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Smits, B.; Somers, M.F.

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## The quantum dynamics of H<sub>2</sub> on Cu(111) at a surface temperature of 925 K: Comparing state-of-the-art theory to state-of-the-art experiments

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B. Smits (D) and M. F. Somers (1)

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### **AFFILIATIONS**

Leiden Institute of Chemistry, Gorlaeus Building, Leiden University, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands

<sup>a)</sup>Author to whom correspondence should be addressed: m.somers@chem.leidenuniv.nl

### **ABSTRACT**

We present results of our recently expanded static corrugation model (SCM) approach that included the relevant surface temperature effects, applied to the dissociative chemisorption reaction of H<sub>2</sub> on a Cu(111) surface. The reaction and rovibrationally elastic scattering probabilities that we obtain at a quantum dynamical (QD) level, as an average of many statically distorted surface configurations, show great agreement with those of a dynamic surface model, which reinforces the validity of the sudden approximation inherent to the SCM. We further investigate several simple methods of binning the final rovibrational state of quasi-classical dynamics simulations, to find those best suited to reproduce the QD results for our system. Finally, we show that the SCM obtained results reproduce experimental dissociation curves very well, when the uncertainty in experimental saturation values is taken into account. Some indication of a slow channel, so far only observed in experiment, can also be found at low incidence energies, although more rigorous QD simulations are required to reduce the noise inherent to our propagation methods.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Heterogeneous catalysis is one of the backbones of modern life, being vital in processes such as steam re-forming, for H<sub>2</sub> production, and the Haber–Bosch process, for the production of fertilizers. <sup>1,2</sup> Here, the accurate modeling of gas–surface dissociation reactions is an important topic, as it is often the rate-limiting elementary step in these reactions. <sup>3</sup> Past works often relied on simple static and ideal surface models to describe the elementary reactions, neglecting the potentially important effects of energy exchange with the surface or thermal distortion of the surface. As industrial heterogeneous catalysis processes generally take place well above 0 K, further gains in the description of these simple dissociation reactions can be attained by finding accurate models for describing surface temperature effects. <sup>4</sup>

For this study, our system of choice is the dissociative chemisorption of  $H_2$  on a (thermally excited) Cu(111) surface. This system is one of the model systems in the field of surface science with an array of experimental  $^{5-12}$  and theoretical  $^{13-26}$  data available. In

particular, Kaufmann *et al.* recently presented experimental results that allowed them to fully characterize a slow reaction channel for the system, which shows strong temperature and vibrational dependencies, but has not yet been observed in any theoretical works. Similarly, Chadwick *et al.* recently published sharply defined state-to-state diffraction probabilities at a surface temperature of 130 K, using their molecular interferometry setup. 12,27

Several theoretical works have also recently been published, with Dutta *et al.* presenting their work on the effective Hartree potential (EfHP) approach that included surface temperature effects into H<sub>2</sub> in the Cu(111) model at a quantum dynamical (QD) level.<sup>28,29</sup> Zhu *et al.* demonstrated that an atomistic neural network potential (NNP), with the surface degrees of freedom (DOF) included, can be constructed for several facets of the Cu surface, using only a limited dataset.<sup>21</sup> Smits *et al.* demonstrated that surface temperature effects could be accurately included into 6D quantum dynamical (QD) simulations for the rovibrational ground state of H<sub>2</sub> on Cu(111) using the static corrugation model (SCM),<sup>26</sup> and at

a quasi-classical (QC) level for a range of rovibrational states of  $D_2$  on Cu(111).<sup>23</sup> For other systems, many other approaches for including surface temperature effects have also been suggested, such as the reaction path Hamiltonian (RPH) by Jackson and co-workers, <sup>30–32</sup> the static disorder parameter by Kroes *et al.*, <sup>33</sup> the reactive force-field (RFF) based approach by Busnengo and co-workers, <sup>34–36</sup> ring polymer molecular dynamics (RPMD), <sup>37,38</sup> as well as a variety of high-dimensional NNPs. <sup>39–41</sup>

For this work, we have chosen to make use of the SCM approach to describe the effect of surface temperature on the H<sub>2</sub>/Cu(111) system, as it has been shown to be accurate at both a QC and a QD level for not only dissociation, but also rovibrationally elastic scattering probabilities.<sup>23,26</sup> Our ideal lattice 6D potential energy surface (PES) of choice was fitted by Nattino et al. using the corrugation reducing procedure (CRP),<sup>42</sup> with a dataset obtained using density functional theory (DFT) and the SRP48 functional.<sup>43</sup> SRP48 has already shown to reproduce experimental results to within chemical accuracy with the Born-Oppenheimer static surface (BOSS) approach, where the electron and nuclear dynamics are assumed to be fully separable, and the surface atoms are kept at their ideal lattice positions. 44 The SCM then expands on this potential through the addition of a coupling potential, also fit to SRP48 DFT data, which describes the effect of distorting the surface due to thermal effects. 15 Surface configurations are obtained using an embedded atom method (EAM) potential, which has been shown to accurately reproduce various observables for the copper surface. 45 Electronic friction due to electron-hole pair excitations has been shown to not be relevant for this system, and is thus not included in this model.46

One of the main assumptions of this EAM–SCM approach is that the Cu(111) surface dynamics can be treated at a sudden approximation level, where the surface atoms are not allowed to move. However, the EAM potential can also be used to describe surface motion during dynamics, as the EAM–SCM could be further expanded to the dynamic corrugation model (DCM). Previous work comparing the results obtained with the EAM–SCM and EAM–DCM [for D<sub>2</sub> on Cu(111)] validated the sudden approximation that lies at the base of the SCM and proved the limited effect energy exchange with the surface has on this system.<sup>23</sup> Recent work has also shown the SCM to hold well when applied to 6D QD simulations with a statically distorted surface, when treating the incoming H<sub>2</sub> at its rovibrational ground state, although there were some clear differences found between the QC and QD results for the rovibrationally elastic scattering probabilities.<sup>26</sup>

While we will only treat the H<sub>2</sub>/Cu(111) system, the EAM–SCM approach is expected to be general enough to be used for the reaction of other diatomic molecules reacting on a transition metal surface. In particular, the model is expected to perform well when energy exchange with the surface plays only a minimal effect, either due to a large mass mismatch between the surface atoms and the reactant, and/or due to short interaction times with the surface. It also relies on the availability of (a dataset of) accurate DFT results that can be used to both construct the BOSS potential energy surface (PES), and fit the required SCM potential to statically include the surface temperature effects. For Cu, in particular, previous work has already shown that the SRP48 functional is transferable to other Cu facets, and thus would be an excellent target for future work. The thermally distorted surface configurations needed for the SCM

can be obtained from a variety of sources, such as simple force-fields methods, or constructed using, for example, the Debye–Waller factor. For those systems where energy exchange with the surface is important, the DCM would be required, which would then also require a potential to accurately describe the motion of the surface atoms. This has, however, only been tested for the  $H_2$  and  $D_2$  on Cu systems so far, and is only computationally viable at a (quasi-) classical level due to the large number of surface DOF involved. Similarly, we expect electronic friction models to be able to expand the EAM–SCM, although this is currently also only possible at a classical dynamics level.  $^{49-51}$ 

