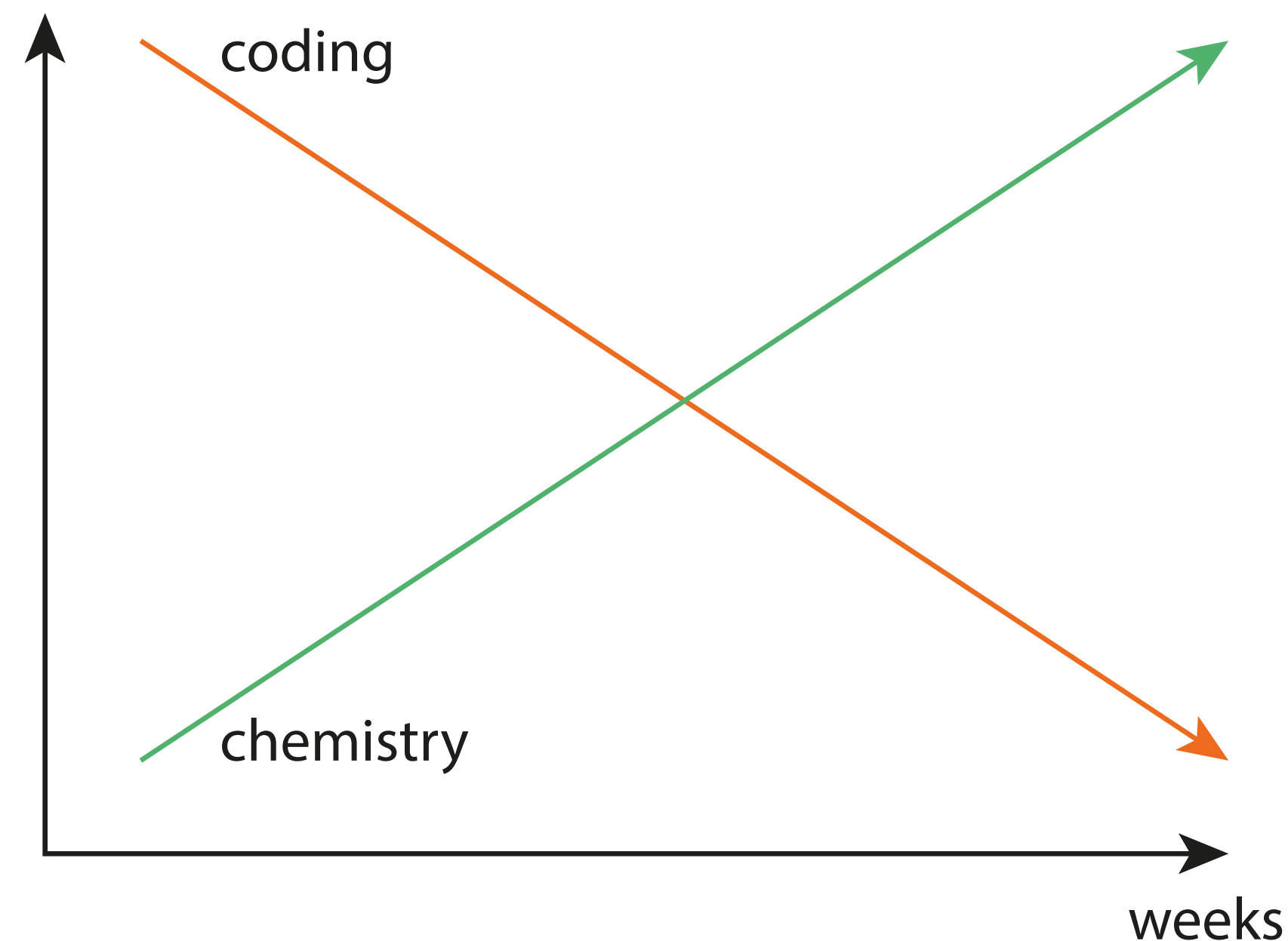
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- ▶ We do not assume any previous programming knowledge (e.g. Y1 / Y2 labs)
  - ▶ Learning to program (using Python)
  - ▶ Solving practical chemistry problems computationally.



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## COURSE STRUCTURE

- ▶ <https://moodle.bath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=54567#section-1>