

PILGRIM v2020.2

**A thermal rate constant calculator
and
a chemical kinetics simulator**

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About Pilgrim License

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Part One - Introduction to Pilgrim

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1. About *Pilgrim*

1.1 Introduction

Pilgrim is an user-friendly program written in Python 3 and designed to use direct-dynamics to calculate thermal rate constants of chemical reactions and to simulate chemical kinetics mechanisms.

For reaction processes with many elementary steps, each of these steps can be calculated using conventional transition state theory (TST) or variational transition state theory (VTST). In this version, *Pilgrim* can calculate thermal rate constants with the canonical version of the variational transition state theory (CVT), which requires the calculation of the minimum energy path (MEP) associated to each elementary step. Moreover, multi-dimensional quantum effects can be incorporated through the small-curvature tunneling approximation (SCT). The above methodologies are available for reactions involving a single structure and for reactions involving flexible molecules with multiple conformations. Specifically, for systems with many conformers the program can evaluate each elementary reaction by multi-structural canonical variational transition state theory (MS-CVT) or multi-path VTST (MP-VTST). Torsional anharmonicity can be also incorporated through the MSTor and Q2DTor programs.

Pilgrim also performs dual-level calculations automatically. First, low-level calculations are carried out for the reaction of interest and second, single-point energy calculations of the reactants, transition state, points along the MEP and products are performed at a higher level. Low-level calculations are corrected with high-level single point energies using the interpolated single-point energies (ISPE) algorithm.

Once all the rate constants of the chemical processes of interest are known, by means of their calculation using *Pilgrim* or by using an analytical expression, it is possible to simulate the whole process using kinetic Monte Carlo (KMC). This algorithm allows performing a kinetics simulation and monitoring the time evolution of each chemical species, as well as providing its chemical yield.

1.2 Cathedral Package

Pilgrim v2020.2 belongs to a bigger repository named **The Cathedral Package**:

<https://github.com/cathedralpkg/>

The following codes are part of this repository:

- *Pilgrim*
- Q2DTor
- *TorsiFlex* (to be released)

1.3 How to obtain *Pilgrim*?

Pilgrim can be downloaded from GitHub at:

<https://github.com/cathedralpkg/pilgrim/releases>

or from Don Truhlar's group webpage:

<https://comp.chem.umn.edu/pilgrim/>

1.4 Terms of use

Pilgrim is free software under MIT license. We refer to the GitHub webpage for more details about the license:

<https://github.com/cathedralpkg/pilgrim>

1.5 About this manual

This manual is organized as follows:

- **Chapter 1** introduces *Pilgrim* and gives important information about its installation (the current chapter).
- **Chapter 2** presents an overview about how to use *Pilgrim*. For users who are familiar with VTST and with electronic structure programs, this chapter contains most of the information they need to run the program. Occasionally, they may need to consult other chapters to find a more detailed explanation about a given particular aspect.
- **Chapters 3-7** describe some worked examples (WEs) that allow the user to explore some capabilities of the program.

- **Chapter 8** describes in detail the input files of *Pilgrim*.
- **Chapter 9** lists some important references.

1.6 *Pilgrim* software contents

Pilgrim is provided in a tar.gz file which can be uncompressed using:

```
tar -zxvf Pilgrim-2020.2.tar.gz
```

A new directory with the name `Pilgrim-2020.2/` is created. Inside the directory the user can find the README file and three subdirectories:

- `src/`, which contains the source code;
- `docs/`, which includes this manual.
- `tests/`, which contains two directories:
 - `esfiles/`, with the electronic structure files (ESFILs) of the stationary points needed to run each of the worked examples (WEs) using *Pilgrim* (see Chapters 3-6);^[i]
 - `outputs/` with the ‘already run’ WEs, so they can be compared with those obtained by running the tests.
 - `cpc_examples/` with the examples described in *Comput. Phys. Commun.*

1.7 Software requirements

Before running *Pilgrim* the user should have installed the following software:

- Python 3 together with the following Python libraries:

<code>cmath</code>	<code>matplotlib</code>	<code>random</code>
<code>fcntl</code>	<code>multiprocessing</code>	<code>scipy</code>
<code>glob</code>	<code>numpy</code>	<code>sys</code>
<code>math</code>	<code>os</code>	<code>time</code>

If any of these libraries is missing, *Pilgrim* displays an error message indicating which module needs to be installed.

- Electronic structure software (ESSO), in particular, *Gaussian* and/or *Orca*

1.7.1 The electronic structure software

In order to interact with *Gaussian* and/or *Orca*, *Pilgrim* needs to know the location of some executable files. Such information is obtained from the following environment variables, which have to be defined and exported by the user in their `.bashrc` file:

^[i]The ESFILs are the starting point to run the tests. All the tests were designed to be run at low levels (HF/STO-3G, HF/3-21G and PM6//HF/STO-3G dual level) so they can be performed in a short period of time.

- Environment variables for Gaussian software:
 - `GauExe`: with the path to the Gaussian executable
 - `GauFchk`: with the path to the formchk tool
- Environment variable for Orca software:
 - `OrcaExe`: with the path to the Orca executable

For example:

`.bashrc`: exporting environment variables

```
export GauExe="/home/programs/g09/g09"  
export GauFchk="/home/programs/g09/formchk"  
export OrcaExe="/home/programs/orca_4_0_1_2/orca"
```

1.8 *Pilgrim* Facebook web page

We recommend to follow our Cathedral Package Facebook web page for updates, questions and other program information: <https://www.facebook.com/cathedralpkg/>

1.9 How to cite *Pilgrim*?

If you are using *Pilgrim*, please cite it using the following reference:

- D. Ferro-Costas, D.G. Truhlar, A. Fernández-Ramos, *Pilgrim* - version 2020.2 (University of Minneapolis, Minnesota, MN, and Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 2020). <https://github.com/cathedralpkg/Pilgrim>

We refer to Chapter 9 for references about key general methods and about specific methods used in *Pilgrim*.

1.10 Version history

1.10.1 List of changes in version 2020.2

- A bug related to quantized-reactant-states tunneling calculations (QRC) with isotopically modified species has been fixed.
- A bug related to QRC with dual-level calculations has been fixed.
- For QRC, the reaction direction is automatically (and temporary) reversed if it is not defined in the exoergic direction.

- The `qrc` keyword (*pif.path* file) now accepts up to three values. The new value can be used to apply QRC at all temperatures (`always`) or only at those where the representative tunneling energy is close to E_0 (`auto`, default value).
- The *float128* NumPy data type is used to deal with very large (and very small) numbers.
- Worked examples WE05 and WE06 now include QRC.
- Other minor changes in the program's outputs.

1.10.2 List of changes in version 2020.1

- Now the version name is based on the release year;
- The reference state of 1 bar of pressure is also considered in the calculation of the equilibrium constant and the Gibbs free energy.
- Keyword `pop()_0` in *pif.kmc* has been changed to `pop0()`.
- Other minor changes.

1.10.3 List of changes in version 2.0

- *Pilgrim* is now part of a bigger project, **The Cathedral Package**;
- *Pilgrim* has been ported to Python 3;
- The reading function of Gaussian output files has been improved.
- Linear molecules are automatically orientated along X, Y or Z axis in order to avoid problems in the calculation of vibrational frequencies.
- ONIOM layers (without link atoms) can be defined in the calculation of the MEP through the `oniox` keyword ($X=1, m$ and h) in *pif.path* (only available with *Gaussian* calculations).
- Keyword `keeptmp` is available in *pif.path*.
- If $E_0 > V^{AG}$, the transmission coefficients are set to unity.
- The `sctmns` keyword has been removed.
- Multi-structural (MS) rate constants are also calculated.
- Several mechanisms may be defined inside *pif.kmc*; now this file contains `kmc` blocks.
- New analytic expression (`analytic5`) has been included.
- The calculation of kinetic isotopic effects (KIEs) is now available through the new execution option `--kies`.
- If external anharmonicity files are specified, *Pilgrim* assumes that the user is only interested in anharmonic rate constants, so harmonic ones are not calculated.
- Other minor changes.

2. Getting started with *Pilgrim*

The execution of *Pilgrim* can be divided into three different parts:

1. Setup.
2. Input files preparation.
3. Calculations.

In this chapter, we explain how to proceed at each stage.

2.1 Setup

This section describes how to organize the electronic structure files (ESFILs) for the reaction mechanism object of study. At the moment *Pilgrim* can work with the following electronic structure software (ESSO):

- *Gaussian 03, 09 and 16*
- *Orca 3.x and Orca 4.x*

2.1.1 Organization of the electronic structure files

Prior to work with *Pilgrim*, the user should have at hand the ESFILs of all the stationary points relevant to the reaction mechanism. The reaction mechanism may consist of one or several elementary chemical reactions. Each ESFIL should contain the optimized geometry and Hessian of a given stationary point, and they have to be organized as indicated in Figure 2.1 (blue boxes) and outlined below:

- Create a directory (hereafter MDIR/) to study your reaction mechanism using *Pilgrim*.
- Create a subdirectory called UDATA/ inside MDIR/.
- Create a subdirectory inside UDATA/ for each of the species that participate

in the chemical mechanism. Hereafter the subdirectories inside UDATA/ will have the generic name *sname*/ and the *sname* label is the name by which *Pilgrim* recognizes that stationary point species.^[i] Therefore use meaningful names for those directories.^[iii]

- Place the ESFILs in the corresponding *sname*/ directory. The allowed formats are listed in the green boxes of Figure 2.1. If a given species has several conformational isomers^[iii] they should be included in the same *sname*/ directory.
 - **Which conformers should be included?** All the conformers that are distinguishable except in the case of conformational enantiomers that only one of them should be included.^[iv]
- *Pilgrim* can incorporate torsional anharmonicity calculated with MSTor or Q2DTor programs. The output files from these programs should be located in a directory hanging from MDIR/ and called ANHAR/. All the torsional anharmonicity files should be placed inside this directory.^[v]

2.1.2 The `--gather` option

Once the ESFILs are organized as previously described, execute *Pilgrim* from MDIR/ using:

```
pilgrim.py --gather
```

Pilgrim creates two directories inside MDIR/ : (i) 1-GTS/ contains the .gts files (for internal use by *Pilgrim*) of all electronic structure files of the stationary points included in the subdirectories of UDATA/; (ii) 5-MOLDEN/ includes files for visualizing with Molden. The program also creates the files *tracking* and *pif.struc*. The former correlates the ESFILs of UDATA/ with the .gts files of 1-GTS/ and the latter provides information about each structure. The .gts files are labeled as: *sname.idx.gts*, where *sname* indicates the name of the species and *idx* is the numbering of the torsional conformation for that species (starting at 001) and sorted by increasing electronic energy. If there is only one conformation the .gts file inside 1-GTS/ will be called *sname.001.gts*

File *pif.struc* is the only one that may need some editing by the user as it contains,

^[i]For species with a single stationary point the ESFIL may hang directly from UDATA/, but for species with several conformations the creation of a directory is compulsory. For the former the *sname* label is the name of the ESFIL without extension.

^[iii]Names should start with a letter; the rest of characters may be underscores (_), letters or numbers.

^[iii]Also called rotamers, torsional conformers or simply conformers. Conformational isomers are species that can interconvert among them by internal rotations.

