

Molecular Excited States Through a Machine Learning Lens

Pavlo Dral¹ and **Mario Barbatti**^{2*}

¹ State Key Laboratory of Physical Chemistry of Solid Surfaces, Fujian Provincial Key Laboratory of Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, and College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Xiamen University, Xiamen 361005, China

² Aix Marseille University, CNRS, ICR, Marseille, France

* mario.barbatti@univ-amu.fr – www.barbatti.org

ABSTRACT

Theoretical simulations of electronic excitations and associated processes in molecular systems are indispensable for modern fundamental research and technological innovations. Such simulations are, however, notoriously challenging to perform with quantum mechanical (QM) methods. With advances in machine learning (ML), many new avenues opened for assisting molecular excited-state simulations.

In this talk, we track the progress, assess the current state-of-the-art, and highlight the critical issues to solve in the future. We overview a broad scope of ML applications in excited-state research, with a primary focus on molecules. It includes predicting properties directly, improving QM methods for calculating properties, analyzing data, and generating new compounds.

ML allows for faster and accurate calculation of excited-state properties, which can be exploited to simulate spectra and surfaces, perform dynamics, and search for new optoelectronic materials. Data analysis with ML assists in understanding hidden factors influencing photoprocesses, leading to controlling them and establishing new design rules. Automated generation of new compounds with ML further facilitates optoelectronic materials design.

