

### Supporting Information Available:

\* Cartesian coordinates and absolute energies of the stationary points and conical intersections of formaldehyde ( $\text{H}_2\text{CO}$ ) optimized at the CAS-SCF(10,9)/6-31G\* level.

\* Cartesian coordinates of the branching plane vectors of the conical intersections of formaldehyde ( $\text{H}_2\text{CO}$ ) optimized at the CAS-SCF(10,9)/6-31G\* level.

\* Full citation of Gaussian.

\* MEP movies (to open with Quicktime), starting from four different points, and leading to the molecular products in  $S_0$ :

- a) from  $S_0$  TS ("CH2O\_MEP\_from\_S0TS.mpg");
- b) from CsCoIn ("CH2O\_MEP\_from\_CsCoIn.mpg");
- c) from C1CoIn ("CH2O\_MEP\_from\_C1CoIn.mpg");
- d) from a point midway along the CoIn intersection seam ("CH2O\_MEP\_from\_midCoIn.mpg").

\* Seam-MEP movie (to open with Quicktime) within the intersection space, connecting CsCoIn to C1CoIn ("CH2O\_Seam\_MEP.mpg").

\* Branching Space vectors animations (to open with Quicktime):

- 1) CsCoIn Gradient Difference ("CsCoIn\_GD\_animation.mpg");
- 2) CsCoIn Derivative Coupling ("CsCoIn\_DC\_animation.mpg");
- 3) C1CoIn Gradient Difference ("C1CoIn\_GD\_animation.mpg");
- 4) C1CoIn Derivative Coupling ("C1CoIn\_DC\_animation.mpg").

**Absolute energies of the stationary points and conical intersections of formaldehyde (H<sub>2</sub>CO) optimized at the CAS-SCF(10,9)/6-31G\* level. Values are given in Eh.**

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Structure		Energy
S <sub>0</sub> minimum	S <sub>1</sub> (FC)	-113.83138
	S <sub>0</sub>	-113.99620
S <sub>0</sub> TS	S <sub>0</sub>	-113.85603
S <sub>1</sub> minimum	S <sub>1</sub>	-113.85525
	S <sub>0</sub>	-113.93950
C <sub>1</sub> S <sub>1</sub> TS*	S <sub>1</sub>	-113.81139
	S <sub>0</sub>	-113.86700
C <sub>1</sub> S <sub>1</sub> /S <sub>0</sub> CI*	S <sub>1</sub>	-113.82506
	S <sub>0</sub>	-113.82519
C <sub>s</sub> S <sub>1</sub> /S <sub>0</sub> CI*	S <sub>1</sub>	-113.76542
	S <sub>0</sub>	-113.76554

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\* State-averaged calculations without CP-MCSCF corrections.

**Cartesian coordinates (XYZ) for the CAS-SCF/6-31G\* optimized structures.** Values are given in Å.

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*S<sub>0</sub> minimum*

6	0.000000	0.000000	-0.529712
8	0.000000	0.000000	0.681346
1	0.000000	0.938994	-1.136246
1	0.000000	-0.938994	-1.136246

*S<sub>0</sub> TS*

6	0.118436	0.485251	0.000000
8	0.118436	-0.695473	0.000000
1	-1.532134	1.115548	0.000000
1	-0.125975	1.536725	0.000000

*S<sub>1</sub> minimum*

6	0.045377	0.624000	0.000000
8	0.045377	-0.736630	0.000000
1	-0.317642	1.074521	0.942892
1	-0.317642	1.074521	-0.942892

*C<sub>1</sub> S<sub>1</sub> TS*

6	-0.486401	-0.188598	-0.149585
8	0.695072	0.057634	0.046670
1	-1.312513	1.205768	0.051559
1	-1.329661	-0.535250	0.472593

*C<sub>1</sub> S<sub>1</sub>/S<sub>0</sub> CI*

6	-0.419241	-0.277467	-0.116455
8	0.696955	0.119339	0.039608
1	-1.693121	1.204109	-0.025346
1	-1.367074	-0.494016	0.407213

*C<sub>s</sub> S<sub>1</sub>/S<sub>0</sub> CI*

6	-0.124422	0.575044	0.000000
8	-0.124422	-0.680093	0.000000
1	0.870957	0.995238	0.519380
1	0.870957	0.995238	-0.519380

**Cartesian coordinates (XYZ) for the branching plane vectors of the CAS-SCF(10,9)/6-31G\* optimized  $C_1$   $S_1/S_0$  CI and  $C_s$   $S_1/S_0$  CI. Values are given in Å.**

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*$C_1$   $S_1/S_0$  CI*

*Derivative Coupling*

6	0.0003047243	-0.0022193923	0.0298395934
8	0.0063249382	0.0047690791	-0.0132925433
1	0.0062864938	-0.0131357573	0.0062023095
1	-0.0129161562	0.0105860706	-0.0227493596

*Unscaled Gradient Difference*

6	-0.0850783711	0.0978267325	0.0400034388
8	0.0276372647	-0.0246765943	-0.0034711891
1	0.0248678616	-0.0135569800	-0.0268049798
1	0.0325732448	-0.0595931582	-0.0097272699

*$C_s$   $S_1/S_0$  CI*

*Derivative Coupling*

6	0.0000000000	0.0000000000	-0.0011857772
8	0.0000000000	0.0000000000	0.0008678821
1	0.0058657689	0.0018077785	0.0001589475
1	-0.0058657689	-0.0018077785	0.0001589476

*Unscaled Gradient Difference*

6	0.0296881636	-0.0016151043	0.0000000000
8	-0.0083385274	-0.0031949321	0.0000000000
1	-0.0106748181	0.0024050182	0.0298012381
1	-0.0106748181	0.0024050182	-0.0298012381

#### **Full citation of Gaussian (Ref. 4 in the paper)**

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Gaussian Development Version, Revision G.01, M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, J. A. Montgomery, Jr., T. Vreven, G. Scalmani, B. Mennucci, V. Barone, G. A. Petersson, M. Caricato, H. Nakatsuji, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, X. Li, H. P. Hratchian, J. E. Peralta, A. F. Izmaylov, K. N. Kudin, J. J. Heyd, E. Brothers, V. N. Staroverov, G. Zheng, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, J. L. Sonnenberg, F. Ogliaro, M. Bearpark, P. V. Parandekar, G. A. Ferguson, N. J. Mayhall, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, N. Rega, J. C. Burant, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, J. E. Knox, J. B. Cross, V. Bakken, C. Adamo, J. Jaramillo, R. Gomperts, R. E. Stratmann, O. Yazyev, A. J. Austin, R. Cammi, C. Pomelli, J. W. Ochterski, P. Y. Ayala, K. Morokuma, G. A. Voth, P. Salvador, J. J. Dannenberg, V. G. Zakrzewski, S. Dapprich, A. D. Daniels, M. C. Strain, O. Farkas, D. K. Malick, A. D. Rabuck, K. Raghavachari, J. B. Foresman, J. V. Ortiz, Q. Cui, A. G. Baboul, S. Clifford, J. Cioslowski, B. B. Stefanov, G. Liu, A. Liashenko, P. Piskorz, I. Komaromi, R. L. Martin, D. J. Fox, T. Keith, M. A. Al-Laham, C. Y. Peng, A. Nanayakkara, M. Challacombe, W. Chen, M. W. Wong, and J. A. Pople, Gaussian, Inc., Wallingford CT, 2007.