# Journal Club 7-12-2017

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### Article 1

Sampling Polymorphs of Ionic Solids using Random Superlattices

#### Article 2

Ab initio random structure search

## "Packing" Polymorphs

Solids with similar stoichiometry but different crystal structure/packing.

Polymorphs are found at the bottom of funnels



Figure: Two funnels containing multiple basins

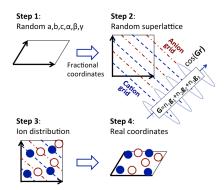
### Factors influencing realizability of polymorphs

- 1. Energy above ground state
- 2. Energy barrier to escape minimum
- 3. Volume of configuration space occupied by the minimum of the polymorph.

This article focuses on assigning configuration space volumes.

The third factor might be a simplification as the volume of the whole funnel will probably contribute to the minimum basin of the funnel.

# Sampling using Random Superlatices



## Complexity of PES - motivational argument

- 1. Consider deviding a system of N atoms into M subsystems.
- 2. Assume that the M subsystems are large enough to have independent stable configurations.
- 3. Neglecting changes in the number of stable configurations arising from combining the M sub systems.

The total number of stable configurations  $n_s(N)$  must then satisfy

$$n_s(N) = (n_s(N/M))^M$$

with solution

$$n_s(N) = \exp^{\alpha N}$$

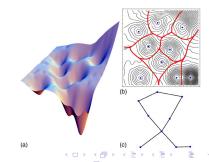


#### General remarks on the PES

- 1. Almost no minima when atoms are close
- 2. The barrier to lower lying minima are smaller than those to higher lying minima
- 3. Low energy basins come in groups
- 4. Low energy basins occupy larger configuration space volumes

The distribution of number of transitions connecting a minima has a power law tail. The low

energy minima are highly connected.



### t-SNE

- Nonlinear dimensionality reduction
- Maps points such that similar points remain close in the reduced space.
- Uses: Mapping to 2 or 3 dimensions, visualizing neural network representations.

## Investigation of the PES

- DFT vs. DFTB+
- PES of molecules vs. solids