



Open Catalyst Challenge 23



THE ITALIAN JOB

The team



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Massimiliano
Pontil

Atomistic Simulations

Machine Learning

Italian Institute of Technology, Genoa, Italy

Outline of *the job*

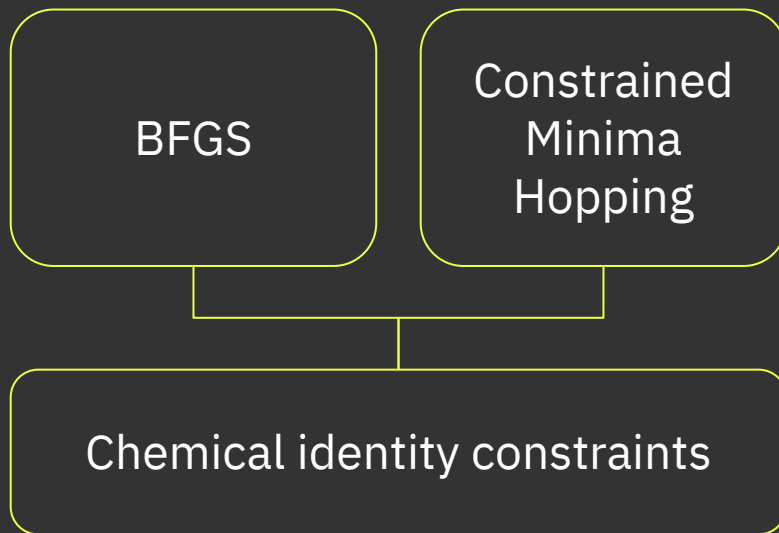
1. Search candidate *configurations*
2. Improve *energy* estimation
3. Take the lowest minima

Outline of *the job*

1. Search candidate *configurations*

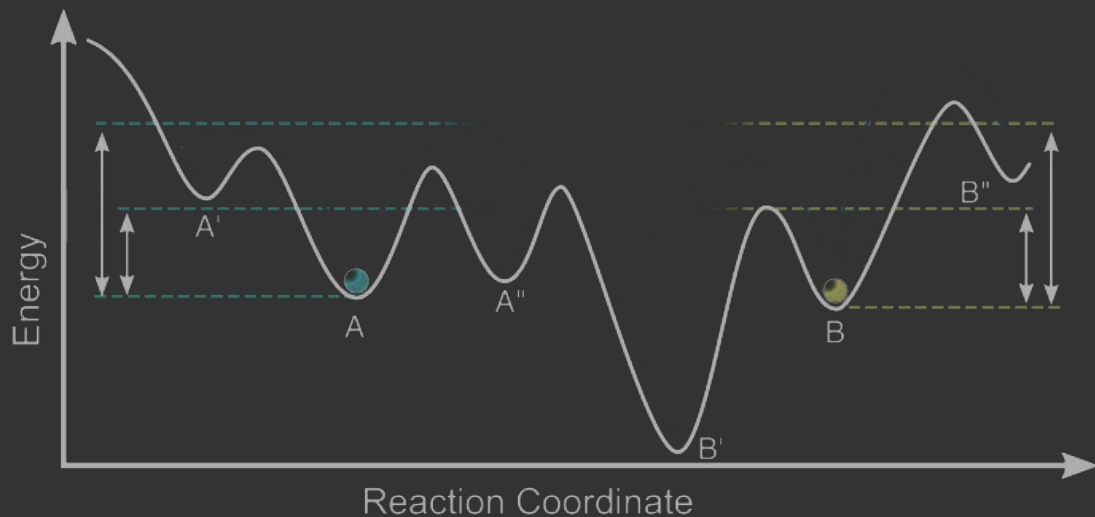
2. Improve *energy* estimation
3. Take the lowest minima

Local and global optimization schemes with different ML potentials ¹



¹ EquiformerV2, GemNet-OC and eSCN (OC20 2M)

