



ENERGY.GOV



Jarod M. Younker, PhD

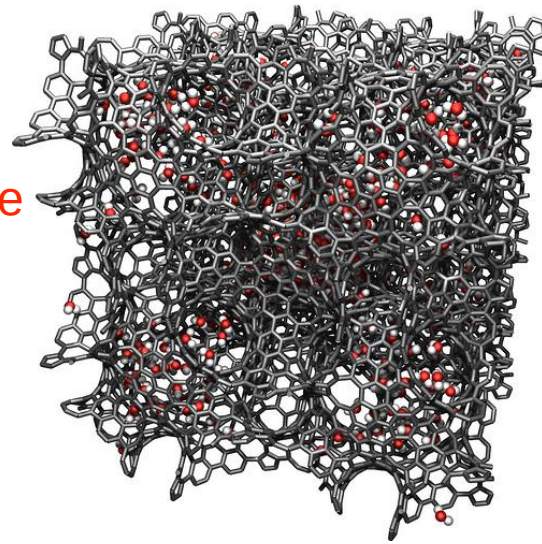
POLYMER PROPERTIES AND MOLECULAR MODELING

MODELING SCALES

Dynamic Properties
(T_g, miscibility, viscosity,
aggregation, etc.)

< 1MM atoms

Accurate force fields available



Finite Element Method

Mesoscale
(DPD, Brownian)

Macroscale properties
Solution of differential equations

Coarse-Grained MD

Monte Carlo

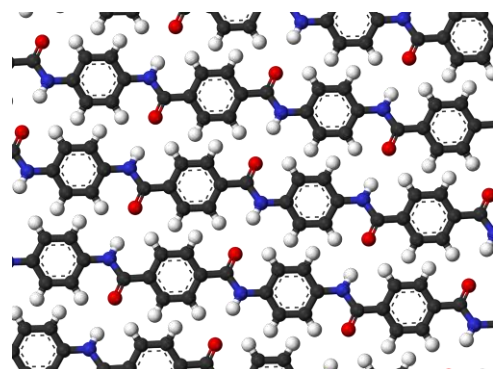
Atomistic Molecular Dynamics

Reactive MD

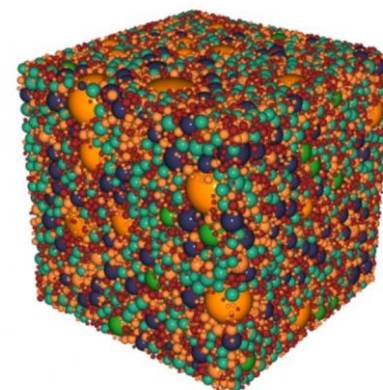
Quantum

Density
Functional
Theory

10⁻¹² 10⁻¹¹ 10⁻¹⁰ 10⁻⁹ 10⁻⁸ 10⁻⁷ 10⁻⁶



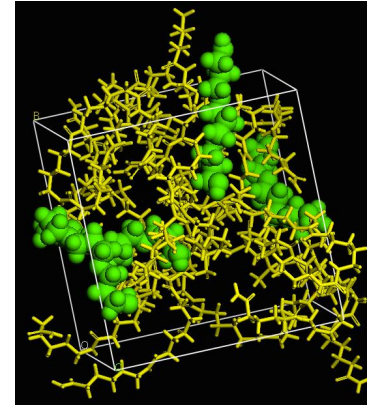
Reactions
Electronic Properties
<1000 atoms
Exact description



Atomic-level information replaced
< 1MM particles
General force fields unavailable, system-
dependent parameterization required (e.g.,
iterative Boltzmann inversion)

TALK OVERVIEW

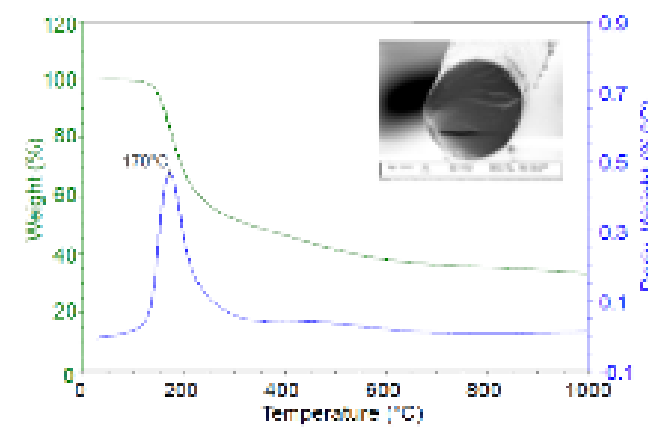
Flex Modulus/Solubility Parameters of Nylon Plasticizers



Thermal Interface Materials



Carbon Fiber from Polyethylene



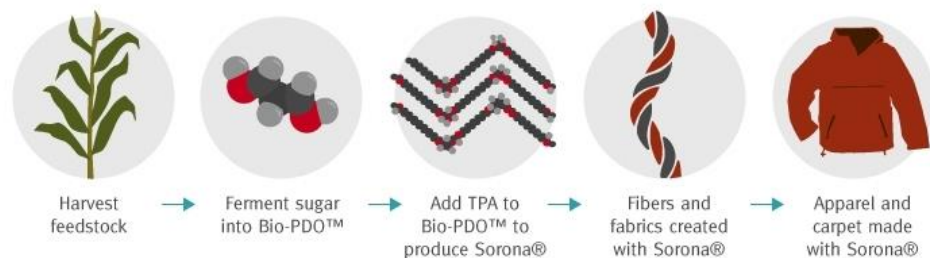
FLEX MODULUS/SOLUBILITY PARAMETERS FOR NYLON PLASTICIZERS

Current applications of 1,3-propanediol (Bio-PDO):



Loudon, TN

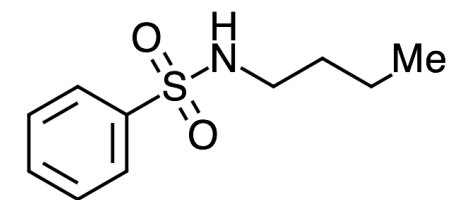
The Story of Sorona®



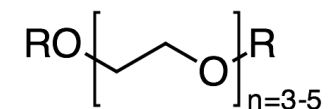
Sorona® is made, in part, with annually renewable plant-based ingredients.



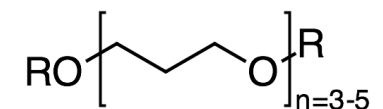
- ❖ Nylon market projected to grow by 5% annually driven by automotive industry.
- ❖ Proposed application of Bio-PDO: environmentally friendly nylon plasticizer
- ❖ Incumbent plasticizer: *n*-butylbenzenesulfonamide (NBBS)
 - ❖ Environmental contaminant
 - ❖ Probable neurotoxin



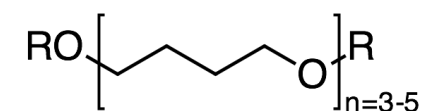
n-butylbenzenesulfonamide



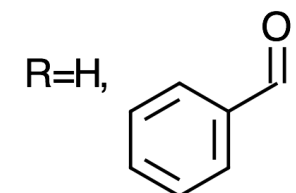
polyethylene glycol



poly(1,3-propanediol)



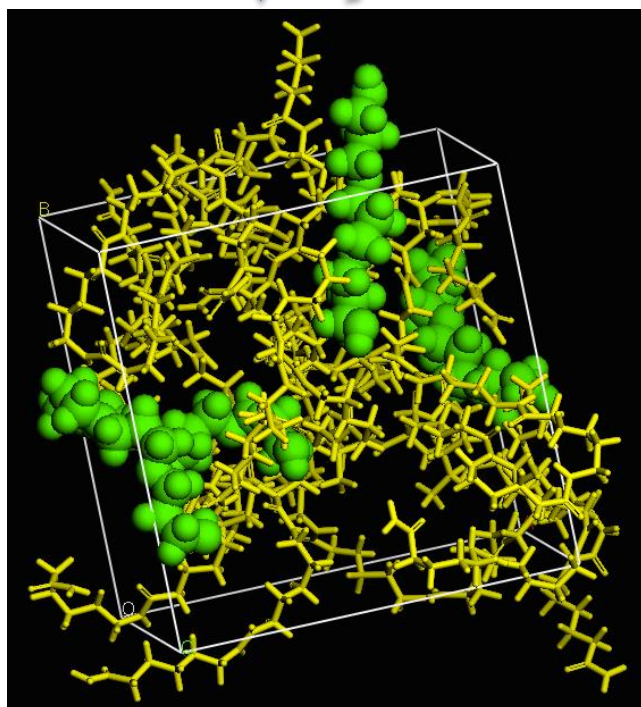
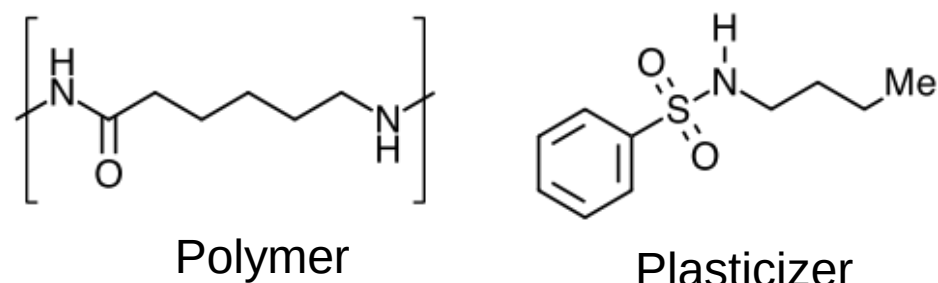
poly(1,4-butanediol)



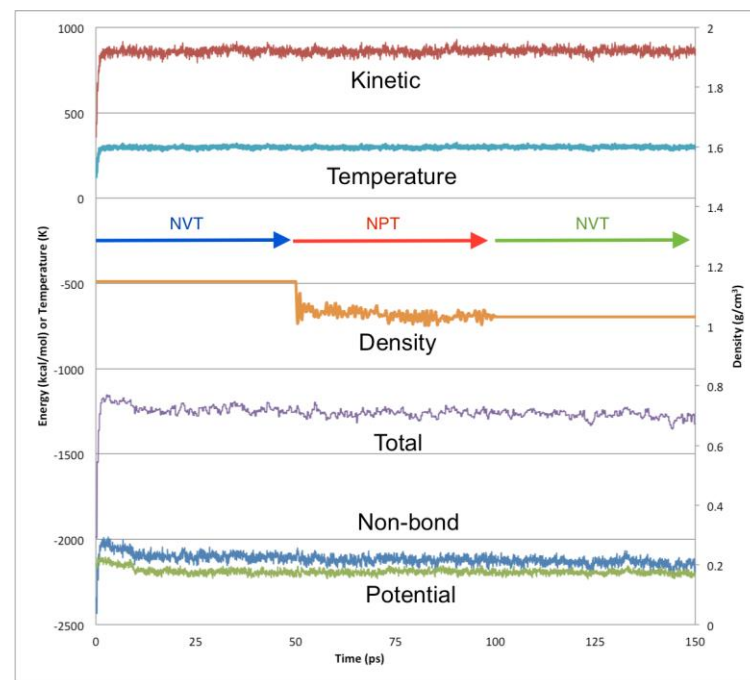
FLEX MODULUS/SOLUBILITY PARAMETERS FOR NYLON PLASTICIZERS

Hypothesis: Rigidity of polymer is a function of intermolecular hydrogen bonding.

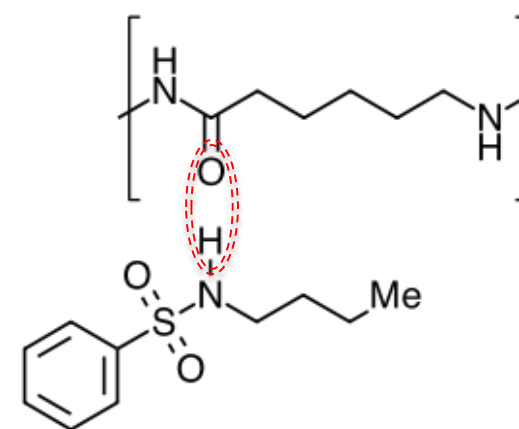
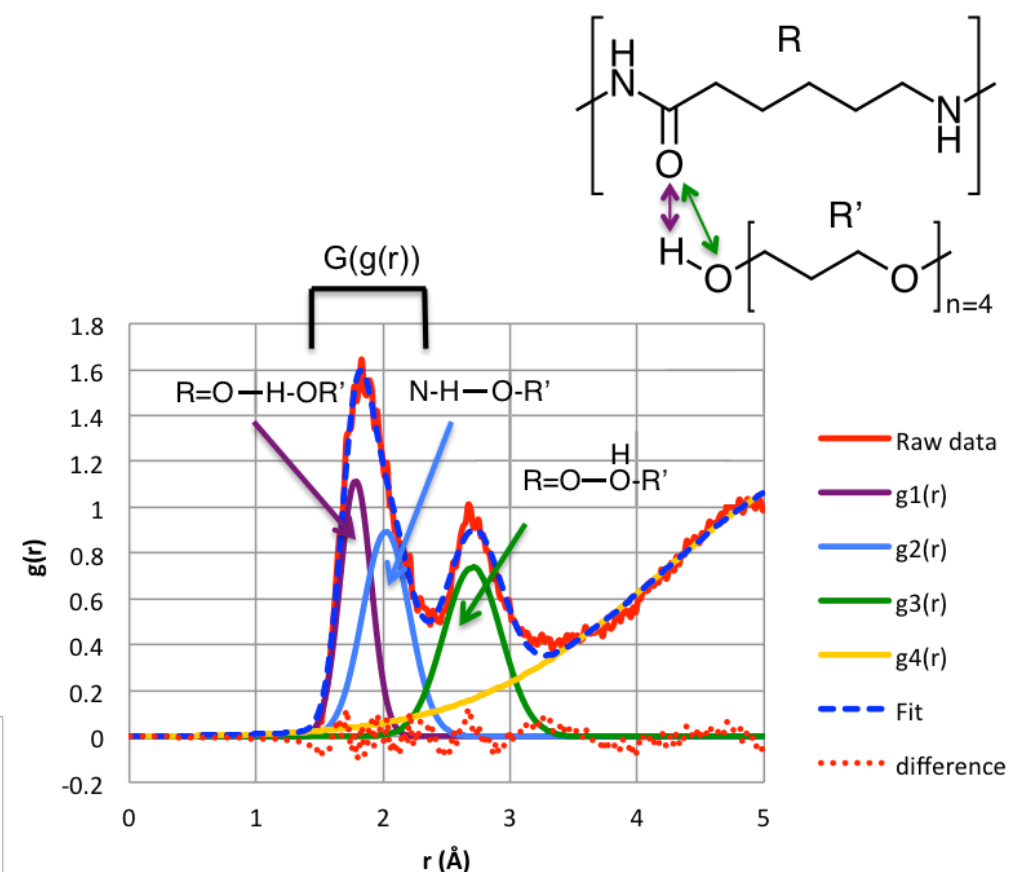
- Workflows automated using Materials Studio Perl script
- Data stored within MySQL database



1) Screen x amorphous cells



2) Geometry optimization
Molecular dynamics



Probability that a donor will be within a set distance (Å) from an acceptor.

3) Pair correlation function

FLEX MODULUS/SOLUBILITY PARAMETERS FOR NYLON PLASTICIZERS

Predicting nylon/plasticizer compatibility

$$\delta = (CED)^{1/2} = \left(\frac{\Delta E_v}{V_m} \right)^{1/2} = \left(\frac{\Delta H_v - RT}{V_m} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\Delta G_m = \Delta H_m - T\Delta S_m$$

drive to zero!

$$\Delta H_m = V'(\delta_1 - \delta_2)^2 \phi_1 \phi_2 \quad \text{Hildebrand}$$

$$\delta_{vdW} + \delta_{Cou}$$

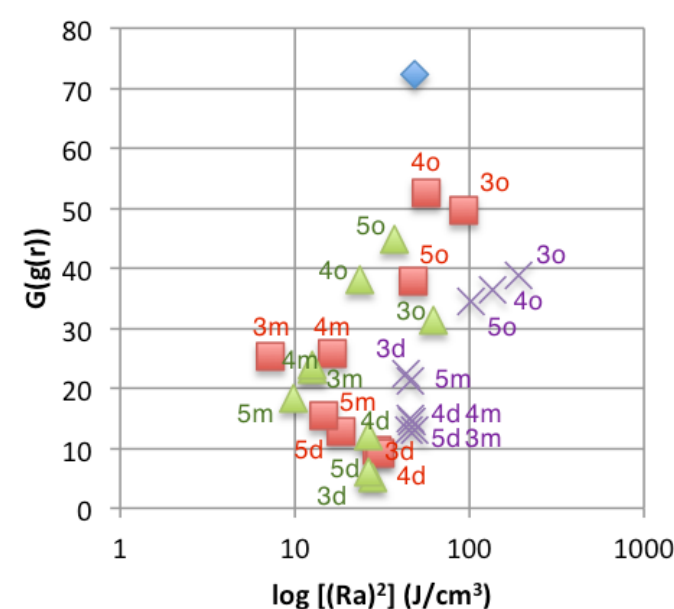
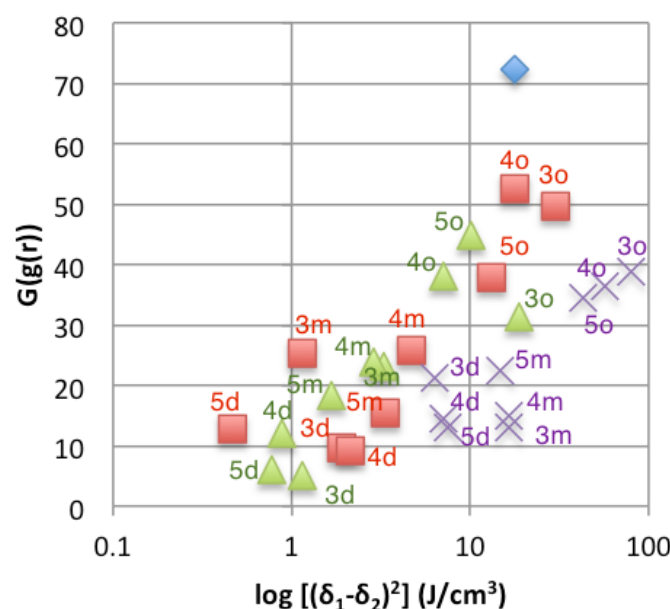
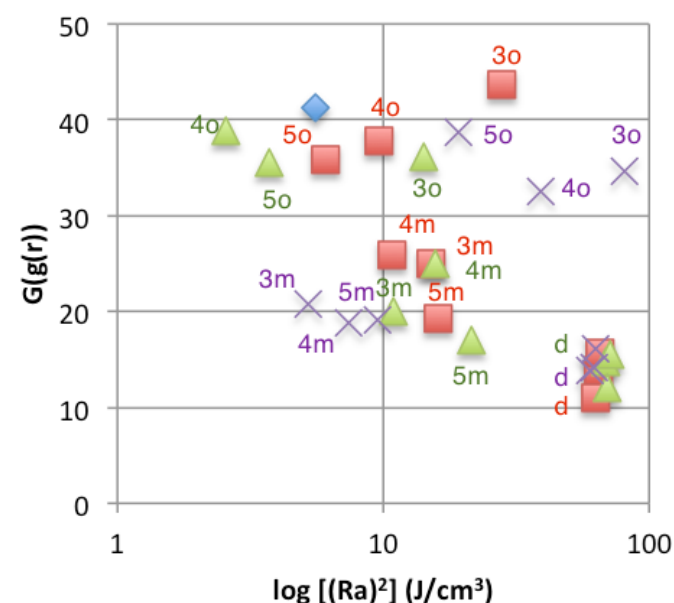
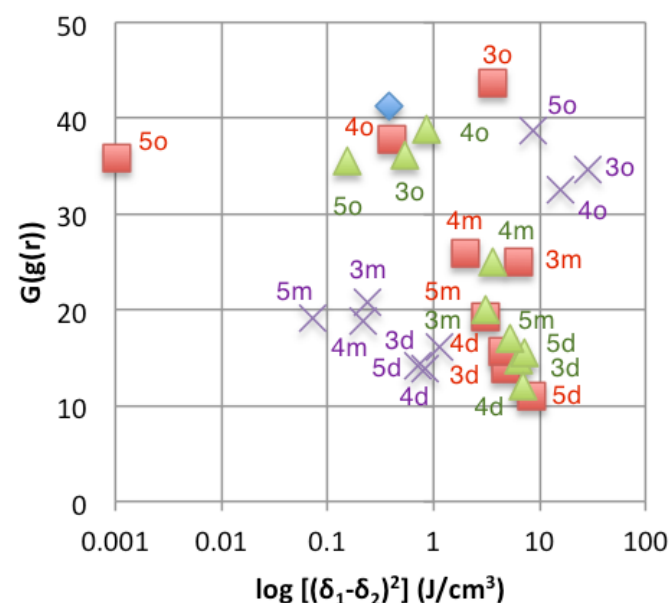
$$\delta^2 = \delta_d^2 + \delta_p^2 + \delta_h^2$$

Hansen

polar hydrogen-bonding

Plasticizers are labeled as follows: nc, where n is the poly chain length (3-5) and c is the capping substituent (o=diol, m=monobenzoate, d=dibenzoate).

$$(Ra)^2 = 4(\delta_{d,1} - \delta_{d,2})^2 + (\delta_{p,1} - \delta_{p,2})^2 + (\delta_{h,1} - \delta_{h,2})^2$$



