



## Outline

1. Intro-Molecular solids under pressure: generalities

2. Solid Hydrogen under pressure : focus on the $\mathrm{H}---\mathrm{H}$ distances (intra + intermolecular) - Cornell
3. Study of a non periodic model for solid H under pressure : topological tools (NCI + ELF)

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## Context

The Chemical Imagination at Work in Very Tight Places
Wojciech Grochala,* Roald Hoffmann,* Ji Feng,* and Neil W. Ashcroft*


## Molecular solids under Pressure :

$$
T=0 K \quad \text { Enthalpy } \quad H=E+p V
$$

Finding ways of decreasing volume $\vee$

1. Squeezing the «van der Waals space»
2. Increasing coordination numbers
3. Shortening bonds
4. Electrons moving off their atoms

## Context




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## Context

What about Hydrogen?


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## Context

What about Hydrogen?


| $\stackrel{\square}{\text { La }}$ | ${ }_{\text {cosem }}^{\text {cem }}$ | ${ }_{\substack{\text { Pr } \\ \hline 8 \\ \hline}}$ | $\stackrel{\text { Nod }}{\substack{\text { No } \\ \text { den }}}$ | $\stackrel{\text { Pm }}{\text { Pm }}$ | ${ }_{\text {sm }}^{\text {sem }}$ | ${ }_{\text {Eu }}^{\text {Eu }}$ | ${ }_{\text {cid }}^{\text {esem }}$ |  | ${ }_{\text {Dy }}^{\text {D, }}$ | $\stackrel{\text { Ho }}{ }$ |  | $\stackrel{\text { Im }}{\substack{\text { m m }}}$ |  | $\stackrel{\pi}{4}$ |
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Same behavior expected (P-induced polymerization)

## Context

What about Hydrogen?


| $\stackrel{\square}{\text { La }}$ | ${ }_{\text {ce }}^{\text {ce }}$ | $\stackrel{8}{\text { Pr }}$ | Nı | $\stackrel{\text { Prm }}{\text { P\% }}$ | ${ }_{\text {smm }}^{\text {sion }}$ | ${ }_{\text {Eu }}^{\text {Eu }}$ | ${ }_{\text {cid }}^{\text {ead }}$ | $\stackrel{\text { esb }}{\text { Ib }}$ | ${ }_{\text {Dy }}^{\text {¢ }}$ | H\% | ${ }_{\text {Er }}^{6}$ | ${ }_{\text {Tm }}^{\text {¢ }}$ | ${ }_{\text {rb }}^{\text {rb }}$ | $\stackrel{H}{4}$ |
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| ${ }_{\text {Ac }}$ | ¢ | Pa | ű | Np | Pu | Am | $\mathrm{Cm}_{\text {cm }}^{\text {m }}$ | B'k | ${ }_{\text {cf }}^{\text {cf }}$ | Es | ${ }_{\text {Fm }}$ | Md | No | $\stackrel{\text { Lr }}{ }$ |

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- Structural modifications induced by P not so easy to characterize experimentally (weak X-ray scattering)


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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\underset{\substack{\text { H7 } \\ \text { nomm } \\ \text { nuse }}}{\substack{\text { a }}}$ |  |  |  |  |
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| INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLED CHEMISTRY | $\stackrel{8}{\text { Ac }}$ |  |  |  |  | $\stackrel{\stackrel{4}{\text { Pu }}}{ }$ | Am | $\mathrm{Cm}_{\mathrm{cm}}^{96}$ | ${ }_{\text {Bk }}$ | ${ }_{\text {Cf }}^{\text {Cf }}$ | Es | $\stackrel{\text { Fmom }}{\text { F\% }}$ | Md | No | $\stackrel{103}{108}$ |

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Same behavior expected (P-induced polymerization)

- Structural modifications induced by P not so easy to characterize experimentally (weak X-ray scattering)
- P required to induce $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ dissociation much higher than expected initially