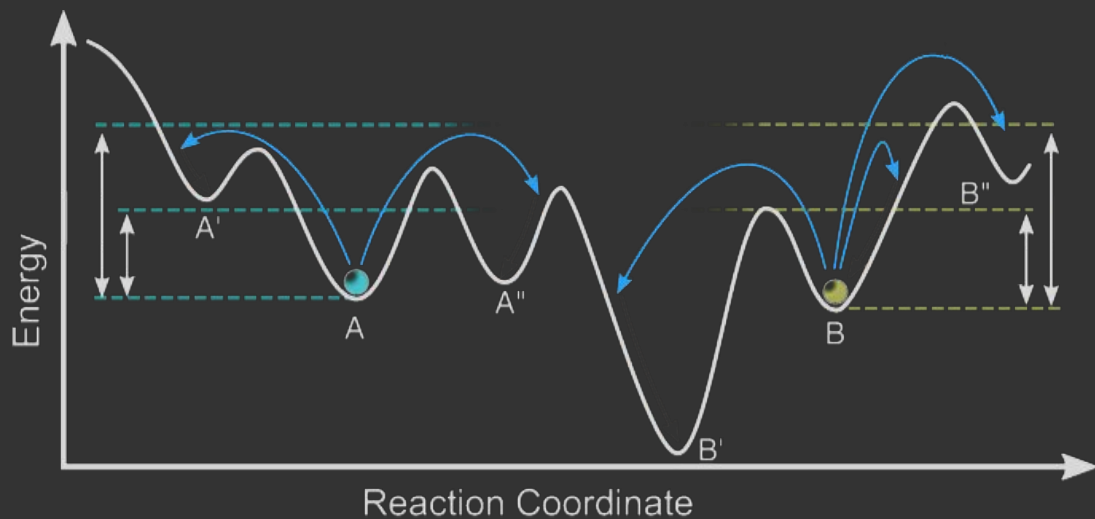
(Constrained) Minima Hopping



- (High temperature) molecular dynamics
- BFGS to minimize

Constraints are needed to avoid changing the molecular identity

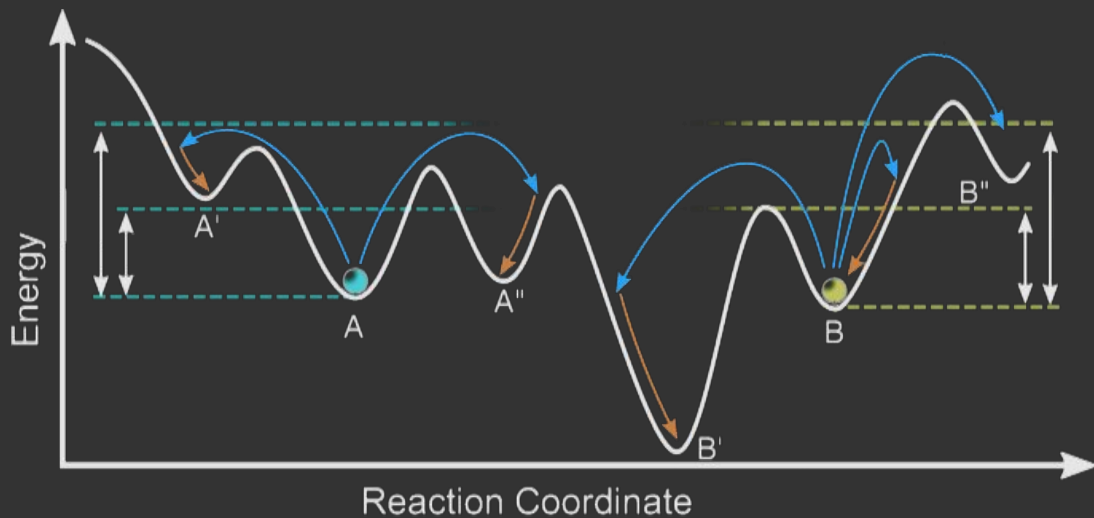
(Constrained) Minima Hopping



- (High temperature) molecular dynamics
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(Constrained) Minima Hopping



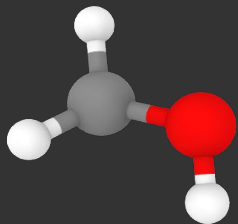
- (High temperature) molecular dynamics
- BFGS to minimize