^[iv]For instance, ethanol has three conformations, two *gauche* and one *anti*; however, the two *gauche* conformations are conformational enantiomers. Notice that this couple of conformational enantiomers can be described by a unique ESFIL; therefore, only one of them has to be specified and the other is easily incorporated later on when the input files of *Pilgrim* are created.

^[v]Anharmonicity output files **are not** recognized if placed somewhere else.

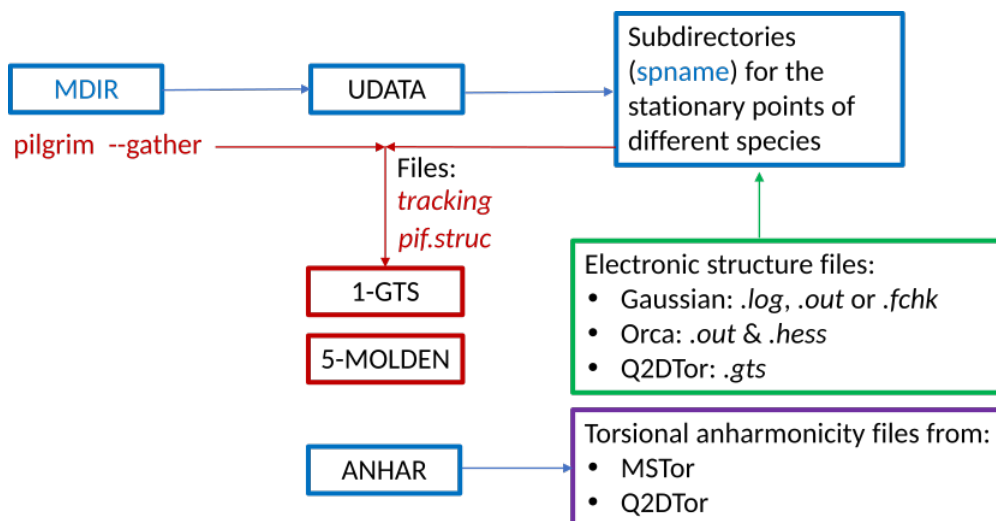


Figure 2.1: This scheme shows the directories tree that should be created by the user (blue boxes) and the directories that are created by the program (red boxes) after execution with `--gather`. At this stage the user can also incorporate the output files of the MSTor or Q2DTor programs into the ANHAR/ directory.

for instance, the scaling factor for vibrational frequencies, the weight of a given conformation,^[vi] etc. For more information, see Chapter 8.

2.1.3 About labels

The *pif.struc* file is formed by a set of blocks (see Chapter 8), i.e., one block for each of the species defined in UDATA/ and labeled by its corresponding *spname* (which was previously defined by the user). However, with the idea of accommodating isotopically substituted species, the generic name *ctcsp* will be used instead of *spname* for the labels hereinafter. In the same manner, the generic label *ctcts* will be used for blocks associated with transition state species.^[vii] Notice that the *ctcsp* and *ctcts* labels are also used by *Pilgrim* as ‘targets’ during the execution stage.

Pilgrim automatically assigns all the *spname* labels as *ctcsp* labels, but intervention by the user is required to study isotopically substituted reactions. In that case the ESFILs associated with a given *spname* are valid for the root species, as well as for any isotopically modified species, but new blocks with their corresponding labels have to be added to incorporate the new species. In this case the *ctcsp* labels include those of the root species plus the ones of the isotopically substituted species.

For example, to study the reaction $\text{EtOH} + \text{H} \rightarrow \text{EtO} + \text{H}_2$ the *spname* labels were

^[vi] Conformational isomers that have another enantiomer, should be added at this stage

^[vii] Therefore the label of a transition state is at the same time a *ctcsp* label and a *ctcts* label.

named as: EtOH for ethanol, H for hydrogen atom, EtO for the EtO radical, H₂ for the H₂ molecule and TSc for the hydrogen abstraction transition state. The *ctcsp* labels used by *Pilgrim* in *pif.struc* coincided with the *sname* labels. Within the *ctcsp* labels, the only *ctcts* label is TSc.

However, to study also the isotopically substituted reaction $\text{EtOD} + \text{D} \rightarrow \text{EtO} + \text{D}_2$, new blocks and labels should be added to incorporate the isotopic species.^[viii] These new *ctcsp* labels are: EtOD, D, D₂ and TScOD.^[ix]

2.2 Input files preparation

The generation of *Pilgrim* input files can be carried out using:

```
pilgrim.py --input
```

which displays an interactive and self-explanatory menu. This menu allows the user to generate all the input files.^[x] The variables inside the menu, their meaning and the generated *Pilgrim* input files (*pifs*) are displayed in Table 2.1. Although this menu can generate each of the files needed to run *Pilgrim*, some of them may need further editing outside the menu to adjust some default options. For a detailed description of each input file, the user should read Chapter 8.

Table 2.1: Description of the variables of *Pilgrim* inside the input menu and the input files modified or generated by each option.

Variable	Information	<i>Pilgrim</i> Input File
<i>struc</i>	Structures	<i>pif.struc</i>
<i>isomass</i>	Isotopic masses	<i>pif.struc</i>
<i>temp</i>	Temperatures (in K)	<i>pif.temp</i>
<i>chem</i>	Chemical reactions	<i>pif.chem</i>
<i>path</i>	MEP parameters	<i>pif.path</i> & <i>pif.calcs</i>
<i>kmc</i>	Chemical kinetics simulation	<i>pif.kmc</i>
<i>dlevel</i>	Dual-level calculations	<i>pif.dlevel</i> & <i>pif.calcs</i>

When the interactive menu is initialized, it displays the status of every possible input file. The first time that we enter the menu it looks like:

^[viii]Notice that the *sname* labels are the same as for the previous reaction.

^[ix]There is also a new *ctcts* label: TScOD.

^[x]With the exception of *pif.struc* which was generated in the previous stage. However, the interactive menu can modify it.

Status of input files

input file	status

#1 : pif.struc	1
#2 : pif.temp	-1
#3 : pif.path	-1
#4 : pif.calcs	-1
#5 : pif.chem	-1
#6 : pif.kmc	-1
#7 : pif.dlevel	-1

status = -1 ==> file does not exist
status = 0 ==> file exists but it is empty
status = 1 ==> file exists and contains data

Notice that none of the files exists with the exception of *pif.struc*. The menu also displays:

```
=====
|| EXECUTING PILGRIM WITH --input ||
=====

There are several variables ($var) and commands ($cmd) available
in this interactive menu. The command line should have the
following syntax:

    > $cmd $var [$values]

where the square brackets indicate that the $cmd-$var combination
may require the specification of values ($values)
For more information, use the 'help' command on each
variable inside the interactive menu.

List of commands ($cmd) and variables ($var):

-----
$cmd\ $var | struc | isomass | temp | chem | path | kmc | dlevel
-----
help       | x      | x      | x    | x    | x    | x    | x
ls         | x      | x      | x    | x    | x    | x    | x
add        |        | x+     | x+   | x+   | x+   | x+   | x
mod        | x+     |        |      |      | x+   | x+   |
rm         | x+     | x      | x+   | x+   | x+   | x    | x
-----

x: the combination $cmd $var is available
+: the combination $cmd $var requires $values

Information about variables ($var):

-----
$var      | addresses... | which contains...
-----
struc     | pif.struc    | structures & isot. masses
```

isomass	pif.struc	structures & isot. masses
temp	pif.temp	temperatures
chem	pif.chem	reactions
path	pif.path & pif.calcs	MEP parameters
kmc	pif.kmc	variables in the KMC
dlevel	pif.dlevel	structures for high-level

To go back to an upper level in the menu or to exit, use		
one of the next strings: end / .. / exit		

The information about a given variable can be displayed using the help command. We highly recommend to read the help message of each of the variables to learn how to proceed.

2.3 Calculations

Pilgrim was designed to be executed in steps, and some of the options of the program follow a given order. Within this step-by-step philosophy, each execution carries out a different task, whose result can be checked by the user before proceeding to another step. The general command line for executing *Pilgrim* is:

```
pilgrim --option [target[idx]] [--dlevel] [--software ESS0]
```

2.3.1 Options

The available options in *Pilgrim* are shown in Table 2.2. The `--software` option can be only combined with `--path` (calculation of the minimum energy path) and with `--hlcalc` (high-level single point calculation). By default, the ESSO is set to *Gaussian* (`--software gaussian`). Therefore, this keyword is only required when using Orca (`--software orca`). The `--dlevel` option should be only specified when performing dual-level calculations (previous high-level calculations are required).

2.3.2 Targets

When `target` is omitted from the command line, `--option` is applied to *all* possible targets. Different options have different targets as indicated in Table 2.3. For instance, option `--path` can have as target only `ctcts` labels. If a `ctcts` contains more than one conformation, it is possible to calculate the MEP of an individual TS structure using `ctcts.idx`, where `idx` is the numerical index of the conformation (from 001 to 999) inside the block in *pif.struc*. In the case of the calculation of rate constants, the option `--rcons` may have as target the name of a elementary chemical reaction that was defined in the input with the variable *chem*, and with

Table 2.2: Description of the options of *Pilgrim*; the order of execution of the main options is also indicated.

Order of execution, --option and explanation		
1	--pfn	Calculates the partition functions at the stationary points
2	--path	Calculates the MEP & VTST coefficients
3	--rcons	Calculates the thermal rate constants
4	--kmc	Performs a kinetic Monte Carlo simulation
Options for special actions		
--dlevel	Dual-level calculations and interpolation via ISPE	
--software	Selects ESSO [gaussian (default) or orca]; it goes together with --path or --hlcalc; if omitted, gaussian is selected by default;	
Additional options and tools		
--ics	Generates internal coordinates	
--hlcalc	Performs high-level calculations needed for dual-level	
--fit	Fits the thermal rate constants to prescribed analytical expressions	
--plot	Generates diverse plots	
--kies	Calculates total KIEs and its contributions	
Information options		
--help	Displays help messages; --help option can also be used	
--ls	Lists the species defined in <i>pif.struc</i>	
--version	Displays the version of the program	

the generic label *chemname*. For --kmc the target is a mechanism defined in the *pif.kmc* file and referred as *kinmec*.

Table 2.3: List of the targets allowed by the different options. The default (the target is omitted) is also indicated.

--option	default	allowed target
--pfn	<i>all</i> ctcs	ctcs
--path	<i>all</i> ctcts	ctcts[.idx]
--rcons	<i>all</i> chemname	chemname
--kmc	<i>all</i> kinmec	kinmec
--ics	<i>all</i> ctcts	ctcts[.idx]
--hlcalc	<i>all</i> ctcs	ctcs[.idx]
--fit	<i>all</i> chemname	chemname
--plot	—	—
--kies	—	—

2.3.3 Output files

A list of all the directories generated by *Pilgrim* is given in Table 2.4. The output files generated after the execution with a given option are indicated in Table 2.5.