In this work, we present dissociation and elastic scattering probabilities of H<sub>2</sub> on a (thermally distorted) Cu(111) surface slab, obtained using the BOSS approach and EAM-SCM approach at a modeled surface temperature of 925 K, both using QD and QCD simulations. To complement the results of the previously published rovibrational ground state (of H2), we now also investigate several initial rovibrationally excited states. Static surface EAM-SCM results are compared to EAM-DCM results where the surface is allowed to move, to further verify the quality of the sudden approximation for this system [which had so far only been shown for the D<sub>2</sub>/Cu(111) system]. Several rovibrational binning methods are applied to the final classical state of the QCD results, and compared to the exact quantized 6D simulations to verify the quality of these binning methods when applied to the H<sub>2</sub>/Cu(111) system. Finally, our QD- and QCD-EAM-SCM dissociation probability curves are compared to those obtained from the direct inversion of desorption experiments at the same surface temperature, both at higher incidence energies and at very low reaction probabilities near the curve onset

### II. METHODS

### A. Static corrugation model

The SCM was first described by Wijzenbroek and Somers to statically include surface temperature effects as a correction to the perfect lattice BOSS dynamics commonly used. 15 The model applies a correction to the ideal lattice BOSS PES by including two new contributions: a coupling potential  $V_{coup}$ , which describes the effect of the distorted surface atoms on the incoming reactant molecule, and a strain potential  $V_{strain}$ , which describes the change of potential energy due to the distorted surface atoms interacting with each other. Together with the ideal BOSS PES, these three terms form the full SCM PES, which will describe the potential felt by the reactant due to the thermally distorted surface slab.

$$V_{SCM}(\overrightarrow{r}, \overrightarrow{q}, \overrightarrow{q}^{id}) = V_{BOSS}(\overrightarrow{r}^{id}(\overrightarrow{r}), \overrightarrow{q}^{id}) + V_{coup}(\overrightarrow{r}, \overrightarrow{q}^{id}, \overrightarrow{q}) + V_{strain}(\overrightarrow{q}^{id}, \overrightarrow{q}), \quad (1)$$

where  $\overrightarrow{q}$  describes the positions of all surface atoms,  $\overrightarrow{q}_{id}$  the ideal lattice positions of all surface atoms, and  $\overrightarrow{r}$  the positions of all adsorbed H atoms.  $\overrightarrow{r}^{id}(\overrightarrow{r})$  scales the expanded lattice H<sub>2</sub> coordinates  $\overrightarrow{r}$  along the c.m. vectors U and V to their ideal lattice coordinates in such a way that they correspond to the same relative coordinates on the surface, as the original BOSS PES is only constructed for  $r^{id}$  and the ideal, perfect lattice.<sup>15</sup>

As the SCM still relies on a static surface, this description can be further simplified by neglecting the strain potential during dynamics, since the derivative is a constant value. Thus, the SCM enables the inclusion of thermal lattice distortions into ideal lattice BOSS dynamics, requiring only an expression for the coupling potential. This coupling potential, in turn, only describes the change in energy of the system due to the reactant atoms interacting with a non-ideal surface. In this and previous studies, a form of switched Rydberg function was chosen for the coupling potential that is further modified to an effective three-body term by making each of the function parameters  $(P_{1-7})$  linearly dependent on the distance between the two H atoms in the dissociating molecule,20

$$V_{coup}(\overrightarrow{r}, \overrightarrow{q}^{id}, \overrightarrow{q}) = \sum_{i}^{\overrightarrow{r}} \sum_{j}^{\overrightarrow{q}} \left[ V_{H-Cu}(|\overrightarrow{r_i} - \overrightarrow{q_j}|) - V_{H-Cu}(|\overrightarrow{r_i}^{id}(\overrightarrow{r}) - \overrightarrow{q_j}^{id}|) \right], \qquad (2)$$

where  $\vec{r}_i$  describes the positions of adsorbate *i* and  $\vec{q}_i$  describes the surface atom position j. The switched Rydberg-like function is fit to raw DFT data obtained using the same functional as the BOSS CRP potential<sup>15</sup>

$$V_{H-Cu}(R) = (1 - \rho(R))V(R) + \rho(R)V(P_7)$$
(3)

with

$$V(R) = -e^{-P_4(R-P_5)} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{3} P_k (R - P_5)^k \right)$$
 (4)

and

$$\rho(R) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } R < P_{6}, \\ \frac{1}{2} \cos\left(\frac{\pi(R - P_{7})}{P_{7} - P_{6}}\right) + \frac{1}{2} & \text{for } P_{6} \le R \le P_{7}, \\ 1 & \text{for } R > P_{7}. \end{cases}$$
 (5)

The distorted surface configurations used are obtained from a previous study of D<sub>2</sub> on Cu(111), where they were generated using molecular dynamics with an embedded atom method (EAM) potential.<sup>23</sup> The EAM potential of choice for the copper surface was published by Sheng et al. and has been shown to accurately reproduce a myriad of experimental characteristics, including lattice constant, phonon dispersion curves and thermal expansion coefficients.4

By combining this EAM potential with dynamics using the SCM PES, we can go beyond the static surface approximation of the model. Within this dynamic corrugation model (DCM), the energy of the ideal surface is described by a (CRP) PES obtained from DFT, and energy of the Cu surface atoms is described using the accurate EAM potential. The SCM coupling potential is used both to correct the ideal PES for thermal surface distortions, and to describe the effect of the incoming H<sub>2</sub> on the copper surface atoms. Using the DCM, we are able to explicitly include surface motion and energy exchange into our model. A previous study has already shown that this addition of surface motion [for the D<sub>2</sub> on Cu(111) system] did not have any significant effect on the reaction or scattering probability for this system.<sup>23</sup>

### **B.** Quantum dynamics

To probe the quality of the SCM PES, we perform 6D QD simulations using the time-dependent wave packet (TDWP) approach to solve the time-dependent Schrödinger equation

$$i\hbar \frac{d\Psi(\overrightarrow{Q};t)}{dt} = \hat{H}(\overrightarrow{Q})\Psi(\overrightarrow{Q};t). \tag{6}$$

Here,  $\overrightarrow{Q}(X, Y, Z, r, \theta, \phi)$  is the six-dimensional position vector of the  $H_2$ ,  $\Psi(\overrightarrow{Q};t)$  the time-dependent nuclear wave function of the system, and  $\hat{H}(\hat{Q})$  the time-independent Hamiltonian of the system,

$$\hat{H}(\overrightarrow{Q}) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2M}\nabla^2 - \frac{\hbar^2}{2\mu r^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{2\mu r^2}\hat{J}^2(\theta,\phi) + V(\overrightarrow{Q}), \qquad (7)$$

with M and  $\mu$ , respectively, the mass and reduced mass of the hydrogen molecule, and  $\nabla$  and  $\hat{J}$  the nabla and angular momentum operators.