Constraints are needed to avoid changing the molecular identity

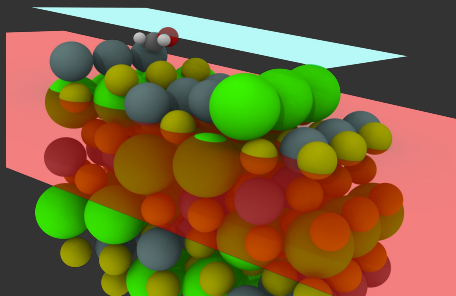
General constraints to preserve molecular identity

Steer optimization towards physically relevant configurations

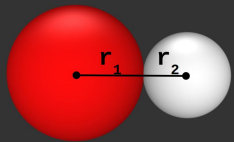
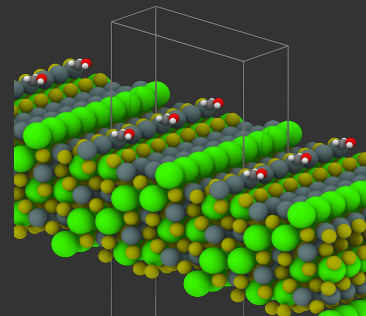
Dissociation



Desorption and Intercalation



Surface Reconstruction

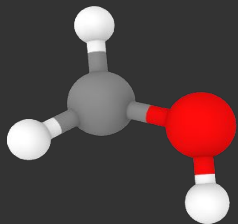


Generalized Hookean constraints based
on contact matrix built from covalent radii

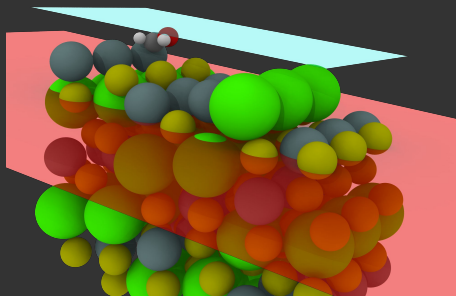
General constraints to preserve molecular identity

Steer optimization towards physically relevant configurations.

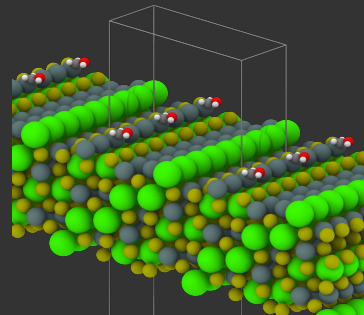
Dissociation



Desorption and Intercalation



Surface Reconstruction



Model	Anomalies	Dissociated	Desorbed	Intercalated	Reconstructed
Baseline	19.3%	0.3%	10.1%	2.3%	8.8%
Our approach	12.4%	0.0%	2.9%	2.0%	8.7 %

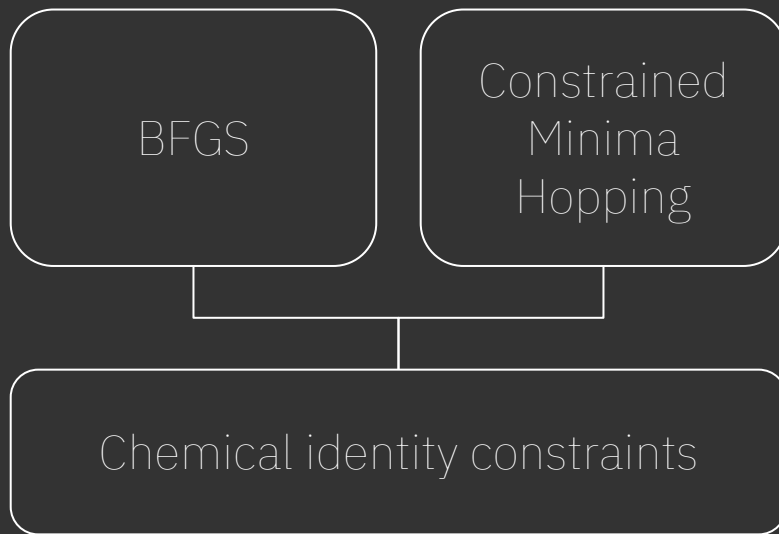
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# systems	$E_{ML}(x) < E_{DFT} + 0.1 \text{ eV}$
BFGS	79.5 %
BFGS + constraints	82.1 %
BFGS + Constraints + Minima Hopping	87.2 %

Results on the (balanced) validation dataset.