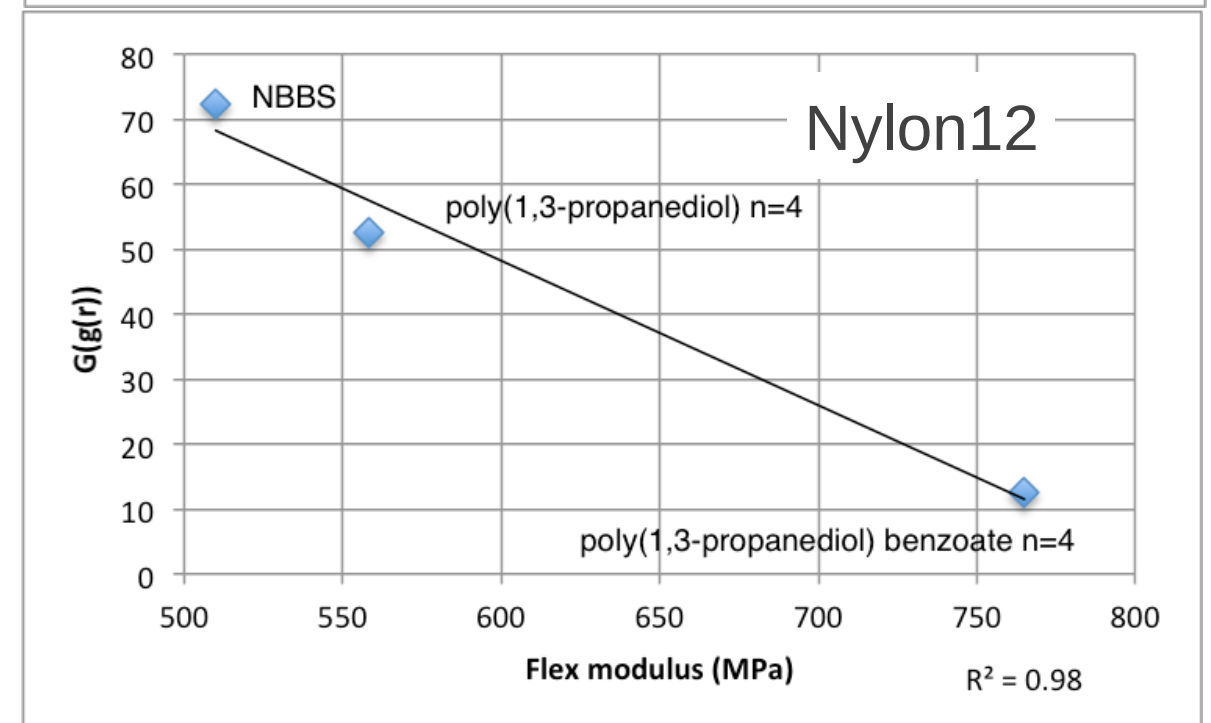
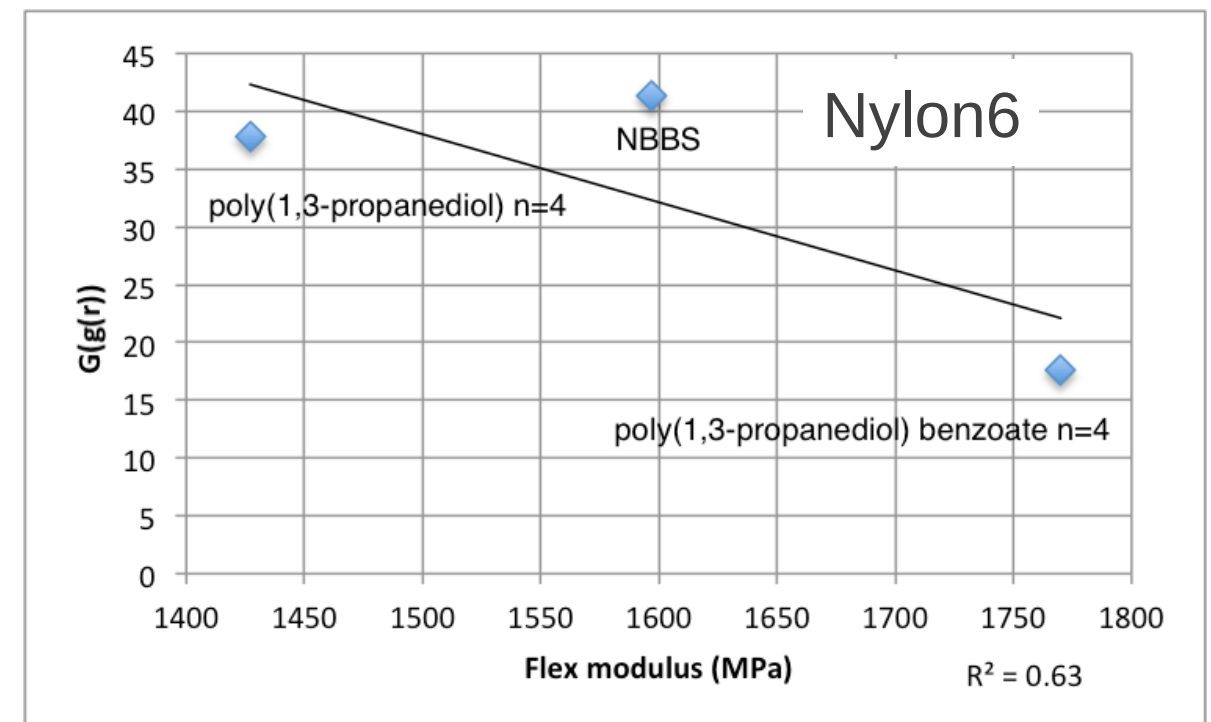
FLEX MODULUS/SOLUBILITY PARAMETERS FOR NYLON PLASTICIZERS

High-throughput virtual approach has been used to screen plasticizers.

Bio-PDO-based poly(1,3-propanediol) is effective at reducing the flex modulus of nylon6, but it not as effective as NBBS in nylon12.

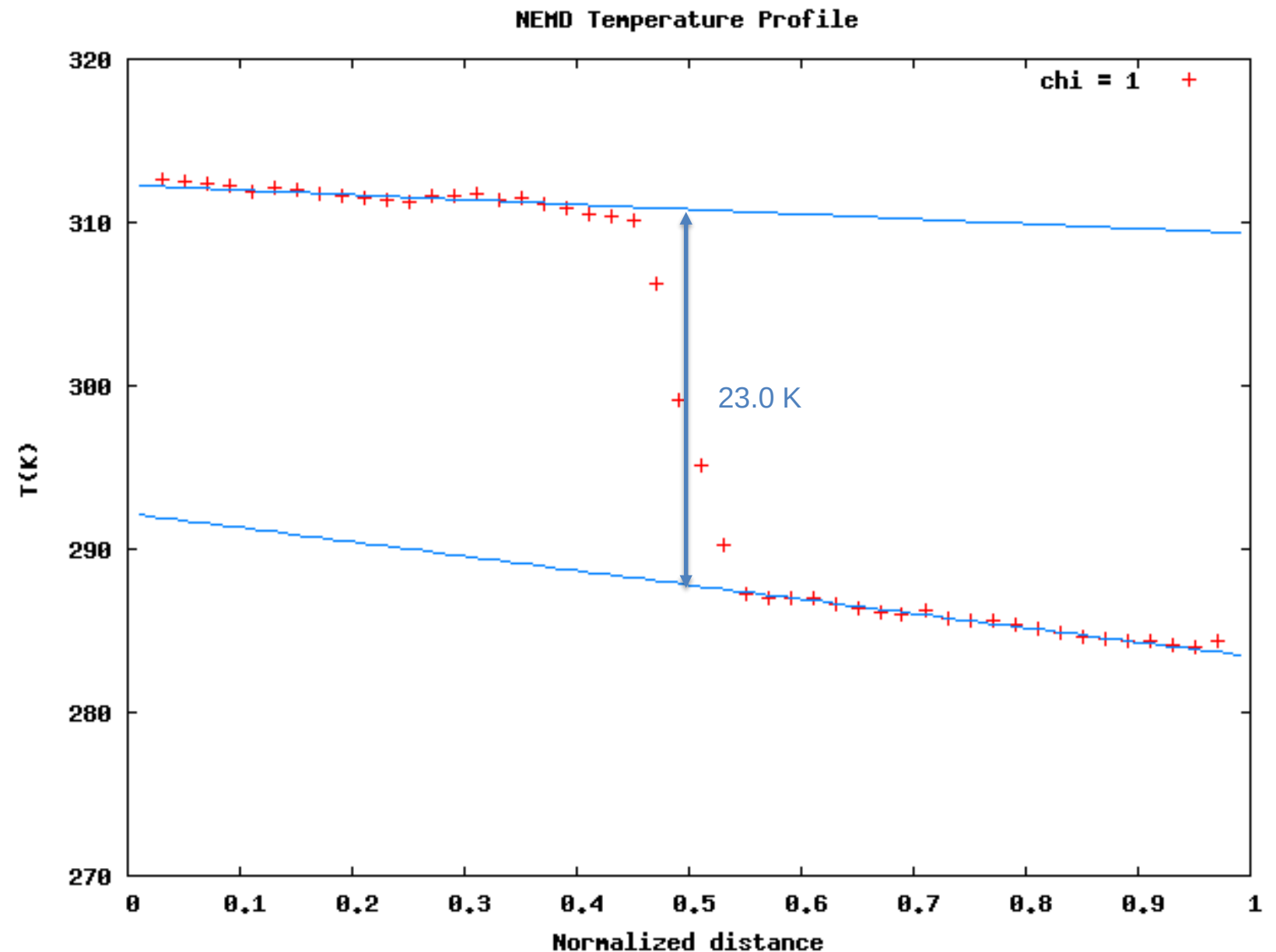
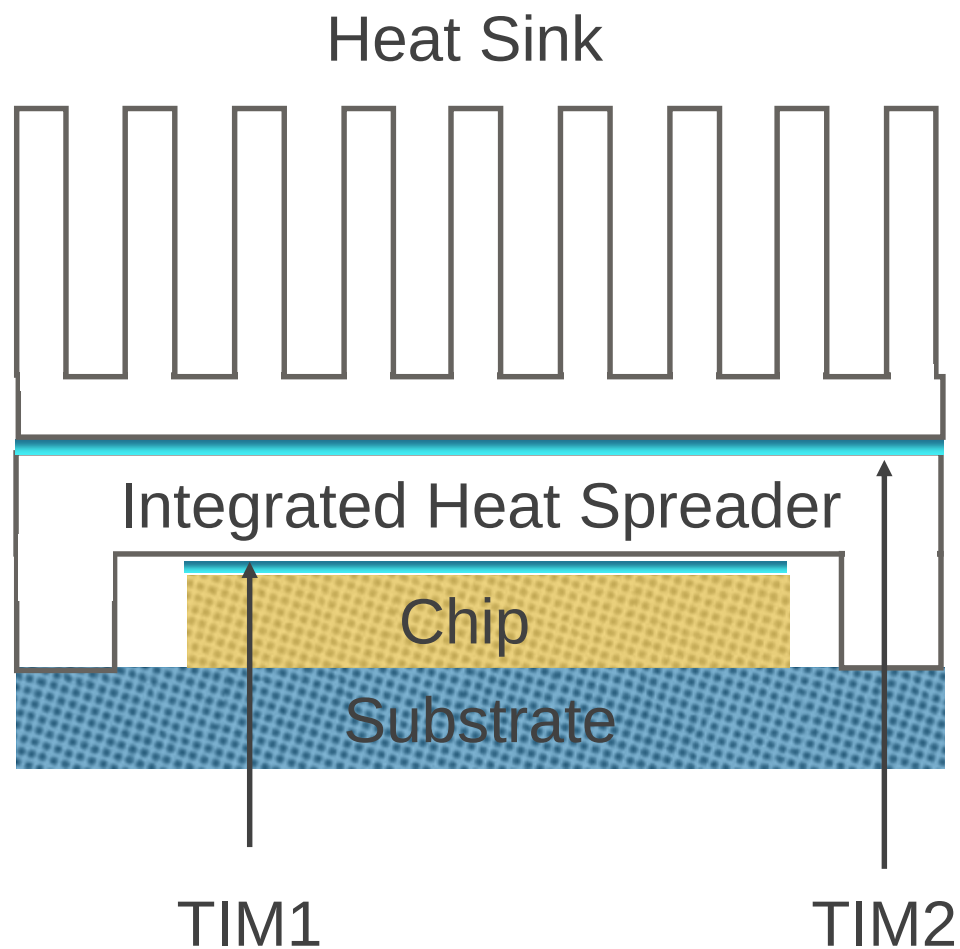
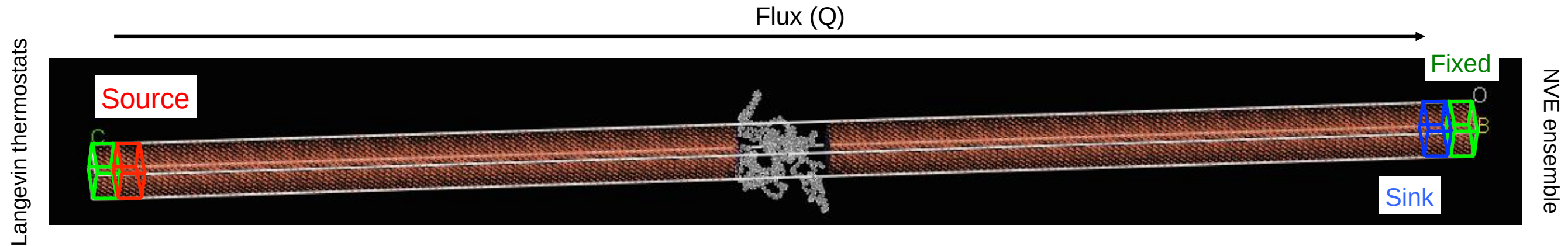
Large difference in polar electrostatics between nylon12 and poly(1,3-propanediol) limits compatibility.

- Condensation to the benzoate ester increases compatibility, but at the expense of reduced flex modulus.



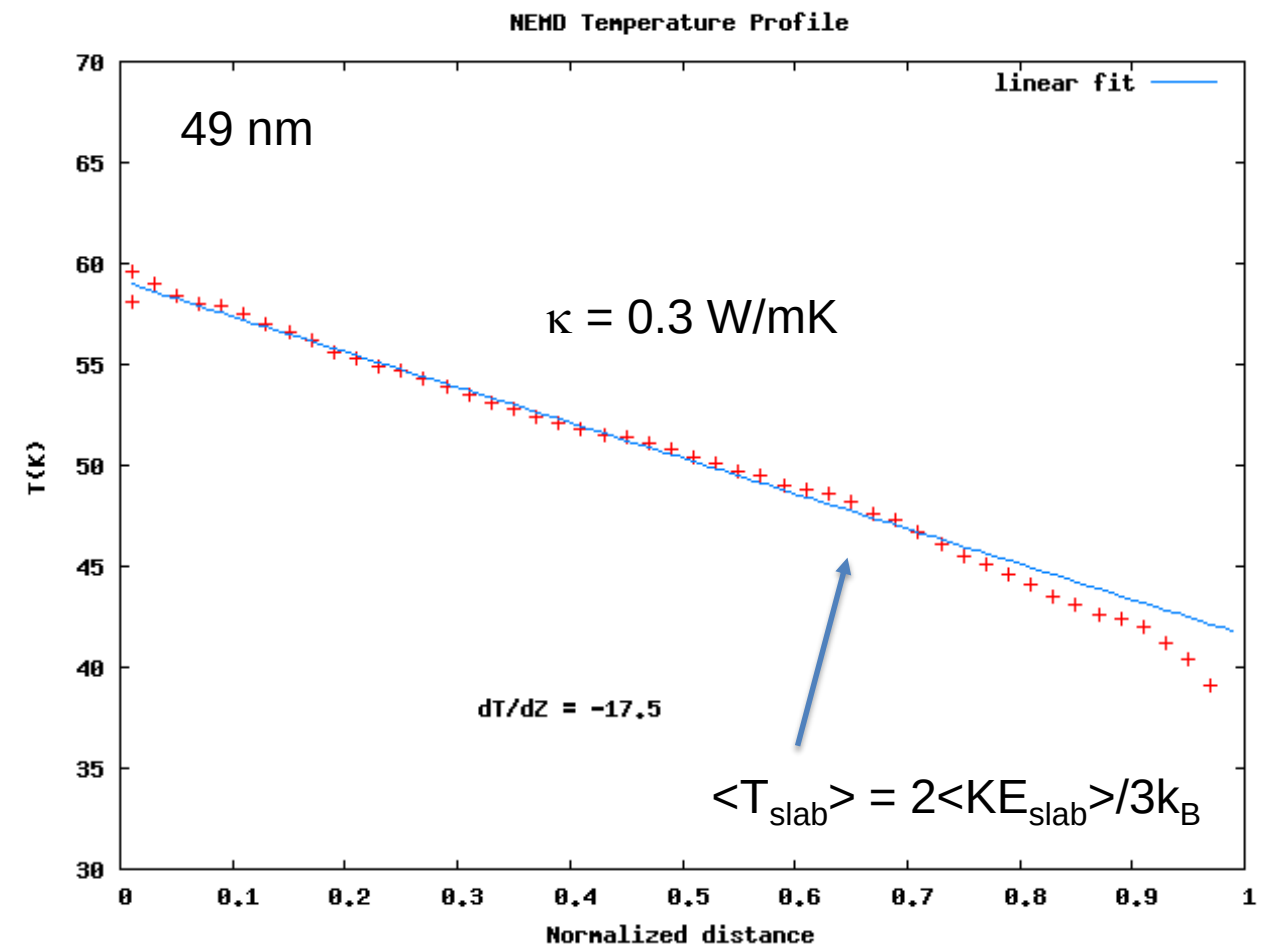
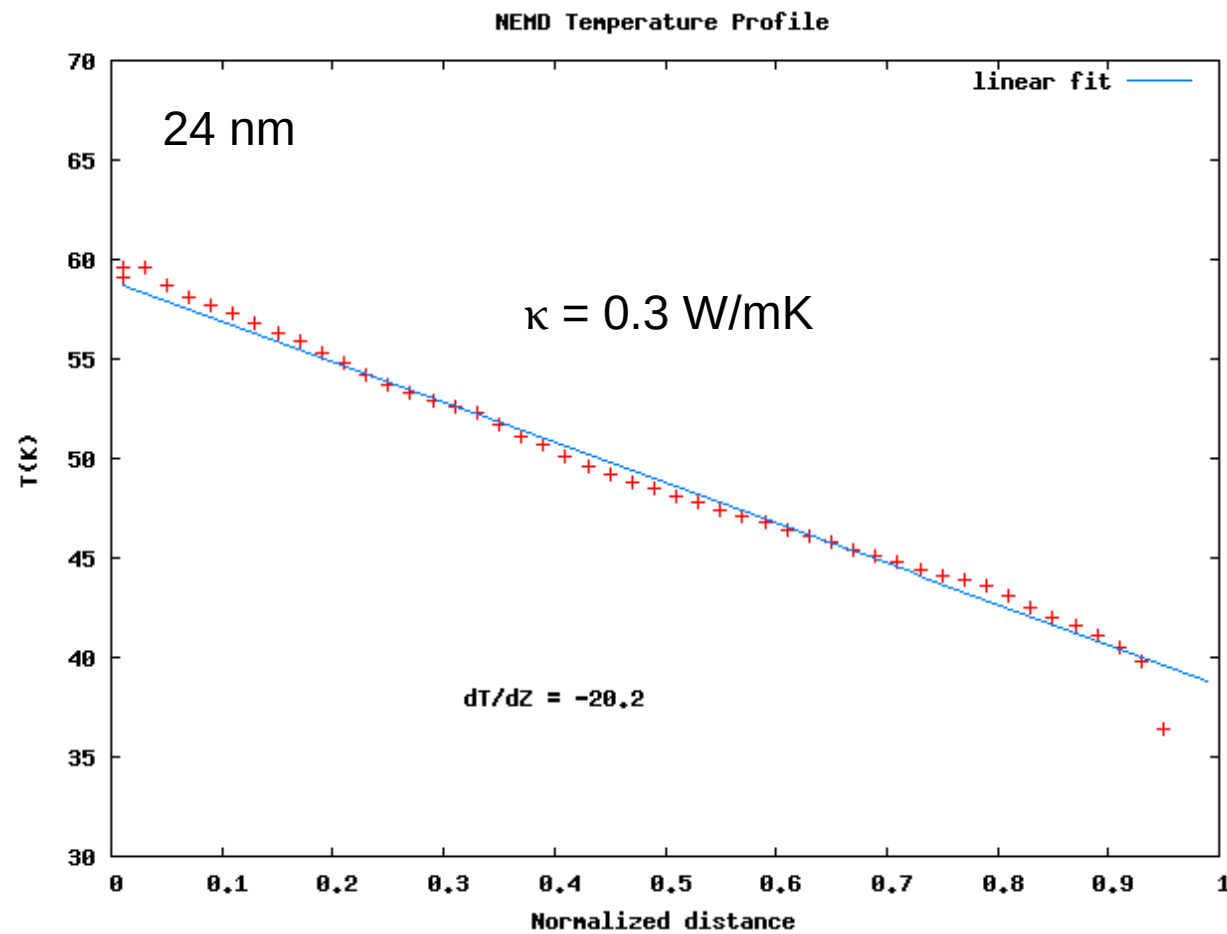
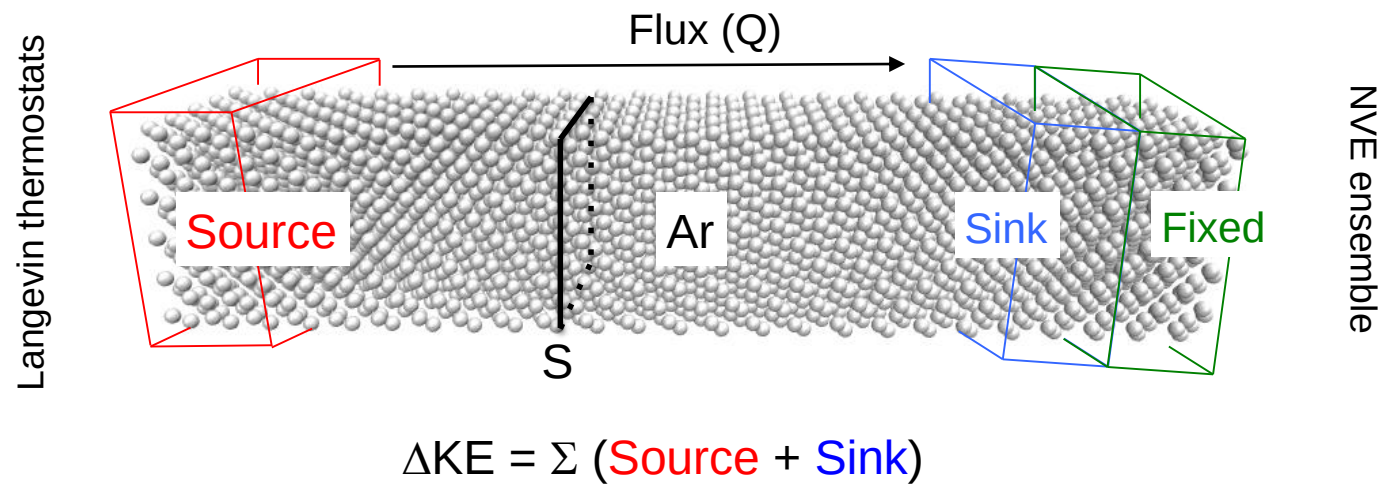
THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

Objective: Screen for and engineer thin films that have high thermal conductivity.



THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

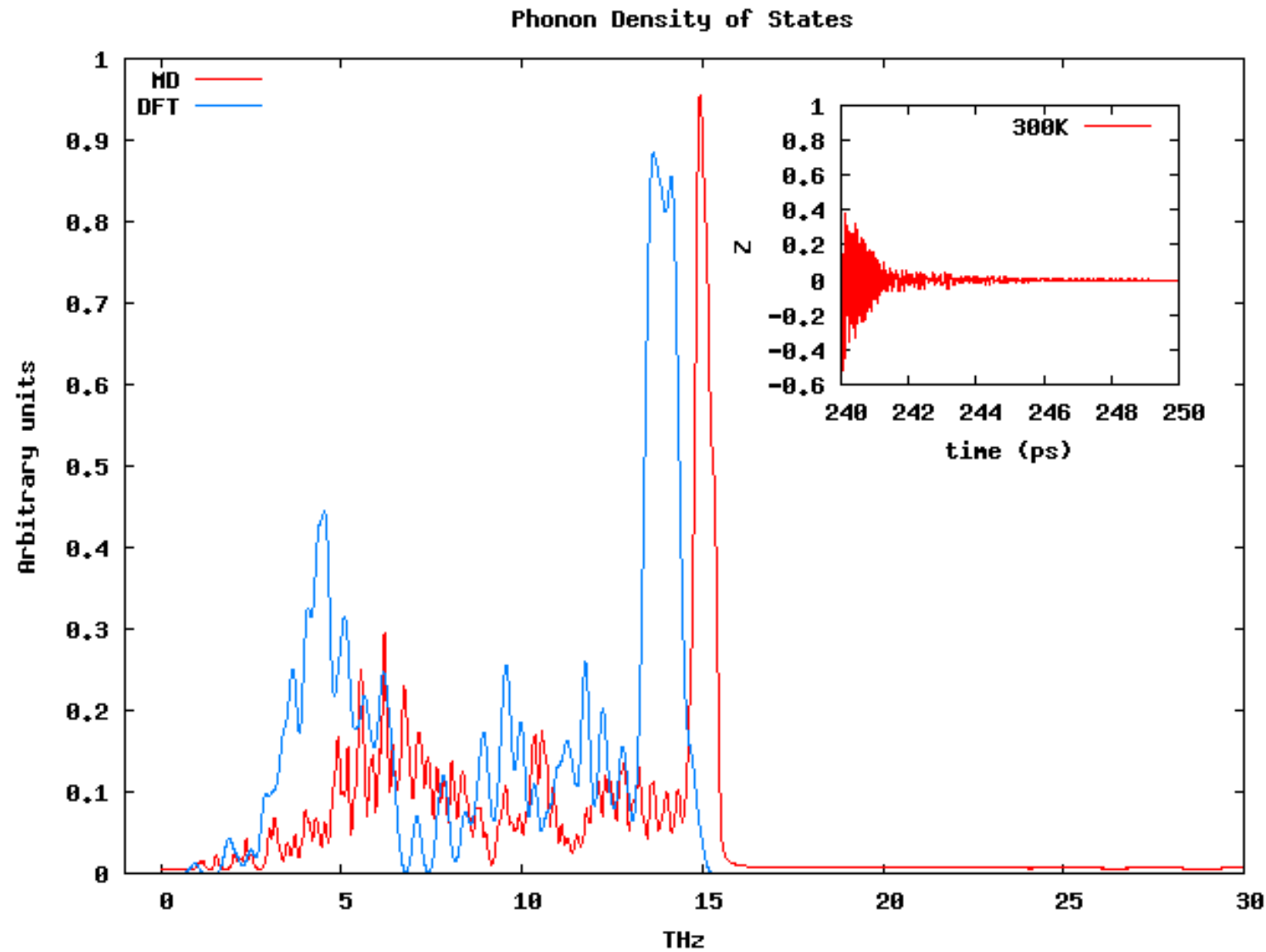
Bulk thermal conductivity



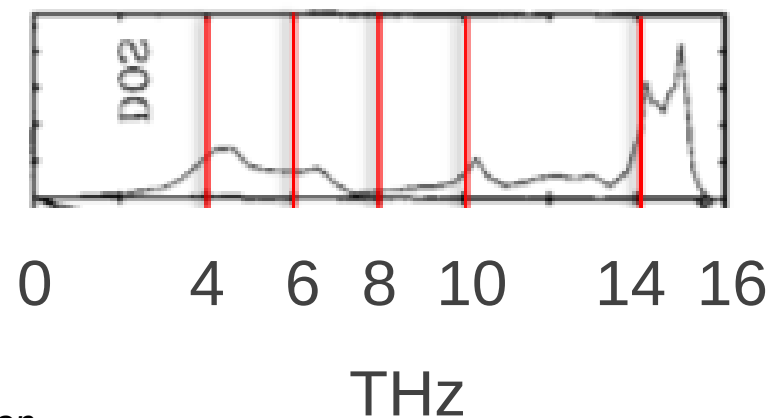
THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

Bulk Silicon

Forcefield verification: Second Nearest Neighbor Modified Embedded Atom Potential (2NN-MEAM)



Experiment



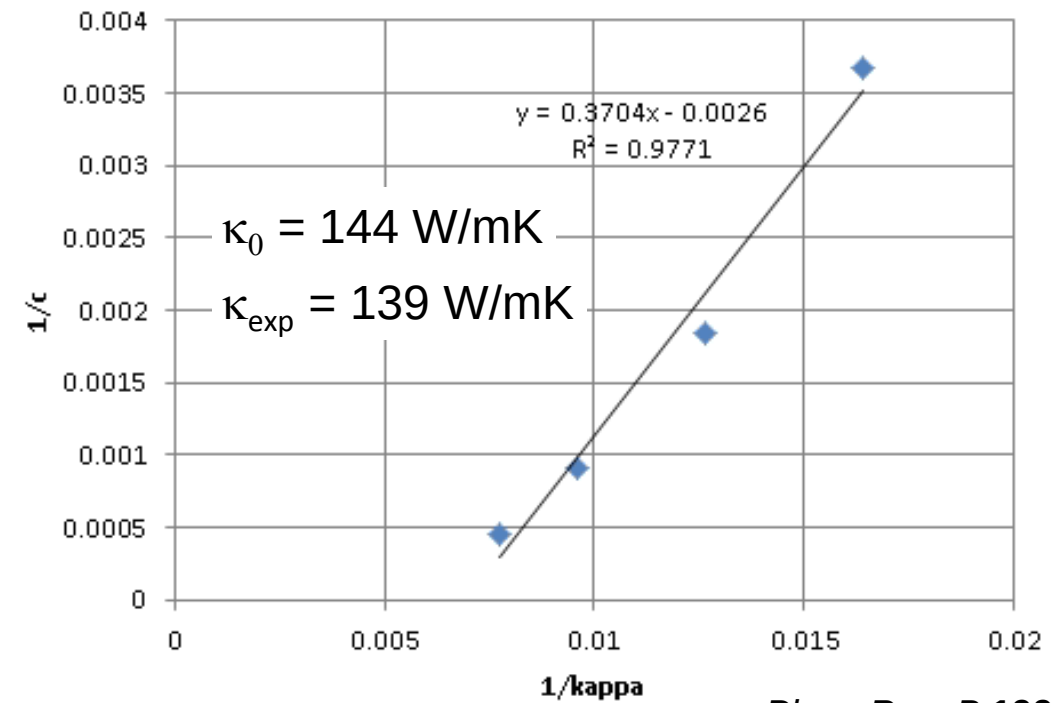
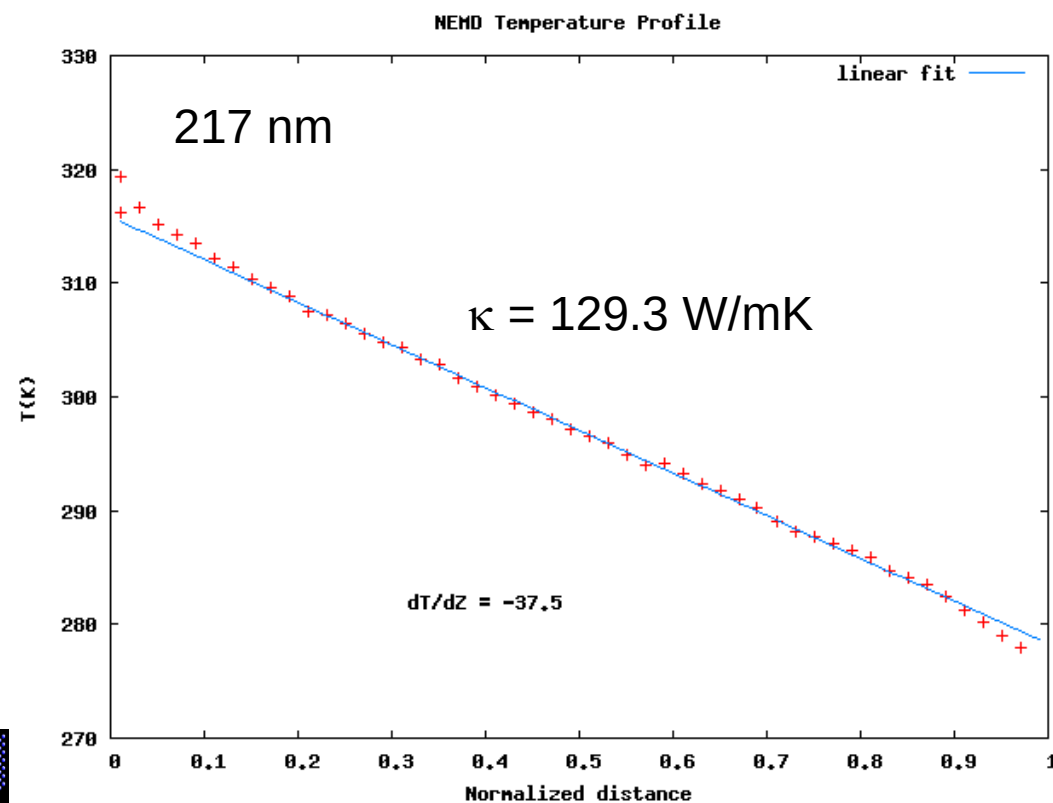
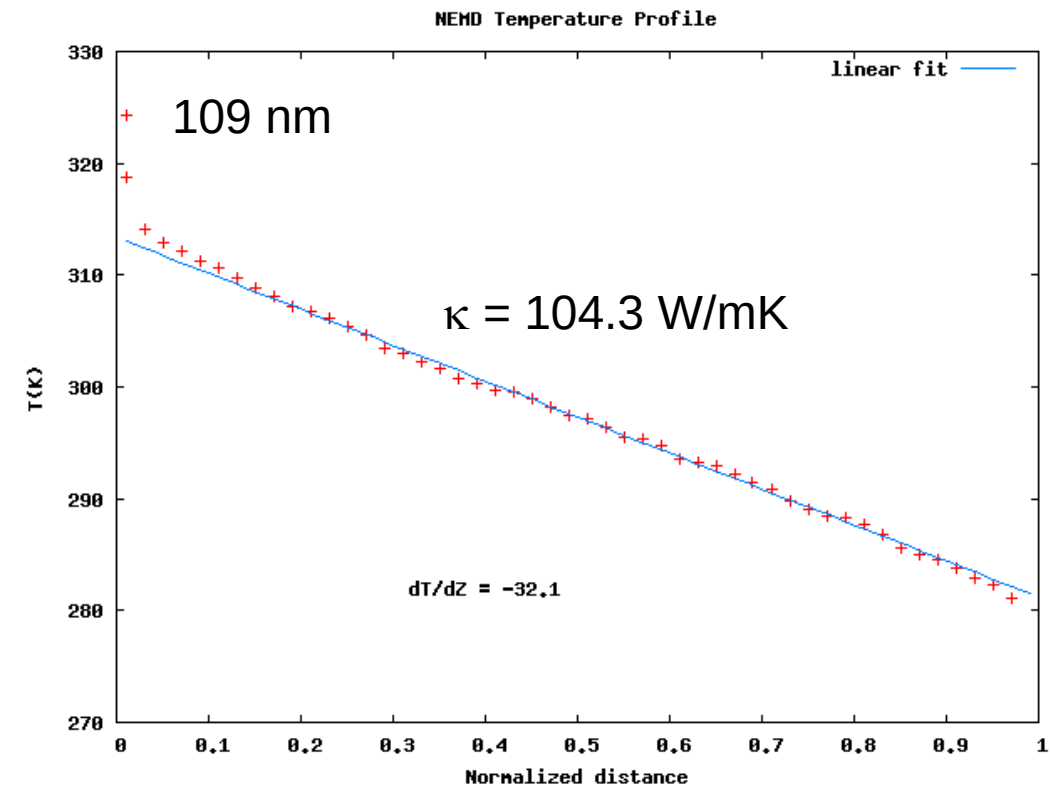
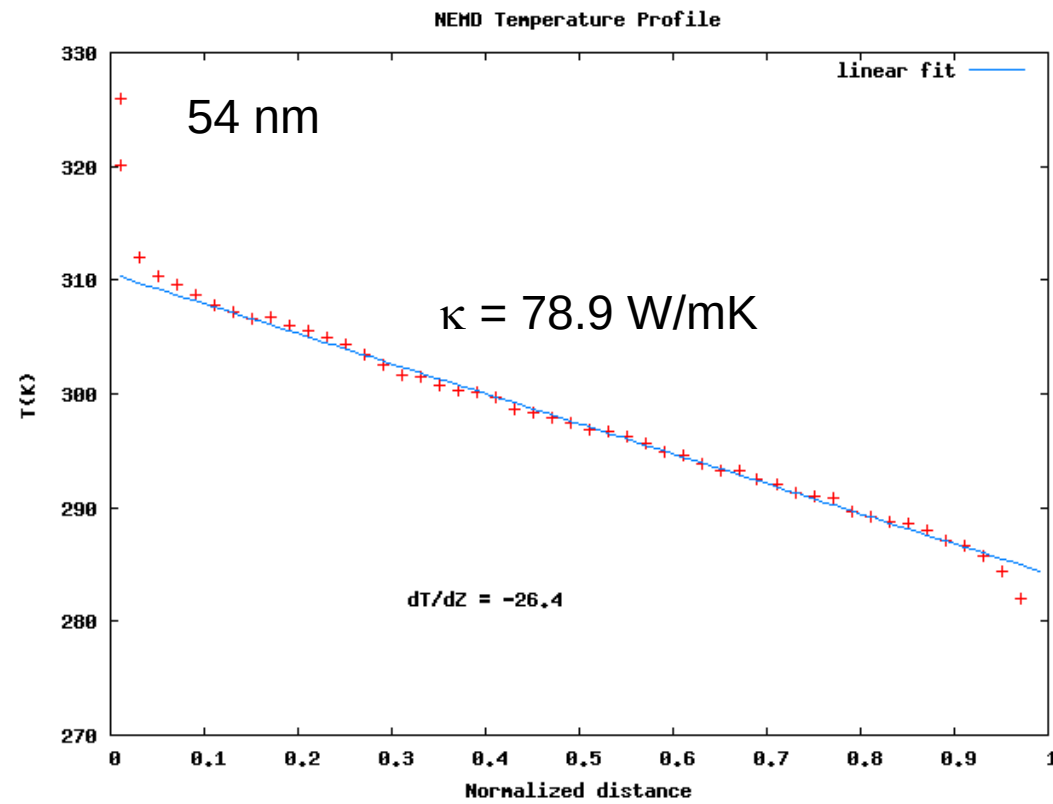
$$E = \sum_i \left[F_i(\bar{\rho}_i) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j(\neq i)} S_{ij} \phi_{ij}(R_{ij}) \right]$$

Phys. Rev. B **1994**, 50, 2221-2226
Calphad **2007**, 31, 95-104

THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

Bulk Silicon

Forcefield verification: Second Nearest Neighbor Modified Embedded Atom Potential (2NN-MEAM)

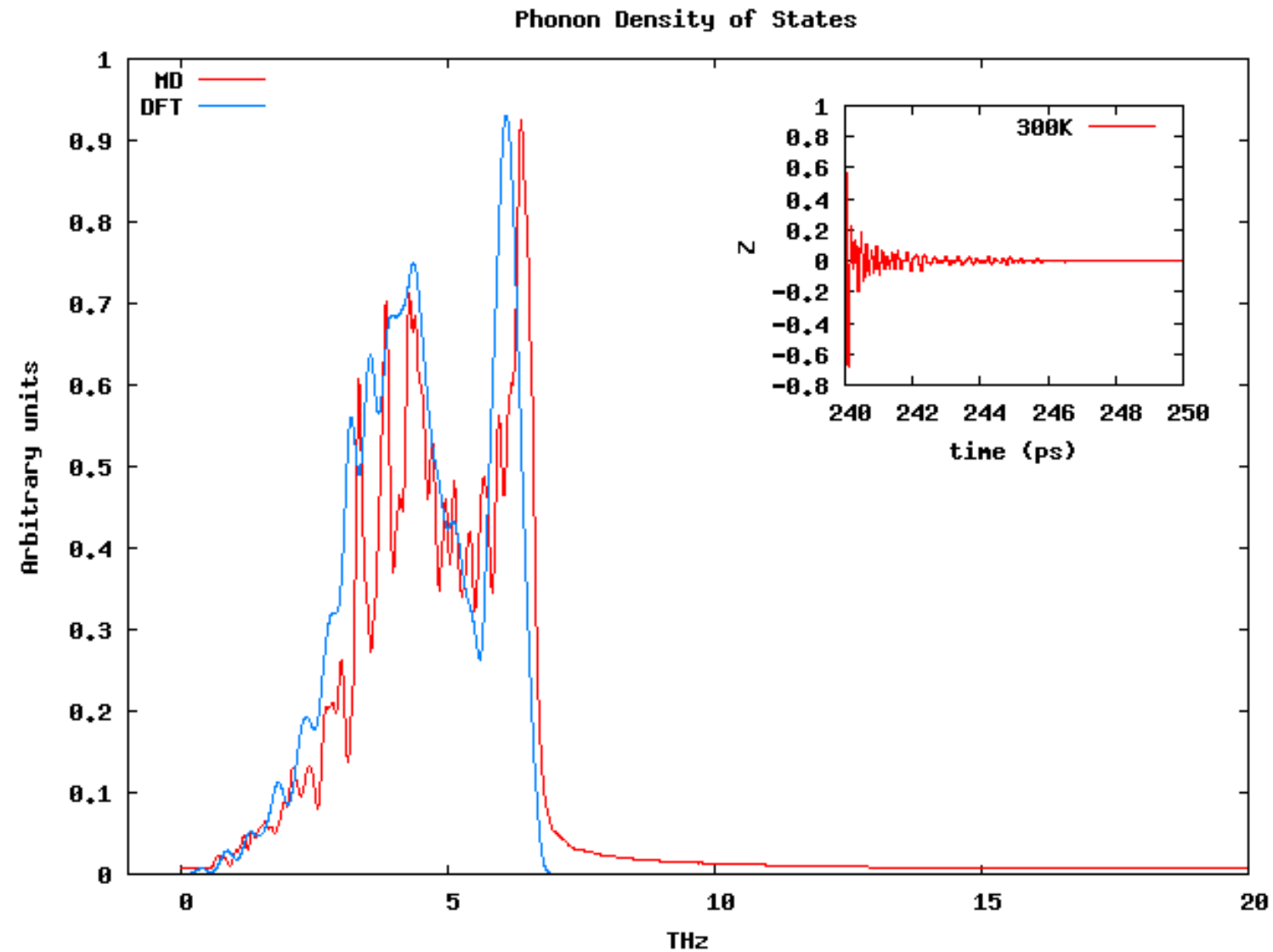
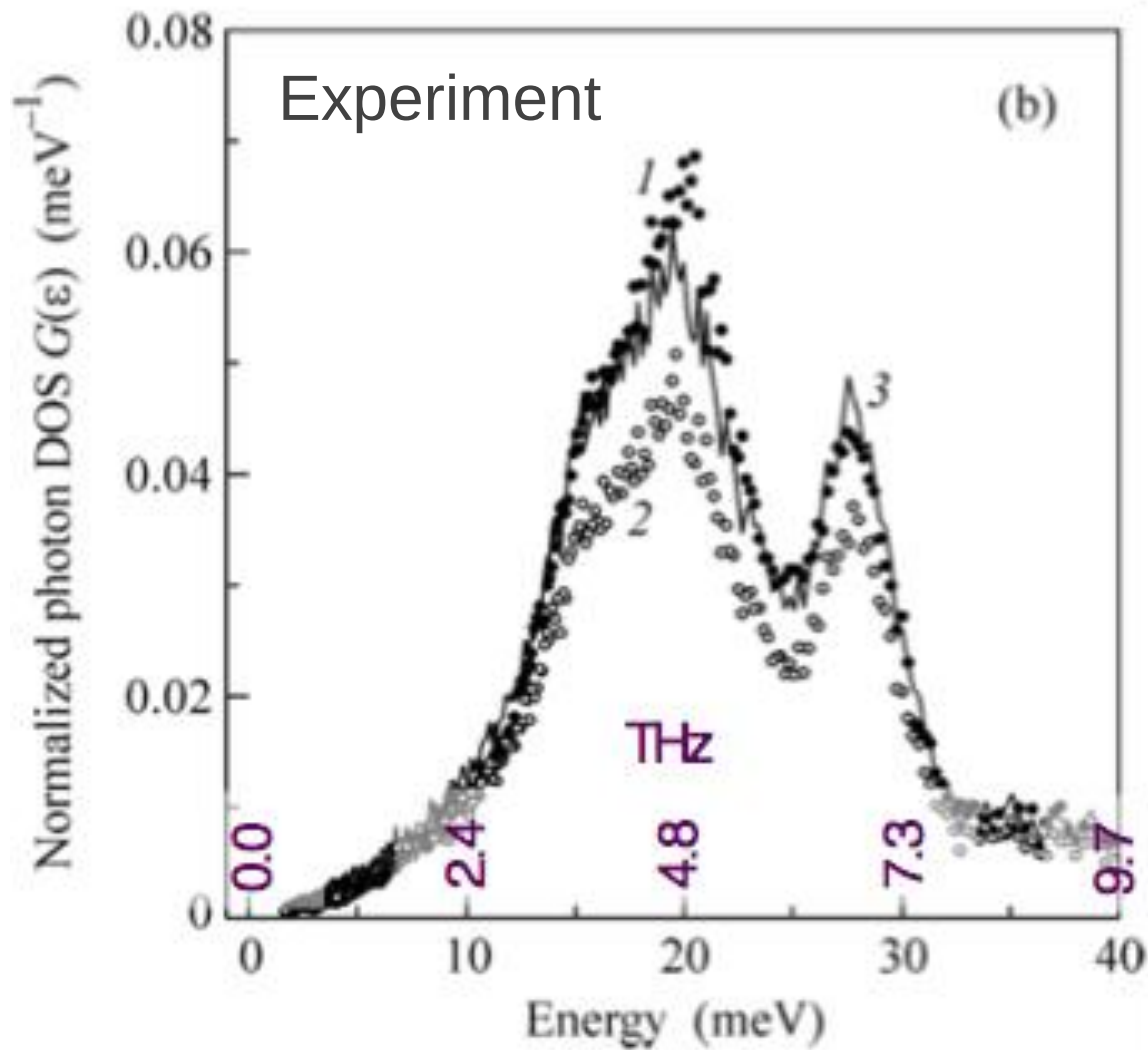