The initial wave function  $\Psi(\vec{Q}, t=0)$  is represented as the product of a rovibrational wave function  $[\psi_{v,j,m_i}(r,\theta,\phi)]$  of the H<sub>2</sub>, a two-dimensional plane wave function  $[\phi(k_0^X, k_0^Y)]$  along X and Y, and a Gaussian wave packet  $[u(Z; Z_0, k_0^Z)]$  centered around a point far away from the surface

$$\Psi(\overrightarrow{Q}, t = 0) = \psi_{v,j,m_i}(r, \theta, \phi)\phi(k_0^X, k_0^Y)u(Z; Z_0, k_0^Z). \tag{8}$$

The 6D PES  $[V(\overrightarrow{Q})]$  is obtained from either the BOSS approach and described with the SRP48 CRP PES<sup>43</sup> (V<sub>BOSS</sub>), or from the EAM-SCM approach, where this CRP PES is further expanded with the effective three-body SCM coupling potential ( $V_{coup}$ ).  $V_{strain}$ is ignored in this QD-EAM-SCM work, as the surface quantum dynamics is treated on a sudden approximation level during the, otherwise fully correlated, QD of H2. This sudden approximation has already been shown to hold for D<sub>2</sub> at a QC level, as well as for the rovibrational ground state of  $H_2$  at a QD level.  $^{23,26}$  The dataset of thermally distorted surface configurations is obtained from the same study and contains a total of 25 000 configurations from 1000 different traces obtained using molecular dynamics with an EAM potential.<sup>23</sup>

We propagate our WPs using the split operator (SPO) method.

$$\Psi(\overrightarrow{Q}; t_0 + \Delta t) = \exp\left(-\frac{i}{2}K\Delta t\right) \exp(-iV(\overrightarrow{Q})\Delta t)$$

$$\times \exp\left(-\frac{i}{2}K\Delta t\right) \Psi(\overrightarrow{Q}; t_0) + O[(\Delta t)^3], \quad (9)$$

with K being the kinetic energy part of our Hamiltonian, as implemented in our in-house code.<sup>53</sup> Here, the WPs are propagated in a stepwise fashion, first taking a half-step for the free particle propagation, then a full action of the potential is applied, followed by another half-step as a free particle. This stepwise propagation method inherently results in an error  $O[(\Delta t)^3]$  that scales with the size of the time-step used.

A quadratic form of the optical potentials in the scattering and adsorption regions is used,<sup>54</sup> while the scattered fraction is analyzed through the scattering matrix formalism,<sup>55</sup> which yields the scattering probabilities for each rovibrational state and diffraction channel separately. The sticking probability is subsequently calculated by subtracting the sum of all these scattering probabilities from the total possible probability of one. In contrast to the direct flux methods employed in other works,  $^{41,56}$  the scattering amplitude method allows us to directly extract diffraction probabilities and rovibrationally resolved scattering results. Particularly rovibrationally resolved scattering probabilities have already been shown to demonstrate larger QD effects when compared to the non-quantized quasi-classical results for the  $\rm H_2/Cu(111)$  system, and are thus an important part of this work.  $^{26}$  For a more in-depth discussion of the basis of these quantum mechanical methods, we direct the reader to Refs. 53 and 57.

To obtain a single representative dissociation or scattering curve for H<sub>2</sub> reacting with thermally distorted Cu(111) at a QD level, we average the probabilities obtained for a total of 104 unique thermally distorted surface slabs. By averaging over the results obtained from these thermally distorted surface slabs, the quantum dynamics of the surface atom degrees of freedom is effectively done on a sudden approximation level using Monte Carlo sampling. Thus, we essentially perform QD implicitly even for the surface degrees of freedom, but with the approximation that energy exchange between H<sub>2</sub> and the surface is not possible. Furthermore, there is also no energy exchange possible between the vibrations within the solid during the individual QD TDWP runs, making sure that any classical redistribution or leaking of zero point energy is not possible at all. This is where we think the SCM shines compared to other models, employing thermostats and/or other RPMD assumptions (i.e., using Boltzmann statistics and harmonic potentials) especially relevant for  $T_s < 300 \text{ K for Cu.}$ 

For each individual surface configuration, the QD reaction or elastic scattering curve is obtained via three different WPs, one with an energy range 0.10 to 0.30 eV, another 0.25–0.70 eV, and a third 0.65–1.00 eV, as already used in a previous study for the rovibrational ground state. For the initial rotationally excited states, only those states with  $mJ \ge 0$  were considered, with the results for  $mJ \ne 0$  counted twice in the total average per rotational state, to account for the mJ < 0 states. Details regarding the computational parameters for each of these wave packets can be found in the supplementary material.

### C. Quasi-classical dynamics

These QD results are compared with results obtained using the quasi-classical (QC) trajectory approach, both using the BOSS PES and the SCM to model a surface temperature of 925 K. Furthermore, using the DCM, we are able to directly implement surface motion and energy exchange between the reacting  $\rm H_2$  and the Cu surface. For the SCM and BOSS results, a total of 50 000 trajectories were performed for each incidence energy, while for the DCM results, at least 1000 trajectories were performed for each incidence energy.

To initiate the QC trajectories, the c.m. of the incoming  $H_2$  is set 7 Å above the surface in the Z direction, and randomly above the surface between 0 and a in the  $U(=X-Y/\sqrt{3})$  and  $V(=2Y/\sqrt{3})$  directions, with a the lattice constant of our (thermally expanded) surface slab. The molecular angles  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  are randomly chosen from a uniform distribution on the sphere, with  $\cos(\theta)$  ranging from -1 to 1 and  $\phi$  from 0 to  $2\pi$ , respectively. Surface atom

displacements for the EAM–SCM and EAM–DCM approaches are randomly selected from the same dataset of 25 000 surface configurations, as used in the QD. For DCM, each of these surface configurations also includes a matching set of initial momenta, to ensure the surface remains at the target temperature of 925 K. Only those surface atoms within an SCM cutoff distance of 16 bohrs of the unit cell corner (U, V, Z) = (0, 0, 0) and within the top two layers were included for calculating the SCM coupling potential, as was done in all previous studies.  $^{23,26}$ 

The model is expanded from a classical to a quasi-classical level through the addition of a zero point energy of the initial rovibrational state, which is calculated using the Fourier grid Hamiltonian method.<sup>58</sup> A constant time-step propagation for one full vibrational cycle is then performed for the H<sub>2</sub>, which yields the quasi-classical distribution of the H-H distances and corresponding momenta. Internal angular velocities are chosen according to the quantized angular momentum  $L^2 = J(J+1)\hbar^2$ , while the angle  $\theta_L$ between the angular momentum vector and the surface normal is chosen randomly, but constrained by  $\theta_L = \pi$  for J = 0 and  $\cos(\theta_L)$  $= m_i / \sqrt{J(J+1)}$  if  $J \neq 0$ . The rotational mJ states are chosen equally between -J and J, with the number of trajectories increased to ensure each mJ state has the same number of occurrences. This addition of an initial quantized energy state of the H2 to the classical dynamics has been shown to be important to accurately reproduce dissociation for the H<sub>2</sub>/metal system.<sup>5</sup>