Table 2.4: Directories created by *Pilgrim* during the execution of the program

Directory	Content
1-GTS/	The .gts files generated by <i>Pilgrim</i> from the ESSO output files
2-PLG_DATA/	Data files (<i>Pilgrim</i> 's internal use)
3-PLG_OUTPUT/	Output files
4-PLG_RST/	Restart files for MEP calculations (<i>Pilgrim</i> 's internal use)
5-MOLDEN/	Files in Molden and xyz format
6-PLOTFILES/	Data for plotting

Table 2.5: Output files generated in the 3-PLG_OUTPUT/ directory when executing *Pilgrim* with different options according to the selected target. If the options are run together with `--dlevel`, the word *slevel* is replaced by *dlevel* in the output file name.

--option	target	Output files
--pfn	ctcsp	<i>pfn.ctcsp.slevel.txt</i>
--path	ctcts.idx	<i>path.ctcts.idx.slevel.txt</i>
--rcons	chemname	<i>rcons.chemname.slevel.txt</i>
--kmc	mech	<i>kmc.mech.slevel.txt</i>

2.3.4 Plotting results

During the execution, *Pilgrim* stores data for plotting in:

- 6-PLOTFILES/plots.slevel.txt or
- 6-PLOTFILES/plots.dlevel.txt (when `--dlevel` is activated)

In order to plot this data, use the `--plot` option (together with `--dlevel` if necessary). For more information, we refer to the help message associated to this option, which can be displayed with:

```
pilgrim --help plot
```

2.3.5 Kinetic Isotopic Effects

If root and isotopic reactions are defined in the same working directory, the `--kies` tool can be used to calculate the total Kinetic Isotopic Effect (KIE) as well as to split its value into different contributions. When executed

```
pilgrim --kies
```

Pilgrim asks for both the root and isotopic reactions. Once introduced, *Pilgrim* calculates and prints the corresponding KIEs.

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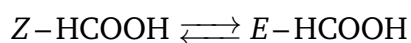
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3. Isomerization of formic acid

3.1 About this system

This Chapter describes the isomerization process between the two isomers of formic acid (FA): *Z*-FA and *E*-FA. The concerned reaction is:



and we want to estimate the rate constant of the process at 300, 400 and 500 K.

The four WEs designed for this reaction include the following methodologies:

- WE01: TST
- WE02: CVT/SCT (I)^[i]
- WE03: CVT/SCT (II)^[ii]
- WE04: CVT/SCT with an isotopic substitution
- ESSO: *Gaussian 09*
- Level of calculation: HF/STO-3G
- Working temperatures (in K): 300, 400 and 500

^[i]The projection of the frequencies along the path is carried out in Cartesian coordinates.

^[ii]The projection of the frequencies along the path is carried out in internal coordinates.

3.2 WE01: TST

Study the isomerization reaction using conventional TST.

Steps:

- Create the directory WE01/. Hereafter, the working directory for this system.
- Copy the directory UDATA_FA/ from tests/esfils/ to WE01/ as UDATA/. Note that no subdirectories are needed inside UDATA/ because none of the structures has additional conformational isomers (in fact the reaction is a conformational isomerization itself). The ESFILs are: Z.fchk, E.fchk and ZE_TS.fchk.
- Run 'pilgrim --gather'. This creates the files *tracking* and *pif.struc*, as well as the directories 1-GTS/ and 5-MOLDEN/ that contain the *gts* and *molden* files, respectively. The latter can be visualized with Molden.
- Use the interactive menu of *Pilgrim* by typing 'pilgrim --input' and define the temperatures and the chemical reaction with:

```
> add temp 300 400 500
> add chem FA_ISO : Z --> ZE_TS --> E
```

After exiting the menu, the files *pif.temp* and *pif.chem* are created. In the input menu we have labeled the reaction as FA_ISO. Notice that the chemical species have the same name as the ESFILs of UDATA/ without the extension. The labels E, Z and ZE_TS are the sname labels of the species.
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn' to calculate the partition functions. Once the program is executed the directory 3-PLG_OUTPUT/ is created. Inside that directory the user can find the files *pfn.E.slevel.txt*, *pfn.Z.slevel.txt* and *pfn.ZE_TS.slevel.txt*, which contain information about the energetics and partition functions of the species labeled as E, Z and ZE_TS, respectively.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons FA_ISO' or simply 'pilgrim --rcons'. The forward and backward TST rate constants, as well as the equilibrium constants, are calculated and printed in *rcons.FA_ISO.slevel.txt*, inside 3-PLG_OUTPUT/.

3.3 WE02: CVT/SCT (I)

Calculate the CVT/SCT thermal rate constants for the isomerization process. The projection of the frequencies along the path is carried out in Cartesian coordinates. The MEP limits are defined as $-2.0 a_o$ and $2.0 a_o$ with a stepsize of $0.01 a_o$ and Hessian updates every 10 steps. We require a convergence of 0.1% for the SCT transmission coefficient at the lowest temperature.^[iii]

Steps:

- All the information obtained in WE01 can be used to obtain the CVT/SCT rate constants, so the first step is to copy the directory WE01/ as WE02/.
- Run 'pilgrim --input' inside WE02/ to create the *pif.path*. Change the values of *sbw* and *sfw* to $-2.0 a_o$ and $2.0 a_o$, respectively. Include also the keyword *scterr* 0.1, which is needed to obtain converged results within 0.1% for the SCT transmission coefficients.

```
> add path *
>> sbw = -2.0
>> sfw = +2.0
>> scterr = 0.1
>> ..
> ..
```

After exiting the menu, the *pif.path* and *pif.calcs* files are created.

- The file *pif.calcs* does not need further editing because the level by default is HF/STO-3G.
- Run 'pilgrim --path ZE_TS' or simply 'pilgrim --path'. The program launches *Gaussian* using the information contained in the *pif.calcs* and *pif.path* files. *Pilgrim* uses the Page-McIver algorithm to evaluate the MEP, and from that information calculates the variational Γ^{CVT} and tunneling transmission κ^{SCT} coefficients as well as the threshold correction coefficient, $\kappa^{\text{CVT/CAG}}$. The file *path.ZE_TS.001.slevel.txt* is written in 3-PLG_OUTPUT/. A restart file called *ZE_TS.001.rst* containing the information along the MEP is stored in the 4-PLG_RST/ directory. Notice that *Pilgrim* searches in the 4-PLG_RST/ directory prior launching *Gaussian*. Therefore, if the *ZE_TS.001.rst* file exists and contains the MEP, *Pilgrim* uses that information.
- Notice that, due to the *scterr* keyword, the MEP is only calculated between $[-1.5 a_o, 1.4 a_o]$.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons FA_ISO' or simply 'pilgrim --rcons' to calculate the CVT/SCT thermal rate constants.

^[iii] Notice that the *scterr* keyword prevents the MEP to be calculated in the whole defined domain. This keyword stops the MEP calculation if the SCT transmission coefficient converges within a smaller MEP domain. If convergence is not achieved, *sbw* and *sfw* keywords should be modified.

3.4 WE03: CVT/SCT (II)

Same as WE02 but in this case the frequencies along the MEP are projected using redundant internal coordinates.

Steps:

- Copy the directory WE02/ as WE03/, so the restart file *ZE_TS.001.rst* inside the 4-PLG_RST/ directory can be used in this new run. Notice that the MEP does not depend on the coordinates defined to project the normal-mode frequencies along the path.
- The redundant internal coordinates are generated automatically by running 'pilgrim --ics' inside the WE03/ folder. The program looks for a suitable set of internal coordinates that correctly describes the saddle point frequencies. The resulting coordinates are incorporated it into the *pif.struc* file.
- By default the program always use internal coordinates if a set of them is provided in the *pif.struc* file. Consequently, *pif.path* does not have to be edited.
- Run 'pilgrim --path ZE_TS' or simply 'pilgrim --path'. The program restarts the MEP stored in the 4-PLG_RST/ directory. This time the vibrationally adiabatic potential is calculated using projected frequencies obtained from the previously obtained internal coordinates set.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons FA_ISO' to obtain the CVT/SCT thermal rate constants. They are printed in the file *rcons-FA_ISO.slevel.txt*.

3.5 WE04: CVT/SCT with an isotopic substitution

Same as WE03, but replacing by deuterium the hydrogen atom that moves from Z to E during the isomerization. The ESFILs are the same as for previous runs and the user can reuse the files saved previously (for instance the ones from directory WE01/), but the program has to be executed from the beginning to include the isotopic substitution. Notice that the MEP stored in WE02/ or in WE03/ cannot be restarted because the MEP is mass-dependent.

Steps:

- Copy the directory WE01/ as WE04/.
- Initialize the interactive menu with 'pilgrim --input' and include the isotopic substitutions by typing

```
> mod struc Z
>> iso = D(4)
>> ..
```

where we are indicating that the index of the hydrogen atom to be replaced is 4. Do the same for E and ZE_TS.
- Use the interactive menu to create the files *pif.path* and *pif.calcs*. Set the maximum length of the MEP from $-2.0 a_o$ to $2.00 a_o$. Include also the keyword `scterr 0.1`. See WE02 if needed.
- Run 'pilgrim --ics' to incorporate the internal coordinates to *pif.struc*.
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn' to calculate the partition functions. The following files *pfn.E.slevel.txt*, *pfn.Z.slevel.txt* and *pfn.ZE_TS.txt* are created in 3-PLG_OUTPUT/.
- Run 'pilgrim --path ZE_TS' to evaluate the variational Γ^{CVT} and tunneling transmission κ^{SCT} coefficients, as well as the threshold correction coefficient, $\kappa^{\text{CVT/CAG}}$. The file *path.ZE_TS.001.txt* is written in 3-PLG_OUTPUT/ and the restart file *ZE_TS.001.rst* containing the information along the MEP is stored in the 4-PLG_RST/ directory.
- Notice that κ^{SCT} is smaller with the isotopic substitution.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons' to obtain the CVT/SCT thermal rate constants. They are printed in the file *rcons.FA_ISO.slevel.txt*.

Notice that we have used the same labels for the deuterated species as for the root species. This is not important in this case because the execution with the isotopic substituted species was carried out in a different directory than the one containing the root species. If we desire to run everything in the same directory, new labels for the isotopic species should be provided.

4. The inversion of ammonia

4.1 About this system

In the inversion of ammonia, the pyramidal structure of the molecule passes through a planar transition state structure by an umbrella-type of motion reaching at the end the same pyramidal structure. This symmetric reaction is studied at 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, and 400 K for the root and fully deuterated species. Dual-level (DL) calculations are performed using PM6 as the low-level (LL) and HF/STO-3G as the high level calculations. A frequency scale factor of 1.078 is used for the frequencies obtained at the PM6 level. The MEP limits are defined as $-0.90 a_0$ and $+0.90 a_0$ with a stepsize of $0.005 a_0$ and with Hessian updates every 10 steps. The MEP is extended till the SCT transmission coefficient at the lowest temperature is converged within a 1%. Due to the fact that we are working with really low temperatures, QRC must be used in the low-temperature regime. The initial step along the path is taken using the normal mode eigenvector of the imaginary frequency at the transition state (default). The frequencies along the MEP are projected using redundant internal coordinates.

The WEs for this system are:

- WE05: LL and DL CVT/SCT
- WE06: LL and DL CVT/SCT calculations for root and deuterated species
- ESSO: *Gaussian 09*
- Level of calculation: PM6//HF/STO-3G
- Working temperatures (in K): 50, 75, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, and 400

4.2 WE05: LL and DL CVT/SCT

Study the inversion reaction using conventional CVT/SCT.