Phys. Rev. B **1994**, 50, 2221-2226
Calphad **2007**, 31, 95-104
Phys. Rev. B **2002**, 65, 144306

THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

Bulk Copper

Forcefield verification: Second Nearest Neighbor Modified Embedded Atom Potential (2NN-MEAM)



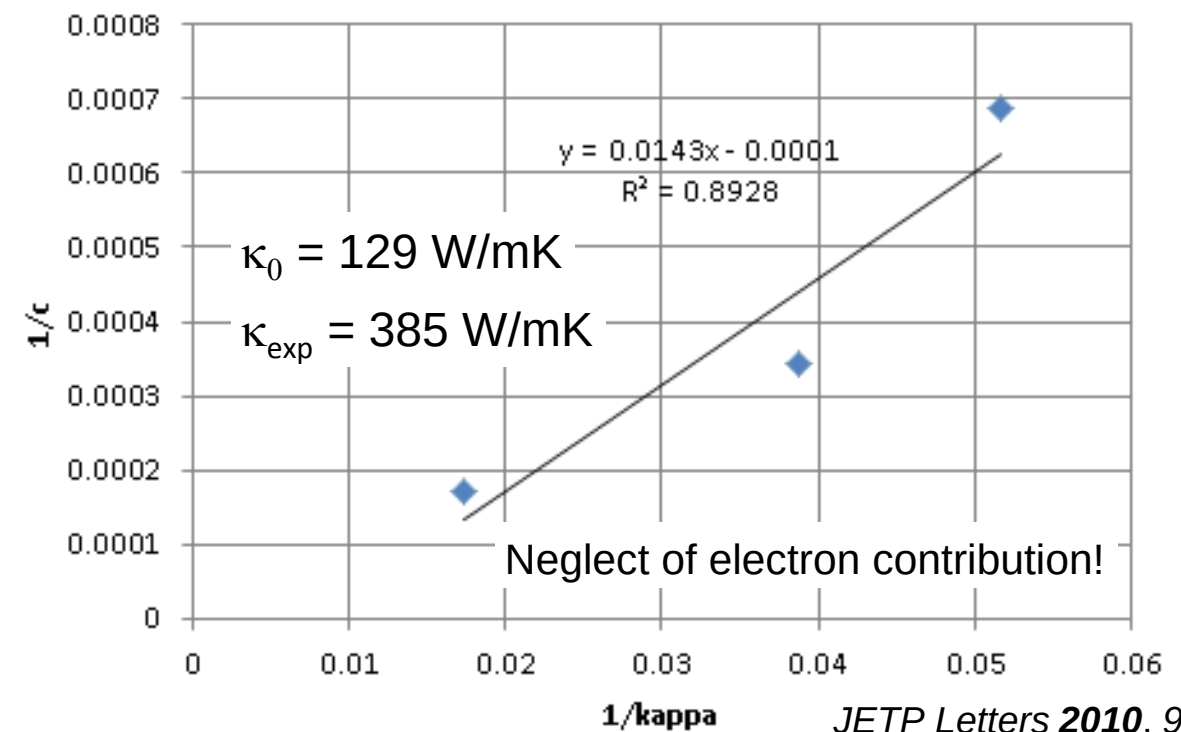
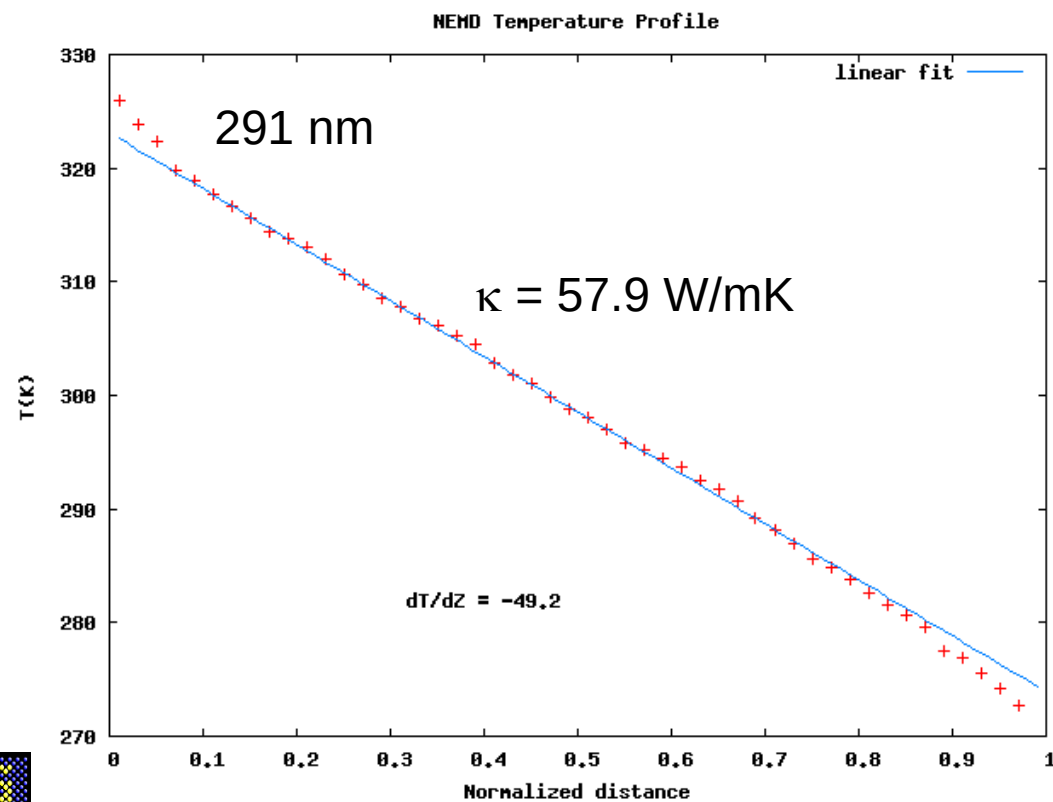
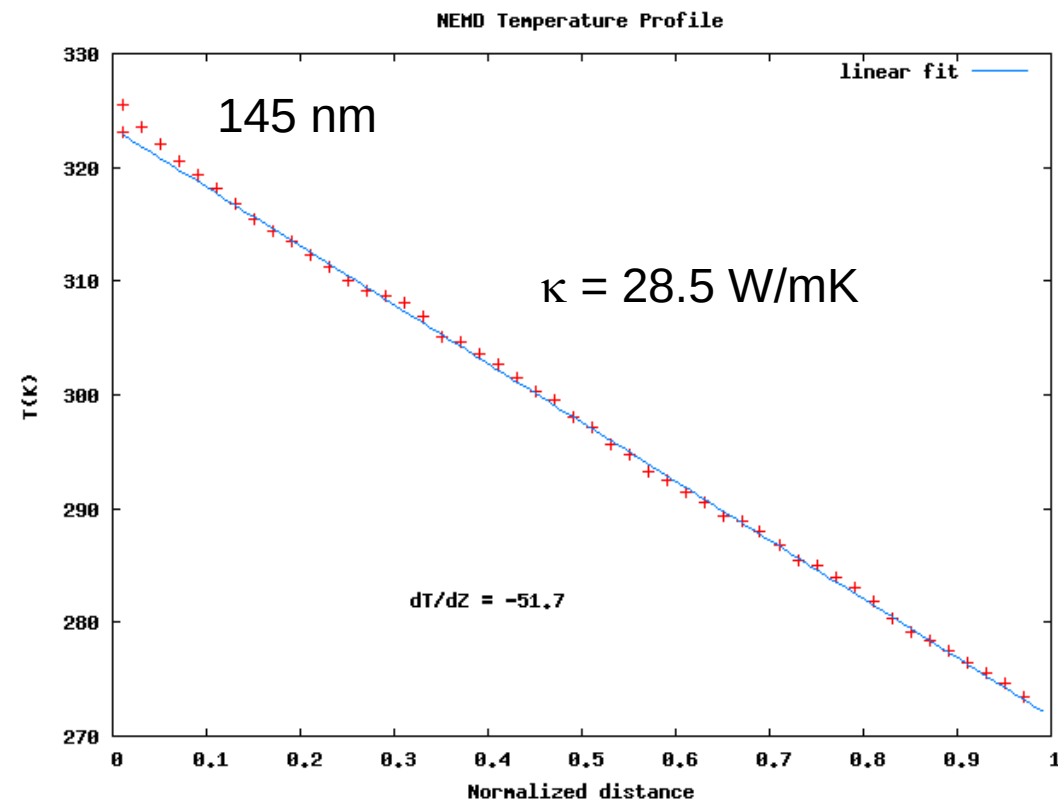
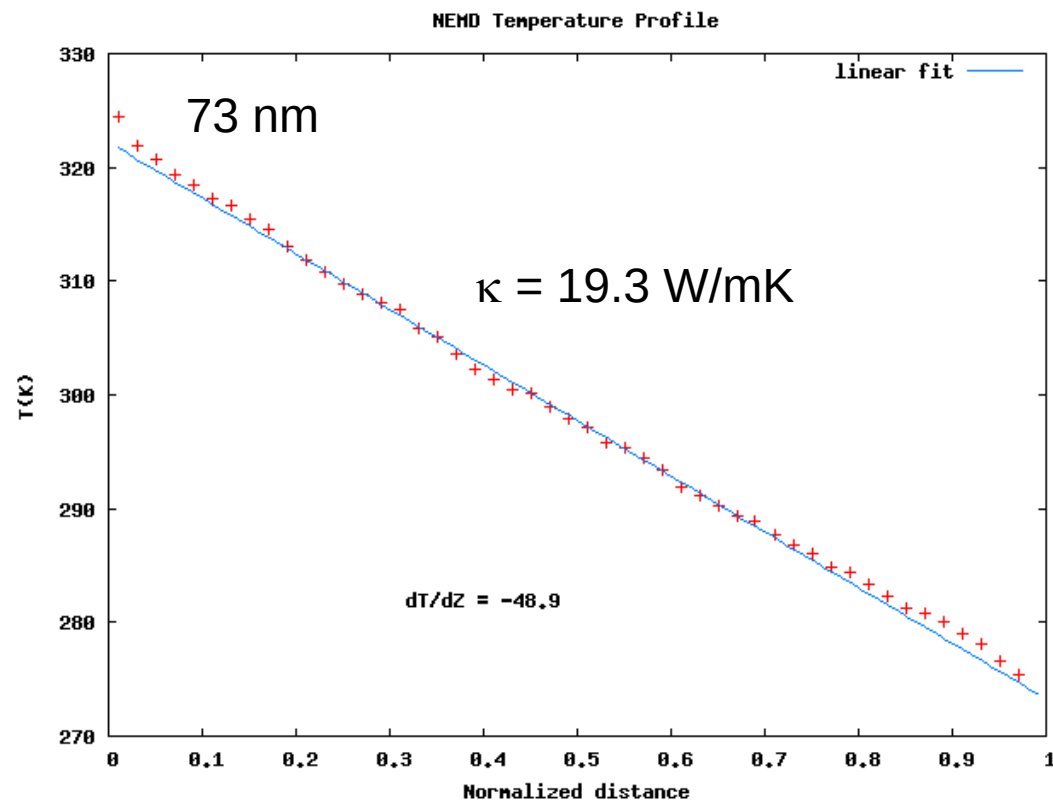
$$E = \sum_i \left[F_i(\bar{\rho}_i) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j(\neq i)} S_{ij} \phi_{ij}(R_{ij}) \right]$$

JETP Letters **2010**, 92, 238-243
Phys. Rev. B **2003**, 68, 144112

THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

Bulk Copper

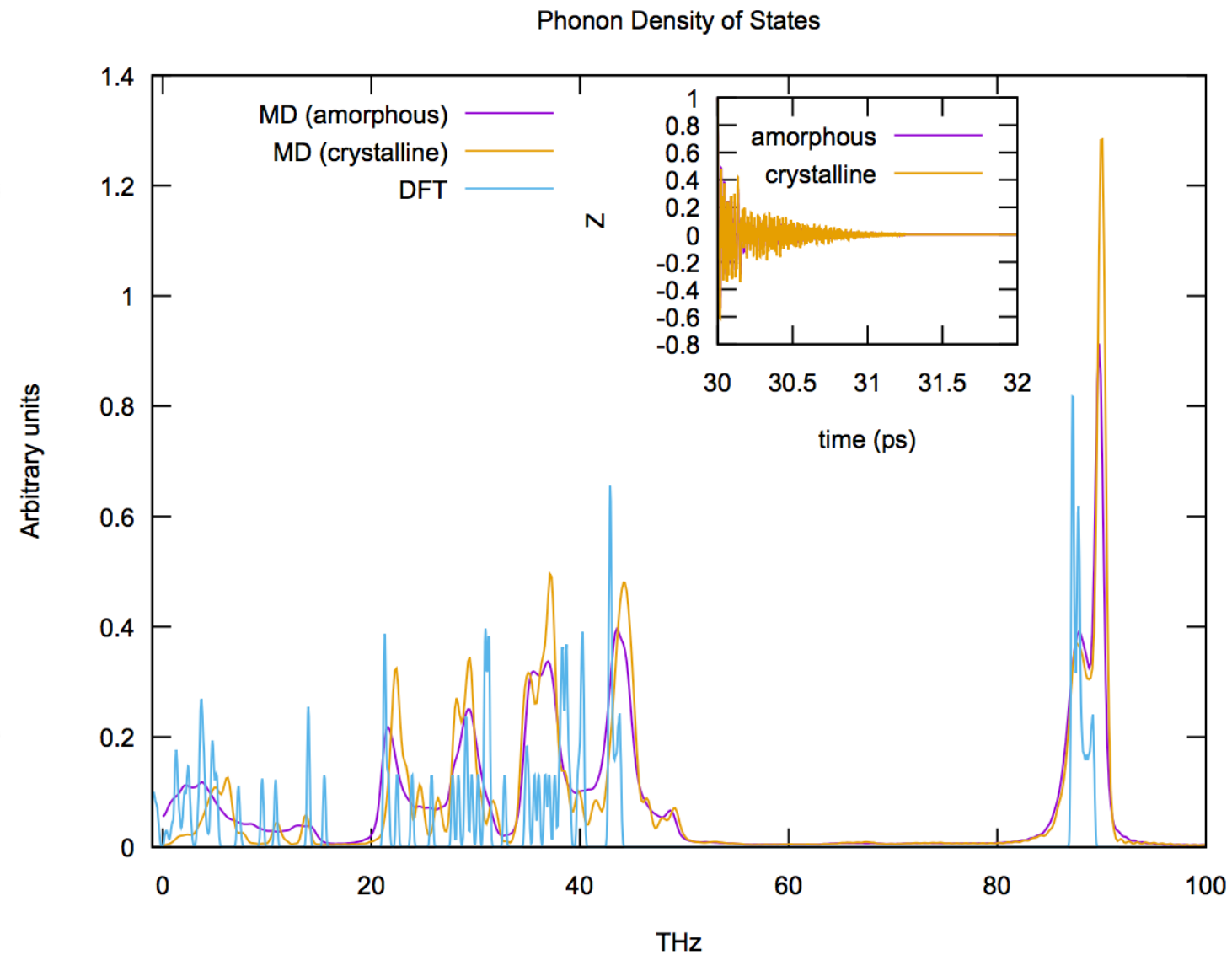
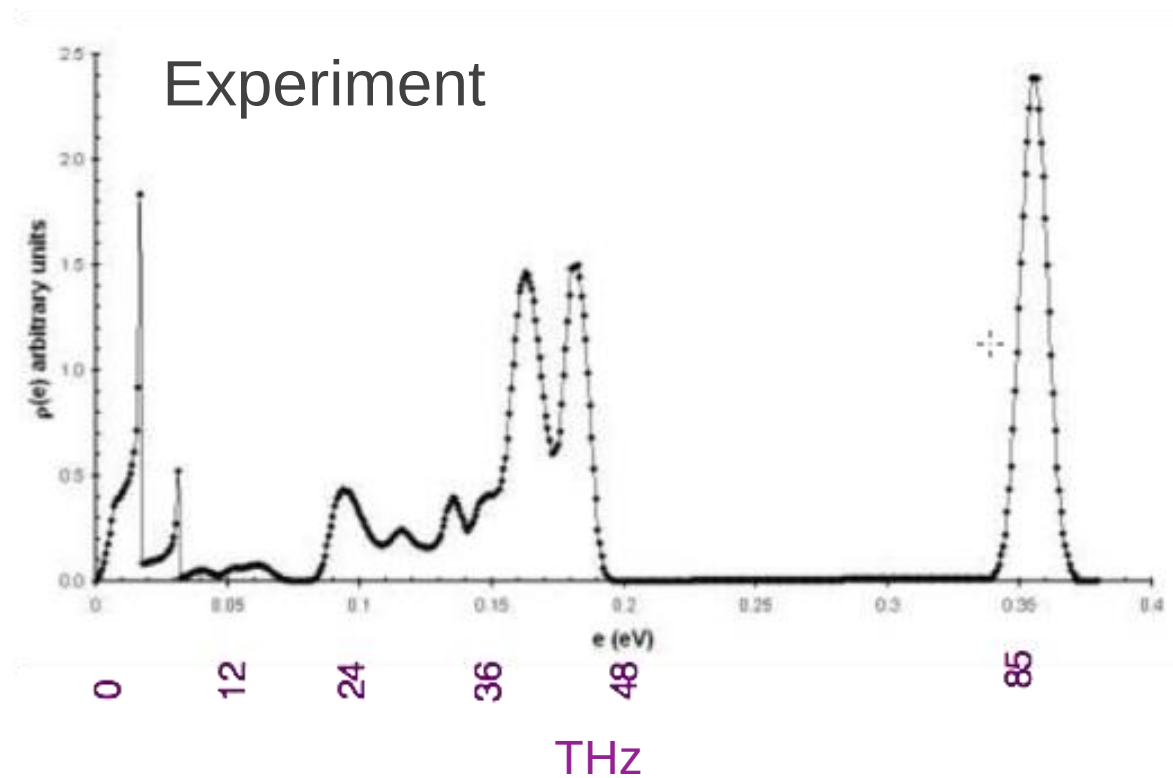
Forcefield verification: Second Nearest Neighbor Modified Embedded Atom Potential (2NN-MEAM)



THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

Bulk amorphous and crystalline polyethylene

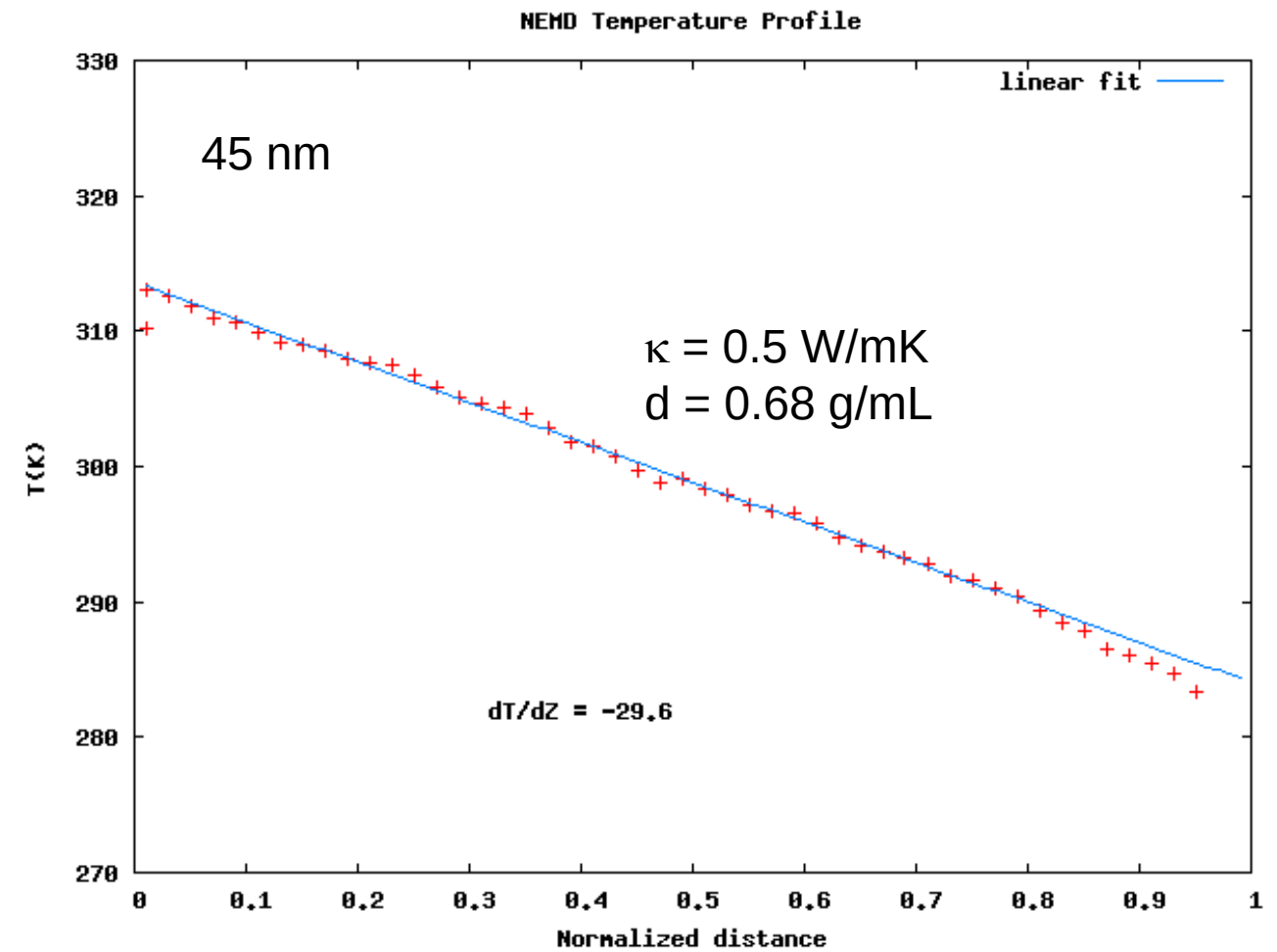
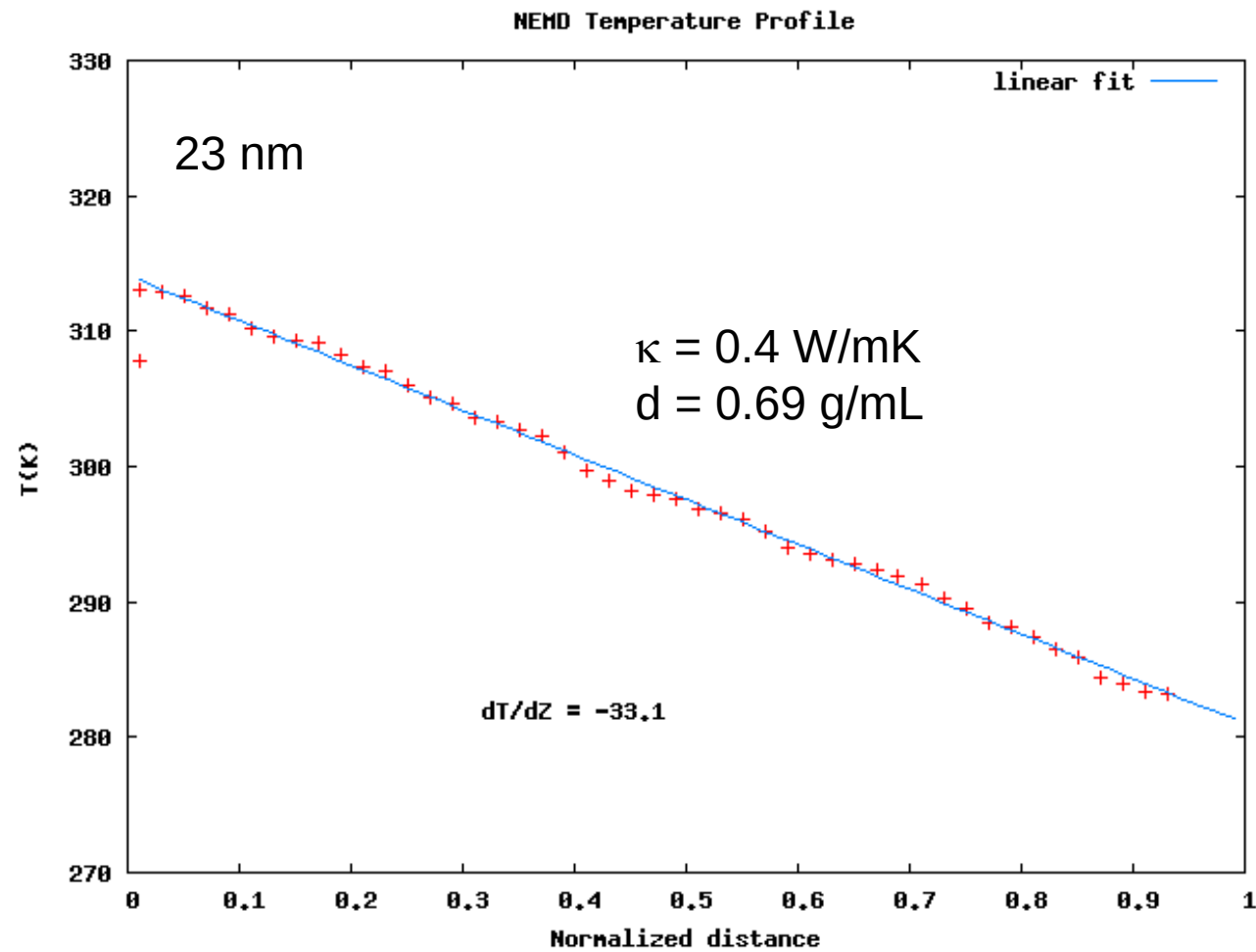
Forcefield verification: Consistent Valence Force Field (CVFF)



THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

Bulk amorphous polyethylene

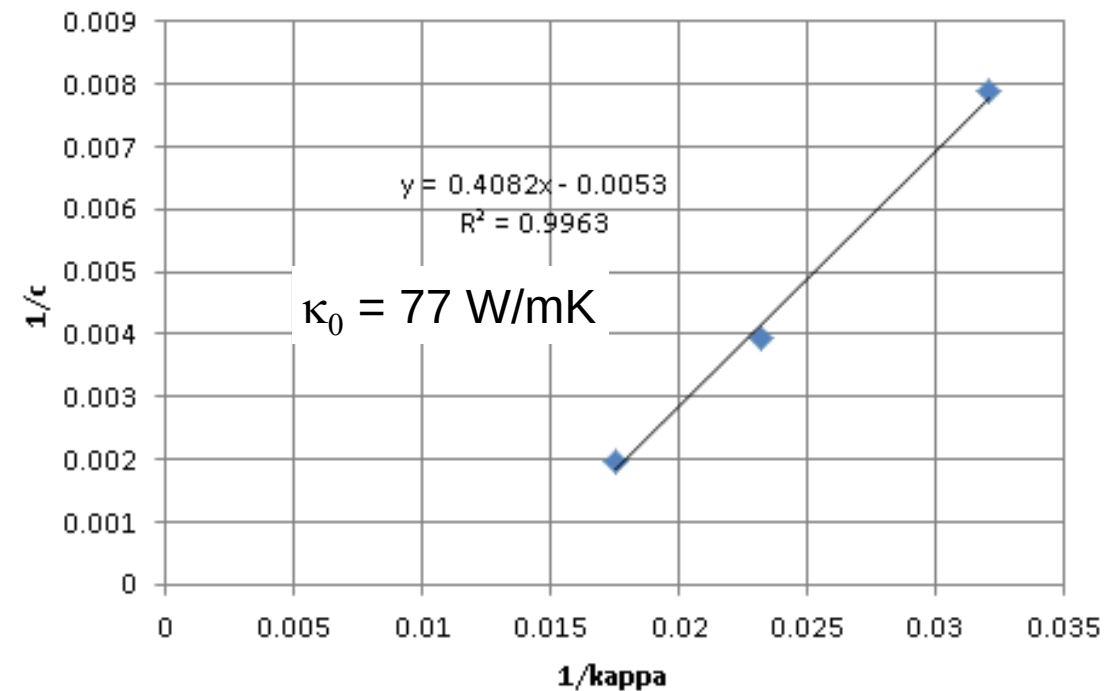
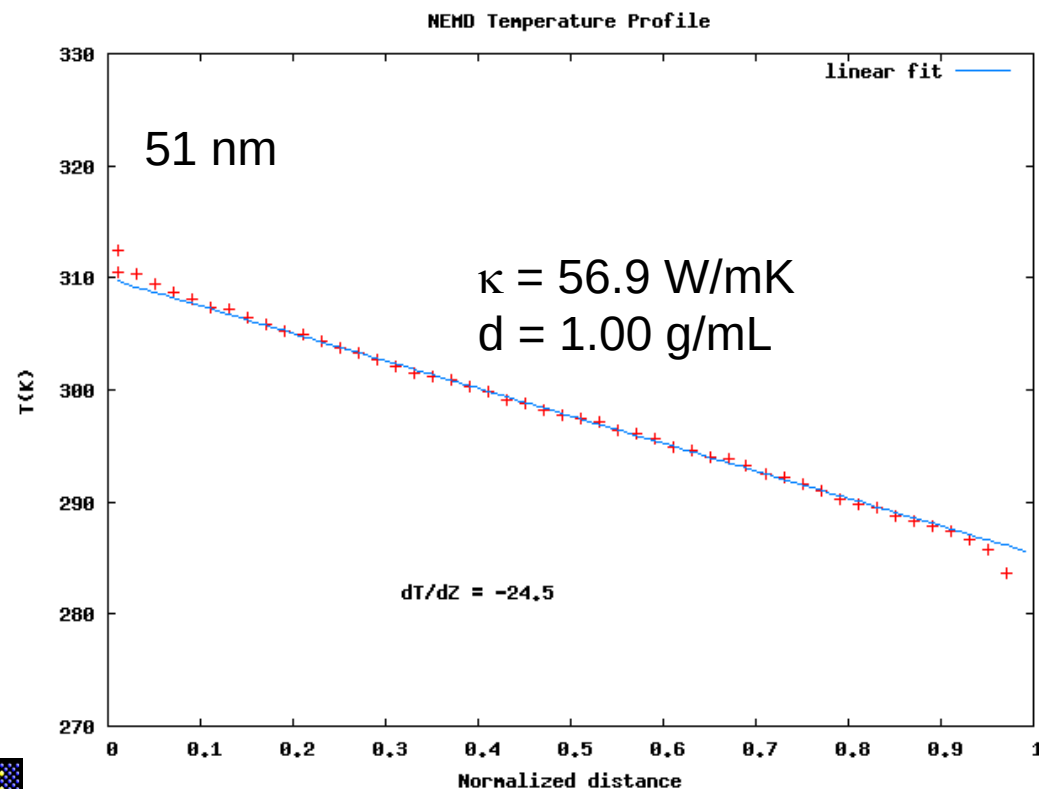
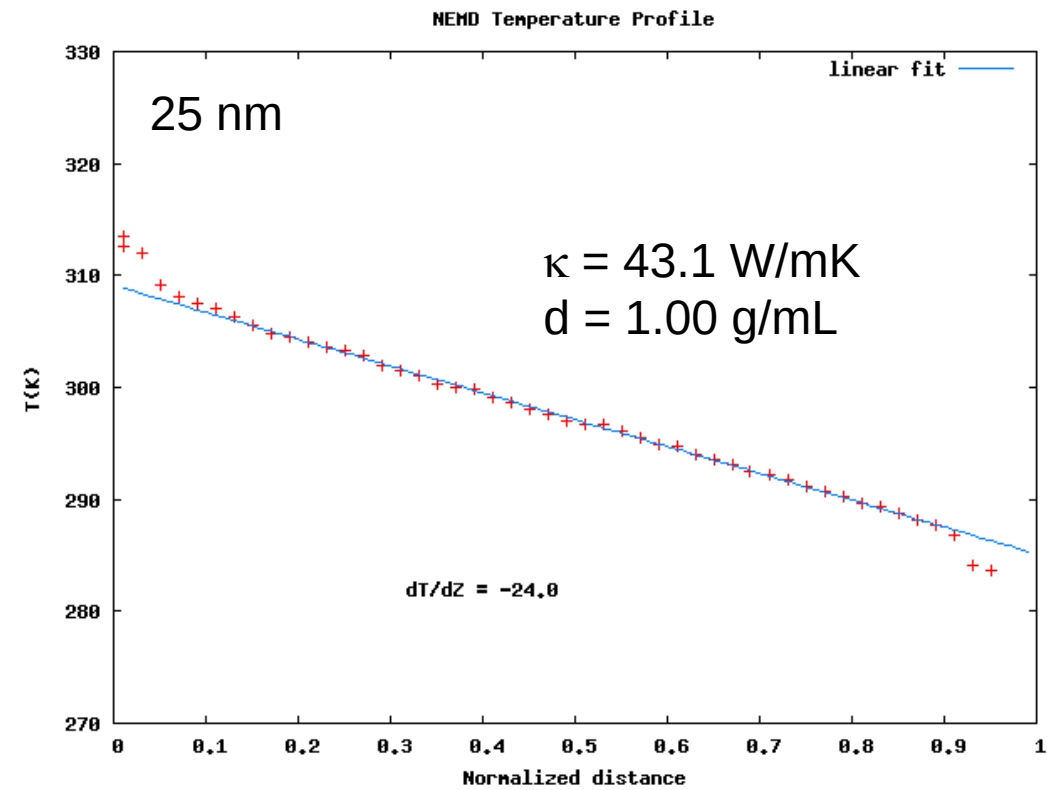
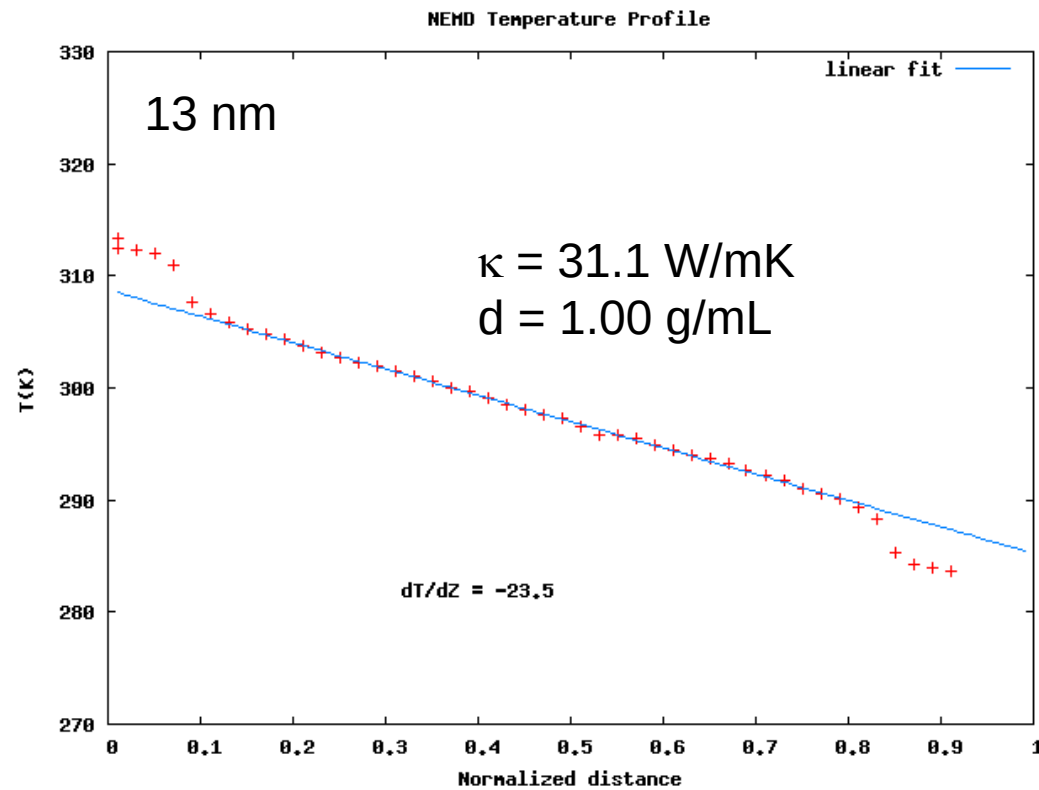
Forcefield verification: Consistent Valence Force Field (CVFF)



$$\kappa_{\text{exp}} = 0.5 \text{ W/mK}$$
$$d_{\text{exp}} = \sim 0.9 \text{ g/mL}$$

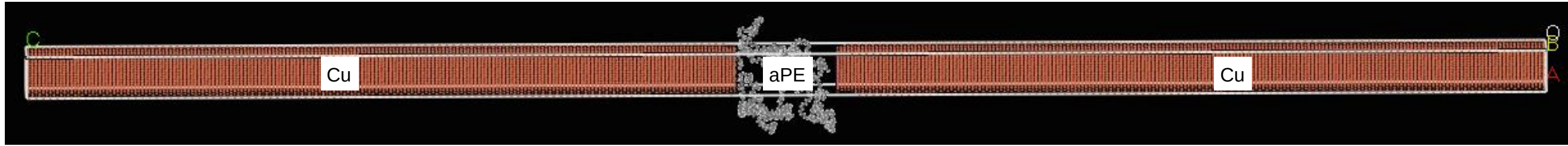
THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

- ❖ Bulk crystalline polyethylene
- ❖ Forcefield verification: Consistent Valence Force Field (CVFF)



Nucl. Instrum. Meth. Phys. Res. A **2005**, 538, 686-691
Pro. Struct. Func. Gen. **1988**, 4, 1-47

THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS



$$V(r) = 4\chi\epsilon [(\sigma/r)^{12} - (\sigma/r)^6]$$

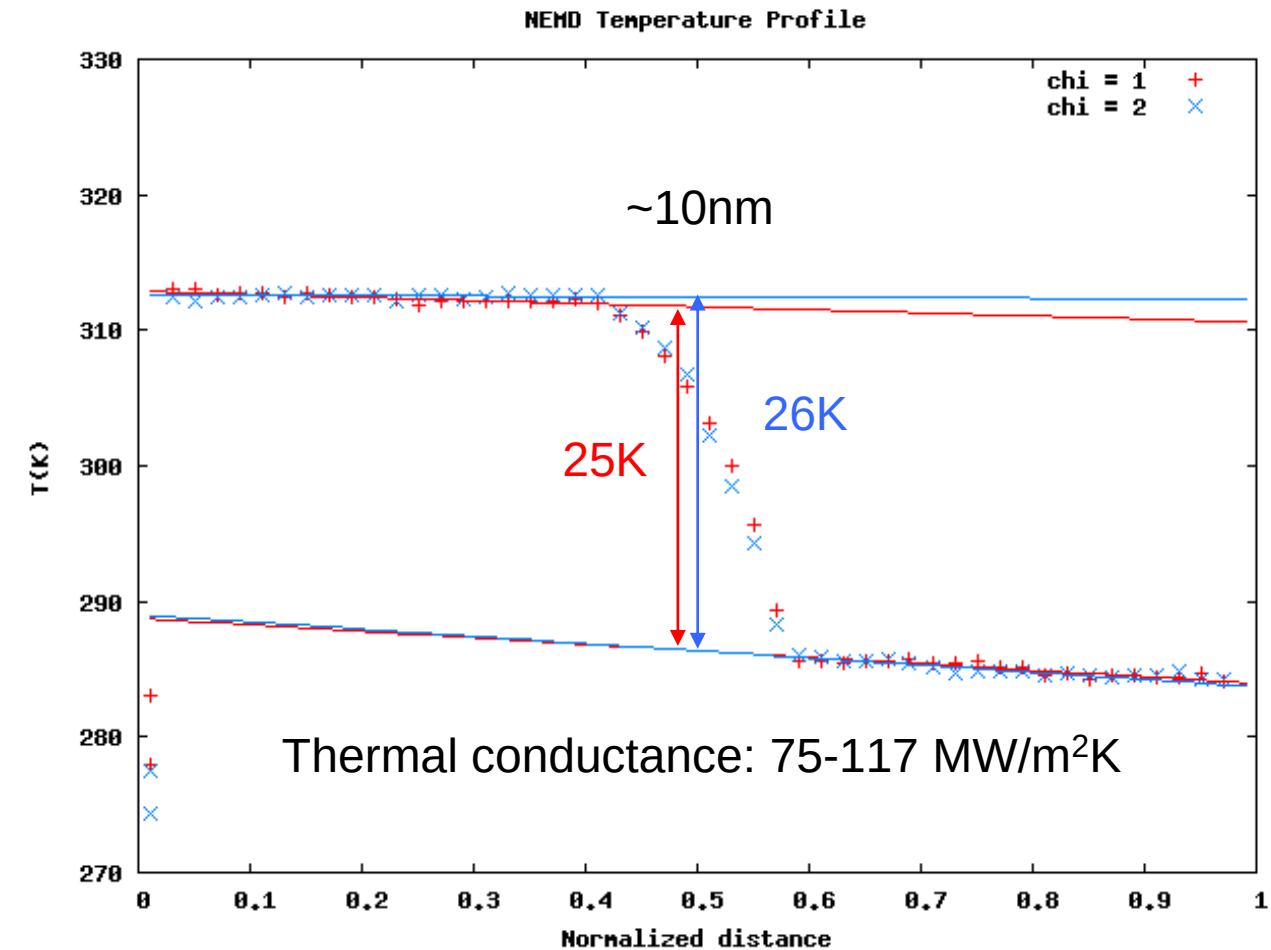
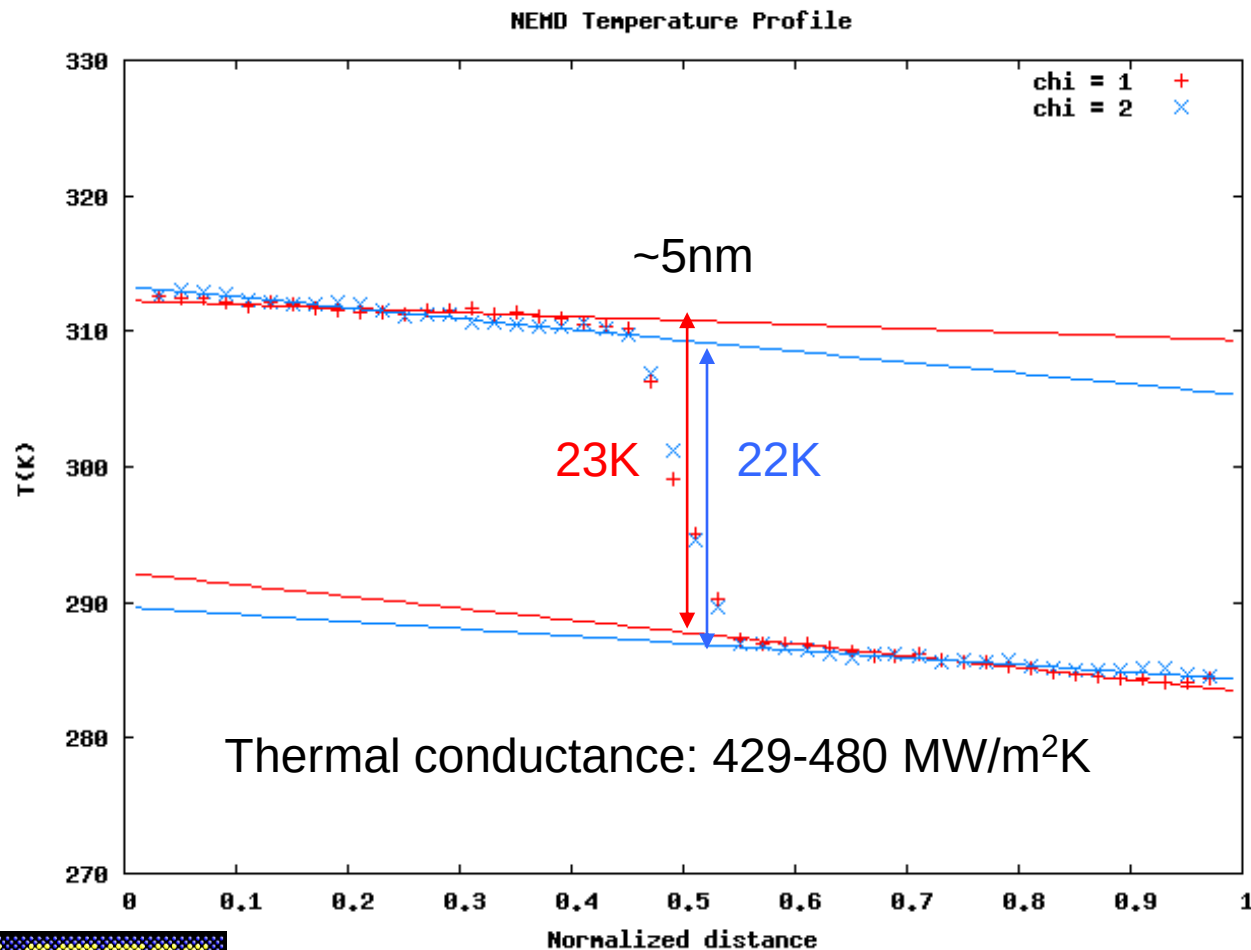
$\epsilon_{Cu} = 409 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_{Cu} = 2.34 \text{ Angstroms}$
 $\epsilon_C = 1.7 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_C = 3.88 \text{ Angstroms}$
 $\epsilon_H = 1.6 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_H = 2.45 \text{ Angstroms}$

$$\epsilon_{ij} = \text{sqrt}(\epsilon_{ii}\epsilon_{jj})$$

$$\sigma_{ij} = (\sigma_{ii} + \sigma_{jj})/2$$

$\epsilon_{Cu/C} = 26.3 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_{Cu/C} = 3.11 \text{ Angstroms}$
 $\epsilon_{Cu/H} = 26.0 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_{Cu/H} = 2.39 \text{ Angstroms}$

$$\Omega_K \text{ (mK/W)} = \Delta T_{\text{interface}} [(\kappa_{Cu} \nabla T_{Cu}^L)^{-1} + 2(\kappa_{PE} \nabla T_{PE})^{-1} + (\kappa_{Cu} \nabla T_{Cu}^R)^{-1}]$$



THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS



$$V(r) = 4\chi\epsilon [(\sigma/r)^{12} - (\sigma/r)^6]$$

$\epsilon_{Cu} = 409 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_{Cu} = 2.34 \text{ Angstroms}$
 $\epsilon_C = 1.7 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_C = 3.88 \text{ Angstroms}$
 $\epsilon_H = 1.6 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_H = 2.45 \text{ Angstroms}$

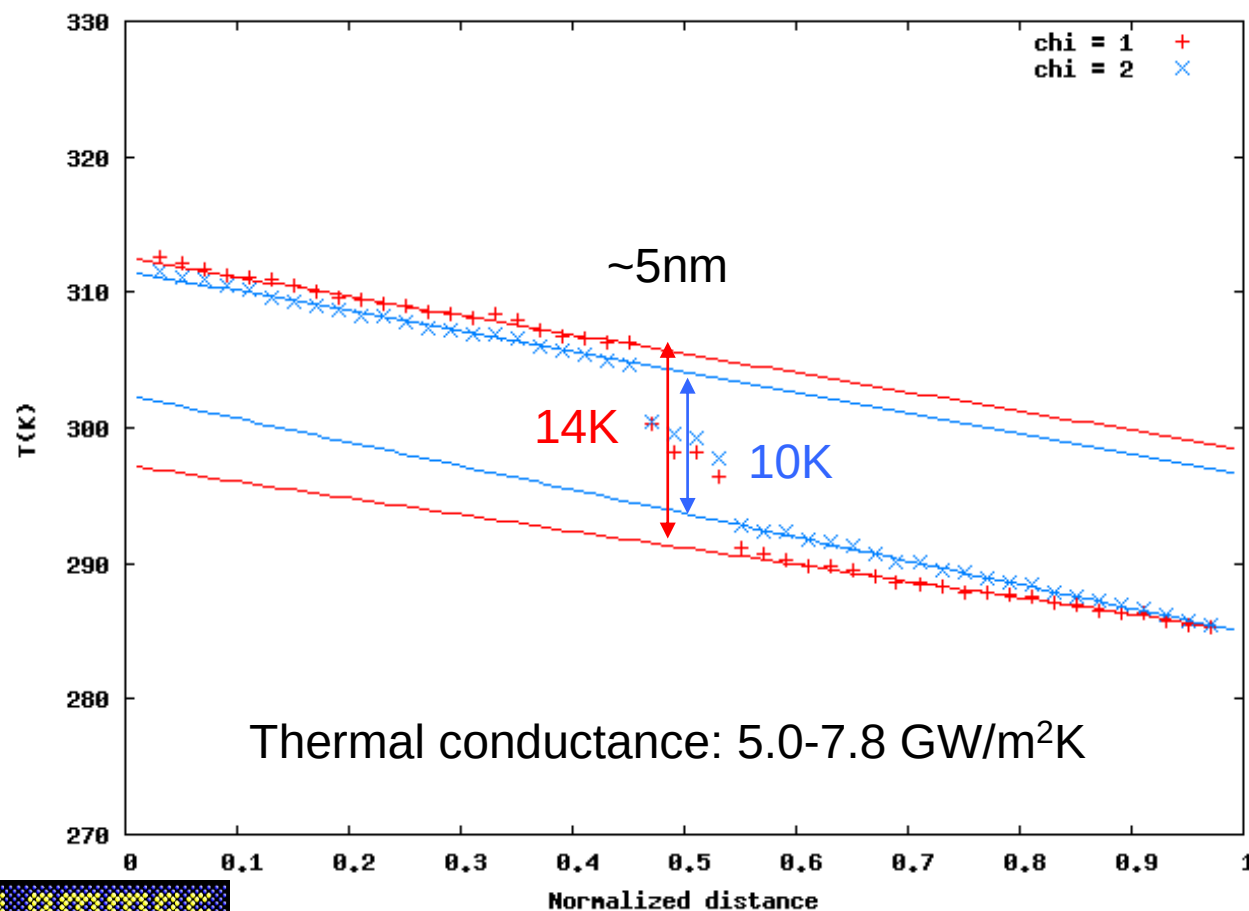
$$\epsilon_{ij} = \text{sqrt}(\epsilon_{ii}\epsilon_{jj})$$

$$\sigma_{ij} = (\sigma_{ii} + \sigma_{jj})/2$$

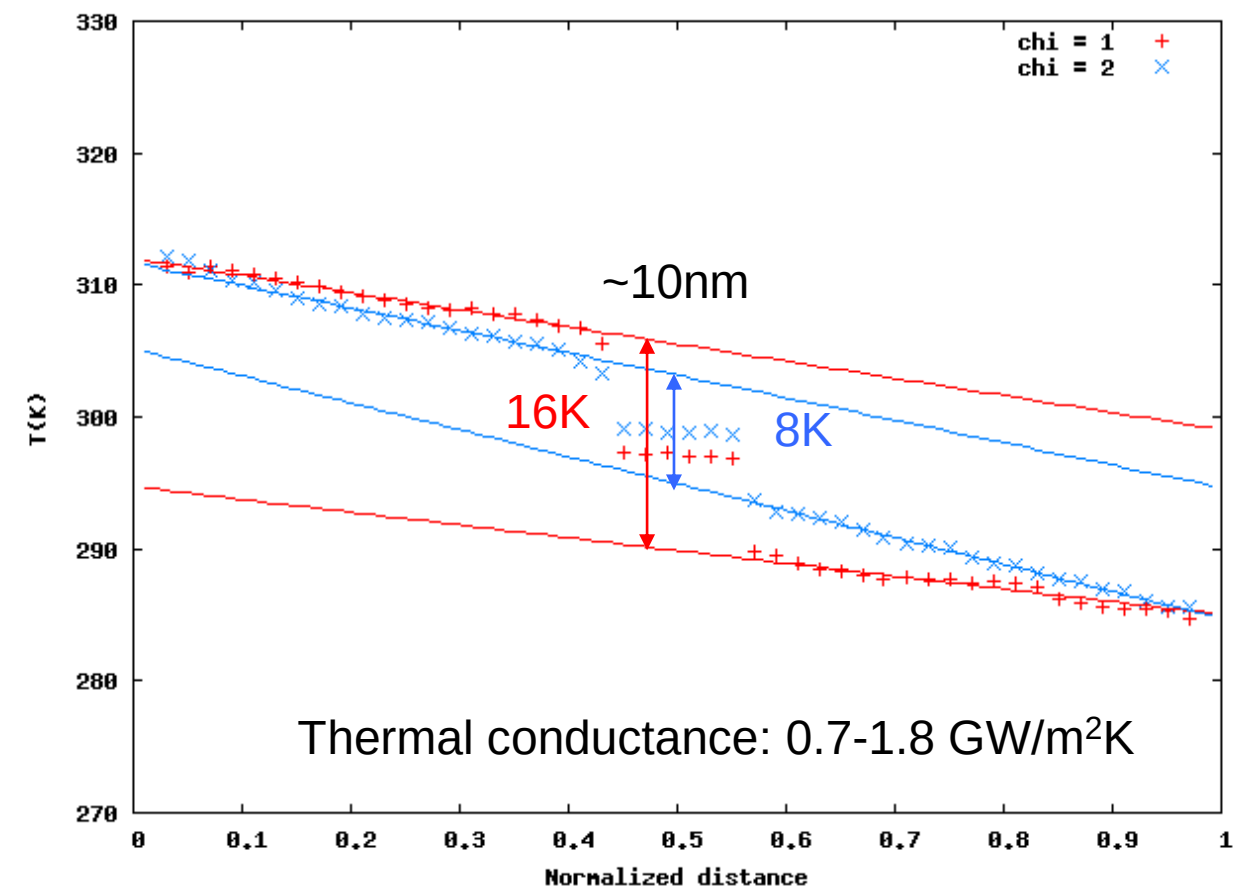
$\epsilon_{Cu/C} = 26.3 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_{Cu/C} = 3.11 \text{ Angstroms}$
 $\epsilon_{Cu/H} = 26.0 \text{ meV}$
 $\sigma_{Cu/H} = 2.39 \text{ Angstroms}$

$$\Omega_K \text{ (mK/W)} = \Delta T_{\text{interface}} [(\kappa_{Cu} \nabla T_{Cu}^L)^{-1} + 2(\kappa_{PE} \nabla T_{PE})^{-1} + (\kappa_{Cu} \nabla T_{Cu}^R)^{-1}]$$

NEMD Temperature Profile

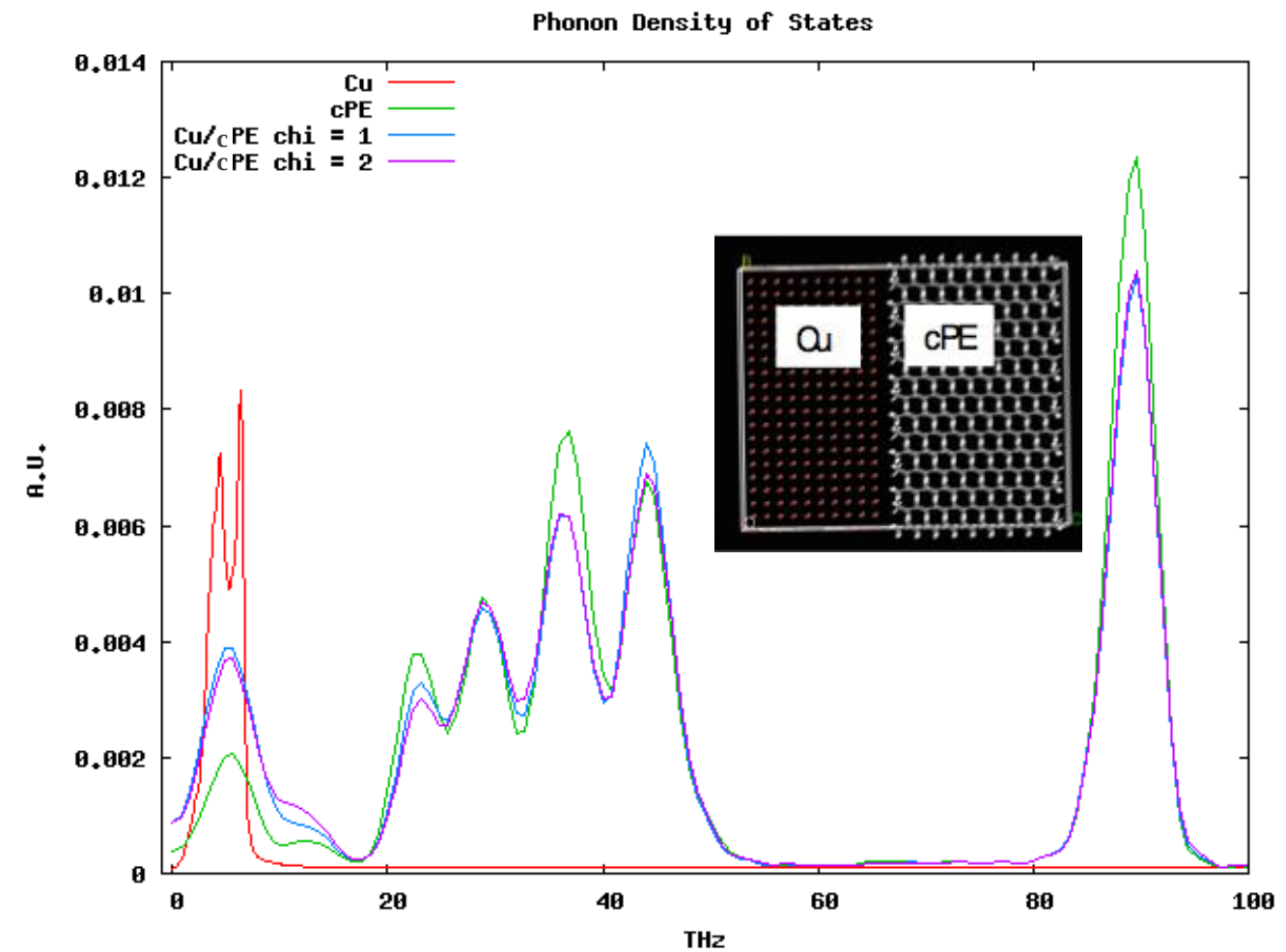
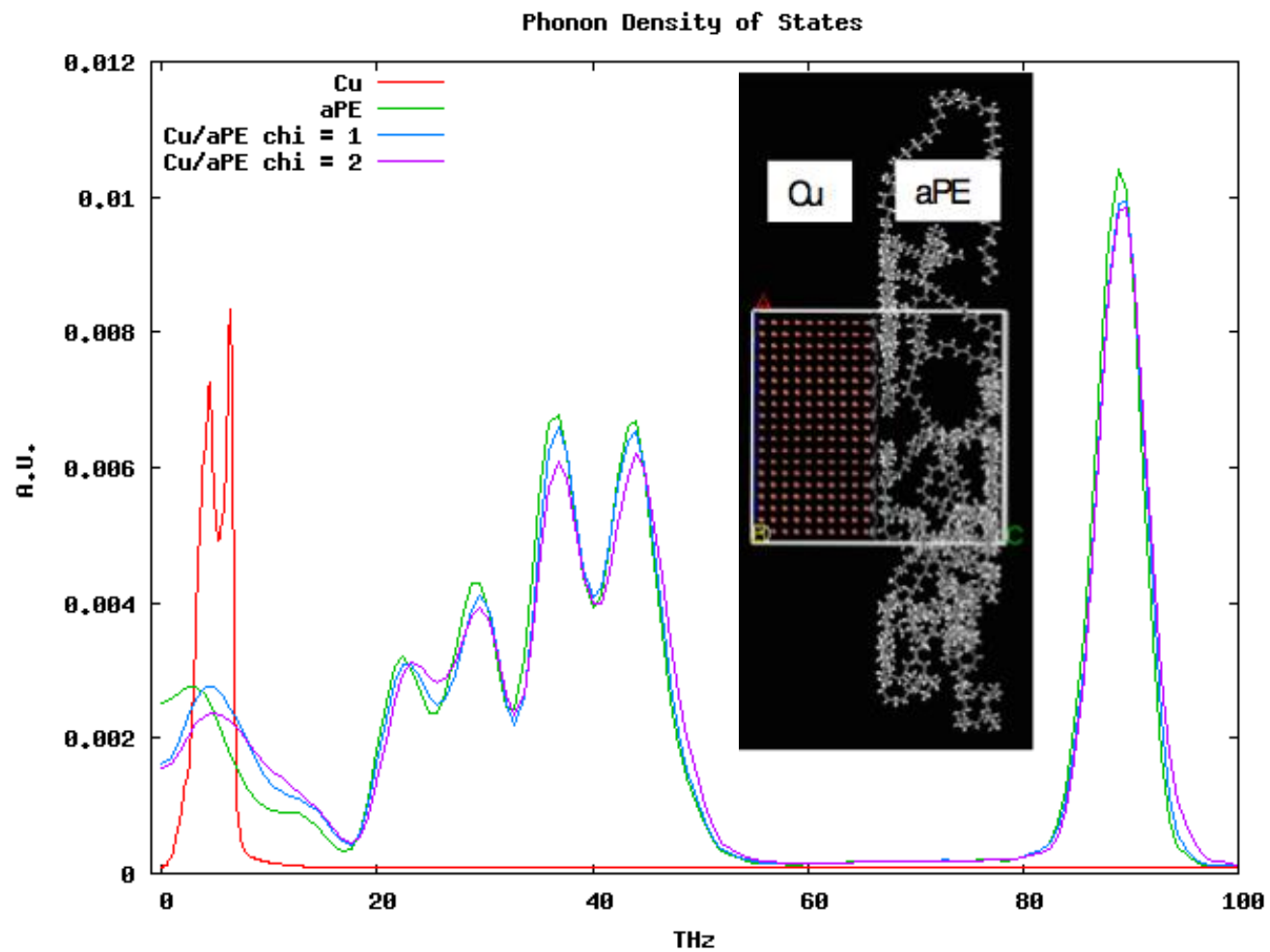