Then the H<sub>2</sub> molecules are propagated in the microcanonical ensemble using the PES at a classical level with the Bulirsch–Stoer predictor–corrector algorithm,<sup>59</sup> according to Hamilton's equations of motion, using the simple Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i=0}^{n} \left[ \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} \right] + V[R(t)], \tag{10}$$

where  $p_i$  and  $m_i$  are the momentum and mass of the ith atom, respectively, and V[R(t)] describes the total potential energy of all n atoms at positions R and time t. Propagation ends when the two H atoms move further than 2.25 Å apart for a reactive trajectory, or when the Z c.m. coordinate is further than 7 Å from the surface for a scattered trajectory.

The final rovibrational state of those  $H_2$  molecules that are scattered is determined using several simple binning methods. First, the modulus of the classical angular momentum ( $|L_f|$ ) is calculated,

$$|L_f|^2 = p_\theta^2 + \frac{p_\phi^2}{\sin^2 \theta},$$
 (11)

where  $p_{\theta}$  and  $p_{\phi}$  describe the conjugate momenta along the two molecular angles. This angular momentum is then used to determine a classical "rotational state"

$$J_{classical} = \frac{\sqrt{1 + 4|L_f|^2} - 1}{2},$$
 (12)

which is found by equating  $|L_f|^2$  to J(J+1).

Next, this classical state is binned using one of three methods. Using the standard binning method, which is how we have performed the binning in previous studies, the rotational state is binned to the closest allowed J state, keeping in mind the selection rule for the rotational state of our diatomic molecule:  $\Delta J = \pm 2$ . With

the weighted binning method, the integer rotational state closest to  $J_{classical}$  is chosen, and given a weight of  $W_i = 2$  when it is allowed, or  $W_i = 0$  when it is not allowed, with i for the ith trajectory performed effectively ignoring any trajectory with a disallowed transition. Assuming an equal distribution over all possible classical rotational energies, this would yield an average total weight equal to the number of trajectories performed. Finally, with the floor binning method, the classical rotational state  $J_{classical}$  is rounded downward toward the first allowed J state, keeping in mind the selection rule. For both the standard and floor binning,  $W_i = 1$  is always chosen for every trajectory.

With the rotational state (J) determined, the vibrational state (v) is chosen by finding the rovibrational state that is closest in total rovibrational energy to the states allowed by the binned rotational state. Trajectories are considered rovibrationally elastically scattered when the final rovibrational state of  $H_2$  is binned to the same state as its initial state, and rovibrationally inelastically scattered when the binned final state is not the same as the initial rovibrational state. The  $m_I$  state is not taken into account at all for the final state, as it is degenerate with the other possible  $m_I$  states.

Reaction and scattering probabilities are determined by

$$P = \frac{\sum_{reacted} W}{\sum_{total}},$$
(13)

with W being the weight of each individual trajectory. For the standard and floor binning methods, these probabilities are equal to dividing the number of reacted or scattered trajectories by the total number of trajectories performed.

### D. Comparisons to experiment

We will also compare our theoretical dissociation curves with those reported in several experimental studies. <sup>7,8,11</sup> The experimental results we discuss are all obtained from direct inversion of time of flight (ToF) results obtained from desorption experiments. These inverted data are then fitted to a functional form, which range from very simplistic to quite advanced. Here, we will only concern ourselves with the very simple error function

$$S(v, J, T_s, E_{kin}) = \frac{A(v, J)}{2} \left[ 1 + \text{erf}\left(\frac{E_{kin} - E_0(v, J)}{W(v, J)}\right) \right],$$
 (14)

where the three fitted variables A,  $E_0$ , and W are the saturation value, inflection point, and width, respectively. While absolute  $E_0$  and W parameters can be directly obtained from these inverted ToF spectra, the same cannot be said for the saturation value, where only relative values can be found directly. Thus, experimental studies often fit their curves under the assumption of a saturation value of A=1, while both experimental and theoretical studies rarely ever find such a value. Furthermore, care should be taken when scaling the curves to different saturation values, as some previous studies have found these three parameters to be not entirely independent. Both Refs. 7 and 11 have also used beam adsorption experiments to determine absolute saturation values for their surfaces. It is, however, unclear if these can be directly applied to their experimental desorption data, due to differences in the experimental setup, including surface temperature.

Finally, Kaufmann *et al.* also identified a slow reaction channel, which was fit separately using

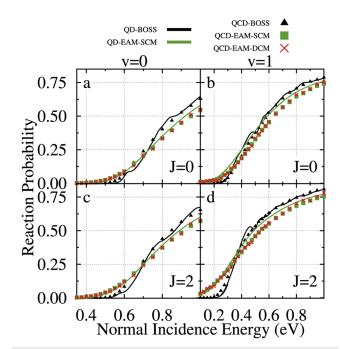
$$S_{slow}(v, J, E_{kin}) = A_{slow}(v, J) \exp\left(\frac{-E_{kin}}{\nu(v, J)}\right), \tag{15}$$

where  $A_{slow}$  defines the amplitude and  $\gamma$  a decay parameter. Previous works by Rettner *et al.* And Hodgson *et al.* as well as all theoretical works to date, did not find this separate channel.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Rovibrationally excited states and a dynamic surface

First, we will compare the reaction probability curves obtained for both the EAM–SCM and EAM–DCM at a QC level to those obtained using QD-EAM–SCM. Previous work has already shown that the QD- and QCD-EAM–SCM results show excellent agreement for the rovibrational ground state of  $H_2$ ;<sup>26</sup> however, this has not yet been verified for the rovibrationally excited states or when also considering the moving surface of the EAM–DCM, as previous comparisons between QCD-EAM–SCM and –DCM were only performed for the  $D_2$  scattering reaction.<sup>23</sup> In Fig. 1, we show some of the reaction probabilities previously obtained for the rovibrational ground state (a), as well as a rotationally excited initial state [(c), v, J = 0, 2]. Similarly, for (b) and (d), we show the results obtained for the vibrationally excited (v = 1) state, for J = 0 and J = 2, respectively.



**FIG. 1.** Reaction probabilities obtained for four initial rovibrational states of H $_2$  on Cu(111): (a) v = 0, J = 0; (b) v = 1, J = 0; (c) v = 0, J = 2; (d) v = 1, J = 2. Included are the QD- and QCD-EAM–SCM results as a green curve and green squares, respectively, QCD-EAM–DCM results as red crosses, and QD- and QCD-BOSS results as a black curve and black triangles, respectively. A modeled surface temperature of 925 K was used for the SCM and DCM.