Steps:

- Create the directory WE05/ (hereafter the working directory for this system).
- Copy the directory UDATA_NH3/ from tests/esfils/ to WE05/ as UDATA/. Inside UDATA/, there are two subdirectories with the names nh3_pyram/ and nh3_planar/.
- Run 'pilgrim --gather'. This will create the directories 1-GTS/ and 5-MOLDEN/ with the *gts* and *molden* files, respectively. The latter can be visualized with Molden.
- Run 'pilgrim --input' and
 - incorporate the frequency scale factor by typing:

```
> mod struc *  
>> freqscal = 1.078  
>> ..
```
 - define the chemical reaction with:

```
> add chem nh3inv : nh3_pyram --> nh3_planar --> nh3_pyram
```
 - generate the files required for dual-level calculations:

```
> add dlevel
```
 - generate the rest of *Pilgrim* input files.
- Run 'pilgrim --ics' to incorporate the internal coordinates to the *pif.struc* file.
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn' to calculate the partition functions of the stationary points with the energies calculated at the low level.
- Edit *pif.calcs* to set PM6 for the low-level MEP calculations (meppoint block).
- Edit *pif.path* to add the qrc keyword. No value is required for this option (default ones will be used).
- Run 'pilgrim --path' to build the MEP at the low level.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons' to calculate the CVT/SCT at the low level.
- Before performing the high-level calculations, edit again *pif.calcs* to set the HF/STO-3G in the two *highlevel* blocks (the one for nh3_pyram and the one for nh3_planar).
- Run 'pilgrim --hlcalc' to perform the high-level calculations. By default the high-level calculations are performed at the stationary points plus 3 equidistant points at each side of the MEP. The high-level energies are stored in the *highlevel.txt* file, inside 2-PLG_DATA/.
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn --dlevel' to generate the partition functions of the stationary points with the energies calculated at the high level. Notice that for molecules without torsional conformers, the high-level partition functions coincide with the low-level partition functions. In spite of that, **this step is mandatory**.
- Run 'pilgrim --path --dlevel' to build the MEP at the dual-level using the ISPE algorithm.

- Run 'pilgrim --rcons --dlevel' to calculate the dual-level CVT/SCT thermal rate constants.
- Notice the low-temperature plateau (at MS-CVT/SCT rate constant), visible thanks to the qrc keyword.

4.3 WE06: LL and DL CVT/SCT for root and deuterated species

Same as WE05 but with the substitution of all hydrogen atoms by deuterium. In this case, we would like to have the results of the root and deuterated species in the same directory, so new labels have to be defined for the deuterated reaction. Because the electronic structure information is the same for the reaction inversion of NH_3 and ND_3 no more ESFILs are needed. However, new additions to the *pif.struc*, *pif.chem*, *pif.path* and *pif.dlevel* are needed.

Steps:

- Copy the directory WE05/ as WE06/ (hereafter the working directory).
- Run 'pilgrim --input' and
 - add the deuterated species, i.e., nd3_pyram and nd3_planar:


```
> mod struc nh3_pyram
>> copywith D(all_H) as nd3_pyram
> mod struc nd3_planar
>> copywith D(all_H) as nd3_planar
```
 - define the new chemical reaction:


```
> add chem nd3inv : nd3_pyram --> nd3_planar --> nd3_pyram
```
 - add the new MEP with


```
> add path nd3_planar
```

 and modify the variables as for the case of nh3_planar.
 - consider the isotopic reaction for high-level calculations with


```
> add dlevel
```
- Edit *pif.calcs* to set PM6 for the low-level MEP calculations (meppoint block).
- Edit *pif.path* to add the qrc keyword in the section of the deuterated transition state. No value is required for this option (default ones will be used).
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn' to calculate the partition functions.
- Run 'pilgrim --path nd3_planar' to build the MEP for the deuterated reaction at the low level.
- **Notice that κ^{SCT} does not converge** with the limits defined for the MEP. Increase the MEP limits (sbw=-1.5 and sfw=+1.5) and execute *Pilgrim* again with --path.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons nd3inv' to calculate the thermal rate constants for the deuterated reaction at the low level.
- Before performing the high-level calculations, edit again *pif.calcs* to set the HF/STO-3G in the two highlevel blocks (the one for nd3_pyram and the one for nd3_planar).
- Run 'pilgrim --hlcalc' to perform the calculations at the high level. The calculations for the root species are already stored, so they are not repeated.
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn --dlevel' to calculate the partition functions at the dual level.
- Run 'pilgrim --path nd3_planar --dlevel' to build the MEP for the deuterated reaction at the dual level.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons nd3inv --dlevel' to calculate the thermal rate con-

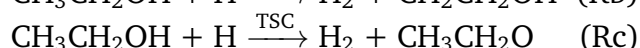
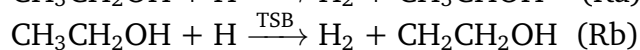
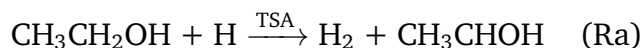
starts for the deuterated reaction at the dual level.

- Again, notice the low-temperature plateau (at MS-CVT/SCT rate constant), visible thanks to the `qrc` keyword.

5. Hydrogen abstraction reactions

5.1 About this system

This chapter presents several tests of hydrogen abstraction reaction from ethanol by atomic hydrogen. This process is more complex than previous examples due to the fact that it involves three different reactions, as the hydrogen can be abstracted from ethanol at three different positions:

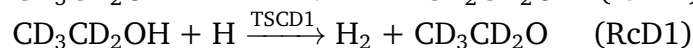


Ethanol presents some conformational flexibility. It has an *anti* conformer and two *gauche* conformers (which are conformational enantiomers). Therefore the *anti* and one of the *gauche* conformations have to be supplied, so the program can calculate the MS-HO partition function. All the torsional conformers of the TS for the hydrogen abstraction from the α -C (TSA), methyl group (TSB) and hydroxyl group (TSC) are supplied in `tests/esfils/`. There are 3, 9 and 3 torsional conformers of the transition states corresponding to the reactions Ra, Rb and Rc at the HF/STO-3G level of calculation. The rate constants are calculated using MS-TST and MP-CVT/SCT. In all cases the MEP was calculated with a stepsize of $0.010 a_0$ and with Hessian update every 10 steps. The MEP limits are set to $-2.5 a_0$ and $+2.5 a_0$ for all cases and the SCT transmission coefficients are calculated using a convergence criterion of 0.50%. In this case the electronic structure calculations are performed with Orca. Once the rate constants are available a KMC simulation is carried out to obtain the products yield.

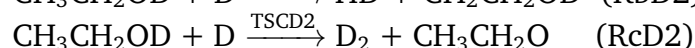
In some of the WEs, hindered rotor anharmonicity is also included (calculated with Q2DTor and MSTor programs). The output files of this software are included in the directories ANHAR_Q2DTOR and ANHAR_MSTOR inside `tests/esfils/`.

The following isotopic substitutions are also considered in these tests:

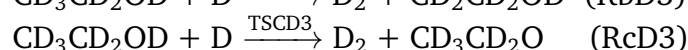
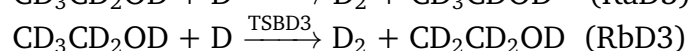
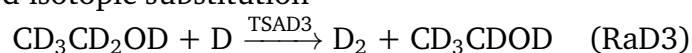
- First isotopic substitution



- Second isotopic substitution



- Third isotopic substitution



The WEs for this system are:

- WE07: MS-TST and KMC
- WE08: MP-CVT/SCT with torsional anharmonicity and KMC
- WE09: KMC simulation using analytical expressions
- WE10: MP-CVT/SCT with isotopic substitutions and anharmonicity
- ESSO: Orca
- Level of calculation: HF/STO-3G
- Working temperatures (in K): 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 700, 1000, 1500, 2000 and 2500

5.2 WE07: MS-TST and KMC

Steps:

- Create the directory WE07/ (hereafter the working directory for this system).
- Copy the directory UDATA.ETOH/ inside tests/esfils/ to WE07/ as UDATA/. Notice that reaction products are not provided. TST rate constants are independent of the product species and, even lacking this information about products, it is possible to calculate their yield using KMC.
- Run 'pilgrim --gather'. This will create the directories 1-GTS/ and 5-MOLDEN/ with the *gts* and the *molden* files, respectively.
- Run 'pilgrim --input' and add the proper weights for the conformers with enantiomers. In the case of TSB and TSC there are conformational enantiomers, but in the case of TSA the conformers are configurational and should be included when the KMC simulation is carried out:

```

> mod struc EtOH      > mod struc TSB      > mod struc TSC
>> weight(all)=2      >> weight(all)=2      >> weight(all)=2
>> ..                >> ..                >> ..

```

The keyword `weight(all) = 2` changes all the weights of structures with C_1 point group symmetry to 2.

- Add the temperatures and the chemical reactions. Products can be defined even if their ESFILs are not available. For example:


```

> add chem Ra : EtOH + H --> TSA --> H2 + PA

```
- Initialize the KMC variables with:


```

> add kmc Habstr
>> pop(Etoh)_0 = 1e14
>> pop(H)_0 = 1e6
>> ..

```
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn' to generate the MS-HO partition functions for ethanol, TSA, TSB and TSC.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons' to calculate the MS-TST thermal rate constants.
- Edit *pif.kmc* by hand and multiply Ra by two:


```

k(Ra)*2 tst

```

This coefficient indicates that there is another channel identical to Ra with TSs that are configurational isomers to the ones that are being considered.

- Run 'pilgrim --kmc Habstr' to obtain the products distribution and the time scale of the reaction for the consumption of the limiting reagent. The output file is stored as 3-PLG_OUTPUT/kmc.Habstr.slevel.txt.

5.3 WE08: MP-CVT/SCT with torsional anharmonicity and KMC

Steps:

- Copy the directory WE07/ as WE08/ (hereafter the working directory).
- Copy tests/esfiles/ANHAR_Q2DTOR/ in WE08/ as ANHAR/. It contains the Q2DTor output files for EtOH, TSA, TSB and TSC.
- Specify the output files of Q2DTor using the interactive menu. For example:


```
> mod struc EtOH
>> anharfile = ethanol.q2dtor
>> ..
```

- Use the interactive menu to generate the *pif.path* and *pif.calcs* files. As product files are not included, it is important to assert the MEP direction. Check the *fwdir* keyword in *pif.path* to be:

```
for TSA: fwdir 8-10 --
for TSB: fwdir 4-10 --
for TSC: fwdir 9-10 --
```

The coordinate corresponds to the H...H bond formation. The -- indicates that this coordinate should decrease in the forward direction.

- Run 'pilgrim --ics' to generate the internal coordinates for each of the TS species.
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn'. *Pilgrim* compares the MS-HO partition functions with the one calculated by Q2DTor. If there is an important discrepancy, *Pilgrim* gives a warning and anharmonicity is not included for that species. If this is the case, the weights of the conformers may be incorrect. Check them!
- Run 'pilgrim --path --software orca' to start the calculation of the MEP from each of the TSs in a sequential manner. The calculation can be sped up by running several paths at the same time. For instance:

```
pilgrim --path TSA --software orca
```

runs sequentially the MEPs from each of the conformers of TSA, whereas:

```
pilgrim --path TSA.001 --software orca
```

runs the MEP for conformer 001 of TSA. You can run each MEP in different UNIX shells at the same time.