Local and global optimization schemes with different ML potentials ¹



¹ EquiformerV2, GemNet-OC and eSCN (OC20 2M)

Outline of *the job*

1. Search candidate configurations
2. **Improve energy estimation**
3. Take the lowest minima

Original idea:

Fine-tune a pre-trained ML model.
(discarded - too costly)

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Our approach:

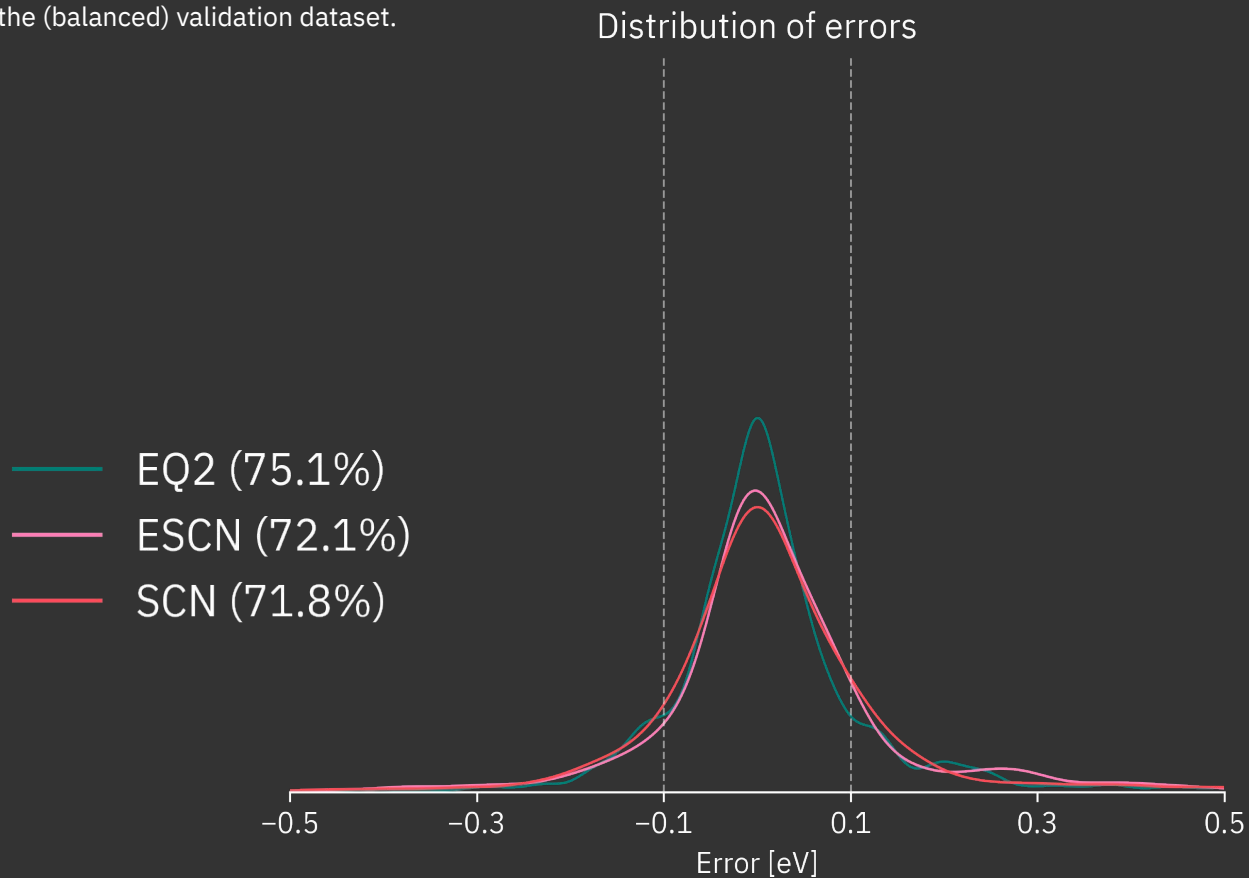
ML models are wrong in different ways

Ensembling

Uncertainty
filtering

Improving energy estimation

Results on the (balanced) validation dataset.