Next to the QCD- and QD-EAM-SCM results, we also included the QCD- and QD-BOSS results, as well as the QCD-EAM--DCM results.

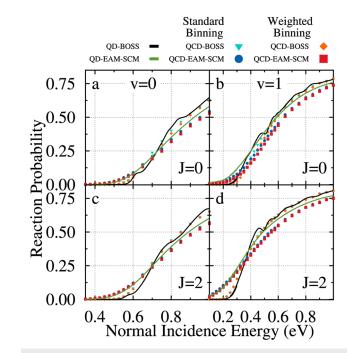
As expected, the agreement between QCD and QD, both for the BOSS and EAM-SCM results is very good, with some minor differences in curve width more prominently visible for the vibrationally excited states. The small fluctuations in the SRP48 CRP PES are much more clearly visible for the QD-BOSS results, compared to the QD-EAM-SCM, primarily due to the averaging over many surfaces we perform to obtain accurate surface temperature effects, as these will smooth out these smaller inconsistencies in the results. The agreement between the QCD-EAM-SCM and -DCM (and thus also with the QD-EAM-SCM) results is again excellent, as was already shown for the D2/Cu(111) system. This observation is perhaps not too surprising, as the mass mismatch between H2 and the Cu surface is even bigger than that of D2 and Cu, but it once again confirms the validity of the sudden approximation for this system, and demonstrates the (lack of) effect of energy exchange for the dissociation reaction.

### B. Binning methods explored

To achieve the best agreement between QCD and QD results, we also compare three (relatively simple) binning methods to obtain the final rovibrational state of our QCD simulations. This is especially valuable not just for this work, but also for future studies, as finding which QCD binning method compares best compared to rigorous QD simulations will be very important when comparing rovibrationally (in)elastic scattering probabilities. We show the effects of these binning methods on the final dissociation probabilities we compute in Fig. 2, again for (a) the rovibrational ground state, (b) a vibrationally excited state, (c) a rotationally excited state, (d) and a rovibrationally excited state. As only the weighted binning will have an effect on the final reaction probabilities compared to the standard and floor binning, we have not included the floor binning in this figure. We include binned QCD results obtained with both the BOSS and EAM–SCM PES, as well as QD results from those PESs as a comparison.

We find the same trend for all four rovibrational states, with the standard binning method resulting in slightly higher reaction probabilities compared to the weighted binning. This effect is most noticeable for the J=0 states, where the reaction is up to 3 percent points higher when using the standard binning method, which could be explained by the lack of lower energy rovibrational states to scatter into, compared to the J=2 states. In general, these slightly higher probabilities found using standard binning improves agreement with the QD results, both for BOSS and for EAM–SCM, although this effect is small enough that it will not significantly affect any conclusions made using either method.

The same cannot really be said when considering the rovibrationally elastic scattering curves for the three binning methods we have included. Figures 3 and 4 present the scattering probabilities for the vibrational ground and first excited state, respectively, split for the standard (a), (d), and (g), weighted (b), (e), and (h), and floor (c), (f), and (j) binning methods. Again, we take into account the rotational ground state [(a)-(c); J=0], but now two additional excited states: (d)–(f) J=1, and (g)–(j) J=2. Next to the binned QCD-EAM–SCM and QCD-BOSS results, we also included the binned



**FIG. 2.** Reaction probabilities obtained for four initial rovibrational states of  $H_2$  on Cu(111): (a) v=0, J=0; (b) v=1, J=0; (c) v=0, J=2; (d) v=1, J=2. The QD results for the BOSS and EAM—SCM results are shown as black and green curves, respectively, while the QCD-BOSS results are displayed as cyan triangles for the standard binning and orange diamonds for weighted binning. The QCD-EAM—SCM results show as blue circles for standard binning and red squares for weighted binning. A modeled surface temperature of 925 K was used for the SCM and DCM

QCD-EAM-DCM results. QD-BOSS and -EAM-SCM results are again included as a comparison.

As noted before, the agreement between the QCD-EAM–DCM and QCD-EAM–SCM results is again excellent regardless of the binning method chosen. This matches the findings of earlier work for  $D_2$  on Cu(111), and further shows its independence of the binning method used.

The floor binning method heavily overestimates the elastic scattering probabilities at lower incidence energies compared to the QD results, or underestimates when the initial state is not the lowest allowed rotational state available. Interestingly, this also applies for the vibrationally excited states, suggesting that there is little conversion of vibrational to rotational energy, at least at the QCD level. At high incidence energies, the agreement with the QD results does appear to be relatively good, although we do not think this binning method is in general, a good choice for comparisons to QD results.

We find that the standard binning method generally predicts lower scattering probabilities compared to the weighted binning, which can be partially explained by the slightly higher reaction probabilities found for standard binning. Furthermore, those trajectories that are found with a "classical rotational state" slightly above the first rotational state of the incoming molecule  $(\Delta J = +1)$  are often binned "upward" to the first allowed state when using standard

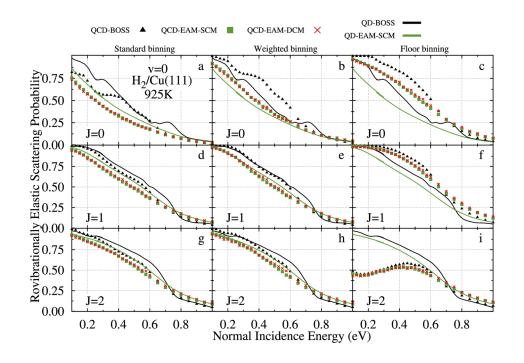


FIG. 3. Rovibrationally elastic scattering probabilities of H2 on a Cu(111) surface, obtained for the vibrational ground state (v = 0), and three rotational states: (a)-(c) J = 0; (d)-(f) J = 1; and (g)-(i) J = 2. Results are shown for the (a), (d), and (g) standard, (b), (e), and (h) weighted, and (c), (f), and (i) floor binning methods. Included are QD- and QCD-EAM-SCM results as a green curve and green squares, respectively, QD- and QCD-BOSS results as a black curve and black triangles, respectively, and finally the QCD-EAM-DCM results as red crosses. A modeled surface temperature of 925 K was used for the SCM and DCM.

binning, while these states are completely disregarded for weighted binning. This effect would result in higher probabilities for the lower rotational states when dealing with lower incidence energies, as their energy would not be high enough to "push" the scattered molecules all the way to the next allowed state. We expect this effect to be especially strong for those states where the lowest allowed rotational

state is also the initial state, in our results J = 0 and J = 1, and to be much more important for the scattering results, compared to the dissociation probabilities. However, it appears to be clearly noticeable only for the rovibrational ground state, where there is no vibrational energy to convert to higher rotational states, and to be somewhat important for the v = 1, J = 0 state. Neither of the J = 1

