

# **QM/MM methods: theory and applications**

1<sup>st</sup> topical seminar, Canon, fall 2004

## QM/MM methods

Embedding ~ combined ~ hybrid scheme

- “bridging the gap between theory and experiment”

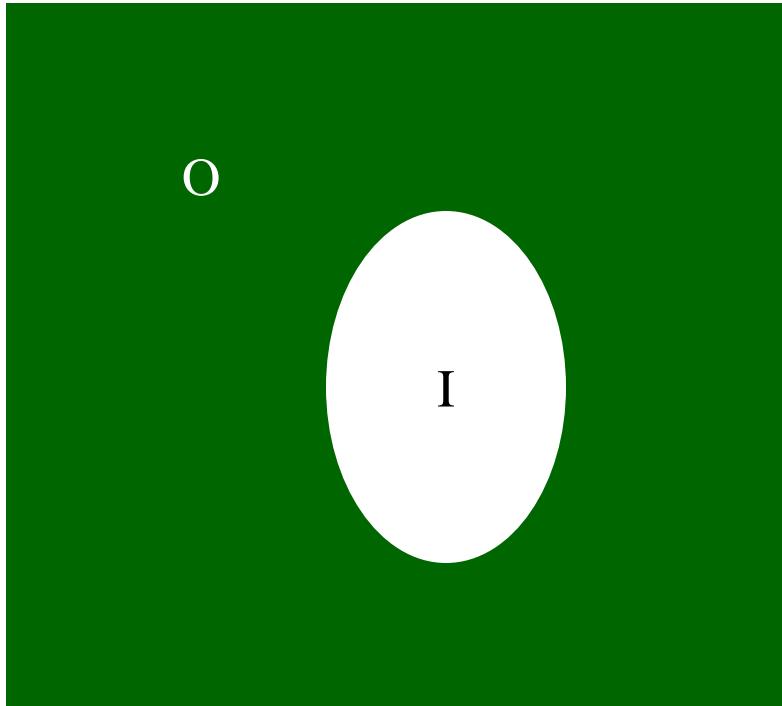
Most of the experimental characteristics are rather sensitive to the system geometry:

- IR, NMR, EPR, UV-vis,...

Embedding scheme:

- + effect of the long-range interaction
- + changes in the active site geometry due to the interaction with the surrounding atoms
- + proper geometry constraints
- charge transfer across the boundary

# General Embedding Scheme



S ... system

I ... inner part

O ... outer part

$$S = I + O$$

Definition of periodic boundary conditions

Two approaches:

1) additive scheme

*connection*

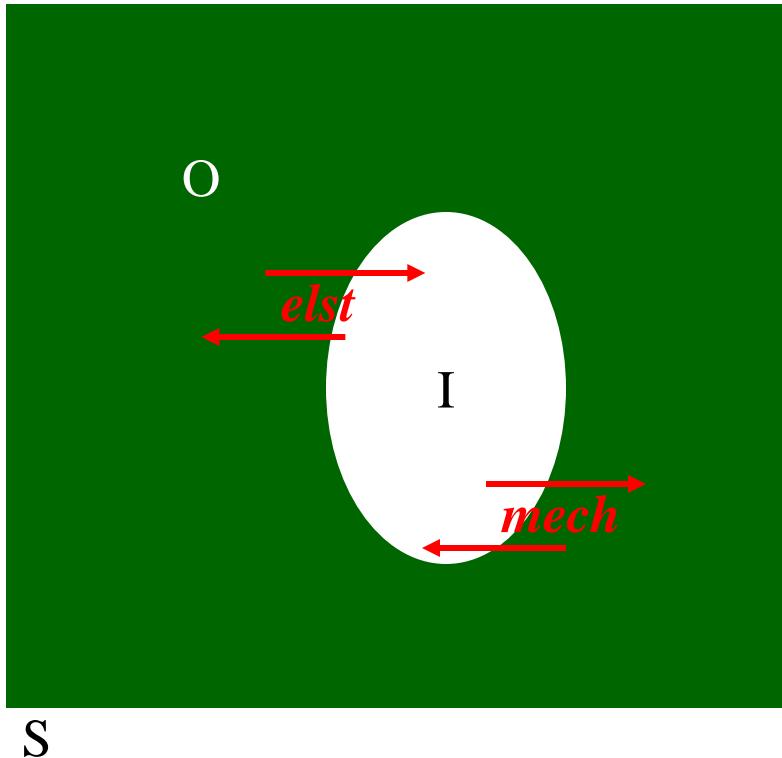
2) subtraction scheme

*embedding*

$$E^S = E_{high-level}^I + E_{low-level}^O + E_{coupling}^{I-O}$$

$$E^S = E_{low-level}^S + E_{high-level}^I - E_{low-level}^I$$

## General Embedding Scheme

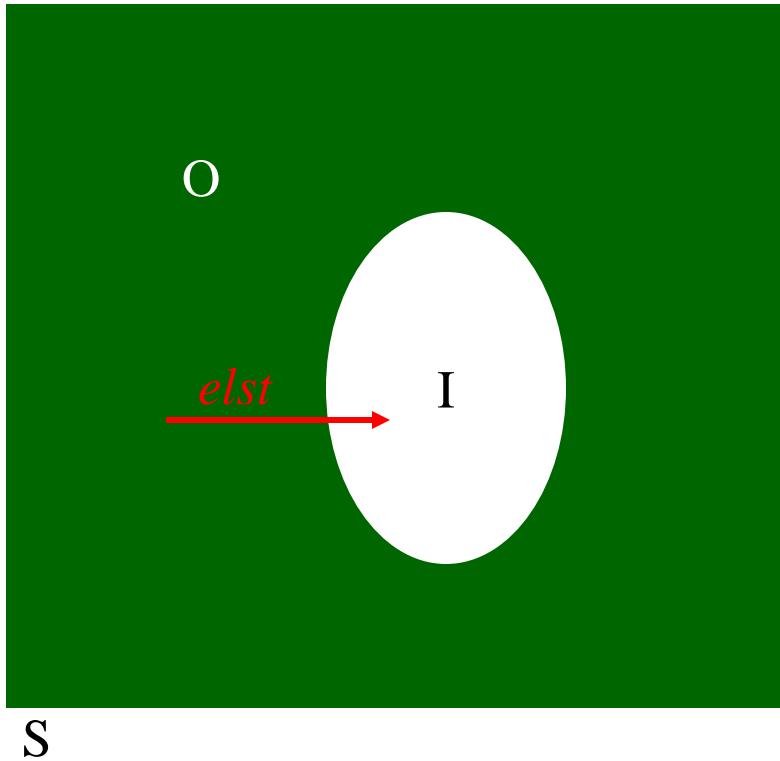


Interaction between I and O regions:

- electrostatic interaction
- mechanical interaction
- *Interaction in one or both directions*
- *Any combination possible*

Mechanical embedding      vs.      Electrostatic embedding

## General Embedding Scheme



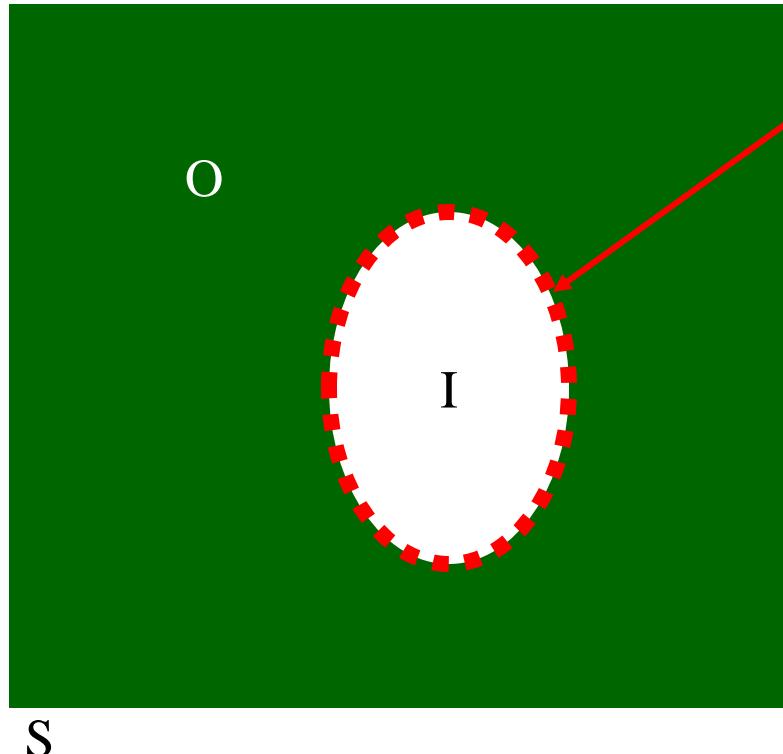
Interaction between I and O regions:

- electrostatic interaction
- mechanical interaction
- *Interaction in one or both directions*
- *Any combination possible*

Electrostatic effect of outer part atoms on inner part:

$$\hat{H}_{O-elst}^I = \left\langle \Psi \left| - \sum_i^N \sum_m^M \frac{q_m}{r_{im}} \right| \Psi \right\rangle \quad \begin{array}{l} i=1, \dots, N \text{ - inner part electrons} \\ m=1, \dots, M \text{ - outer part atoms} \end{array}$$

## General Embedding Scheme



### PROBLEM:

I-O boundaries

Increasing difficulty

- No bonds across the boundary
- Purely ionic bonds
- Covalent bonds
- Polar bonds

System of interest	=>	boundaries
	=>	interactions across the boundary required

Large variety of embedding schemes and number of slightly different programs available

## The simple case - BOUNDARIES THROUGH SPACE

### A) unpolarized interactions

simple additive scheme

$$E^S = E^I_{high-level} + E^O_{low-level} + E^{I-O}_{coupling}$$

Solute-solvent interaction:

Jorgensen (J. Phys. Chem. B 102 (1998) 1787): AM1/OPLS

Solute: AM1

Solvent: OPLS

$$E^{I-O}_{coupling} = \sum_i^{solute} \sum_j^{solvent} \left[ \frac{\alpha q_i q_j}{r_{ij}} + 4\epsilon_{ij} \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}^{12}}{r_{ij}^{12}} - \frac{\sigma_{ij}^6}{r_{ij}^6} \right) \right]$$

Just simple electrostatic + Lennard-Jones interaction  
Example of explicit solvent model

Does not work too well -

- does not account for polarization
- continuum solvation models works better!

## The simple case - BOUNDARIES THROUGH SPACE

### B) polarized high-level/unpolarized low-level

simple additive scheme

$$E^S = E^I_{high-level} + E^O_{low-level} + E^{I-O}_{coupling}$$

Many implementations, e. g., HF/TIP3

Solute: HF

Solvent: TIP3

$$E^{I-O}_{coupling} = \sum_i^{solute electrons} \sum_J^{solvent atoms} \left[ \frac{q_J}{r_{iJ}} \right] + \sum_I^{solute nuclei} \sum_J^{solvent atoms} \left[ \frac{Z_I q_J}{r_{IJ}} + 4\epsilon_{IJ} \left( \frac{\sigma_{IJ}^{12}}{r_{IJ}^{12}} - \frac{\sigma_{IJ}^6}{r_{IJ}^6} \right) \right]$$

$$= \langle \Psi | - \sum_i^N \sum_J^M \frac{q_J}{r_{iJ}} | \Psi \rangle$$

Coupling term is just sum over one-electron integrals => computationally easy

## The simple case - BOUNDARIES THROUGH SPACE

### C) fully polarized interactions

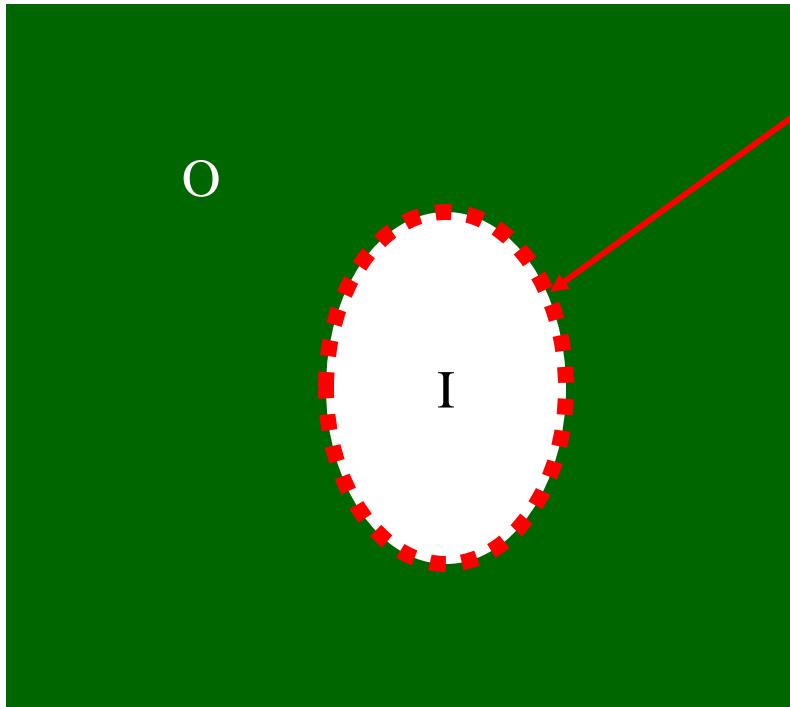
Low-level potential must allow for polarization

I-polarization & O-polarization => evaluation must proceed iteratively  
until self-consistency

=> order of magnitude more demanding

=> the profit is questionable in many cases

## General Embedding Scheme



*PROBLEM:*

I-O boundaries

- No bonds across the boundary
- Purely ionic bonds
- Covalent bonds
- Polar bonds

*Increasing difficulty*

# Ionic crystals - ELECTROSTATIC EMBEDDING

I ... cluster (neutral) - QM or DFT

O... point chargec (PC) fixed at the crystal positions

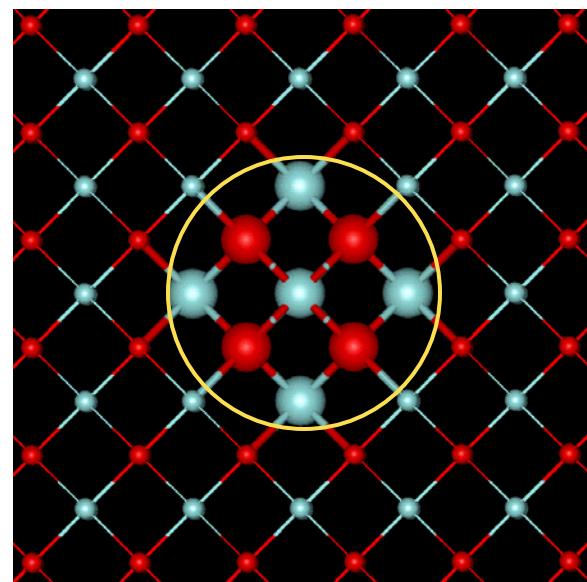
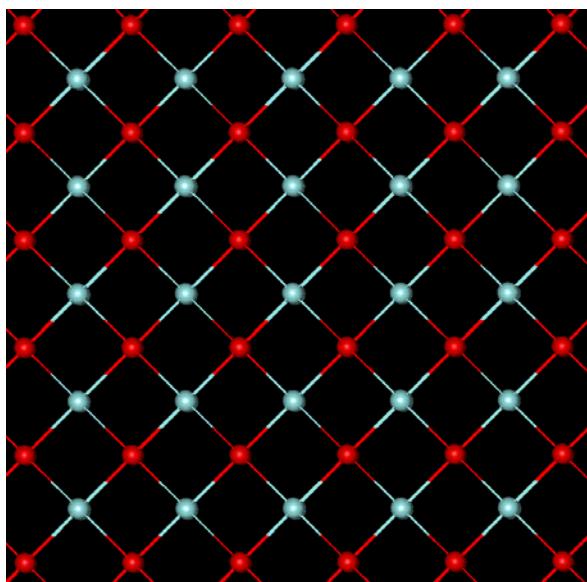
Additive scheme

