Supplementary Information:

Identifying molecular structural features by pattern recognition methods

Qing Lu*

Beijing National Laboratory for Molecular Sciences, Institute of Chemistry, Chinese

Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100190, China

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Figure S1. Different isomers with their convex hulls. Top two panels: the convex hulls of cis-2-butene, and trans-2-butene; bottome two panels: the convex hulls of cyclohexane in armchair conformation and boat conformation.



Figure S2. The comparison of proteins and its distorted coundterpart. The random noise is set as ± 1.5 Å a) Structures of protein (Protein Database code, 1AKI, in orange) and distorted, shuffled protein (blue); b) the convex hulls for protein and distorted, shuffled protein c) the convex hulls after orientation and ICP iterations; d) the structure superposition of protein 1aKI and its distorted counterpart. The distorted, shuffled protein geometry is multiplied with the rotation matrix constructed by matching convex hulls. See text for details.



Figure S3. a) Convex hulls of CH_4 (orange), SiH_4 (blue) and GeH_4 (dark green) after orientation and ICP matching; b) the aligned atomic geometry of CH_4 (orange), SiH_4 (blue) and GeH_4 (dark green) after orientation and ICP matching;



Figure S4. Comparison of convex hull area (orange dots), TPSA area (blue dots) and SASA area (purple dots).

The correlation coefficient between convex hull area and TPSA area is 0.73; the correlation coefficient between convex hull area and SASA area is 0.84.



Figure S5. Comparison of convex hull volume (orange dots) and vdw volume (blue dots).

The figure below shows the corresponding convex hull volume (orange) and the vdw volume (blue). The correlation coefficient is 0.81