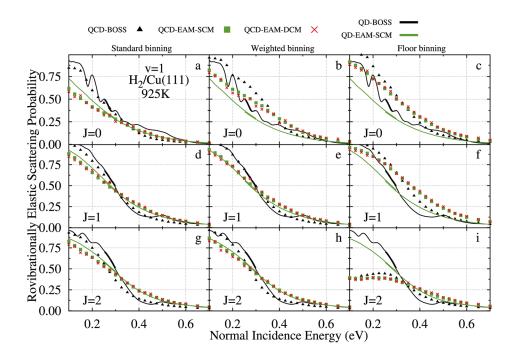


FIG. 4. Rovibrationally elastic scattering probabilities of H<sub>2</sub> on a Cu(111) surface, obtained for the first vibrationally excited state (v = 1), and three rotational states: (a)-(c) J = 0; (d)-(f) J = 1; and (g)–(i) J = 2. Results are shown for the (a), (d), and (g) standard, (b), (e), and (h) weighted, and (c), (f), and (i) floor binning methods. Included are QD- and QCD-EAM-SCM results as a green curve and green squares, respectively, QD- and QCD-BOSS results as a black curve and black triangles, respectively, and finally the QCD-EAM-DCM results as red crosses. A modeled surface temperature of 925 K was used for the SCM and DCM.

states shows any significant difference that we can ascribe to this binning effect.

In general, the QCD binning method that leads to the best agreement with the QD results appears to heavily depend on the initial rovibrational state of the  $H_2$ . Standard binning performs somewhat better than the weighted binning for the v=0 states and the v=1, J=0 state, while the weighted binning method performs slightly better for the v=1, J=1, 2 states, although not much. The standard binning method underestimates the elastic scattering probabilities for the v=1 states primarily at the lower incidence energies, where reaction is also lower, whereas the weighted binning overestimates the v=1, J=0 probabilities much more over the entire energy range, which shows almost perfect agreement for the rotationally excited states.

For further comparisons to experimental work, the QCD results we present will be obtained using the standard binning method, as it is the method used in our previous studies. However, future work could focus on applying more complicated Gaussian binning methods, which have shown to improve agreement with QD results when properly used. <sup>60,61</sup>

### C. Comparisons to experiment

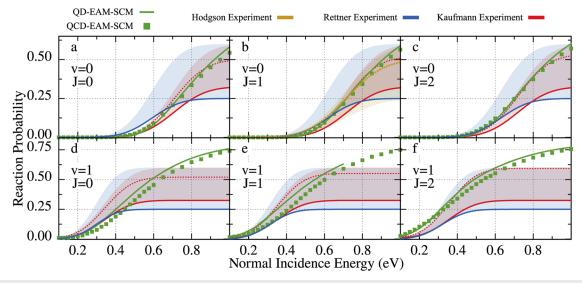
Having chosen a binning method that yields QCD results that accurately reproduce our QD curves, we next aim to further validate the (QD-)EAM–SCM approach by comparing our reaction probability curves to those obtained in experimental studies. The three studies we compare to—published by Rettner *et al.*, Hodgson *et al.* and Kaufmann *et al.*—<sup>11</sup> all obtained their results from desorption experiments, from direct inversion of their ToF results, under the assumption of detailed balance.

As we discuss in section D., this allows these studies to fit absolute values of the width parameter (W) and the inflection point ( $E_0$ ) as described in Eq. (14). However, only relative saturation values (A) can be obtained from these experiments. Several approaches were suggested to obtain saturation values that allow for an accurate comparison to our theoretical results.

First, both Rettner *et al.* and Kaufmann *et al.* have performed beam adsorption experiments on their surfaces, which would yield accurate absolute saturation values of  $A^{Rett} = 0.25$  eV and  $A^{Kauf} = 0.35$  eV, respectively; however, due to differences in experimental conditions, it is unclear if this can directly apply. Primarily, the much lower surface temperature of 120 K (vs 925 K here), the use of an incidence angle to vary the normal incidence energy of the molecular beam, and the final rovibrational composition of this beam could all have an effect on the final results of the adsorption measurements, when compared to the desorption experiments. Additional discussion on these differences can be found in Ref. 11.

Next, it is suggested to use the theoretical curves to estimate an appropriate saturation value, by setting the saturation value to be equal to the theoretical sticking probability at the incidence energy to which the experiment is sensitive. This will generally yield values in the range 0.50–0.60 eV. Finally, Wijzenbroek and Somers also found very good agreement between the experimental results of Hodgson *et al.* and Rettner *et al.* when the saturation for the Hodgson results is chosen as two times that of the Rettner curve  $(A^{Hodg} = 0.50 \text{ eV}).$ 

In Fig. 5 we present these fitted experimental S-curves, and compare them to our QD- and QCD-EAM-SCM results. We have again included the initial rovibrational states of (v, J) = (0, 0),



**FIG. 5.** Reaction probabilities obtained for six initial rovibrational states of  $H_2$  on Cu(111): (a) v = 0, J = 0; (b) v = 0, J = 1; (c) v = 0, J = 2; (d) v = 1, J = 0; (e) v = 1, J = 0; (e) v = 1, J = 0; (f) v = 1, J = 0; (f) v = 1, J = 0; (g) v = 1, J = 0; (e) v = 1, J = 0; (f) v = 1, J = 0; (g) v = 1, J = 0; (h) v = 1, J = 0; (e) v = 1, J = 0; (f) v = 1, J = 0; (h) v = 1, J = 0; (e) v = 1, J = 0; (f) v = 1, J = 0; (h) v = 1, J = 0; (e) v = 1, J = 0; (f) v = 1, J = 0; (h) v = 1; (h

(0, 1), (0, 2), (1, 0), (1, 1), and (1, 2) for (a)–(f), respectively. The uncertainty in the saturation values is shown as shaded areas for each of the curves, choosing as a minimum the results from the beam adsorption experiments when available, or  $A_{Min}^{Hodg}=0.25$  for the curve where these data are not available. As a maximum, a value of A=0.60 eV is chosen, as no experimental works to our knowledge has reported values higher than this. Thus, the shaded areas of each color reflects the range of A parameters [see Eq. (14)] each of the experimental curves could have, and visualizes the uncertainty in the experimental absolute saturation values. Also included as solid lines are those curves where experimental beam adsorption results were used to obtain saturation values, when available for the experimental study, however these did not use exactly the same conditions as the desorption experiments that were fitted originally.