$$E^S = E_{high-level}^I + E_{low-level}^O + E_{coupling}^{I-O}$$

*neglected*

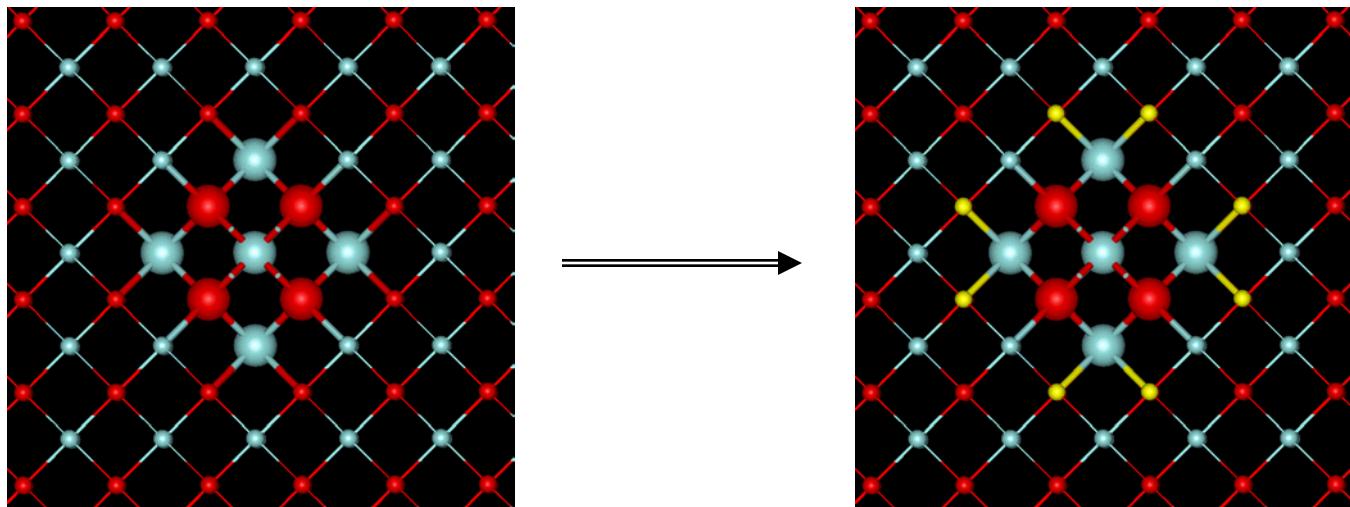
$$\hat{H}_{O-elst}^I = \langle \Psi | - \sum_i^N \sum_m^M \frac{q_m}{r_{im}} | \Psi \rangle$$

=>  $E^S$  is just simple QM description  
augmented by O-elst potential



## Ionic crystals - ELECTROSTATIC EMBEDDING

O atoms adjacent to I region have too strong effect on the  $\Psi^I$   
=> use of ECP on these atoms



Notation:

DFT/PC

DFT/ECP/PC

Describes effect of Madelung potential

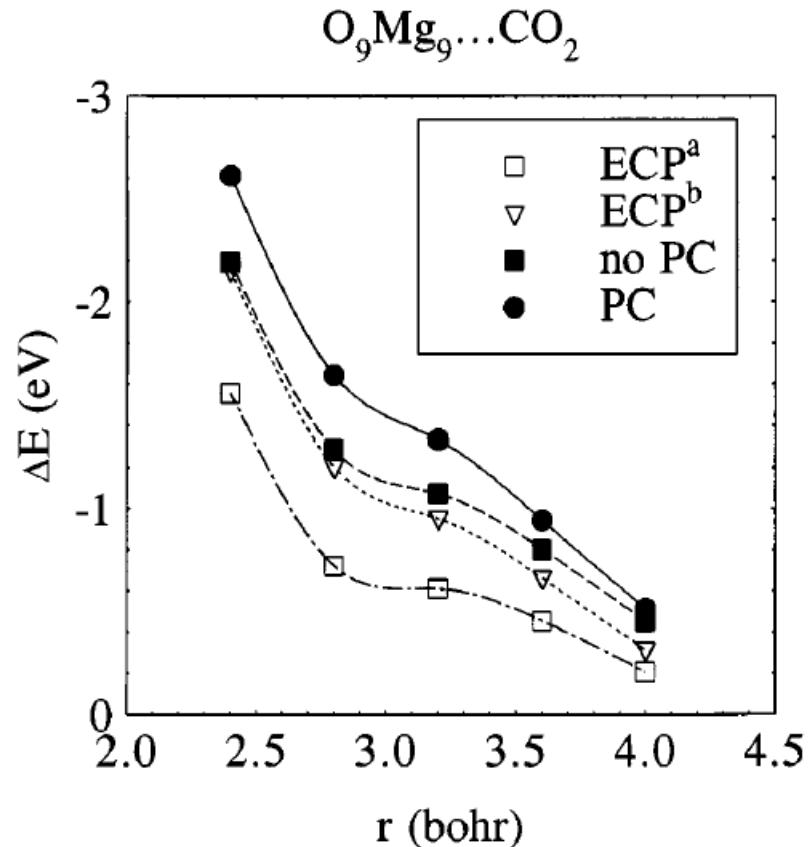
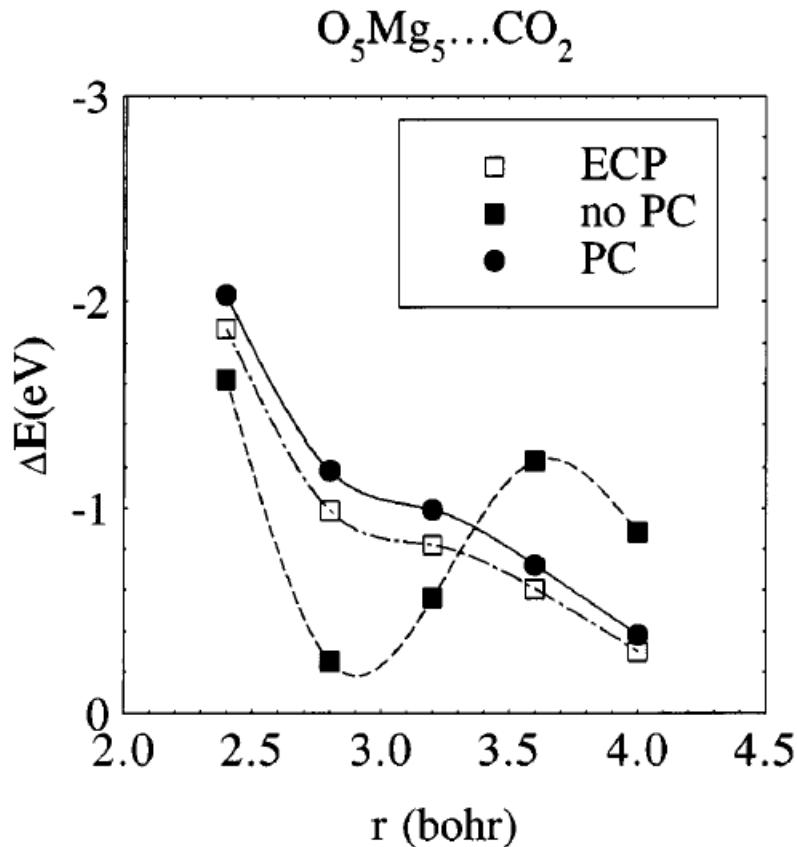
Electronic (band) structure of solid not reproduced well with clusters

=> some properties not described too well

# Ionic crystals - ELECTROSTATIC EMBEDDING

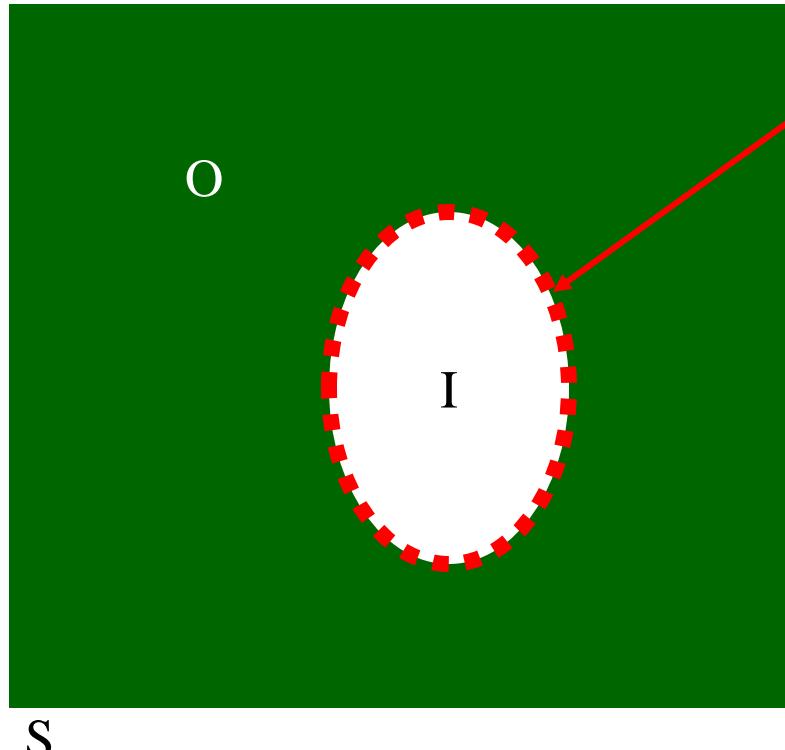
Example: CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on MgO surface

(Illas, J. Comput. Chem. 18 (1996) 617)



Periodic DFT appears to be much more suitable !