Improving energy estimation via ensembling

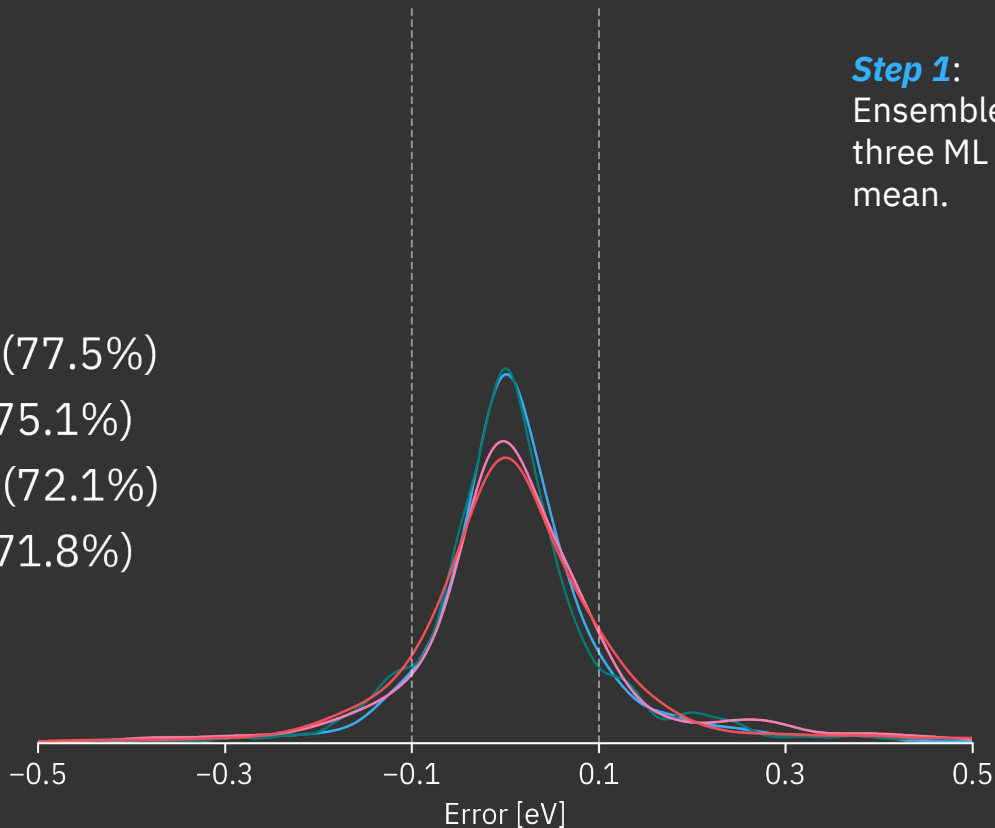
Results on the (balanced) validation dataset.

Distribution of errors

Step 1:

Ensemble the prediction of the three ML models by taking their mean.

- Mean (77.5%)
- EQ2 (75.1%)
- ESCN (72.1%)
- SCN (71.8%)



Improving energy estimation with filtering

Assumption: the spread of ML predictions is a proxy of their quality

Standard deviation

Range (*max* - *min*)

$$|E_{\text{ML}} - E_{\text{DFT}}|$$

Improving energy estimation with filtering

Assumption: the **spread of ML predictions** is a proxy of **their quality**

Standard deviation

Range (*max - min*)

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EQ2 (EquiformerV2) 1.332 eV

eSCN 1.376 eV

SCN 1.447 eV



Spread 0.115 eV

Improving energy estimation with filtering

Assumption: the **spread of ML predictions** is a proxy of **their quality**

Standard deviation

Range (*max - min*)

$$|E_{\text{ML}} - E_{\text{DFT}}|$$

EQ2 (EquiformerV2) 1.332 eV

eSCN 1.376 eV

SCN 1.447 eV

→ Spread 0.115 eV

On validation, around **60 % correlation** between spread and DFT error.