NEMD Temperature Profile



THERMAL INTERFACE MATERIALS

Hypothesis: The overlap of the acoustic modes (< 20 THz) is directly correlated with thermal conductance



CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Replace “most” steel components of automobiles with carbon fiber

- 10X stronger than steel with 1/4 the weight
- Reduce vehicle weight by 40% and improve fuel efficiency by 30%

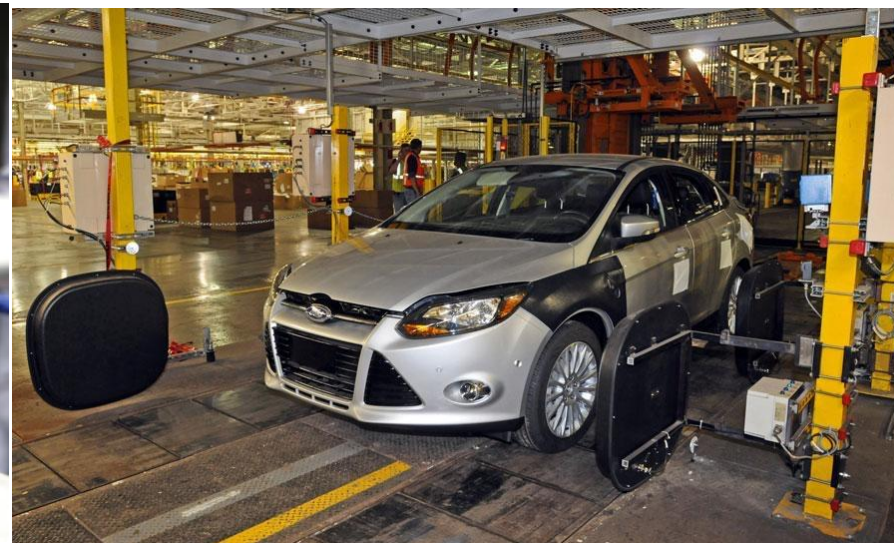


Diagram from Harper International

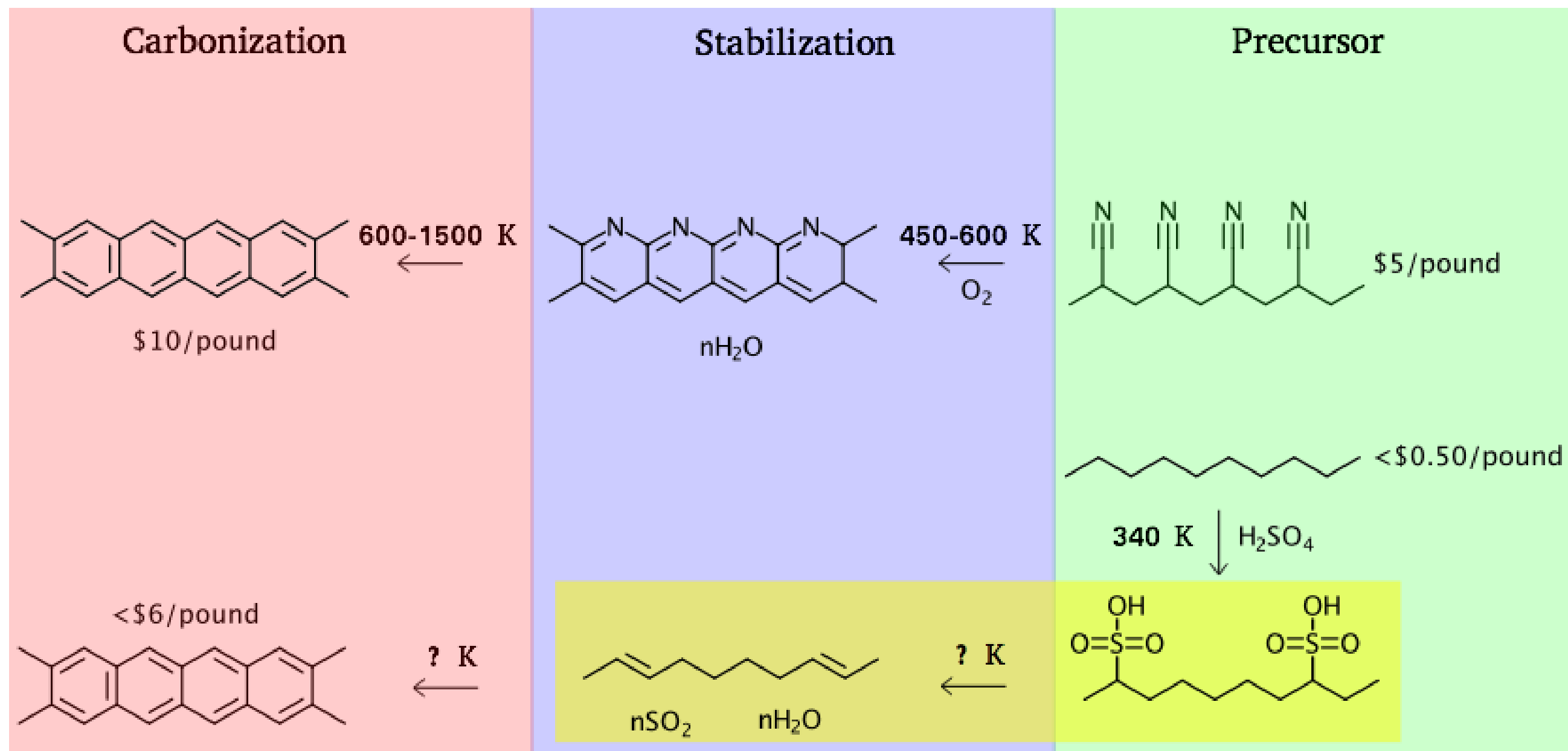


Precursor type	Yield (%)		\$/lb (as-spun)	Melt-spinnable	Best achieved properties		Problem
	Theoretical	Practical			Strength (KSI)	Modulus (MSI)	
Conventional PAN	68	45-50	>4	No	500-900	30-65	High cost
Textile PAN*	~ 68	45-50	1-3	No	300-400+	30	High variation in properties
Lignin*	62-67	40-50	0.40 - 0.70	Yes	160	15	Fiber handling, low strength & slow stabilization step
Polyolefin**	86	65-80	0.35 - 0.5	Yes	380	30	Slow stabilization (sulfonation) step

“Ford--Dow Partnership Linked to Carbon Fiber Research at ORNL,” *Innovations in Manufacturing*, DOE, 2012.
 “Green Car Congress,” October 12, 2012.

Diagram courtesy of Harper International, Lancaster, NY. Table courtesy of Amit Naskar, ORNL.

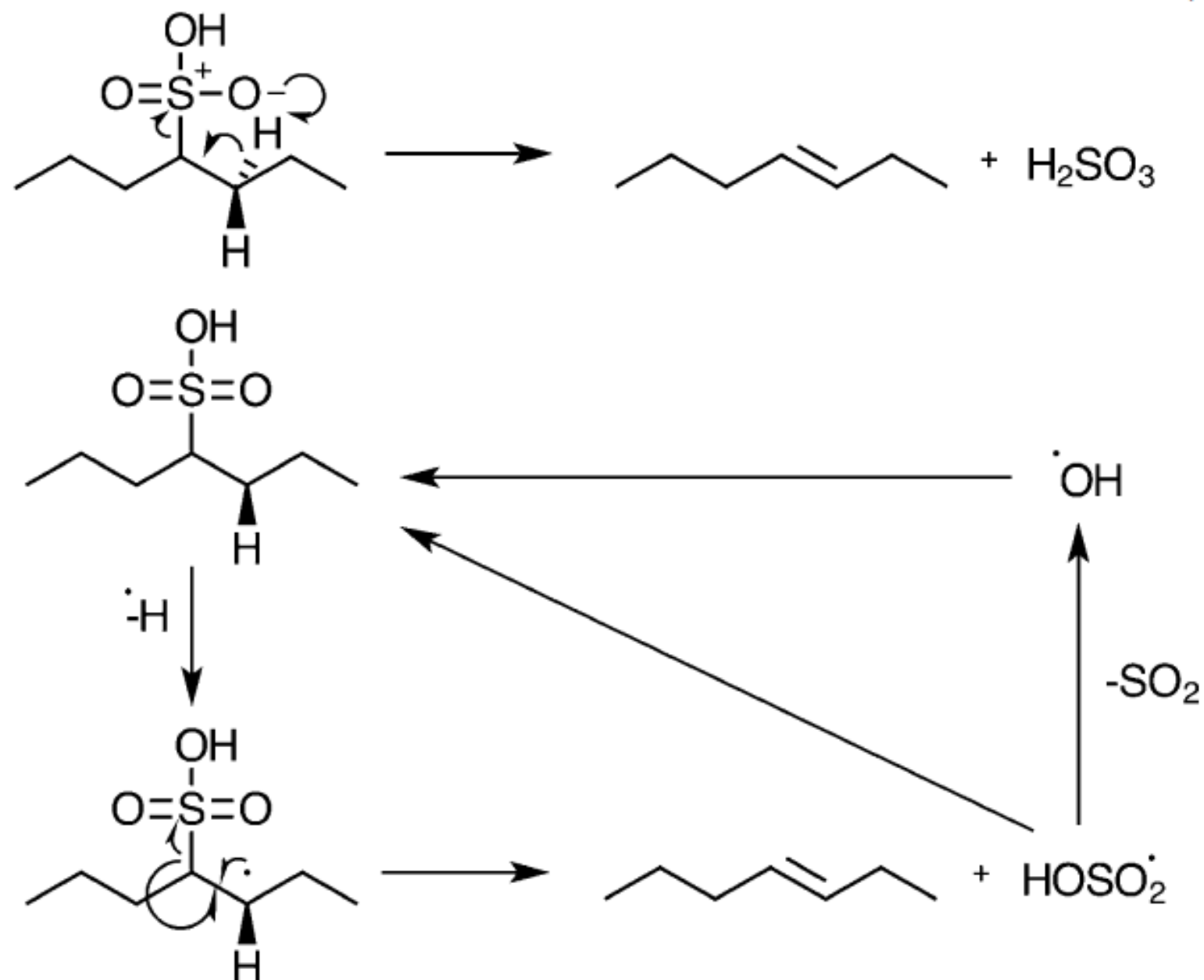
CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS



CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Internal elimination

Radical chain reaction



$$k(t) = \kappa(T) \frac{k_B T}{h} \frac{Q_{\text{TS}}(T)}{Q_A(T)} e^{-\Delta E/RT}$$

ΔE : zero-point corrected activation barrier

Q : partition functions

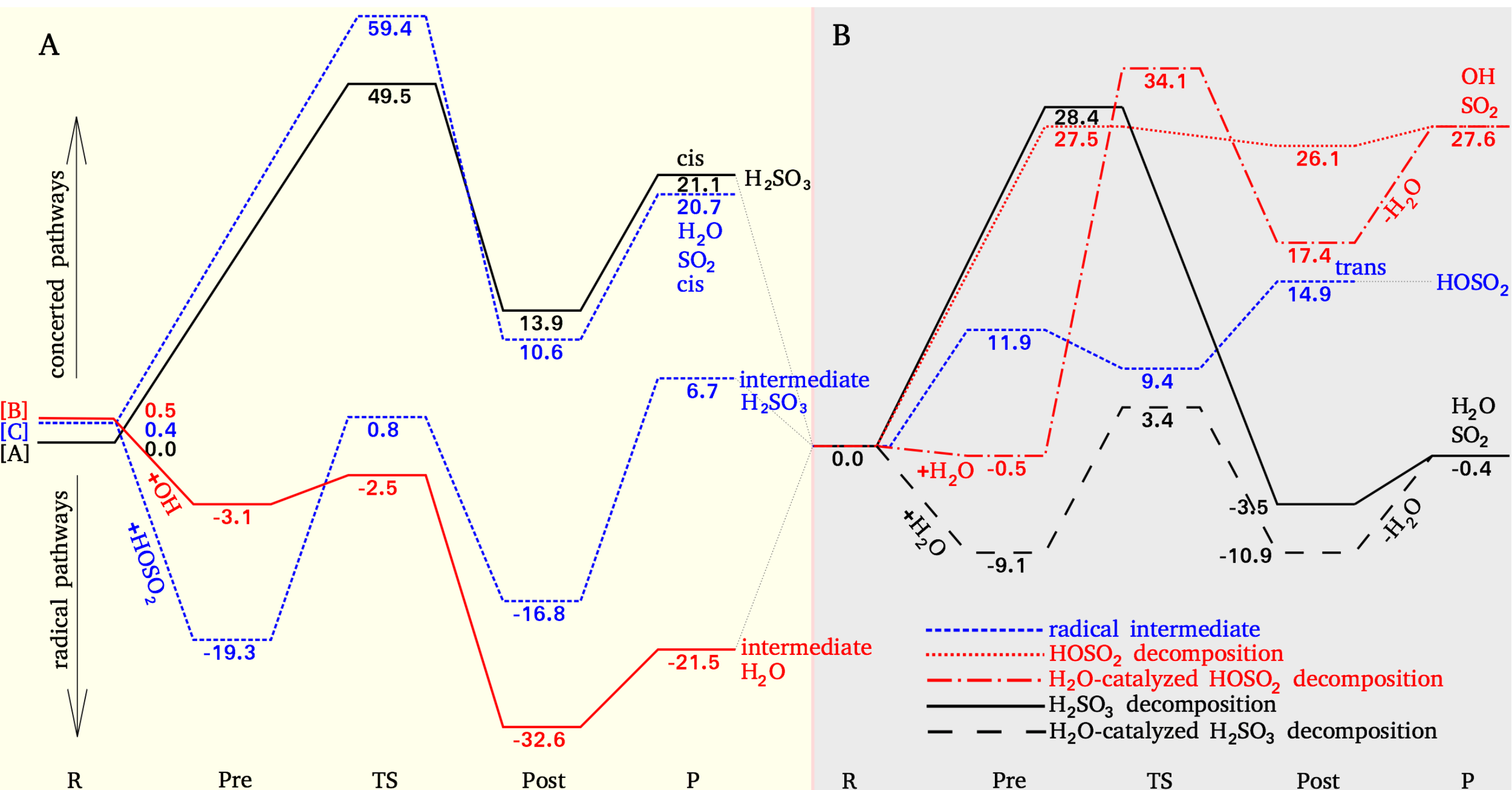
κ : Wigner tunneling correction

Anharmonic effects incorporated for low frequency modes up to 110 cm^{-1} (Python scripted)

Second-order rate constants calculated assuming thermodynamic control: $k_i' = k_i K_{eq}$

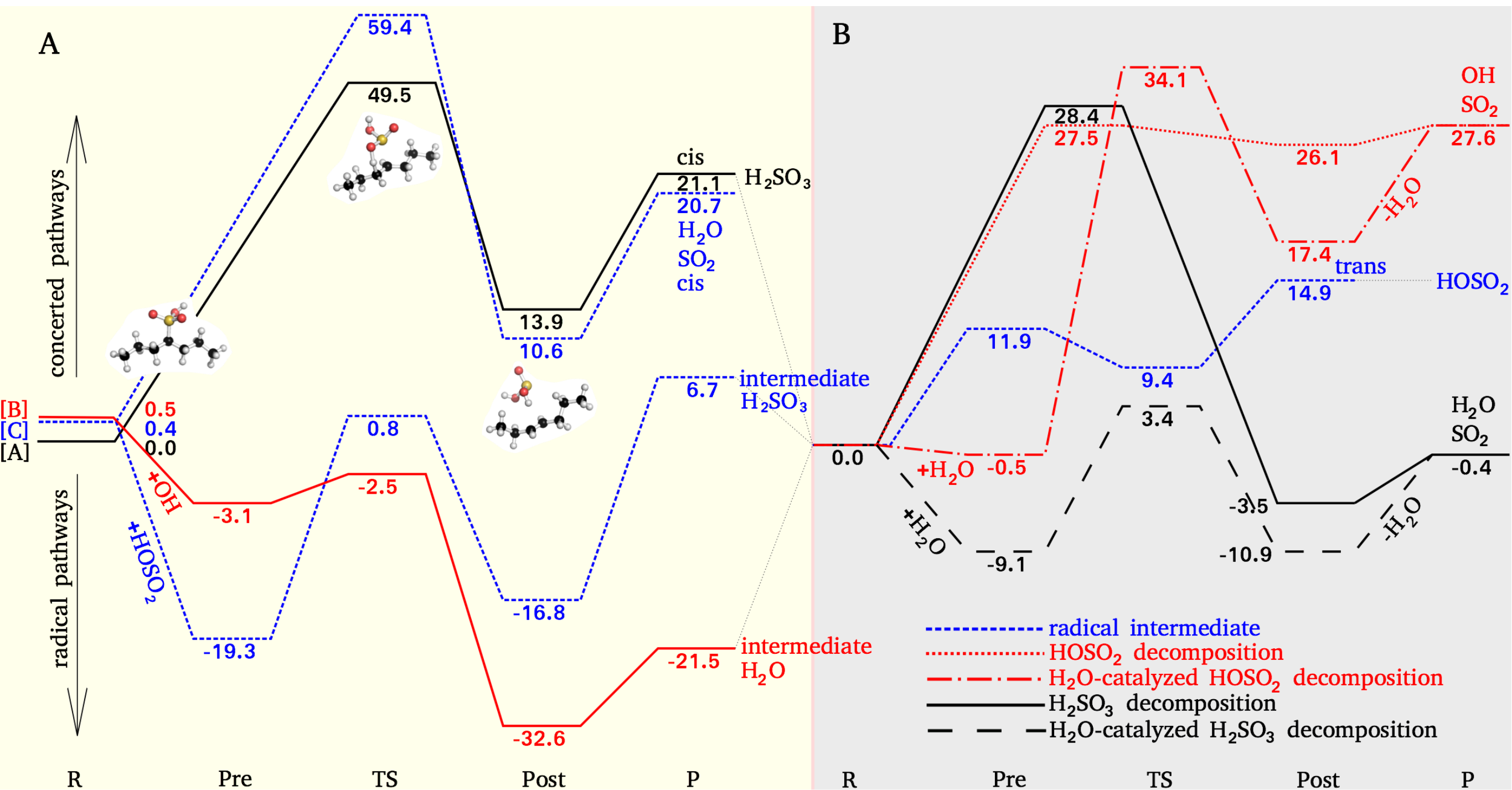
CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Calculating rate constants according to Transition State Theory



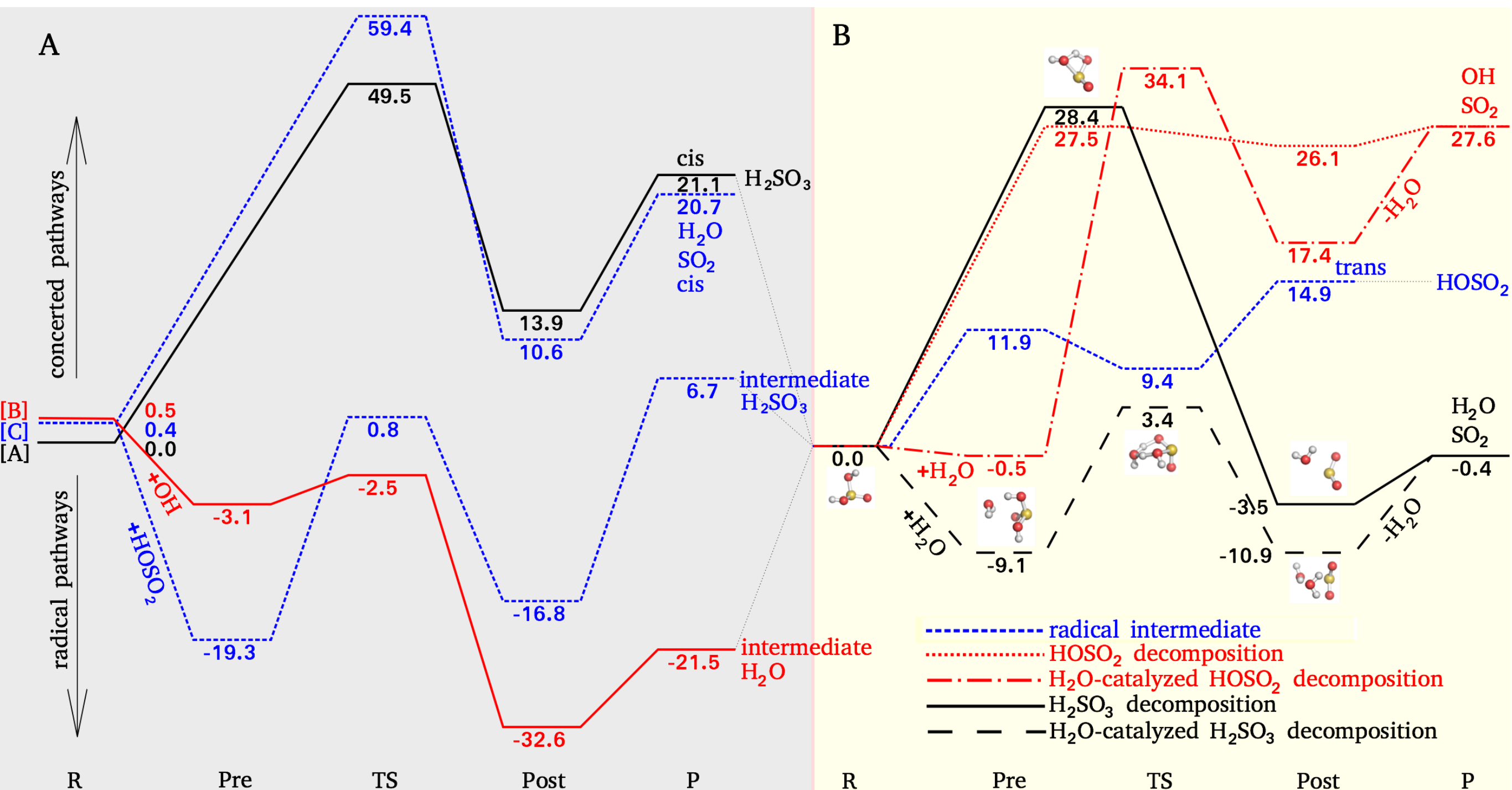
CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Calculating rate constants according to Transition State Theory