## General Embedding Scheme



### PROBLEM:

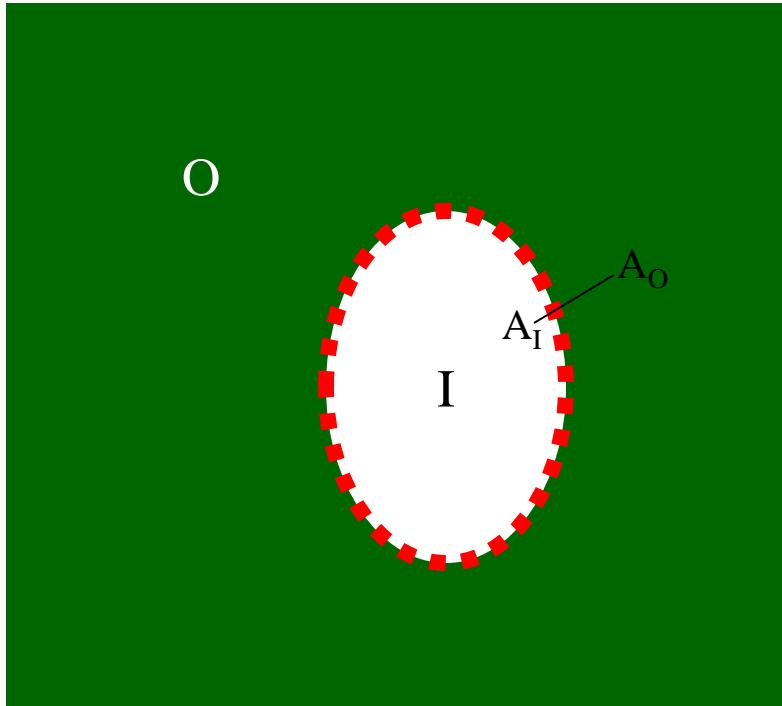
I-O boundaries

- No bonds across the boundary
- Purely ionic bonds
- Covalent bonds
- Polar bonds

Increasing difficulty

- a) boundary cuts through bonds => use of link atoms  
(H, CH<sub>3</sub>, F, pseudatom)
- b) boundary through atom => pseudoatoms on the I/O boundary

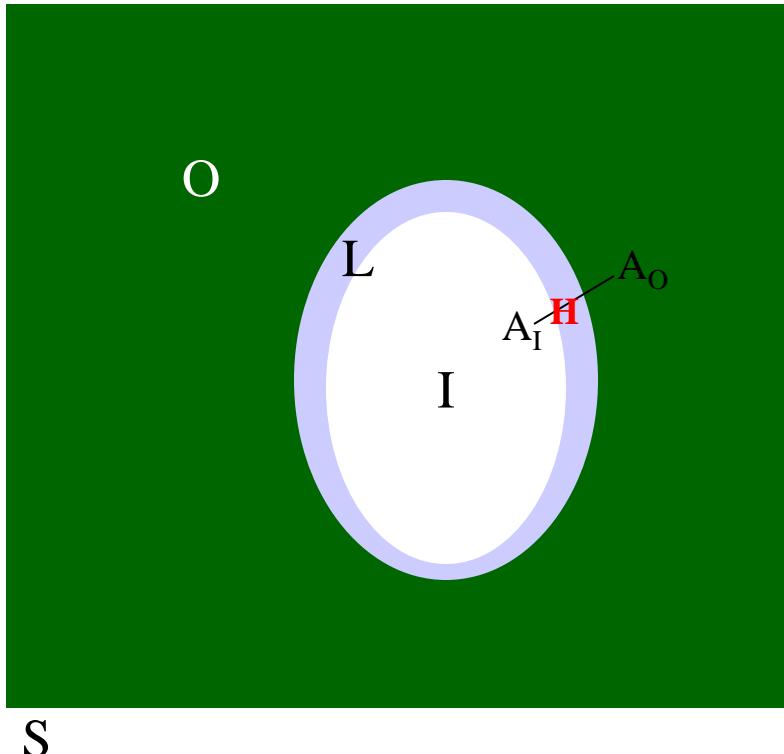
## Mechanical Embedding - using H atom saturation



I-O boundary cuts through the bond:

- topological effect  
*treated via I-O coupling term*
- electronic structure effect  
*huge perturbation - saturation required*

## Mechanical Embedding - using H atom saturation



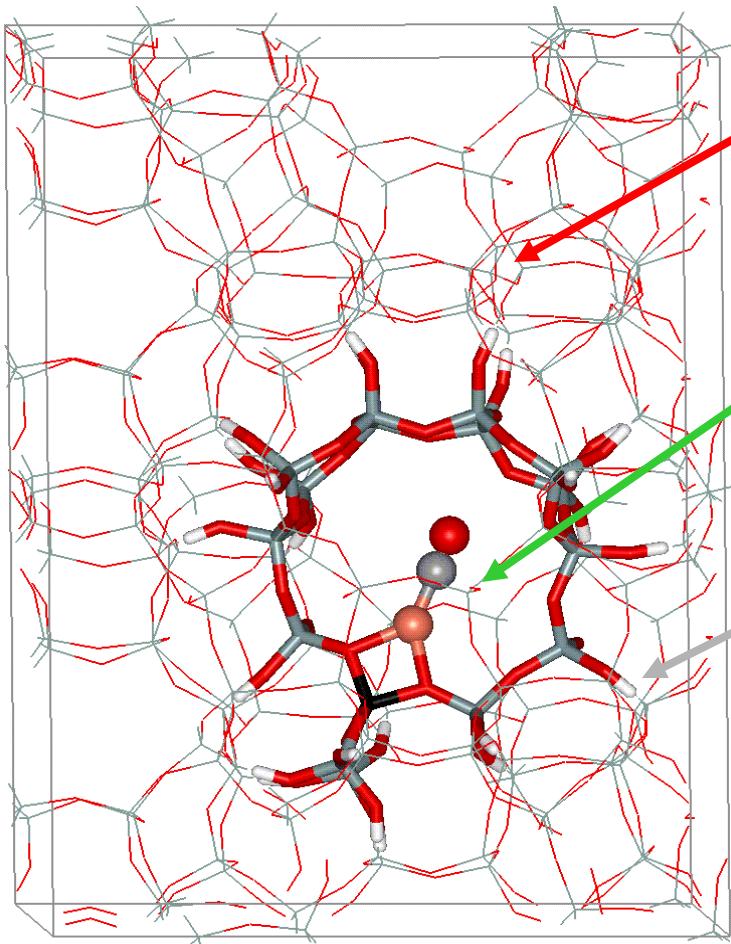
Link atoms introduced (hydrogen)

- link atoms not present in the real system
- makes perturbation on  $\Psi$  smaller
- should replace atoms with similar electronegativity (Si, C, ...)
- link atoms placed along the  $A_I$ - $H$  bond at fixed  $r(A_I-H)$  distance
- no interaction with atoms from O
- no direct effect on  $\nabla E$

Cluster:  $Cl = I + L$

$$E^S = E_{low-level}^S + E_{high-level}^I - E_{low-level}^I \Rightarrow E^S = E_{low-level}^S + E_{high-level}^{Cl} - E_{low-level}^{Cl}$$

# Mechanical Embedding - using H atom saturation



## Outer part

- surrounding periodic zeolite framework (192 T atoms, 384 O atoms)
- shell model ion-pair potential

## Inner part

- metal ion, adsorbed molecule and neighboring atoms
- 3-10 T atoms, B3LYP (DZP/TZP)  
BSSE included

## Link atoms

saturating the oxygen atoms on the inner part boundary

## Outer vs. Inner part

core-shell model ion-pair potential

PBC - periodic boundary conditions

<sup>a</sup> Sierka, M., Sauer, J.: J. Chem. Phys. 112, (2000), 6983

## Mechanical Embedding - using H atom saturation

Link atoms only approximately simulate the electronic effect of the outer part

No charge transfer across the boundary

Electrostatic interactions across the boundary at low-level!