- Run 'pilgrim --rcons' to calculate the anharmonic MP-CVT/SCT thermal rate constants.
- Modify the *pif.kmc* file to include anharmonic on the MP-CVT/SCT rate constants. The interactive menu can be used:


```
> mod kmc Habstr
>> k(Ra) * 2 = mpcvtsct
>> k(Rb) = mpcvtsct
>> k(Rc) = mpcvtsct
```
- Run 'pilgrim --kmc' to obtain the products distribution and the time scale of the reaction for the consumption of the limiting reagent.

5.4 WE09: KMC simulation using analytical expressions

Steps:

- Run 'pilgrim --fit' in WE08/ to fit the rate constants to the different analytical expressions. Copy the the anharmonic MP-CVT/SCT forward rate constants with the parameters corresponding to the analytic form 4.
- Create the directory WE09/ and copy the files *pif.temp*, *pif.chem* and *pif.kmc* of WE08/ into WE09/ .
- In WE09/, modify by hand the *pif.kmc* file by introducing the parameters for the analytical expressions (just paste the corresponding lines from the --fit execution). **Do not forget** to multiply the rate constant of Ra by 2.
- Run 'pilgrim --kmc' to obtain the products distribution and the time scale of the reaction for the consumption of the limiting reagent. Results should be very similar to those obtained in WE08.

WE09: The *pif.kmc* file

```
start_kmc Habstr
# KMC Parameters
psteps      1000      # print data each nstp steps
volume      1.00E+00  # simulation volume (mL)
timeunits   ps        # units for time variable

# Initial (non-zero) populations (number of molecules)
pop0(EtOH)  1.00e+14
pop0(H)     1.00e+06

# Selection of the rate constant to use
k(Ra.fw)*2  analytic4 7.9693E-15 3.1652E+03 3.5434E+00 3.0000E+02 2.5697E+02
k(Rb.fw)    analytic4 9.3849E-15 4.3467E+03 3.9031E+00 3.0000E+02 2.3777E+02
k(Rc.fw)    analytic4 2.1161E-13 1.2487E+03 2.4590E+00 3.0000E+02 1.9332E+02
end_kmc
```

5.5 WE10: MP-CVT/SCT, isotopic substitutions and anharmonicity

Steps:

- Copy the directory WE08/ as WE10/ (hereafter the working directory).
- Remove the ANHAR/ folder inside WE10/. Copy tests/esfils/ANHAR_MSTOR/ in WE10/ as ANHAR/. It contains the MsTor output files.
- Run 'pilgrim --input' to create the deuterated species. The atoms to be deuterated are:

	H	EtOH	TSA	TSB	TSC
iso1	-	3-7	4-8	4-8	4-8
iso2	1	9	9,10	9,10	9,10
iso3	1	all H (3-7,9)	all H (4-10)	all H (4-10)	all H (4-10)

For example:

```
> mod struc TSA
>> copywith D(4-8) as TSA_iso1
> mod struc TSA
>> copywith D(all_H) as TSA_iso3
```

species name	m.form.	num.ifreqs.	...	num.conf.	iso.mod.
EtOH	C(2)H(6)O	0	...	3 (2)	none
H	H	0	...	1 (1)	none
D	H	0	...	1 (1)	D(1)
EtOH_iso1	C(2)H(6)O	0	...	3 (2)	D(3-7)
EtOH_iso2	C(2)H(6)O	0	...	3 (2)	D(9)
EtOH_iso3	C(2)H(6)O	0	...	3 (2)	D(all_H)
TSA	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	3 (3)	none
TSB	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	9 (5)	none
TSC	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	3 (2)	none
TSA_iso1	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	3 (3)	D(4-8)
TSA_iso2	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	3 (3)	D(9,10)
TSA_iso3	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	3 (3)	D(all_H)
TSB_iso1	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	9 (5)	D(4-8)
TSB_iso2	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	9 (5)	D(9,10)
TSB_iso3	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	9 (5)	D(all_H)
TSC_iso1	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	3 (2)	D(4-8)
TSC_iso2	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	3 (2)	D(9,10)
TSC_iso3	C(2)H(7)O	1	...	3 (2)	D(all_H)

- Specify the output files of MSTor to include torsional anharmonicity. For example:

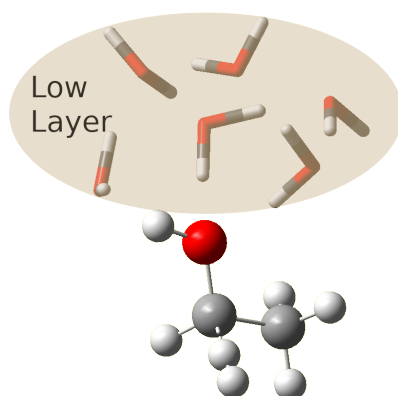

```
> mod struc TSA_iso1
>> anharfile = tsa.iso1.mstor
>> ..
```
- Calculate the partition functions for all the species.
- Consider the isotopic substitutions inside *pif.chem*, *pif.kmc*, *pif.path* and *pif.calcs*. To do so, execute *Pilgrim* with --input. See WE08 if needed.
- Calculate the MEPs for the isotopic transition structures.
- Calculate all the rate constants.
- Obtain the products distribution for each isotopic situation.

6. Solvated HA with ONIOM

6.1 About this system

This Chapter presents an example with the ONIOM algorithm as implemented in *Gaussian*. We have selected one hydrogen abstraction (HA) reaction by atomic H in ethanol. For the sake of simplicity we will consider the HA at the CH₂ moiety (i.e. Ra in the previous examples). Additionally, six explicit water molecules surround the hydroxyl group of ethanol. In this manner, we divide the system into two layers:

- the ‘*high layer*’, with ethanol and the H atom (atoms 1 to 10) [HF/3-21G];
- the ‘*low layer*’ with the six water molecules (atoms 11 to 28) [HF/STO-3G].



The WE for this system is:

- WE11: MP-CVT/SCT rate constants with ONIOM
- ESSO: Gaussian
- Level of calculation: ONIOM(HF/3-21G:HF/STO-3G)
- Working temperatures (in K): 250

6.2 WE11: MP-CVT/SCT rate constants with ONIOM

As a consequence of the water cluster, the two gauche conformers do not present the same energy. Consequently, both gauche conformers will be considered explicitly. Notice that at the ONIOM(HF/3-21G:HF/STO-3G) level of calculation, the HA only presents two transition state structures. The arrangement with the hydroxyl H in anti to the hydrogen abstraction does not correspond to a transition state structure.

The MEP is calculated with a stepsize of $0.010 a_o$ and with Hessian update every 10 steps. The MEP limits is set to $-2.0 a_o$ and $+2.0 a_o$. The SCT transmission coefficients are calculated using a convergence criterion of 0.5%.

Steps:

- Create the directory WE11/ (hereafter the working directory for this system).
- Copy the directory UDATA_ONIOM/ inside tests/esfils/ to WE11/ as UDATA/.
- Run 'pilgrim --gather'. This will create the directories 1-GTS/ and 5-MOLDEN/ with the *gts* and the *molden* files, respectively.
- Generate the input files using 'pilgrim --input'. Notice that conformer weights should not be modified.


```

> add temp 250
> add chem HA : EtOH_6W + H --> TS_6W --> H2 + EtO_6W
> add path TS_6W
>> sbw = -2.0
>> sfw = +2.0
>> scterr = 0.5
>> ..
> ..

```
- Run 'pilgrim --pfn' to generate the MS-HO partition functions.
- Run 'pilgrim --ics' to generate a set of internal coordinates.
- Modify *pif.path* to define the ONIOM layers using *onionmh* and *onionml* keywords. Notice that:
 - the *high layer* includes atoms 1 to 10
 - the *low layer* includes atoms 11 to 28
- Modify also *pif.calcs* to perform ONIOM calculations.
- Below, you can find both *pif.path* and *pif.calcs* files. Assert you have modified them correctly.
- Run 'pilgrim --path' to calculate the MEP, as well as the VTST transmission coefficients.
- Run 'pilgrim --rcons' to calculate the thermal rate constants.

WE11: The *pif.calcs* file

```
start_meppoint TS_6W gaussian
%nproc=1
%mem=1GB
%chk=[Pilgrim_name].chk
#p ONIOM(hf/3-21g:hf/sto-3g)
scf=verytight
NoSymm
[Pilgrim_gradhess]

Input file for MEP calculation

0 2 0 2
[Pilgrim_geometry]

end_meppoint
```

WE11: The *pif.path* file

```
start_mep TS_6W
  sbw      -2.0000
  sfw      +2.0000
  ds       0.01000
  hsteps   10
  scterr    0.500
  fwdir    9-10  --
  oniomh    1-10
  onioml    11-28
end_mep
```


7. Checking results

In this chapter we recollect the value of some magnitudes calculated in the WEs. We encourage the user to compare their results with those shown in the tables, in order to assert that *Pilgrim* was executed properly.

Notice that:

- κ^{SCT} is the SCT transmission coefficient. This value can be found in the output file generated when *Pilgrim* is executed with the `--path` option.
- k^{X} is the rate constant calculated with the X method. This value can be found in the output file generated when *Pilgrim* is executed with the `--rcons` option.
- χ_{P} is the yield of a given product. This value can be found in the output file generated when *Pilgrim* is executed with the `--kmc` option.
- The units for the rate constants shown in the tables are:
 - for WE01 to WE06 $\rightarrow \text{s}^{-1}$
 - for WE07 to WE11 $\rightarrow \text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- Some values may differ slightly with regard to those in the tables.