Improving energy estimation via ensembling

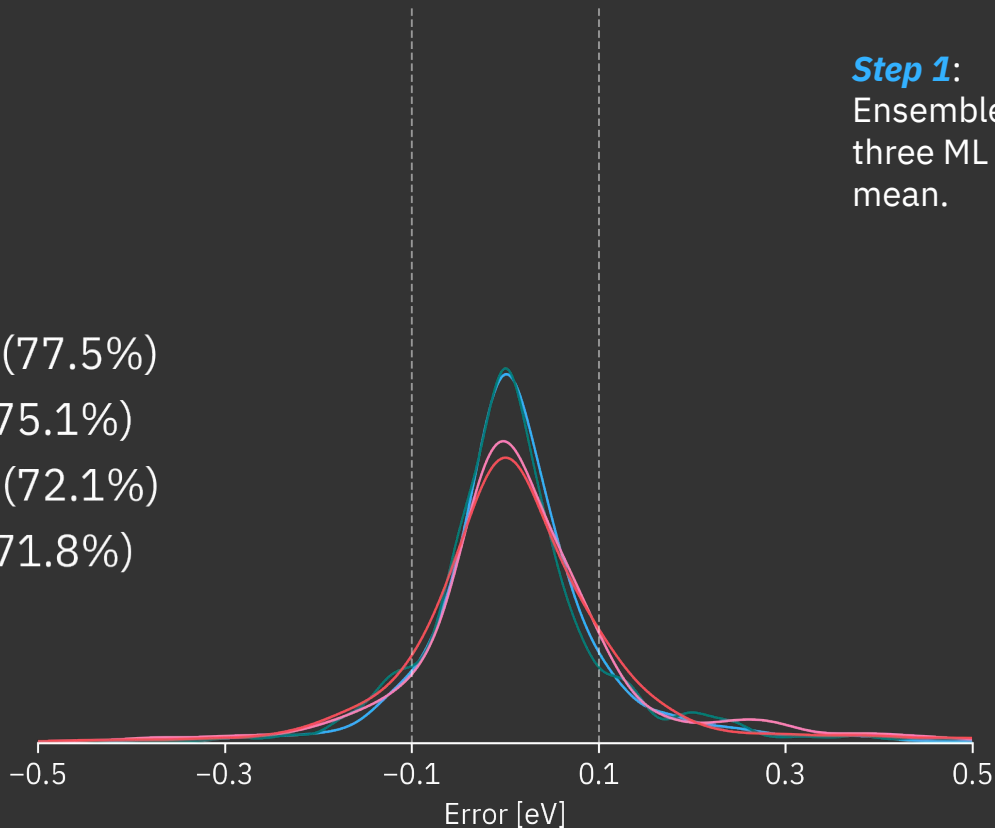
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Distribution of errors