Approximative expression for  $E^S$



$$E^S = E_{low-level}^S + E_{high-level}^{Cl} - E_{low-level}^{Cl}$$



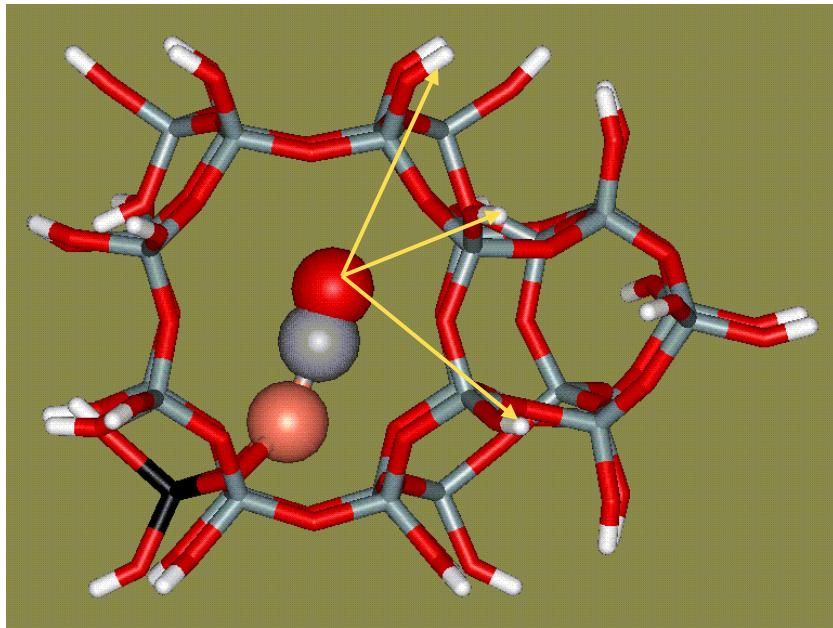
Approximation, error  $\Delta$ : 
$$\Delta = -E_{high-level}^L - E_{high-level}^{L-I} + E_{low-level}^L + E_{low-level}^{L-I}$$

Sauer - Biosym implementation, 1994  
Gale - Phys. Rev. B 54 (1996) 962  
Morokuma - J. Chem. Phys. 105 (1996) 1959  
Sauer - J. Comput. Chem. 18 (1997) 463

- In order to minimize  $\Delta$  the use of *ab initio* derived potentials is mandatory !
- Interatomic potentials for inner part atoms must be also defined!
- Calculations for systems with 3-D strucutre must be done with great care!
- Inner part size convergence should be always tested!

## Mechanical Embedding - using H atom saturation

Example:  
CO/Cu<sup>+</sup>/Z



All link atoms must be  
far from embedded  
 $\text{Cu}^+\text{CO}$ !  
=> large inner part  
definition required

## Gaussian 98/03 embedding scheme - ONIOM

Keiji Morokuma

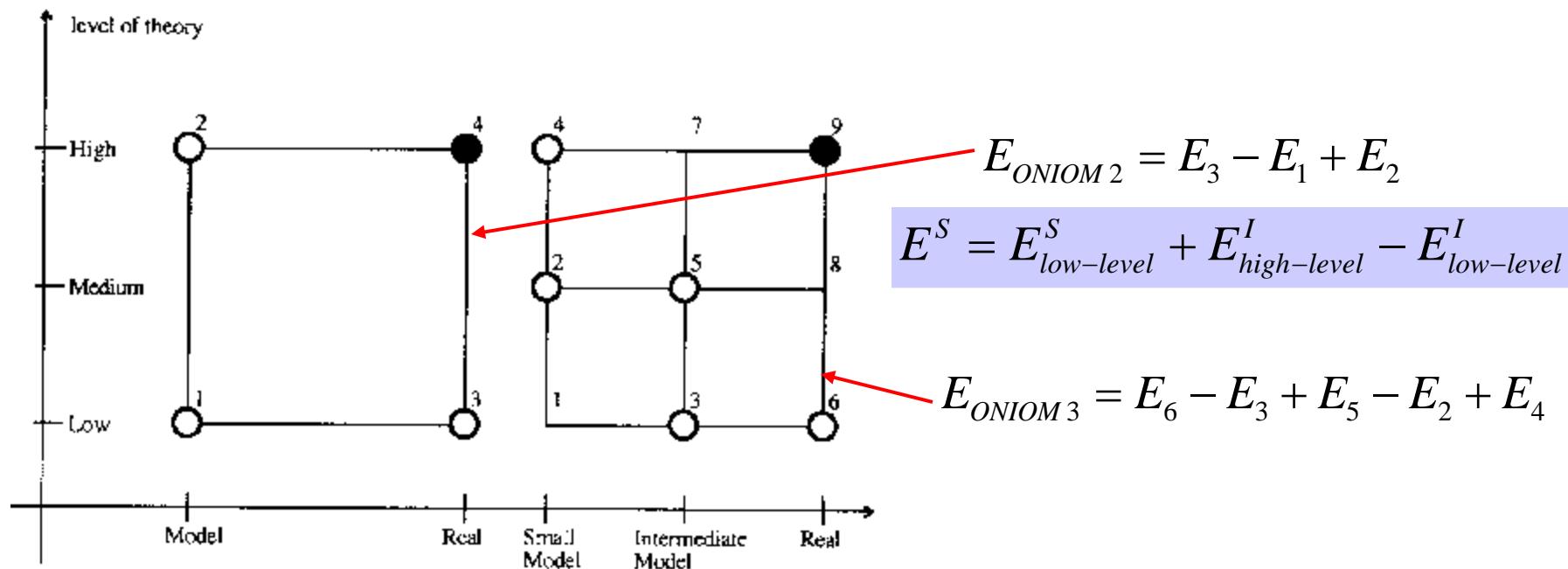
IMOMM - *J. Comput. Chem.* 16 (1995) 1170

IMOMO - *J. Chem. Phys.* 105 (1996) 1959

ONIOM - *J. Phys. Chem.* 100 (1996) 19357

“Our own n-layered integrated molecular orbitals and molecular mechanics”

Subtraction scheme (2- or 3-layer):

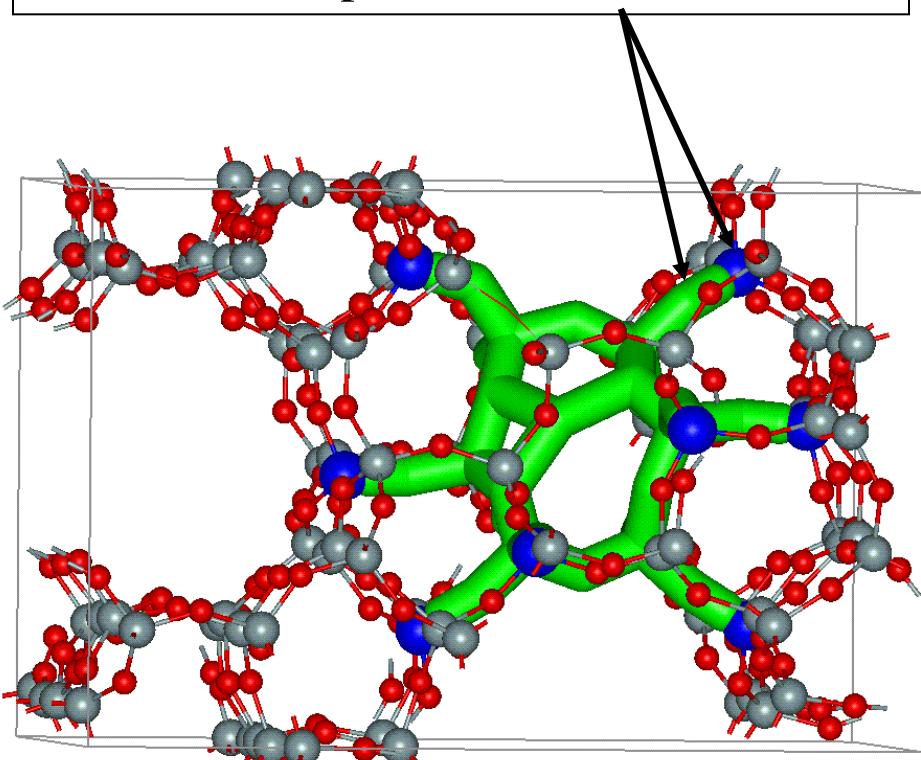


## Electrostatic Embedding - using H atom as link atoms

Includes electrostatic effects of outer part atoms on inner part at QM level:

$$\hat{H}_{O-elst}^I = \left\langle \Psi \left| - \sum_i^N \sum_m^M \frac{q_m}{r_{im}} \right| \Psi \right\rangle$$