Isomerization of formic acid			
Test	Magnitude	T (K)	Value
WE01	k^{TST} (forward)	300.0	5.144E+06
	k^{TST} (backward)	300.0	4.236E+09
WE02	κ^{SCT}	300.0	2.659E+00
	$k^{\text{CVT/SCT}}$ (forward)	300.0	1.368E+07
WE03	$k^{\text{CVT/SCT}}$ (forward)	300.0	1.378E+07
WE04	κ^{SCT}	300.0	1.487E+00
	$k^{\text{CVT/SCT}}$ (forward)	300.0	4.805E+06

The inversion of ammonia			
Test	Magnitude	T (K)	Value
WE05	κ^{SCT} (slevel)	50.0	2.231E+15
	κ^{SCT} (dlevel)	50.0	4.701E+33
	$k^{\text{CVT/SCT}}$ (slevel)	50.0	1.204E+09
	$k^{\text{CVT/SCT}}$ (dlevel)	50.0	3.947E+05
WE06	κ^{SCT} for ND ₃ (slevel)	50.0	1.582E+15
	κ^{SCT} for ND ₃ (dlevel)	50.0	3.228E+32
	$k^{\text{CVT/SCT}}$ for ND ₃ (slevel)	50.0	8.042E+06
	$k^{\text{CVT/SCT}}$ for ND ₃ (dlevel)	50.0	2.553E+02

Hydrogen abstraction reactions			
Test	Magnitude	T (K)	Value
WE07	$k^{\text{MS-TST}}$ for Ra	250.0	5.192E-26
	$k^{\text{MS-TST}}$ for Rb	250.0	6.376E-29
	$k^{\text{MS-TST}}$ for Rc	250.0	1.092E-17
	χ_{P} for PC	2000.0	0.766
WE08	κ^{SCT} for TSA.001	250.0	2.823E+05
	κ^{SCT} for TSB.001	250.0	1.214E+06
	κ^{SCT} for TSC.001	250.0	1.060E+02
	$k^{\text{MP-CVT/SCT}}$ for Ra	250.0	1.530E-20
	$k^{\text{MP-CVT/SCT}}$ for Rb	250.0	8.075E-23
	$k^{\text{MP-CVT/SCT}}$ for Rc	250.0	5.299E-16
	χ_{P} for PA	250.0	0.000
	χ_{P} for PB	250.0	0.000
	χ_{P} for PC	250.0	1.000
WE09	χ_{P} for PA	2500.0	0.206
	χ_{P} for PB	2500.0	0.157
	χ_{P} for PC	2500.0	0.637
WE10	κ^{SCT} for TSA_iso1.001	250.0	9.514E+04
	κ^{SCT} for TSB_iso2.001	250.0	8.244E+04
	κ^{SCT} for TSC_iso3.001	250.0	2.491E+01
	χ_{P} for PA_iso1	2000.0	0.107
	χ_{P} for PA_iso2	2000.0	0.189
	χ_{P} for PA_iso3	2000.0	0.142

Solvated HA with ONIOM			
Test	Magnitude	T (K)	Value
WE11	κ^{SCT} for TS_6W.001	250.0	1.753E+04
	κ^{SCT} for TS_6W.002	250.0	1.778E+04
	$k^{\text{MS-TST}}$	250.0	1.114E-26
	$k^{\text{MP-CVT/ZCT}}$	250.0	3.618E-24
	$k^{\text{MP-CVT/SCT}}$	250.0	1.955E-22



Part Three - Pilgrim input files

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8. *Pilgrim* input files

This Chapter explains in some detail the format and keywords of each of the seven *Pilgrim* input files (*pifs*). Along the description of the *pifs*, some extracts from the WEs described in the previous chapters are included.

Before proceeding, we highlight that the first input file, *pif.struc*, is generated when *Pilgrim* is run with the `--gather` option. Although the other six input files can be generated from scratch, we highly recommend to create and modify them using the interactive menu. This menu can also be used to modify *pif.struc*.

Notice that in all the input files, with exception of *pif.calcs*, the `#` symbol precedes a comment.

8.1 The *pif.struc* file

The *pif.struc* file gathers all the structural information of the stationary points (ctcsp) in blocks. This file is generated when executing:

```
pilgrim.py --gather
```

Each block, which has a ctcsp label, may contain one chemical structure or a cluster of torsional conformers (CTCs). The blocks are limited by the `start_ctc` and `end_ctc` keywords:

```
start_ctc ctcsp
  root      spname
  $keyword $value
  ...
  $keyword $value
end_ctc
```

where ctcsp is the name given to the block. Notice that the keyword `root` points towards the corresponding ESFILs and that, under isotopic substitution, the `spname` label should remain unchanged, whereas the `ctcsp` label should be different from the one of the root species. The available keywords are listed in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Keywords and their allowed values inside the CTC blocks of the *pif.struc* file. Keywords between [] do not have default values and these should be provided by the user.

Keyword	Format	Default	Comment
root	str	spname	Label of the species inside UDATA/ (or inside 1-GTS/); compulsory with <code>iso</code>
conformer	int * int	001 * 1	1st integer between 001-999 2nd integer (1 or 2), the conformer weight
mformu	str	Provided by <i>Pilgrim</i>	The molecular formula
ch	int	Provided by <i>Pilgrim</i>	The molecular charge
mtp	int	Provided by <i>Pilgrim</i>	The spin multiplicity
type	int	Provided by <i>Pilgrim</i>	0 for minimum, 1 for saddle point
freqscal	float	1.000	Frequency scale factor (also used along the MEP)
elestate	int float	Provided by <i>Pilgrim</i>	Degeneracy and relative E in hartree
[ics[.idx]]	str(s)	Provided by the user or by <code>--ics</code>	Definition of internal coordinates (see Table 8.2)
[iso[.idx]]	str(s)	Provided by the user	Isotopic substitution
[anharfile]	str	Provided by the user	The name of the MSTor/Q2DTor output file placed inside ANHAR/

The program creates as many blocks as species inside UDATA/ (or 1-GTS/). When dealing with isotopic substitutions, it is possible to add additional blocks, and therefore to add additional species pointing to the same `spname` label:

WE12: Extract of *pif.struc*

```
start_ctc H2
  root      H2
  conformer 001 * 1
  ...
end_ctc

start_ctc HD
  root      H2
  conformer 001 * 1
  ...
  iso       D(1)
end_ctc
```

In the example, the molecule of H₂ has H2 as the *sname*. When one of the hydrogen atoms is substituted by deuterium, a new block with the species labeled HD is added. The *root* keyword indicates that HD is an isotopic derivative of H2.

8.1.1 Conformers and weights

Each of the conformers inside a block is specified using the syntax:

```
conformer idx * wgtconf
```

where *idx* refers to the index of the conformation in the *.gts* file inside the 1-GTS/ directory, and *wgtconf* is an integer number: 1 if the structure does not have a conformational enantiomer, and 2 otherwise. Therefore, *wgtconf* avoids electronic structure calculations for species that are conformational enantiomers. The program also include additional information (given as comments) as the relative energy of a given conformer and the point group symmetry. The latter can help us to decide if a given structure has conformational enantiomers.

In the case of a molecule with just one equilibrium structure, only one conformer line is used:

WE05: Extract of *pif.struc*

```
start_ctc nh3_pyram
# conformers
conformer 001 * 1 # 0.00 kcal/mol, C3v
...
end_ctc
```

For a compound with several conformations (for instance ethanol) the block contains one line per conformation:

WE07: Extract of *pif.struc*

```

start_ctc ethanol
# conformers
conformer 001 * 2 # 0.00 kcal/mol, C1
conformer 002 * 1 # 0.25 kcal/mol, Cs
...
end_ctc

```

For the case of ethanol, conformer 001 corresponds to one of the gauche conformers and, therefore, the weight of that structure is 2, whereas conformer 002 is the anti conformer of ethanol without conformational enantiomers.

8.1.2 Electronic states

The keyword `elestate` can be used to define the electronic state to be considered in the electronic partition function. This keyword is followed by the degeneracy of the state and its relative energy with regard to the electronic ground state (in hartree). By default, only the ground state is considered. However, more states can be included just by adding more lines, which may be particularly important for atomic species. For example, for the fluorine atom two states should be specified as:

```

elestate 4 0.000000000E+00
elestate 2 0.00184124E+00

```

8.1.3 Internal coordinates

For the case of transition states^[i] a set of non-redundant or redundant internal coordinates can be specified with the keyword `ics`. These coordinates can be generated with the option `--ics` (run '`pilgrim --help ics`' for more information) or can be introduced directly by the user. This option is compulsory if the projection of the frequencies along the MEP is performed in internal coordinates. The keyword accepts as many coordinates as desired, as long as they are defined according to the format described in Table 8.2. For instance, for the transition structure of the ammonia inversion the internal coordinates were defined as:

WE05: Extract of *pif.struc*

```

ics      1-2      1-3      1-4
ics      2-1-3     2-1-4     3-1-4
ics      2_3_4_1

```

^[i]Identified by a `ctcts` label; i.e., a `ctcsp` label with `type = 1`.

In cases with many conformations, it is possible to specify different sets of internal coordinates for different saddle point conformers by adding the index of the conformer to the *ics* keyword:

Example of two sets of internal coordinates in <i>pif.struc</i>					
<i>ics</i>	1-2	1-4	1-5	1-6	2-3
...					
<i>ics</i>	1_3_8_2	1_7_8_2	2_4_5_1	4_5_6_1	
<i>ics</i>	1-2-3-9	5-1-2-7			
<i>ics</i> .002	1-2	1-4	1-5	1-6	2-3
...					
<i>ics</i> .002	1_7_8_2	2_4_5_1	3_7_8_2	4_5_6_1	
<i>ics</i> .002	3-2-1-6	7-2-3-9			

Table 8.2: Format for the definition of internal coordinates. Each atom, specified by the integers m, n, o, or p is referred using its numbering in the molecule (starting at 1).

Type of internal coordinate	Format	Example	Comment
Stretch	m-n	1-2	
Linear bend	m=n=o	1=2=3	
Angular bend	m-n-o	1-2-3	
Proper torsion	m-n-o-p	1-2-3-4	n-o is the central bond
Improper torsion	m-n-o-p or m_n_o_p	1-2-3-4 or 1_2_3_4	p is the central atom

8.1.4 Isotopic substitutions

The *pif.struc* file also includes at the beginning a list of the most common masses (in amu) for isotopic substitutions (*imass* block) where additional atomic masses can be included:

Extract of <i>pif.struc</i>			
<i>start_isomass</i>			
D	=	2.0141018	
T	=	3.0160493	
...			
018	=	17.9991600	
<i>end_isomass</i>			

It is possible to specify different isotopic substitutions with *iso[idx]*. If *idx* is not specified, the program assumes that the numbering of the atoms is the same for all

the conformers. The syntax of the `iso` line is as follows:

```
iso[.idx]  imass(atidx(s))  ...
```

where:

- `imass` is the name of the isotopic mass defined in the `isomass` block,
- `atidx(s)` are the numerical indexes of the affected atoms; if all the atoms of a type are going to be substituted, `all_X` can be used, `X` being the atomic symbol.

For example, all the hydrogen atoms of ammonia can be replaced by:

WE06: Extract of *pif.struc*

```
start_isomass
  D      =      2.0141018
end_isomas

start_ctc nd3_pyram
  root  nh3_pyram
  # conformers
  conformer 001 * 1 # 0.00 kcal/mol, C3v
  # common
  mformu      H(3)N
  ch          0
  mtp         1
  type        0
  freqscal    1.000
  elestate    1  0.00000000000E+00
  iso         D(all_H)
end_ctc
```

Equivalent to 'iso D(all_H)' is:^[ii]

```
iso.001 D(all_H)
iso D(2,3,4)
iso.001 D(2,3,4)
```

^[ii]Notice that labels 2, 3 and 4 refer to the hydrogen atoms.

8.2 The *pif.temp* file

This file contains the list of working temperatures in Kelvin. For example:

WE08: <i>pif.temp</i> file						
250.00	300.00	350.00	400.00	450.00	500.00	700.00
1000.00	1500.00	2000.00	2500.00			

8.3 The *pif.chem* file

In this file, each (elementary) reaction of interest is defined using the following scheme:

```
chemname : reaction_equation
```

where

- `chemname` is a label given by the user to identify the reaction, and
- `reaction_equation` contains the name of reactants, transition state and products separated by arrows (`-->`).

The names should coincide with the `ctcsp` labels of the blocks defined in *pif.struc*.^[iii] The available species can be listed with the `--ls` option. In the case of two reactants (or products), the “+” symbol should be used to separate their names.