Finally, the estimated saturation values for the work by Hodgson *et al.*, based on the experimental work by Rettner *et al.*, and those estimated based on the theoretical sticking probabilities are included as dashed lines in orange and red. respectively. The theoretically estimated saturation values of the Kaufmann experimental fit are set to be equal to our QCD-EAM–SCM results at the highest available energy of the experimental results, as has been done in previous studies. <sup>11,16</sup>

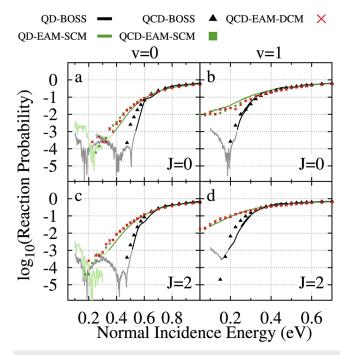
Comparing the experimental results to each other, keeping in mind especially the uncertainty in saturation values, we find good agreement. Only for the rovibrational ground state do we find some disagreement for the curve onset, which cannot be directly explained by this uncertainty. Interestingly, the experimentally obtained curves with saturation values predicted based on the desorption experiments (shown as solid lines in blue and red) show much better agreement for the vibrationally excited states, compared to the vibrational ground state. Kaufmann *et al.* similarly make this observation when directly comparing experimentally obtained  $E_0$  and W parameters. They believe this disagreement to be primarily caused by errors in the calibration of the older works by Rettner *et al.*, which primarily affected accurate analysis of the faster (less rovibrationally excited) molecules.  $^{11}$ 

We had already previously noted the generally good agreement between the QCD- and QCD-EAM–SCM results for some of these rovibrational states, although the differences for the vibrationally excited states is also clearly present for the  $v=0,\ J=1$  state, with the QD results predicting a slightly higher dissociation probability across the entire energy range investigated.

Choosing the experimental saturation values based on the theoretical sticking values, in particular, leads to great agreement, as can be seen when comparing the red dashed line to our theoretical results in green for every state, except for v=1, J=0. For this state in particular, we do see excellent overlap between the QD-EAM–SCM results and the results presented by Kaufmann *et al.*, with a saturation value based on their beam adsorption experiments. Overall agreement between the theoretical work and the experimental work is good, with the theoretical results falling well within the range of experimental saturation values we expect.

### D. Log scale results

To more carefully inspect the curve onset of our dissociation results, we have plotted them again on a logarithmic scale. In Fig. 6 we again present our QD- and QCD-EAM-SCM, QD-



**FIG. 6.** Reaction probabilities obtained for four initial rovibrational states of  $H_2$  on Cu(111): (a) v=0, J=0; (b) v=1, J=0; (c) v=0, J=2; (d) v=1, J=2, with the reaction probabilities on a logarithmic scale. Theoretical QD- and QCD-EAM–SCM results are shown as a green curve and green squares. respectively, and QD- and QCD-BOSS results as a black curve and black triangles, respectively, QD results, where noise is expected to play a major role, are shown as a lighter shade curve. QCD-EAM–DCM results are included as red crosses. A modeled surface temperature of 925 K was used for all the SCM and DCM results.

and QCD-BOSS results, as well as the QCD-EAM-DCM results, where a moving surface is included. The rovibrational states are the same as presented in Fig. 1., also using the same curves and symbols.

One of the first things that can be clearly noticed is the unexpected noise, or unexpected curvature, found in the QD results of both the BOSS and EAM-SCM results. As the reaction probabilities reach very low values, noise from our QD implementation starts becoming a much more important factor of the final results. This noise can clearly be seen in the unphysical behavior in the BOSS curves, when considering the vibrational ground state (a) and (c) results at low incidence energies. One of the main contributions of this noise, we believe, is the error inherent to the SPO method in Eq. (9), which is inherent to the step-wise integration method of the SPO and scales with  $\Delta t^3$ . Thus smaller and smaller time-steps are needed to accurately describe reaction probabilities  $(P \lesssim 10^{-3})$  much lower than those we have used for our calculations (see the supplementary material). Reducing the time-step by a factor 10 should reduce the expected noise due to the SPO propagation by as much as a factor of 10<sup>3</sup>, while only increasing the computational load by a factor of 10. However, other factors and parameters of the WPs would also start to play a more dominant role in the final error that we observe. We consider the additional computational time needed to properly sample enough distorted surfaces

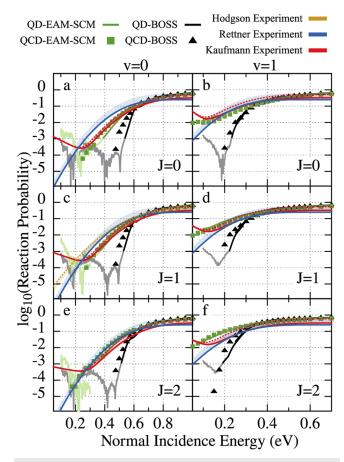
for the SCM while also reducing this time-step to be unfeasible for this study, although we believe it could be an important topic for later work.

Those results that we expect to be either partially or perhaps fully dominated by this noise, we have included using a different curve color, with a lighter shade of either black for BOSS or green for the EAM-SCM results. However, an upturn of the reaction probability does seem to appear for very low incidence energies, which is not visible at all for our QCD results. Recent work by Dutta et al. report a similar upturn for the D<sub>2</sub>/Cu(111) system, investigated with the same SRP48 BOSS PES and QD implementation, but using the effective Hartree potential method, to include surface temperature effects.<sup>29</sup> They believe this could be attributed to the vibrational degrees of freedom, due to a modeled elevated surface temperature, which could match the slow channel as reported by Kaufmann et al.11 This EfHP work, however, uses the same SPO propagation method and is thus also expected to exhibit errors of a similar magnitude as our work, which is covered in both works. Furthermore, we also observe an upturn for the ideal lattice BOSS model, which suggests something more than purely attributing this to surface vibrational DOF. Thus, this would be a prime target for further studies, using more carefully crafted WPs and employing much smaller time-steps in the SPO to investigate the very low incidence energy regions of our H<sub>2</sub> on the Cu(111) system, because at the moment we also do not yet have theoretical explanations of why such an upturn should be present in our BOSS results.

For the higher incidence energies, where the error in our QD results is expected to be small, we do still see great agreement with the QCD results, both for the BOSS and EAM-SCM results. The much more rapid drop in reactivity as the incidence energy decreases seen in the BOSS results, when compared to the EAM-SCM results, matches the observation of increased curve broadness when higher surface temperatures are taken into account. 15,16,62 For both PESs and every initial rovibrational state, the QCD calculations yield slightly higher reaction probabilities, except for the EAM-SCM results of the v = 1, J = 0 state, where this relation is inverted. This confirms again the quality of the EAM-SCM implementation at a QD level, and shows that we can accurately include the thermal surface effects into our QD simulations, even at lower energies. Furthermore, the EAM-DCM results almost perfectly match those of the EAM-SCM, again showing the validity of a static surface approximation for our specific system, and the minimal effect energy exchange has for this dissociation reaction.

Finally, in Fig. 7, we will compare the curve onset of our theoretical dissociation curves to those found in the experimental works that we considered. The same states and results are presented as we had shown in Fig. 5, but now we also included the QD- and QCD-BOSS results. Again we have used shaded areas to mark the uncertainty in the absolute experimental A values, which appears as a small static shift on the logarithmic scale. Furthermore, the contribution of the slow reaction channel reported by Kaufmann et al. now also becomes much more apparent at low incidence energies. Neither the work by Rettner et al. nor the work by Hodgson et al. reported observing this channel in their work.