Problem: link atoms too close to some atoms from O part



**SCREEP** “The Surface Charge Representation of the Electrostatic Embedding Potential Method”

*Truong, J. Phys. Chem. B 102, 1998, 3018*

- Inner part of the cluster - VdW radii of the cluster atom
- Madelung potential of the outer part is represented by the point charges at the surrounding surface.
- Some "close" ions explicitly (up to 4.0 Å)

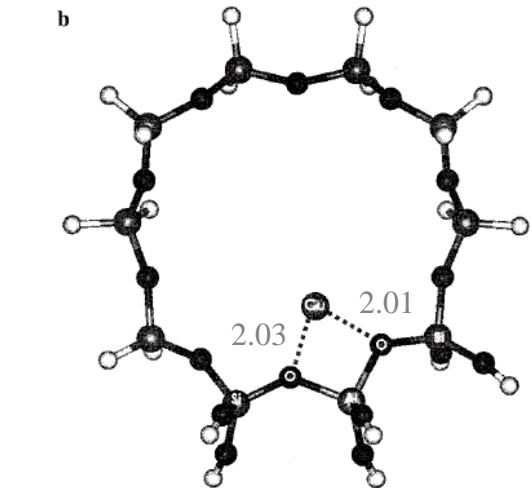
Additive scheme  
Positions of O-part atoms cannot be varied in geometry optimization

# Electrostatic Embedding - using H atom as link atoms

Cu<sup>+</sup> interaction with ZSM-5 zeolite

B3LYP/6-31G\* level

Model	E <sup>b</sup> (QM) [kcal/mol]	E <sup>b</sup> (QM/MM) [kcal/mol]	Q(Cu)
3T	180	234	0.61
5T	184	196	0.58
7T	186	180	0.55
10T	187	164	0.55

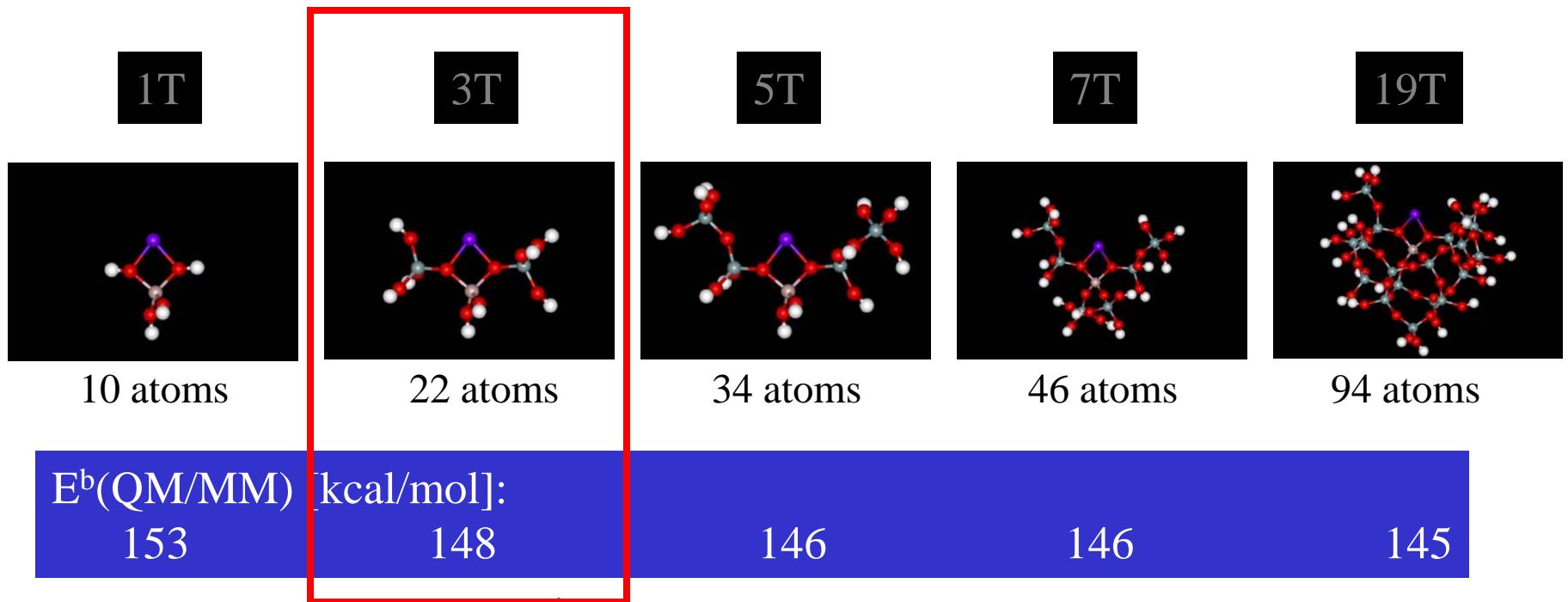


Convergence ?

Embedded 3T model - far from convergence  
Can this be used for study of other properties ?

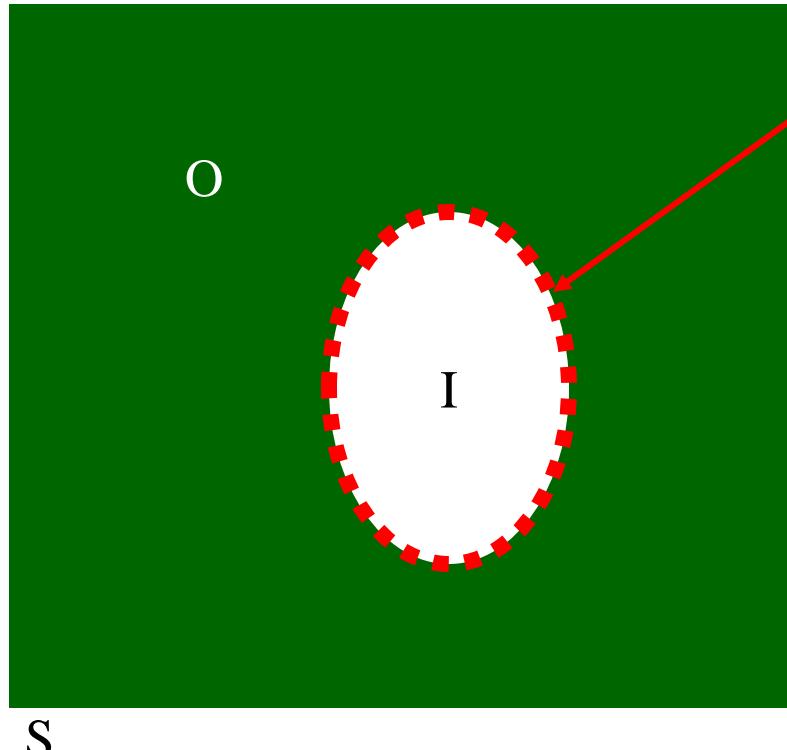
## Mechanical Embedding - using H atom saturation

Results insensitive on the embedded cluster size:



Embedded 3T cluster model  
gives well converged results !!!