For example, in the inversion of ammonia we have:^[iv]

WE05: *pif.chem*

```
nh3_inv : nh3_pyram --> nh3_planar --> nh3_pyram
```

whereas for the hydrogen abstraction from the ethanol molecule by atomic hydrogen:

WE08: *pif.chem*

```
Ra : EtOH + H --> TSA --> PA + H2
Rb : EtOH + H --> TSB --> PB + H2
Rc : EtOH + H --> TSC --> PC + H2
```

^[iii] Actually, if we are not interested in the backward process (from products to reactants), the products do not have to be defined inside *pif.struc*. In such a case, the user should give a name to each product in the definition of the chemical reaction, even if the ESFILs associated with it does not exist. In this manner, the product(s) can still be considered in a further study by kinetics Monte Carlo.

^[iv] The calculation of the thermal rate constants of the reactions defined in *pif.chem* already include the rotational symmetry numbers (internal and external) and the weight of conformations (included in the *pif.struc* file). However, there are special cases, as the ammonia inversion (WE05), in which the calculated rate constant is half the one that ignores the symmetry numbers. This spurious factor of 1/2 is always present in reactions for which the reactants and products are indistinguishable. *Pilgrim* corrects that, by multiplying the calculated rate constants by two. *Pilgrim* also automatically ‘corrects’ the rate constants for bimolecular reactions with one reagent.

8.4 The *pif.path* file

The file *pif.path* contains all the keywords needed to control the calculation of the MEP. The file is organized in *mep* blocks, one for each *ctcts* defined by the user. Each block has the following format:

```
start_mep ctcts
  keyword[.idx] value
  ...
end_mep
```

The available keywords are listed in Table 8.3. Every keyword inside a block is common to all torsional conformers of *ctcts*. However, the user can add the index of a given conformer to a keyword to treat it differently. For instance, in the example below, the MEP is extended till $s = -1.00 a_0$ instead of to $s = -0.50 a_0$ in the backward direction for conformer 002.

Example of the *pif.path* file

```
start_mep TSA
  sbw      -0.50    # MEP limit in backward
  sfw       0.50    # MEP limit in forward
  ds        0.01    # MEP step
  hsteps    10      # Hessian update frequency
  sbw.002  -1.00    # MEP limit in backward for conformer 002
end_mep
```

By default, *Pilgrim* calculates the MEP using the Page-McIver algorithm, but the Euler algorithm is also available. Notice that the Page-McIver algorithm makes use of Hessian matrices to calculate the MEP and its curvature, whereas the Euler algorithm is exclusively based on the direction of the gradient. However, Hessians along the path are needed anyway to obtain the VTST coefficients. In consequence, the computational effort associated with the Euler and Page-McIver algorithms is similar, but the latter is more accurate. For this reason, we highly recommend using the default algorithm.

8.4.1 Basic keywords

The interactive menu allows modifying the following keywords:

- *sbw*: the maximum extension of the MEP in the backward direction (in bohr).
- *sfw*: the maximum extension of the MEP in the forward direction (in bohr).
- *ds*: the step in the intrinsic reaction coordinate in bohr.
- *hsteps*: the number of steps for the Hessian matrix update.
- *scterr*: defines the convergence criterium for the SCT coefficient (in percentage). If the relative variation in the coefficient is smaller than the specified percentage, the MEP stops before reaching its limits, (*sbw*,*sfw*). The keywords

Table 8.3: Available keywords in the *pif.path* input file. Some keywords are explained with more detail in the text. The ‘advanced’ keywords cannot be modified in the input menu and the user has to edit the *pif.path* file.

Keyword	Accepted values	Default	Brief description
Basic			
sbw	float	-0.50	Minimum value of s (in a_o)
sfw	float	+0.50	Maximum value of s (in a_o)
ds	float	0.01	Stepsize along the path (in a_o)
hsteps	integer	10	Number of steps for Hessian update
paral	no/yes	no	yes to get both sides of the MEP simultaneously
scterr	float	1.0	See text
Advanced keywords related to the MEP			
fwdir	ic (++/--)	Provided by <i>Pilgrim</i>	The internal coordinate increases (++) or decreases (--) in the forward direction
cubic	no/yes/float	no	Use cubic first step
mtype	es/pm	pm	Euler or Page-McIver algorithms to calculate the path
mu	float	1.0	The scaling mass (in amu)
epse	float	1e-8	See text (in E_h)
epsg	float	1e-4	See text (in E_h/a_o)
eref	float / auto	auto	Defines the ref. energy for the MEP (in E_h)
keptmp			If specified, <i>Pilgrim</i> does not delete previous data in the corresponding temporal directory
oniomh	list of integers		Defines atoms in ONIOM <i>high</i> layer
oniommm	list of integers		Defines atoms in ONIOM <i>medium</i> layer
onioml	list of integers		Defines atoms in ONIOM <i>low</i> layer
Advanced keywords related to the VTST coefficients			
lowfq	integer float [+/-/+/-]		integer: the index of the imaginary frequency; float: the new value for the frequency in cm^{-1} ; ++: $s > 0$; --: $s < 0$; +/-: $s < 0$ & $s > 0$
cvt	no/yes	yes	Calculates the Γ^{CVT} coefficient
sct	no/yes	yes	Calculates the $\kappa^{\text{CVT/SCT}}$ transmission coefficient
qrc	integer integer string	1 1000 auto	See text
muintrpl	linear/cubic int	linear 0	Type of interpolation for μ_{eff} at the TS and at the first points along the MEP
e0	float / auto	auto	Specifies the lowest energy for the tunneling calculations (in E_h)
useics	no/yes	yes	The projection of the Hessians along the MEP is performed in ics (specified in <i>pif.struct</i>)
vlmode	grad/hess	grad	Indicates how the $B_{m,F}$ terms are calculated

epse and epsg may override scterr, because the program may consider that the MEP is converged.

- paral: to activate the calculation of both sides of the MEP at the same time (yes). By default this option is deactivated (no).

8.4.2 Advanced keywords

In order to modify or include these keywords, the user should edit the *pif.path* file.

- **fwdir**: Defines a forward direction based on the increase (++) or decrease (--) of a given internal coordinate. The internal coordinate can be a distance, a bond angle or a dihedral angle. For instance, `fwdir 3-1-2-4 ++` means that the forward direction of the MEP is toward the increase of the dihedral angle containing the 3-1-2-4 atoms. *Pilgrim* provides a value for this variable based on the eigenvector of the mode with the imaginary frequency.
- **mu**: Defines the scaling mass that transforms Cartesian coordinates to mass-scaled coordinates. Its default value is 1.0 amu.
- **cubic**: if set to `no` (the default), the initial step of the path is taken using the eigenvector associated to the imaginary frequency. If set to `yes`, the program calculates two Hessian matrices at both sides of the path and with a stepsize away from the saddle point of $s = \pm 10^{-4} a_0$. This stepsize is the default in `cubic yes`, but it can be changed (for instance `cubic 2E-4`). This two additional Hessian calculations allow the use of a quadratic Taylor expansion for the first step of the MEP.
- **epse**: Stops the MEP if the variation in energy between two consecutive steps is smaller than a given threshold. The default value for this threshold is $1 \times 10^{-8} E_h$.
- **epsgr**: Stops the MEP if the module of the gradient in Cartesian coordinates ($|\vec{g}|$) is smaller than the value of this keyword. The default value is $1 \times 10^{-4} E_h/a_0$.
- **eref**: Defines the reference energy for the MEP (in E_h). It can be set to a float number or to `auto`. In the last case, the reactants energy is set as the reference if the saddle point of this path has been defined in *pif.chem* and *Pilgrim* was previously executed with the `--pfh` option. Otherwise, the energy at `sbw` is used as the reference.
- **keeptmp**: If the MEP calculation is repeated, *Pilgrim* removes the corresponding temporal directory. This keyword avoids this action.
- **oniomh**: Defines the atoms included in the ONIOM *high* layer. This keyword can only be used when the MEP is calculated with the *Gaussian* package. As an example, in order to include atoms 1, 3 and 5 in the high layer, this keyword should be set to:

```
onionh 1 3 5
```

To consider atoms 1 to 10, it should be:

```
onionh 1-10
```

Notice that both formats can be combined. Thus:

```
onionh 1-5 10 11
```

would include atoms 1 to 5, 10 and 11 in the layer. The user must modify the *Gaussian* template (*pif.calcs*) properly, so it is compatible with the ONIOM methodology. This keyword is only used by *Pilgrim* to include the

layer identifier when the Cartesian coordinates are written in the *Gaussian* input file.

- **oniommm**: Defines the atoms included in the ONIOM *medium* layer. See **oniomh** keyword for more information.
- **onioml**: Defines the atoms included in the ONIOM *low* layer. See **oniomh** keyword for more information.
- **lowfq**: Sometimes, the lowest vibrational modes along the MEP may present really small (or even imaginary) frequencies. With this keyword, those frequencies may be substituted by fixed values. It requires two values: (1) the frequency index i and (2) the frequency limit in cm^{-1} , ω_L . It only switches on when the i -th frequency along the MEP, ω_i , is smaller than ω_L , i.e.:

$$\text{if } \omega_i < \omega_L \Rightarrow \omega_i \leftarrow \omega_L$$

The user can define as many **lowfq** lines as needed. The symbols ++, -- and +- indicate that the correction is performed for $s > 0$, $s < 0$ and for any sign of s , respectively.

- **qrc**: Considers quantized-reactant-states tunneling calculations (QRC). The energy levels are determined using the harmonic approximation. It can only be used with unimolecular reactions. This keyword should be included when studying tunneling effects at very low temperatures. It requires up to three values: (i) an integer that specifies the index of the normal mode to be quantized (notice that in *Pilgrim* the normal-mode frequencies are sorted in increasing value of frequency and the default value is 1, that is the normal-mode with the lowest frequency at reactants); (2) the maximum energy level at which this quantization is carried out (the default value is 1000); and (3) a string to indicate if QRC should be applied for all temperatures (always) or if it should be only used for those temperatures where the representative tunneling energy is smaller than $E_0 + h\nu$, ν being the frequency of the selected normal mode (auto, default value).
- **muintrpl**: The effective mass of tunneling at the TS, $\mu_{\text{eff}}(s = 0)$, cannot be calculated at the transition state. It has to be interpolated using values at the nearest points along the MEP. The default is **linear 0**, which means that only $\mu_{\text{eff}}(s = 0)$ is interpolated, and the value is obtained as the average of $\mu_{\text{eff}}(s = s_{-1})$ and $\mu_{\text{eff}}(s = s_1)$, being $s = s_{-1}$ and $s = s_1$ the first points along the backward and forward direction of the MEP at which a Hessian is available. If the user specifies **linear 1** the values of μ_{eff} at $s = s_{-1}$, $s = 0$ and $s = s_1$ are linearly interpolated using the values at $s = s_{-2}$ and $s = s_2$ (the second points along the backward and forward direction of the MEP at which a Hessian is available. If **cubic** is used instead of **linear**, μ_{eff} is interpolated using a cubic spline.
- **e0**: Defines the lowest energy at which the tunneling probability is evaluated. The user can either define this value (in E_h) or can set it to **auto**. In the last case, this value is taken as

$$E_0 = \max\{(E + \text{ZPE})_R, (E + \text{ZPE})_P\}$$

where E is the total energy, ZPE is the vibrational zero-point energy, and R

and *P* represent the reactants and the products, respectively. Notice that this requires the previous execution of *Pilgrim* with the `--pfn` option.