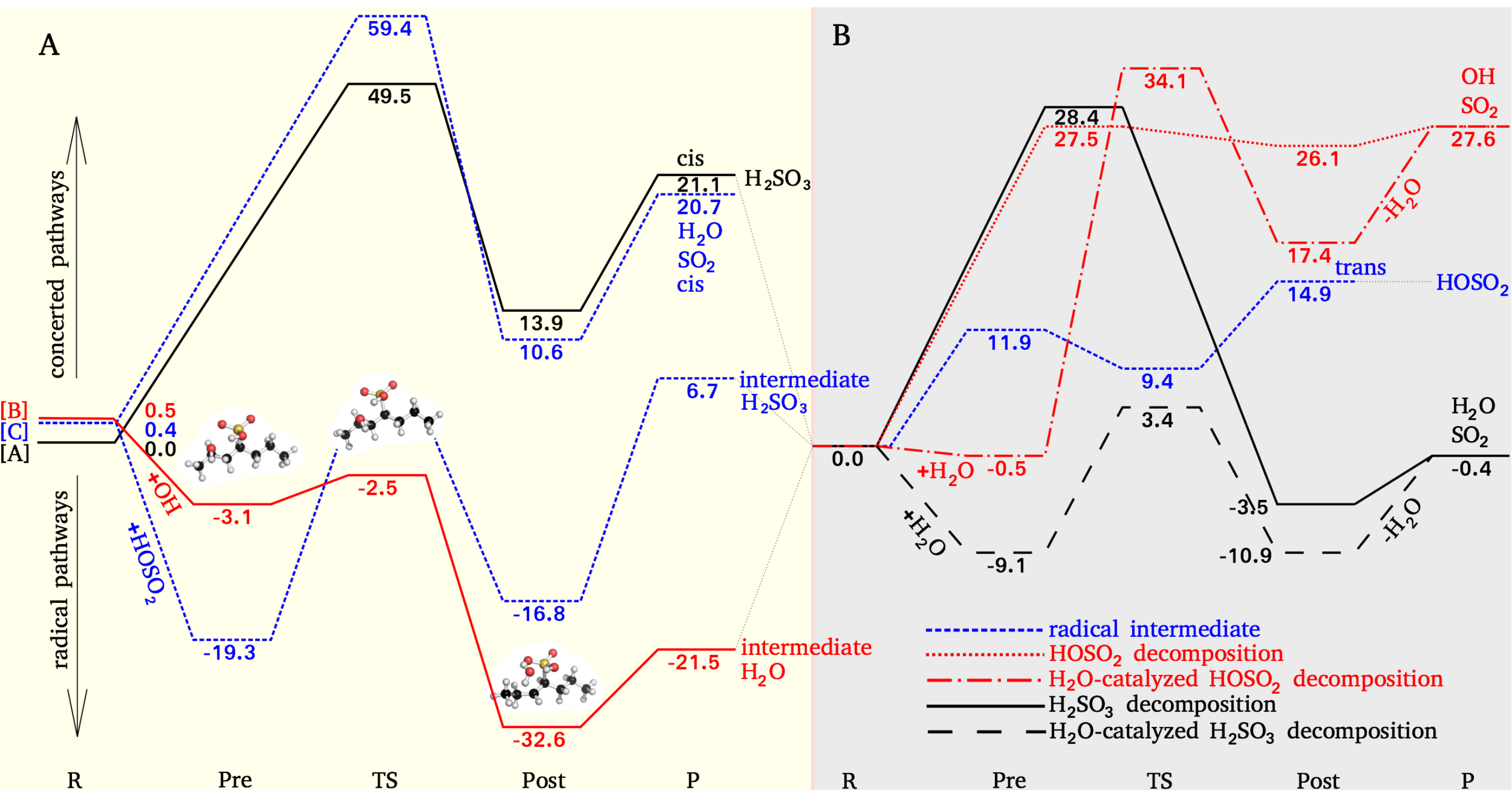
CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Calculating rate constants according to Transition State Theory



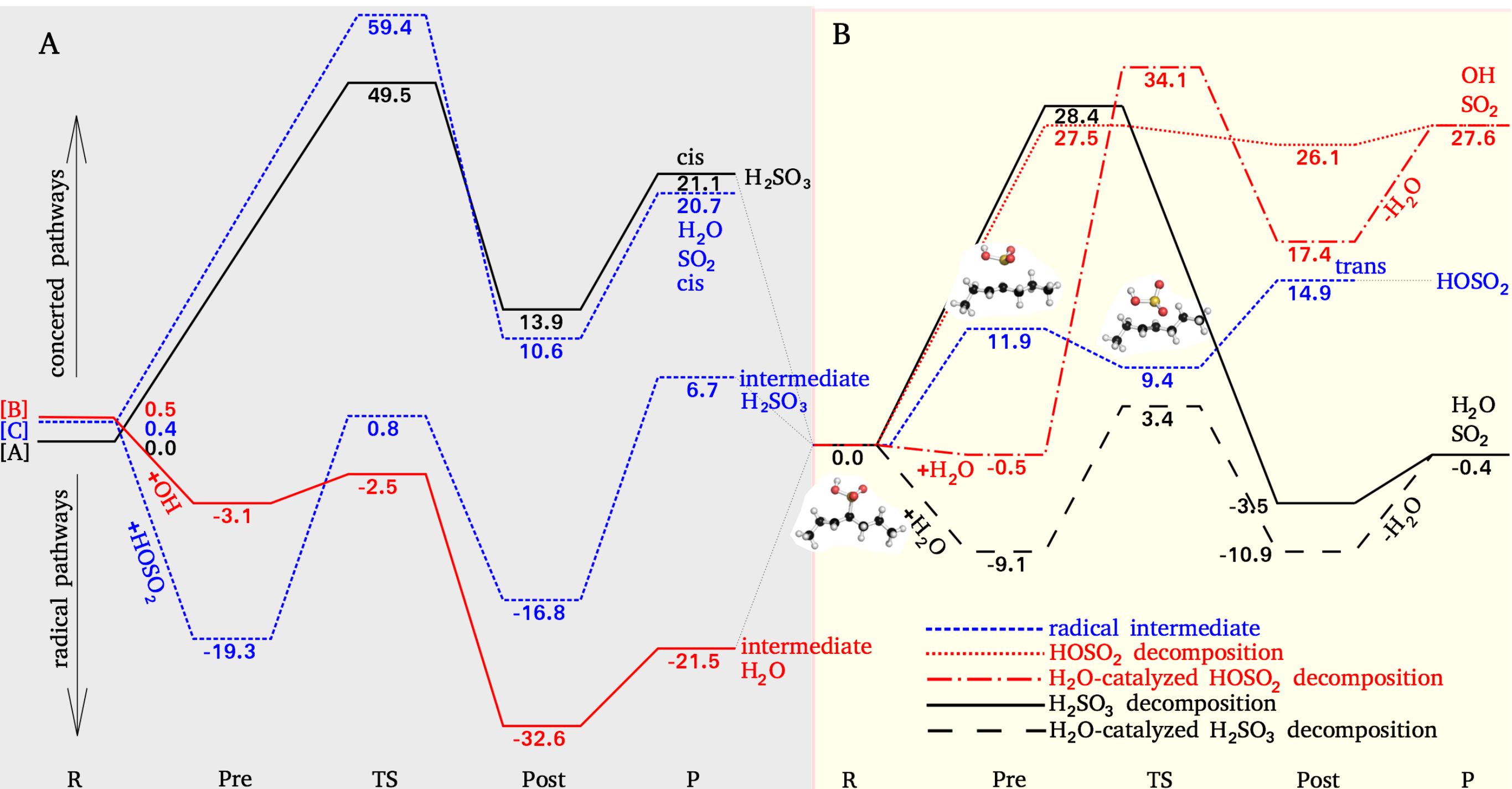
CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Calculating rate constants according to Transition State Theory



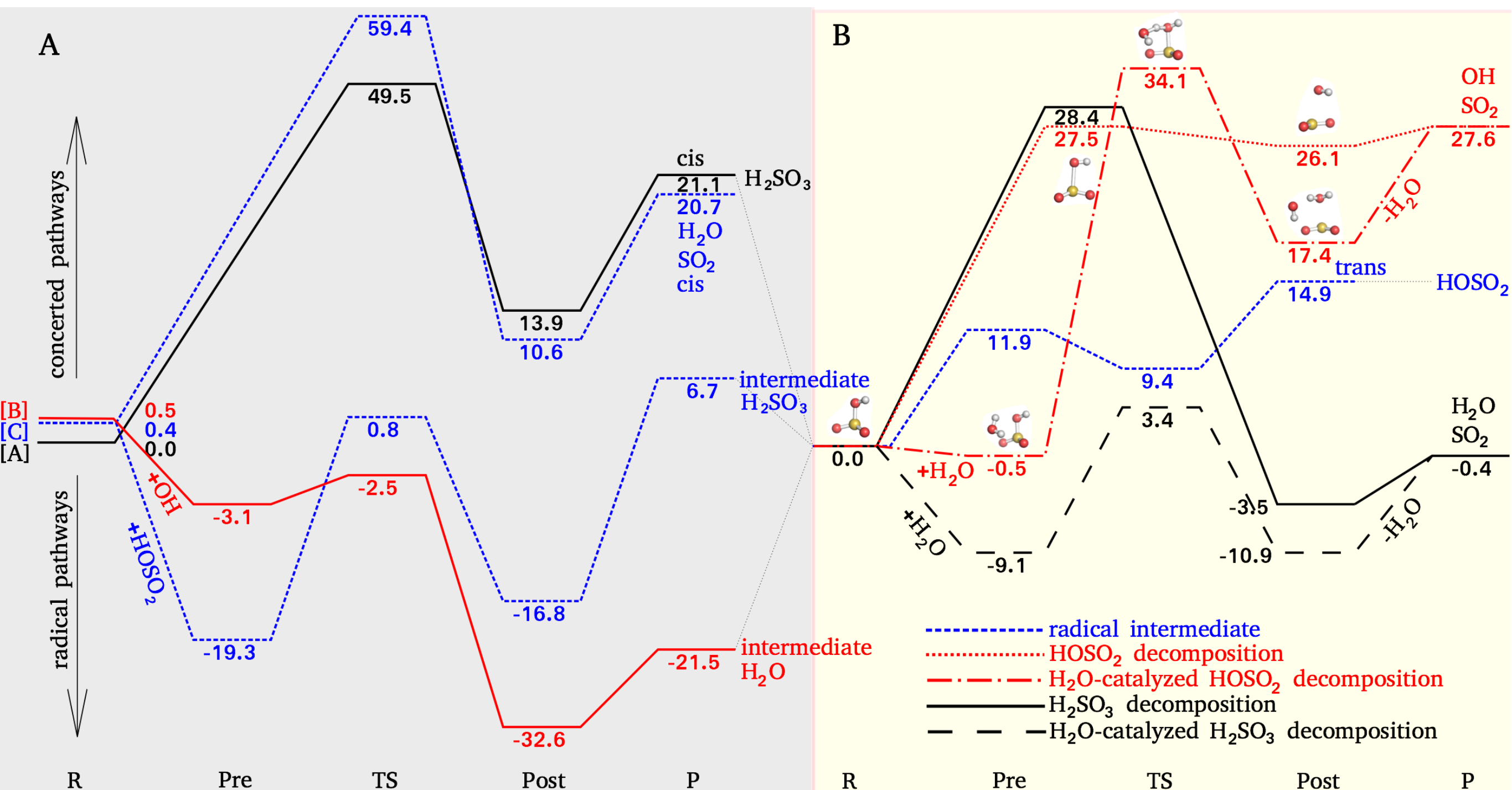
CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Calculating rate constants according to Transition State Theory



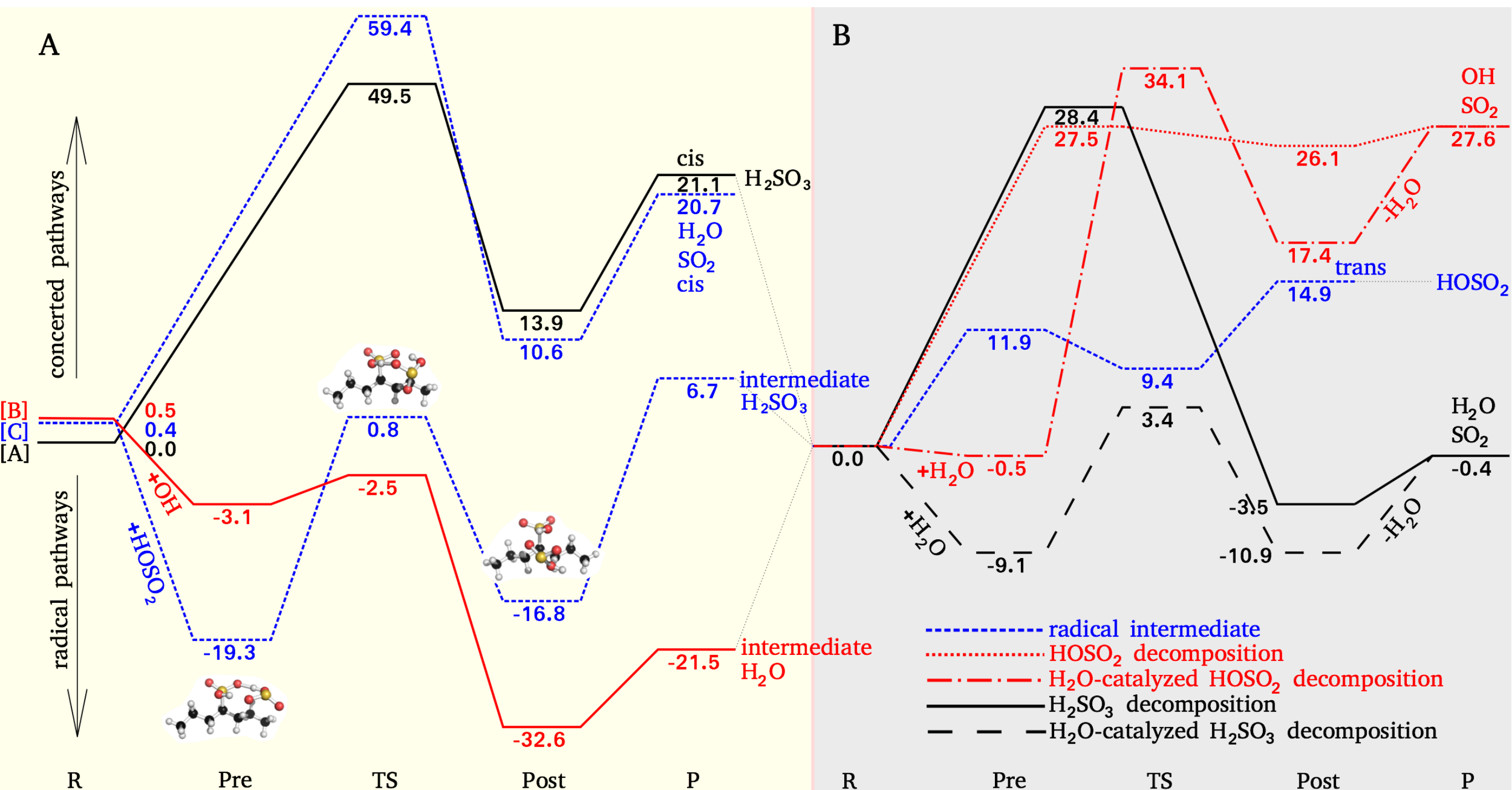
CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Calculating rate constants according to Transition State Theory



CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

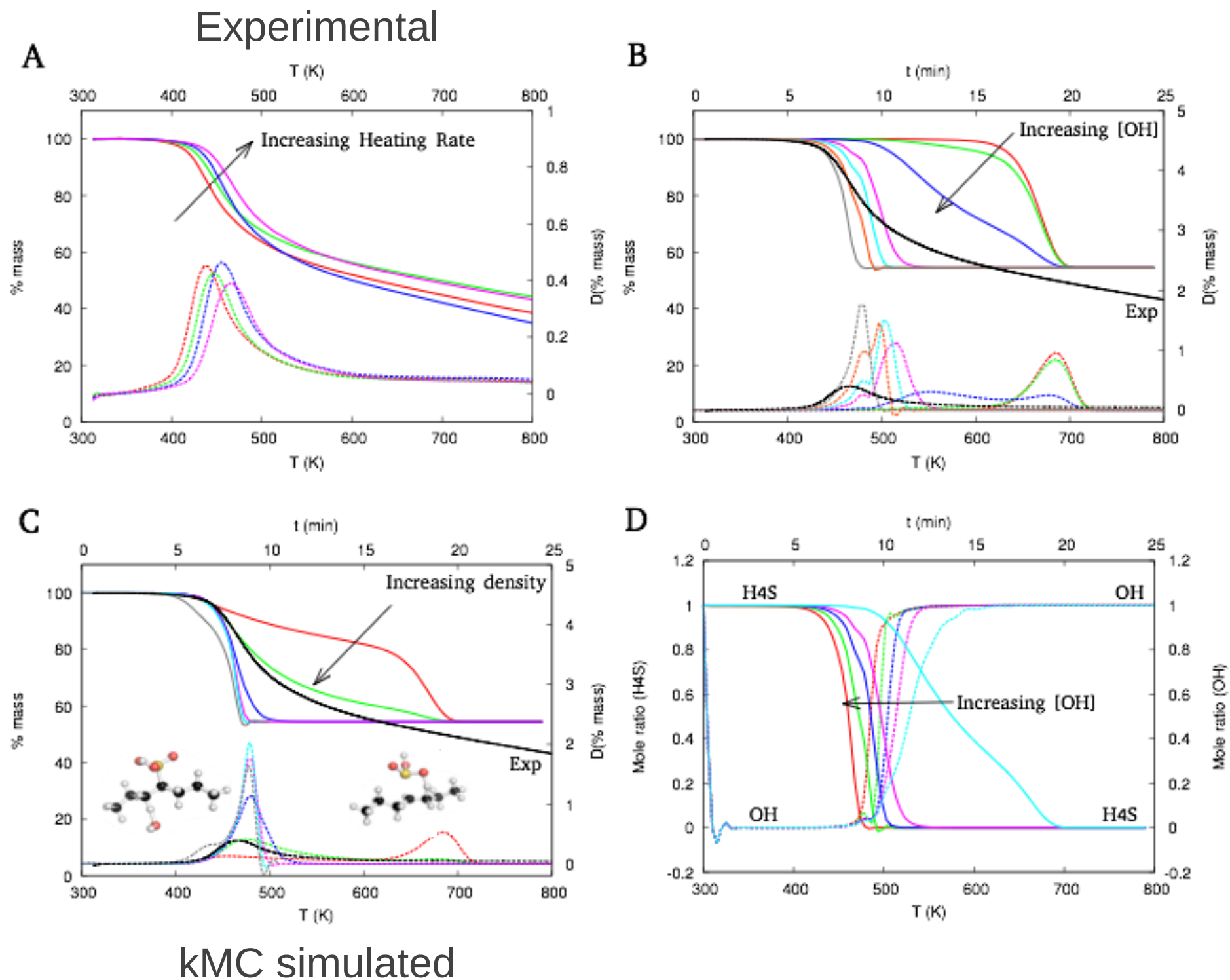
Calculating rate constants according to Transition State Theory



CARBON FIBER: ALTERNATIVE PRECURSORS

Integrate rate equations using kinetic Monte Carlo

- Thermodynamically, both the elimination and radical mechanisms result in an overall similar change in energy (~ 27 kcal/mol).
- Kinetically, the radical mechanism is the preferred pathway at lower temperatures.
- The presence of radicals is supported by experimentally observed alkane cleavage.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DuPont

- Kerwin D. Dobbs
- Hari B. Sunkara
- Jeffrey Meth
- Keith Hutchinson
- Numerous Others

BioVia

- Nick Reynolds
- Jian-Jie Liang

- ❖ Oak Ridge National Laboratory
 - ❖ Ariana Beste
 - ❖ A. C. Buchanan III
 - ❖ Amit K. Naskar
 - ❖ Tomonori Saito
 - ❖ Edoardo Apra (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)