## General Embedding Scheme



### PROBLEM:

I-O boundaries

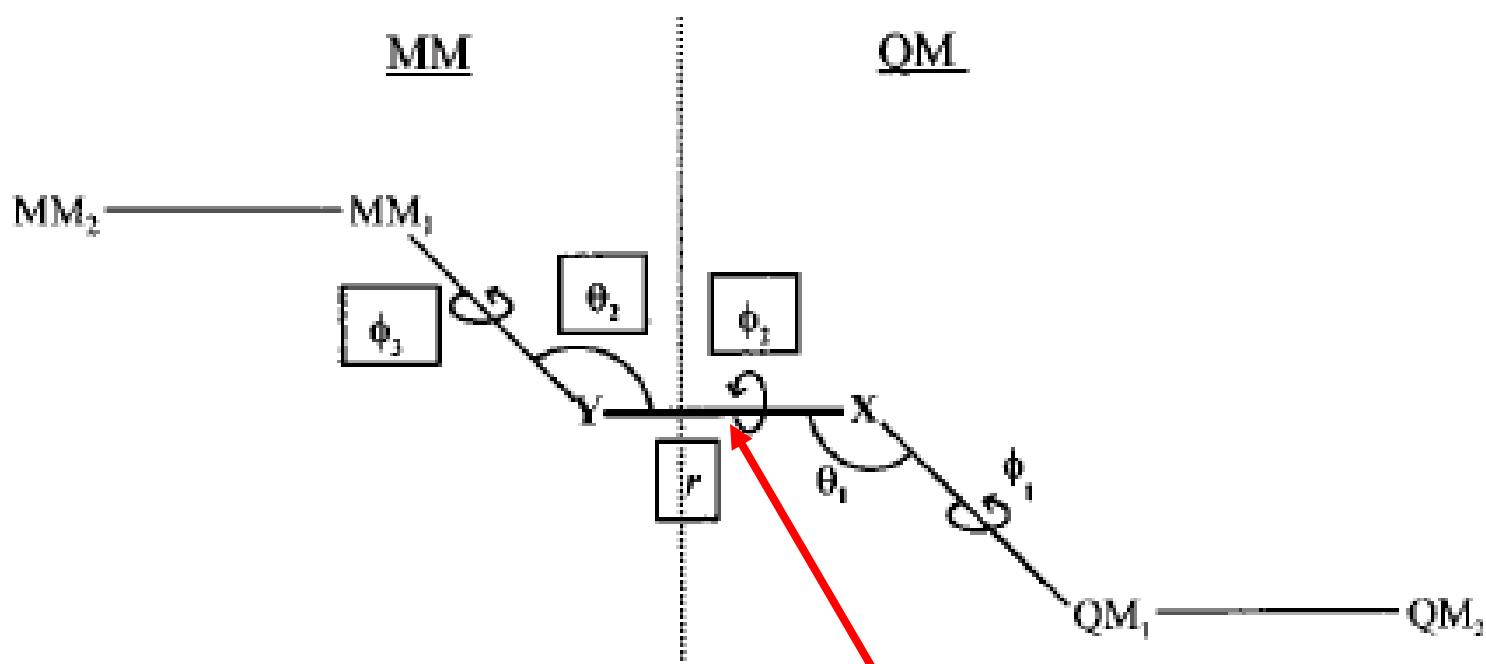
- No bonds across the boundary
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Increasing difficulty

- a) boundary cuts through bonds => use of link atoms  
(H, CH<sub>3</sub>, F, pseudatom)
- b) boundary through atom => pseudoatoms on the I/O boundary

### LSCF (“Local SCF”) Method

1

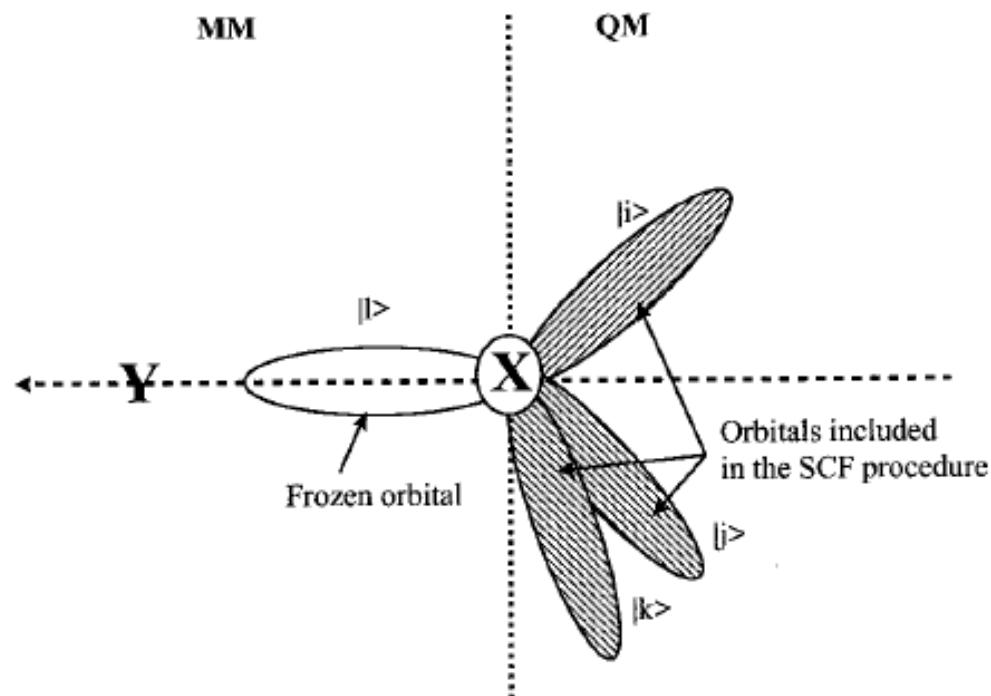


- $r = r_{X-Y}$
  - $\theta_1 = \theta_{QM_1-X-Y}$
  - $\theta_2 = \theta_{X-Y-MM_1}$
  - $\phi_1 = \phi_{QM_2-QM_1-X-Y}$
  - $\phi_2 = \phi_{QM_1-X-Y-MM_1}$
  - $\phi_3 = \phi_{X-Y-MM_1-MM_2}$

Replacing X-Y bond by strictly localized bond orbital (SLBO)

- Assuming that X-Y bond is far from region of interest
- Electron density assumed to be constant for studied phenomenon
- SLBO obtained from calculations no model compound
- SLBO is kept frozen during the SCF - SLBO represents effective potential for other electrons during SCF

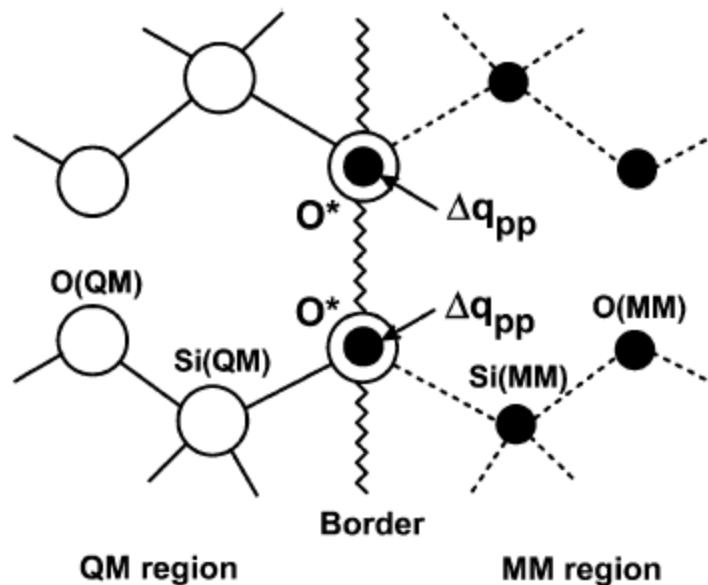
*J. Comput. Chem.* 15 (1994) 269



Suitable for semiempirical methods

Number of different “special” embedding schemes:

1. “Electron density partitioning scheme” - Weselowski (*J. Chem. Phys.* 115 (2001) 4791)
2. “Hybrid MP2/plane-waves DFT scheme” - Sauer (*Chem. Phys. Letters* 387 (2004) 388)
3. “Elastic polarizable environment cluster embedding approach” - Rosch (*J. Phys. Chem. B* 107 (2003) 2228)