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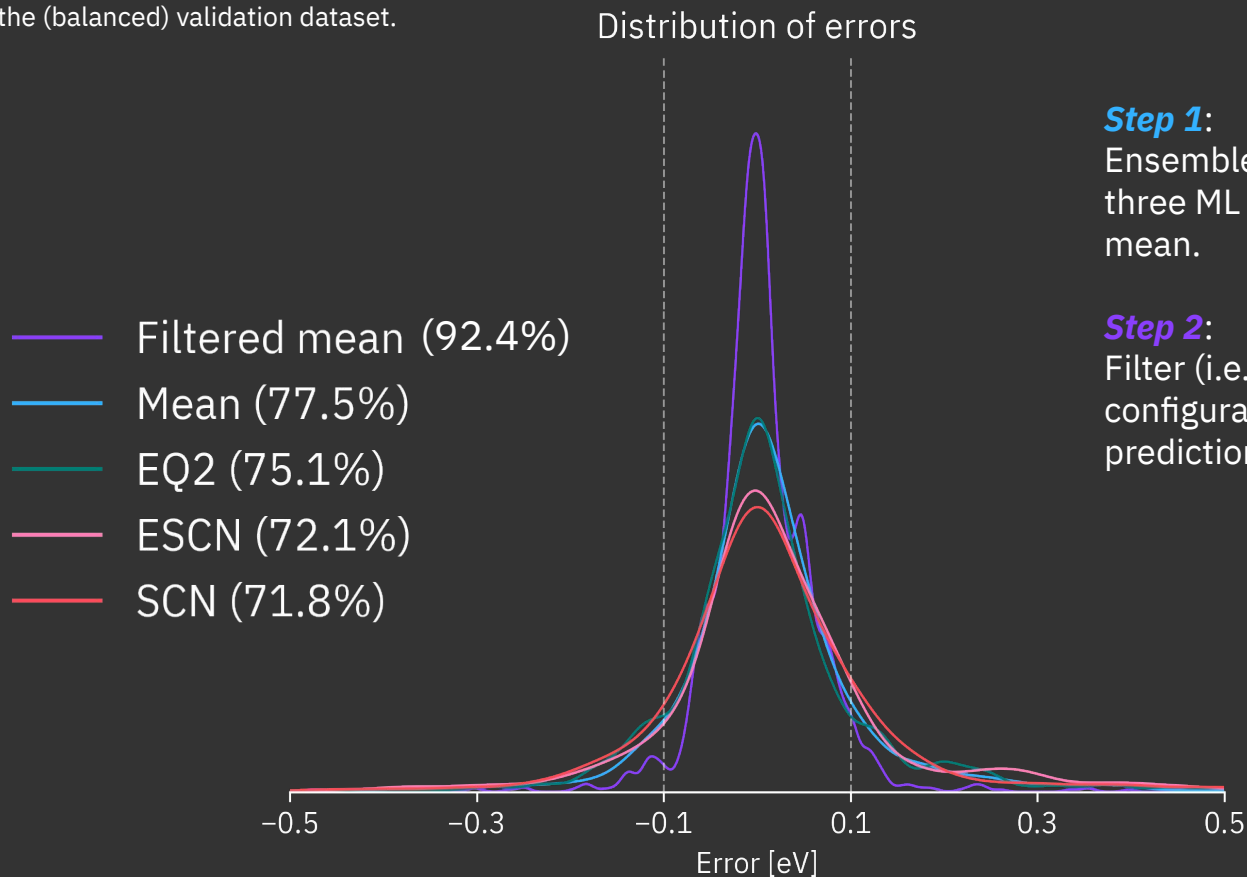
Ensemble the prediction of the three ML models by taking their mean.

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Improving energy estimation with filtering

Results on the (balanced) validation dataset.



Step 1:

Ensemble the prediction of the three ML models by taking their mean.

Step 2:

Filter (i.e. ignore) the configurations with a ML prediction spread > 0.1 eV

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# configs. $E_{ML} - E_{DFT}$ < 0.1 eV	
EquiformerV2	75.1 %
Ensembling	77.5 %
Ensembling +Filtering	92.4 %

Our approach:

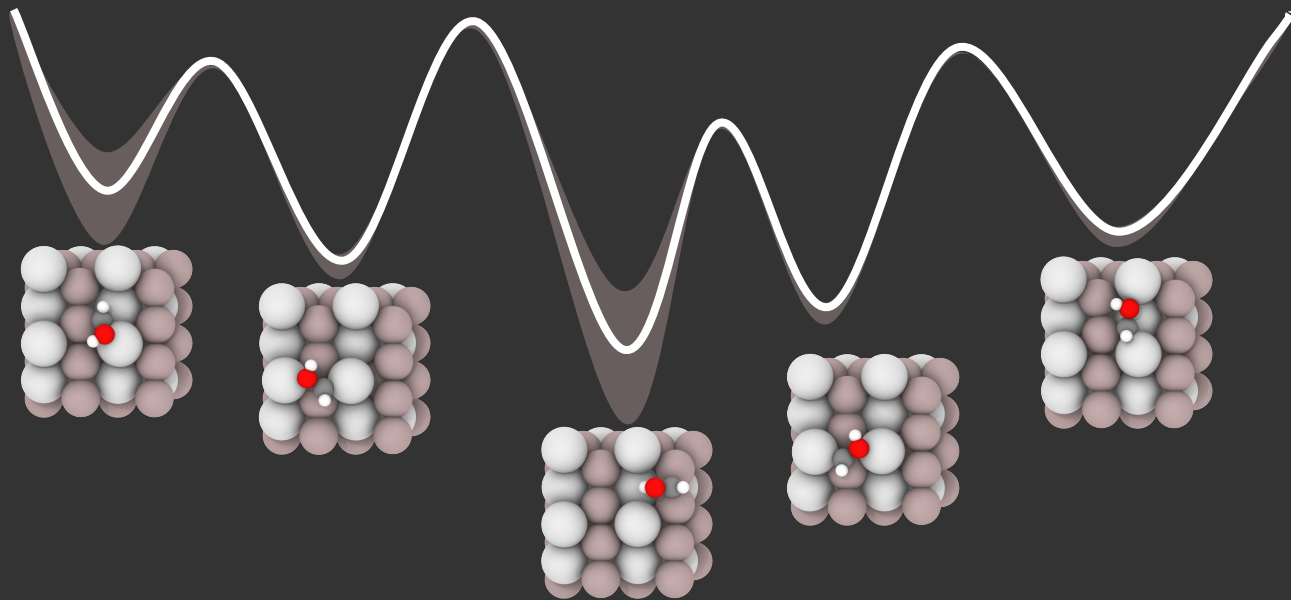
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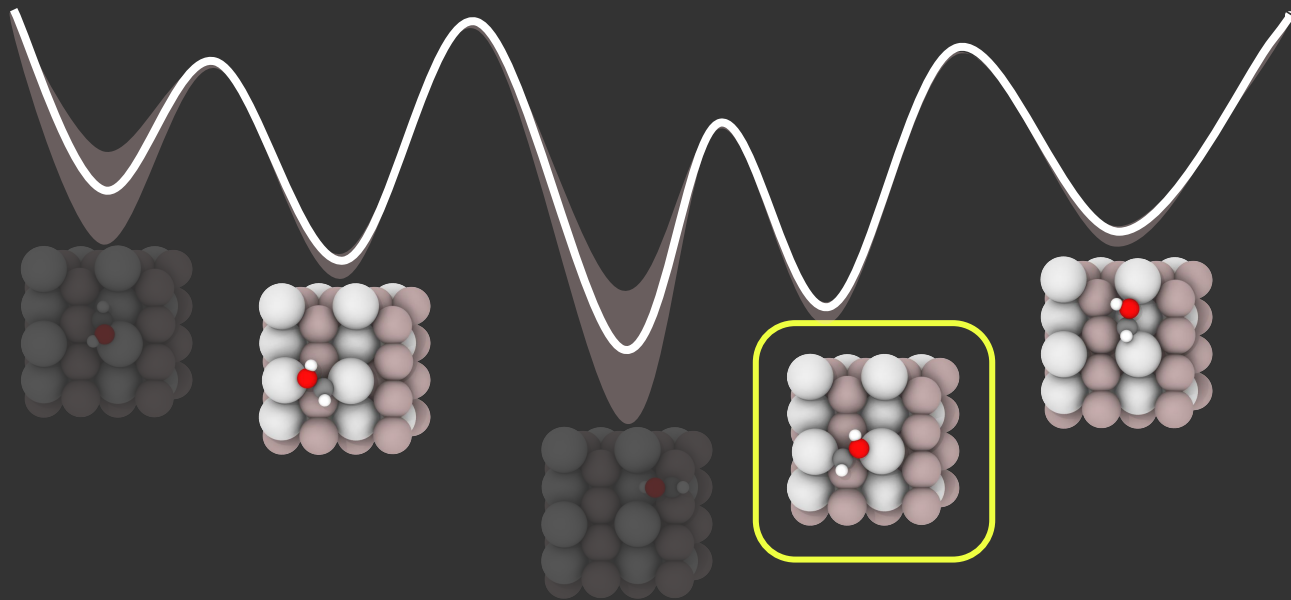
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Thank you!