Overlap between our QD- and QCD-EAM--SCM curves and the experimental results of Kaufmann *et al.* is, in general, excellent



**FIG. 7.** Reaction probabilities obtained for six initial rovibrational states of  $H_2$  on Cu(111): (a) v=0, J=0; (b) v=1, J=0; (c) v=0, J=1; (d) v=1, J=1; (e) v=0, J=2; (f) v=1, J=2, with the reaction probabilities on a logarithmic scale. Theoretical QD- and QCD-EAM—SCM results are shown as a green curve and green squares, respectively, and QD- and QCD-BOSS results as a black curve and black triangles, respectively. QD results, where noise is expected to play a major role, are shown as a lighter shade. The experimental curves by Hodgson et al,  $^8$  Rettner et al.  $^7$  and Kaufmann et al.  $^{11}$  are included in orange, blue, and red, respectively, with the uncertainty in the saturation value parameters of the experimental fits shown as shaded areas. Additional curves are shown the same as in Fig. 5. A (modeled) surface temperature of 925 K was used for all these results.

even for very low reaction probabilities, with the biggest differences found for the rovibrational ground state and the highest excited state that we included (v=1, J=2). However, a clear difference is found for the QCD-EAM–SCM results at very low incidence energies, as they do not predict any kind of slow channel. While the QD-EAM–SCM, and even the QD-BOSS, results do appear to predict an increase in reactivity at these very low energies, it is at the moment, still unclear if this is an actual physical effect or an artifact introduced by our QD approach (or the CRP BOSS PES). Nevertheless, an upturn has been observed both in this study, and by Dutta *et al.* using a similar QD approach, but with a different method for including surface temperature effects, but also using the same BOSS PES and the same  $V_{coup}$  of the SCM to construct

the effective time-dependent Hartree potential.<sup>29</sup> Again it should be emphasized, that this work, as well as the work of Dutta et al., is still as of yet inconclusive, given the expected magnitude of errors in the QD simulations for these low probabilities. Fascinating though is the suggested presence of the apparent signal, even in our older BOSS calculations, and as of yet we lack an explanation for it (predominantly because of the errors in the approximations that we have to make in the QD). Thus, a more thorough theoretical investigation of this upturn, both with the SCM and the EfHP method, would be a very important topic for further studies. However, these computations will be computationally challenging, as reducing the time-step by a factor of 10 will increase the computational costs by a factor of 10. Especially when also considering this for  $T_s$  = 925 K. One then has to perform these ten times more expensive calculations for at least 100 individual surface configurations, making such a study truly state-of-the-art and currently out of the scope for this paper.

### IV. CONCLUSION

We investigated the quality of the EAM-SCM approach, including all relevant surface temperature effects, at both a quantum dynamical and quasi-classical level, using the dissociative chemisorption of H<sub>2</sub> on Cu(111) (at a surface temperature of 925 K) as a model system. We computed both reaction and rovibrationally elastic scattering probabilities, and compared those to values obtained from the dynamic surface EAM-DCM and to H2 sticking curves from experimental studies. We also investigated several simple binning methods, to validate the agreement between the QCD probabilities and those obtained using rigorous quantum dynamics simulations. Our BOSS PES was constructed by Nattino et al. 43 using the CRP, with data points obtained from DFT using the SRP48 functional, while the SCM distorted surface corrections were described by the effective three-body SCM coupling potential as published by Spiering et al.<sup>20</sup> The thermally distorted surface configurations for the SCM were obtained from a highly accurate EAM potential using molecular dynamics, as published previously by Smits

While previous work had already shown that the QCD- and QD-EAM-SCM dissociation probabilities agreed well for the rovibrational ground state, we demonstrated that this also holds true for several initially rovibrationally excited states. The three different binning methods that we investigated did not appear to significantly affect these probabilities, although weighted binning did slightly reduce the predicted QCD reaction probabilities, which reduced agreement with the QD curves.

Much bigger effects were found for the rovibrational elastic scattering, where either this weighted binning or our standard binning demonstrated better agreement with the curves obtained from QD simulations, for both the EAM-SCM and the BOSS approach. The final method of binning—floor binning—was found to greatly overestimate rovibrationally elastic scattering probabilities for the lower energy rovibrational states, but then greatly underestimated the same probabilities for those states that had more rovibrational energy available and had allowed scattering states with similar energies. As it only affected the determination of the final state of scattered molecules, the floor binning did not change the reaction probabilities compared to our standard binning method. Overall, we believe that both the standard and weighted binning methods performed equally well, and as such could both be of interest for further studies.

Taking into account the uncertainty in absolute experimental saturation values, due to the nature of the direct inversion of desorption results used in the experimental method, we also found excellent agreement between our (QD-)EAM-SCM results and the experimental curves published by Rettner et al., Hodgson et al.8 and Kaufmann et al. 11 Even for the curve onset, where reaction is best plotted on a logarithmic scale, we see good overlap with our theoretical results. At very low incidence energies, our QD results even indicate a small upturn in reaction, similar to those found by Kaufmann et al., also found by Dutta et al. using their EfHP method and the same QD code,<sup>29</sup> but not been reported before in any other theoretical works. However, great care should be taken when interpreting our QD results in this regime, as the very low probabilities involved enables the noise inherent to the SPO method to become an important contribution to our final results. More carefully constructed wave packets, using a much smaller time-step to minimize the error when propagating, would allow for a more thorough analysis of this slow channel using QD simulations.

In general, this work has shown that the EAM-SCM approach, which included surface temperature effects into quasi-classical and quantum dynamical simulations, works well for the H2 on the Cu(111) system, at least at a surface temperature of 925 K. Comparisons to the dynamic surface EAM-DCM results further validate the sudden approximation made in the model, while comparisons to experimental results show that the model holds both for the rovibrational ground state, as well as several rovibrationally excited states. However, several other observables found in the literature, such as rotational/vibrational efficacies and rovibrationally inelastic scattering probabilities, have not yet been verified, and thus are an interesting subject for further study. Equally, the noise introduced by the SPO method made it difficult to convincingly show that the slow channel of the H<sub>2</sub>/Cu(111) system can be observed at a theoretical level using the EAM-SCM and thus would be an excellent target for further work, both using our SCM and the EfHP method by Dutta et al.

### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

See the supplementary material for the computational details of the TDWP quantum dynamics simulations of H2 dissociation on a Cu(111) surface.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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### **AUTHOR DECLARATIONS**

### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors have no conflicts to disclose.

### **Author Contributions**

**B. Smits**: Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Software (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal); Writing – original draft (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **M.F. Somers**: Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Funding acquisition (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Project administration (equal); Resources (equal); Software (equal); Supervision (equal); Validation (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal).

### **DATA AVAILABILITY**

The data that support the findings of this study are openly available from the research group's public repository at <a href="https://pubs.tc.lic.leidenuniv.nl/">https://pubs.tc.lic.leidenuniv.nl/</a>.

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