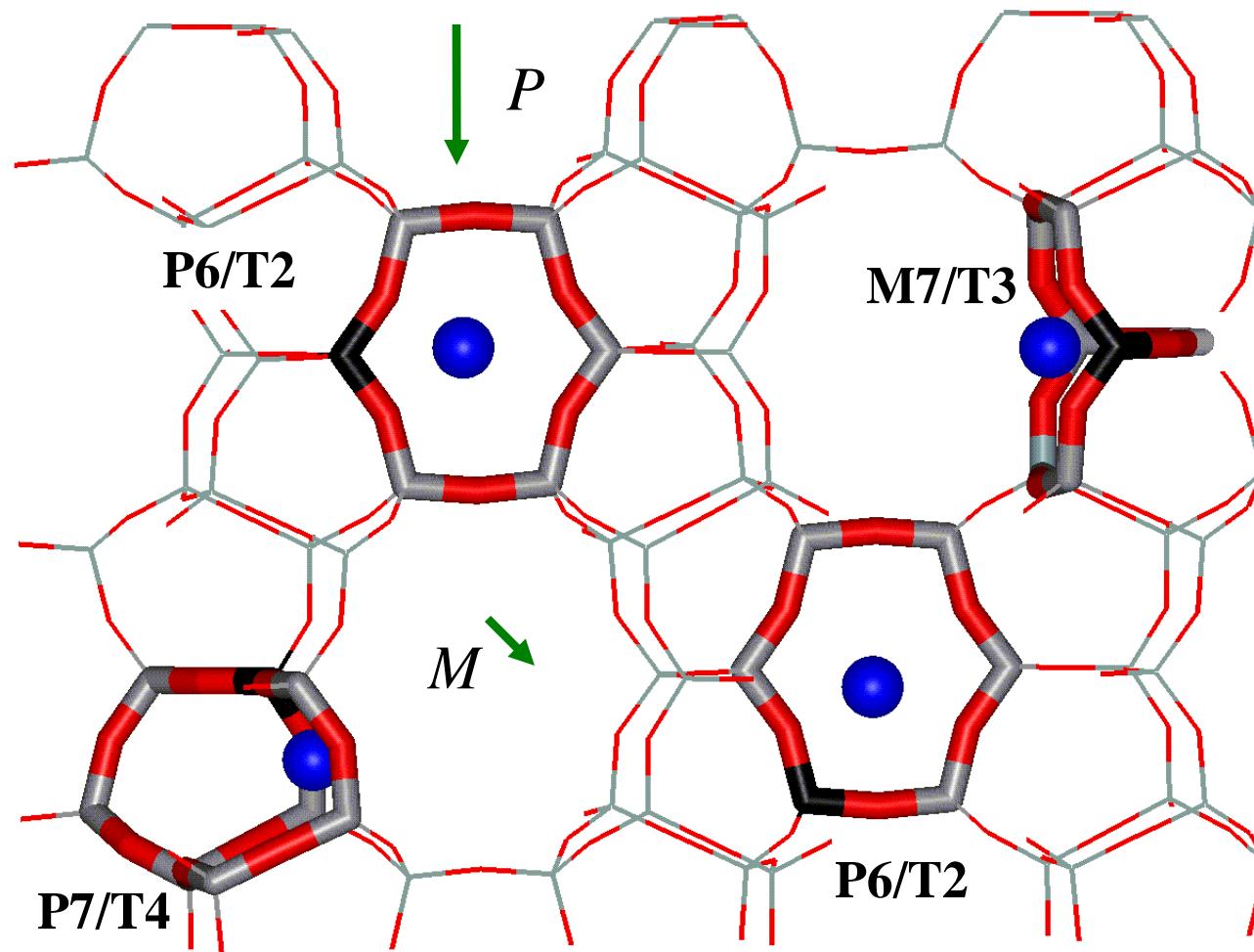


- Boundary through atom
- border atom charge splitted into I and O contribution
- special FF for boundary atoms must be fitted
- 7 electron boundary oxygen atom

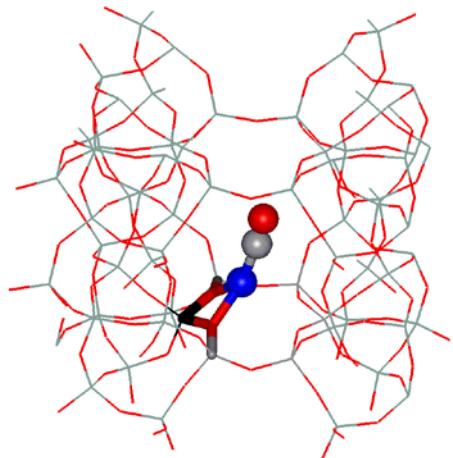
Example: Convergence of inner part size studied for CO/Cu<sup>+</sup>/FER system

I ... B3LYP/VTZP

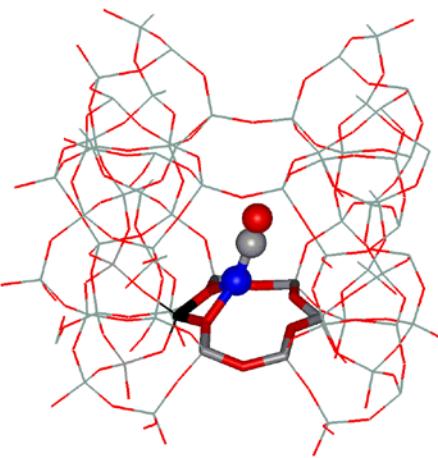
O... core-shell model polarizable potential



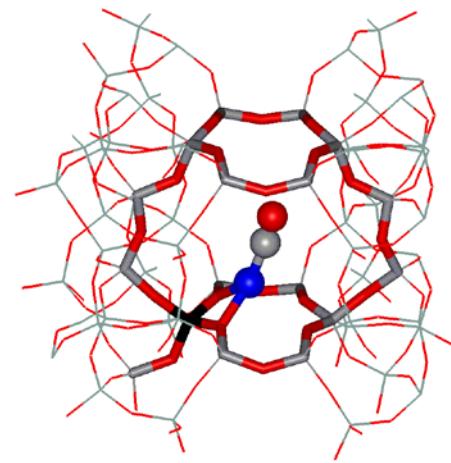
3-T



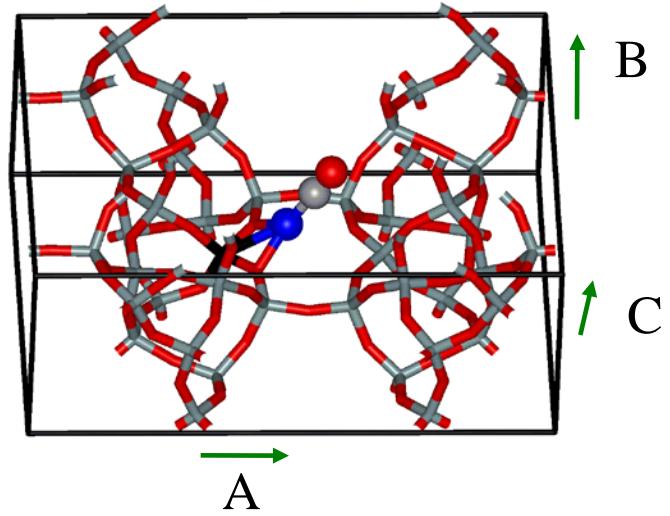
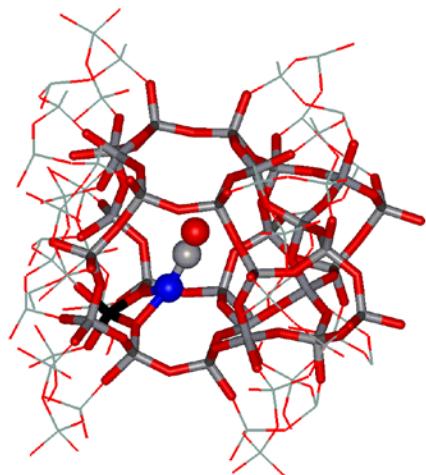
6-T



17-T



28-T



**Table 2:** Comparison of harmonic CO stretching frequencies and CO adsorption energies obtained at the QM-pot and periodic DFT levels.<sup>a</sup>

	r(CO) <sup>b</sup>	v(CO) <sup>c</sup>	E <sub>ads</sub> <sup>d</sup>
<b>QM-pot<sup>e</sup></b>			
BLYP/PBE	1-T	1.14868	2137
	3-T	1.14780	2142
	6-T	1.14835	2138
	6-T [no q(CO)] <sup>g</sup>		-38.7
	8-Td	1.14779	2142
	16T / 8 UC	1.14485	2158
	17Td / 8 UC	1.14473	2159
	28 T / 8 UC	1.14576	2153
<b>Periodic DFT<sup>f</sup></b>			
PBE	600 eV	1.14997	2154
PBE	450 eV		-33.6
PBE	300 eV		-34.5
PW91	600 eV	1.14864	2154

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

- large variety of embedding schemes
- direct comparison of different embedding schemes for particular problem is lacking
- convergence of inner part size should always be tested

[clara.uochb.cas.cz/public/petr/Topical\\_1-QM,MM.pdf](http://clara.uochb.cas.cz/public/petr/Topical_1-QM,MM.pdf)