- **useics:** If this keyword is set to `yes`, the Hessian matrix at each point of the path is projected using internal coordinates. This option requires the definition of a set of internal coordinates in the *pif.struc* file. If set to `no`, Cartesian coordinates are used.
- **v1mode:** If set to `grad`, the curvature of the path at each point is calculated numerically from the gradient vectors; if set to `hess`, the curvature is obtained from the Hessian matrix. The default value is `grad`, which in general provides more stable results than `hess`.

8.5 The *pif.calcs* file

The *pif.calcs* file contains the templates for the electronic structure calculations needed by *Pilgrim* in the calculation of the MEP. It also contains a template to perform the high-level calculations. Unlike in other *pif* files, '#' **cannot be used to start a comment**.

The templates for the MEP calculations are defined inside *meppoint* blocks:

```
start_meppoint ctcts ESS0
  the template
end_meppoint
```

An example, extracted from WE04, is shown below:

WE04: *pif.calcs* file

```
start_meppoint nh3_plane gaussian
%nproc=1
%mem=1GB
%chk=[Pilgrim_name].chk
#p pm6
scf=verytight
NoSymm
[Pilgrim_gradhess]

Input file for MEP calculation

0 1
[Pilgrim_geometry]
end_meppoint
```

Notice that the commands in brackets (in blue) are not *Gaussian* commands, but are indicators to *Pilgrim* to perform different actions when the ESSO is working with a given geometry:

- [Pilgrim_name]: is substituted by the name of the file generated by *Pilgrim*.
- [Pilgrim_geometry]: is substituted by the Cartesian coordinates.
- [Pilgrim_gradhess]: is substituted by the corresponding *Gaussian*/Orca keyword for the calculation of the gradient and/or the Hessian matrix.

The templates for the high-level calculations (including single-point energy calculations for MEP points) are defined inside *highlevel* blocks:

```
start_highlevel ctensp ESS0
  the template
end_highlevel
```

An example is:

WE04: pif.calcs file

```
start_highlevel nh3_plane gaussian
%nproc=1
%mem=1GB
%chk=[Pilgrim_name].chk
#p hf/sto-3g
scf=verytight
NoSymm

Input file for MEP calculation

0 1
[Pilgrim_geometry]

end_highlevel
```

8.6 The *pif.kmc* file

The *pif.kmc* file contains the information to perform a simulation of a chemical kinetics mechanism using the kinetic Monte Carlo algorithm. The file can be created with the aid of the interactive menu but it may need further editing by the user. Similar to other input files, *pif.kmc* consists of *kmc* blocks, which allow the consideration of different mechanisms to evaluate:

```
start_kmc kinmec1
  keyword  value
  ...
end_kmc

start_kmc kinmech2
  keyword  value
  ...
end_kmc
```

The general syntax for the selection of a chemical reaction inside each *kmc* block is:

```
k(chemname[.fw/.bw])[*wgtreac] labelrc
```

where each reaction is chosen using its label (*chemname*) and the values for *labelrc* are given in Table 8.4. Notice that the chemical reactions must be defined inside *pif.chem*:

WE08: *pif.chem*

```
Ra : EtOH + H --> TSA --> PA + H2
Rb : EtOH + H --> TSB --> PB + H2
Rc : EtOH + H --> TSC --> PC + H2
```

Reactions that lead to one product are considered reversible (forward and backward reactions), whereas reactions that lead to two products are considered irreversible (only forward reaction). It is possible to modify these defaults specifying both forward and backward reactions through *chemname.fw* and *chemname.bw*, respectively.

Besides of the selection of the thermal rate constants, Table 8.5 shows a list of additional keywords that can be specified. The thermal rate constant can be multiplied by a weight (integer), specified in *wgtreac*. In the example, the rate constant for the abstraction of one of the hydrogen atoms from the α -C of ethanol (reaction *Ra*) should be multiplied by two because it is possible to abstract another equivalent hydrogen from the α -C. The transition states for the abstraction of one of the hydrogen atoms are configurational isomers of the transition states resulting from the abstraction of the other hydrogen.^[v]

^[v]Notice that the weight of a given configuration in the *pif.struc* (*wgtconf*) file only applies to conformational isomers, but not to configurational isomers. This situation always occurs when there

The following example shows a case in which KMC uses MP-CVT/SCT thermal rate constants that were previously calculated with *Pilgrim*:

WE08: *pif.kmc* file

```
start_kmc Habstr
# KMC Parameters
psteps      1000      # print data each nstp steps
volume      1.00E+00  # simulation volume (mL)
timeunits   ps        # units for time variable

# Initial (non-zero) populations (number of molecules)
pop0(EtOH)   1.00e+14
pop0(H)      1.00e+06

# Selection of the rate constant to use
k(Ra)*2      mpcvtsct
k(Rb)         mpcvtsct
k(Rc)         mpcvtsct
end_kmc
```

It is also possible to specify rate constants that are given by analytical expressions, instead of being calculated by *Pilgrim*. In such a case, the user must choose the analytic equation and include the corresponding parameters (see Table 8.6). For the case of analytical expressions for thermal rate constants, the final part of the file should be similar to the one of WE09, i.e.,

WE09: Extract of the *pif.kmc* file.

```
k(Ra.fw)*2  analytic4  7.774E-15  3.151E+03  3.555E+00  3.000E+02  2.581E+02
k(Rb.fw)    analytic4  9.430E-15  4.349E+03  3.901E+00  3.000E+02  2.379E+02
k(Rc.fw)    analytic4  2.118E-13  1.247E+03  2.459E+00  3.000E+02  1.945E+02
```

is a hydrogen abstraction from a carbon atom of the type R1-CH₂-R2, where the two hydrogen atoms are equivalent and R1 and R2 are two different non-hydrogen substituents. This is because the abstraction of each of the hydrogen atoms leads to two configurational isomers with two different asymmetric carbon atoms. None of the structures generated by the abstraction of one hydrogen atom can interconvert with the structures generated by the abstraction of the other hydrogen atoms, leading to two chiral reaction channels. The weight *wgtreac* is the unity for the hydrogen abstractions from the methyl and hydroxyl groups.

Table 8.4: Different options for `labelrc`.

Rate constant	labelrc	Comment
TST	tst	
MS-TST/ZCT	mststzct	
MS-TST/SCT	mststsct	
MS-CVT	mscvt	
MS-CVT/ZCT	mscvtzct	
MS-CVT/SCT	mscvtsct	
MP-TST/ZCT	mptstzct	
MP-TST/SCT	mptstsct	
MP-CVT	mpcvt	
MP-CVT/ZCT	mpcvtzct	
MP-CVT/SCT	mpcvtsct	
Arrhenius	analytic1	Requires two parameters
van't Hoff type 1	analytic2	Requires three parameters
van't Hoff type 2	analytic3	Requires four parameters
Truhlar and co.	analytic4	Requires five parameters
Truhlar and co.	analytic5	Requires five parameters

Table 8.5: Available keywords in the *pif.kmc* input file.

Keyword	Type	Default	Brief description
psteps	integer	1000	Prints the number of molecules of each species every given number of steps.
volume	float	1	Volume of the reaction vessel (in cm ³).
timeunits	str	ps	Time evolution units: fs, ps, mcs, ms, s, min, hr femtoseconds, picoseconds, microseconds, milliseconds, seconds, minutes and hours, respectively.
pop0(ctcsp)	float	0	Initial number of particles of the <i>ctcsp</i> species.

Table 8.6: Available analytical expressions for the rate constants to be entered in the *pif.kmc* file. *Pilgrim* fits the expressions `analytic3`, `analytic4` and `analytic5` using $T_r = 300$ K

label	Equation	Parameters (in input order)	Units
analytic1	$k = Ae^{-B/T}$	A, B	A : molecule cm ⁻³ s ⁻¹ B : K
analytic2	$k = AT^n e^{-B/T}$	A, B, n	AT^n : molecule cm ⁻³ s ⁻¹ B : K
analytic3	$k = A \left(\frac{T}{T_r}\right)^n e^{-B/T}$	A, B, n, T_r	A : molecule cm ⁻³ s ⁻¹ B and T_r : K
analytic4	$k = A \left(\frac{T}{T_r}\right)^n e^{-B(T+T_0)/(T^2+T_0^2)}$	A, B, n, T_r, T_0	A : molecule cm ⁻³ s ⁻¹ B, T_r and T_0 : K
analytic5	$k = A \left(\frac{T+T_0}{T_r}\right)^n e^{-B(T+T_0)/(T^2+T_0^2)}$	A, B, n, T_r, T_0	A : molecule cm ⁻³ s ⁻¹ B, T_r and T_0 : K

8.7 The *pif.dlevel* file

The *pif.dlevel* contains the target structures to be calculated at high-level. The syntax of the file is:

```
sname1  
sname2  
...  
ctcts1[.idx] {auto_nptbw_nptfw}  
ctcts2[.idx] {auto_nptbw_nptfw}  
...
```

The high-level single-point energies of the stationary points do not depend upon the isotopic substitution, therefore the *sname* labels are used. However, the MEP is mass-dependent, and the points to be calculated along the MEP (given between curly brackets) are preceded by a *ctcts* label. This allows us to specify which MEP is being calculated when there are reactions with isotopic substitutions. The integers *nptbw* and *nptfw* indicate the number of (equally spaced) points to be calculated in the backward and forward directions of the MEP, respectively. For instance:

WE06: *pif.dlevel*

```
nh3_planar {auto_3_3}  
nh3_pyram
```

calculates single-point high energies for *nh3_pyram* (reactant), *nh3_planar* transition state and three equally spaced points along the backward and forward directions of the MEP. The first point to be calculated corresponds to the geometry with the smallest value of *s*, whereas the last point corresponds to the geometry with the highest value of *s*.

It is also possible to specify the values of *s* along the reaction path at which the high-level single-point calculations are going to be performed. The syntax is:

```
ctcts1[.idx] {svalue1,svalue2,...,svalueN}
```

Notice that the level of the electronic structure calculations is specified in the *pif.calcs* file. Only when the two files are properly modified (*pif.dlevel* and *pif.calcs*), the high-level calculations can be carried out by executing *Pilgrim* with the `--hlcalc` option. High-level energies will be stored in `2-PLG_DATA/highlevel.txt`.

Once the high-level calculations are performed, the dual-level methodology is applied using the interpolated single-point energies (ISPE) algorithm. The MEP is calculated at a low-level, but it is corrected with high-level single-point calculations at some locations along the path. The high-level energies are interpolated using a cubic spline. For a reasonably good interpolation, it is important to provide, apart from the stationary points, the high-level energies of the smallest and highest

values of s , and some additional points along the MEP. The program automatically incorporates those points with 2 additional points at each side of the MEP. Although the *pif.dlevel* file that is generated using the interactive menu can be edited, we recommend to use the default values.

IV Part Four - Bibliography

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9.1	General references about methods in <i>Pilgrim</i> .	
9.2	Specific references for specific methods in <i>Pilgrim</i> .	

9. Bibliography

9.1 General references about methods in *Pilgrim*.

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