## Context

What about Hydrogen?
Double motivation


| $\stackrel{\text { La }}{\text { L }}$ | $\stackrel{\text { cei }}{\substack{\text { cei }}}$ | ${ }_{\text {Pr }}^{\text {Pr }}$ | $\stackrel{\text { Nod }}{\text { Nod }}$ | ${ }_{\text {pmm }}^{\text {sin }}$ |  | ${ }_{\text {Eu }}^{\text {Ex }}$ | ${ }_{\text {cid }}^{\text {cid }}$ | ${ }_{\text {Lib }}^{\text {Lib }}$ | ${ }_{\text {ct }}^{\text {cix }}$ | H\% | ${ }_{\text {Er }}^{\text {Ex }}$ | $\stackrel{\text { com }}{\substack{\text { mim }}}$ |  | $\stackrel{\text { Lin }}{4}$ |
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- $\mathrm{H}: 1^{\text {st }}$ element
- H-H bond : prototypical 2e-2c covalent bond


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A key to understand the
behavior of bonds under pressure

## Context

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> A key to understand the
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- «Polymerized $H$ » should be a metal with appealing properties
- High T superconductor
- Metallic superfluid


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> A key to understand the
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- «Polymerized $H$ » should be a metal with appealing properties
- High T superconductor
- Metallic superfluid
Holly Grail of physics


## Dense solid hydrogen - Summary



Source : I.F. Silvera/Harvard Univ. - Adapted by E. Cononver and J. Hirshfeld (https://www.sciencenews.org/article/pressure-make-metallic-hydrogen)

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- 4 molecular phases known at low T, as P $\nearrow$
- I : $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ freely rotating
- II : orientational ordering
- III : softening of the intramolecular vib


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- Interactions responsible for the coesion are essentially the same
- Essentially the same response to $P$ フ


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## Inter- and intramolecular H-H separations



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Intermolecular


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## Inter- and intramolecular H-H separations

Intermolecular


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## Inter- and intramolecular H-H separations

Intermolecular


Labet, Gonzalez-Morelos, Hoffmann, Ashcorft, JCP, 136, 074501 (2012)


2 competing effects influencing the $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ bond length

## Bond shortening - The physical wall

Diatomic molecule<br>Potential Energy Curve



## Bond shortening - The physical wall

Diatomic molecule<br>Potential Energy Curve




## Bond shortening - The physical wall


$V=\infty$
$\mathrm{H}_{2}$ molecule in a spheroidal box

## Bond shortening - The physical wall



## Bond shortening - The physical wall



LeSar \& Herschbach, J. Phys. Chem 85, 2798 (1981)

## Bond lengthening - Orbital mixing

$$
\mathbb{N}_{\sigma_{8}} \text { - }
$$






$$
\begin{aligned}
& \cdots d_{z} \text { — } \\
& \mathcal{P}^{0} d_{x} \xlongequal{\underline{\mathbb{L}}}
\end{aligned}
$$

## Bond lengthening - Orbital mixing



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## Intermediate summary

## As P increases

H-H intramolecular bonds

| First strengthen <br> and shorten ... | ... then weaken <br> and elongate |
| :--- | :--- |
| «Physical wall» | Orbital mixing |

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Shortening and elongation observed numerically
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What about strengthening and weakening?

Badger's rule
(bond strength related to bond length)

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What about strengthening and weakening?

Badger's rule
(bond strength related to bond length)

Use of topological tools

Relevance of a cluster model ? (easier to manipulate)

## Which structural model for solid H2 under pressure?



Drummond et al., Nature Communications 6, 7794 (2015)

## Which structural model for solid H2 under pressure?

## Distorted

graphenelike layers





C2/c-24 models phase III
P2 ${ }_{1}$ /c-24 models phase II

## The « $3 \mathrm{H}_{2}$ » motif

## Distorted graphenelike layers



P2 ${ }_{1}$ /c-24 models phase II

Non-periodic model


## Non-periodic model



- 6 protons constrained to be on a ring of radius d


## Non-periodic model



- 6 protons constrained to be on a ring of radius d
- $\mathrm{D}_{3 \mathrm{~h}}$ symmetry imposed
$\rightarrow 1$ degree of freedom to optimize $\left(r_{H-H}, R_{\mathrm{H}_{2}-\mathrm{H}_{2}}\right)$


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- d $\downarrow$ to model P $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$


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van der Waals space squeezed out


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$\mathrm{d}(\AA)$



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## Plotting $s=f(\rho)$

$$
s=\frac{1}{C_{S}} \frac{|\nabla \rho|}{\rho^{4 / 3}} \quad \text { Reduced gradient density }
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Reveals the presence of intramolecular interactions

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E. R. Johnson et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2010, 132, 6498.


