

CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS SEMINAR

Thursday 26 February at 14:30

Simpkins Lee Seminar Room, Department of Physics

(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/WjG71uLF2D48n85B6>)

Machine Learning-Accelerated Discovery of High-Temperature Superconductors

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We present Alexandria, the largest academic database of calculated materials properties for inorganic solids, and demonstrate its application to the discovery of high-temperature conventional superconductors. The construction of Alexandria relies heavily on the massive acceleration provided by recent machine learning methods. This database serves as a training dataset for developing predictive models across multiple materials properties, such as universal machine-learning interatomic potentials or structure-property relationships. One such property is the transition temperature (T_c) of conventional superconductors. Using our trained models, we screened a chemical space of 160 million compounds, including both experimentally synthesized materials and theoretical structures, to identify promising candidates for high- T_c superconductivity. For the best candidates, we performed rigorous density-functional perturbation theory calculations to determine phonon spectra, electron-phonon coupling, and superconducting transition temperatures. This validation effort has yielded over 35,000 first-principles calculations, providing the most comprehensive computational survey of conventional superconductivity to date. This enables a systematic understanding of phonon-mediated superconductivity and allows us to establish definitive constraints on the maximum achievable T_c at ambient pressure. We conclude by discussing broader implications for the role of artificial intelligence in accelerating materials discovery and advancing fundamental understanding in materials science.

Host: Professor Amalia Coldea