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## Plotting $s=f(\rho)$

Spikes $\rho \leftrightarrow$ interaction strength

$$
s=\frac{1}{C_{S}} \frac{|\nabla \rho|}{\rho^{4 / 3}} \quad \text { Reduced gradient density }
$$




## NCI index - inventaire of the interactions




## NCI index - inventaire of the interactions



$\lambda_{2}$ : eigenvalue of the $\rho$ Hessian matrix

$$
\left(\lambda_{1}<\lambda_{2}<\lambda_{3}\right)
$$

## NCI index - inventaire of the interactions



$\lambda_{2}<0:$ attractive interaction
$\lambda_{2}>0:$ repulsive interaction

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$$

## NCI index - inventaire of the interactions

Isosurfaces $s=0.5$


2


1. H-H intramolecular covalent bonds
2. Attractive intermolecular interaction (vdW)
3. Repulsive intermolecular interaction

$\lambda_{2}$ : eigenvalue of the $\rho$ Hessian matrix

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## NCI index - evolution with pressure


a)
$d \searrow ; P \nearrow$

## NCI index - evolution with pressure



As d $\searrow$ (models P $\nearrow$ )

- Intermolecular interactions strengthen (both attractive and repulsive)
a)

$d \searrow ; P$ ス


## NCI index - evolution with pressure


$d \searrow ; P$ ス

## NCI index - evolution with pressure



As d $\downarrow$ (models P 7 )

- Intermolecular interactions strengthen (both attractive and repulsive)
- Intramolecular interactions
- Strengthen ( $d>1.25$ )
- Weaken (0.9 < d < 1.25)
- Strengthen again once polymerized $(\mathrm{d}<0.9)$
a)



## NCI index - evolution with pressure



As d $\downarrow$ (models P 7 )

- Intermolecular interactions strengthen (both attractive and repulsive)
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$d \searrow ; ~ P ~ オ ~$


## Badger's rule!

## Comparison with an $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ adapted in length

## At a given d,

comparison of the electronic distribution
$\mathrm{H}_{2}$ of the interacting system
$\mathrm{H}_{2}$ of the interacting system
Isolated from its neighbors


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## Before complete polymerization



## Before complete polymerization



## 3 regimes

$\mathrm{d}(\AA)$


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$\mathrm{d}(\AA)$

$\rho$ organizes like in an isolated molecule having the same length
$\mathrm{H}_{2}$ shorter than a normal mol.
$\rho_{B C P}$ higher than in a «shortened » $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ mol.
$\rho$ reorganization: inter $\rightarrow$ intra

## 3 regimes

$\mathrm{d}(\AA)$

$\rho$ organizes like in an isolated molecule having the same length


Deformation
to avoid intermol. regions
$\rho$ reorganization: inter $\rightarrow$ intra

ELF (0.95) | Deformation |
| :---: |
| to avoid |
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## 3 regimes

$\mathrm{d}(\AA)$
$\mathrm{H}_{2}$ longer
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$\rho$ reorganization: intra $\rightarrow$ inter


ELF (0.95)

Retreat in the intramol.region.
Bonds are breaking.
$\rho$ organizes like in an isolated molecule having the same length


Deformation
to avoid intermol. regions

## 3 regimes

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Deformation
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## Volume of interaction



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Localizing these points in the 3D space allows defining the volume of interaction.

## Volume of interaction



## Summary

## Analysis of H-H distances :

- Coexistence of 2 phenomena having opposite effects on the $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ bond length
- Physical wall (H-H bonds shorter and stiffer)
- Orbital mixing (H-H bonds longer and weaker)


## Topological tools

As $\mathrm{H}_{2}$ molecules are coming closer and closer

- Bond length adaptation + Electronic distribution adaptation
- 3 successive regimes: dipolar attraction, repulsion, bond formation
- Relevance of a very simple non periodic model to capture the essence of the P-induced phnomenon


## After squeezing hydrogen in numerical experiments ...

... experiencing squeezed time


