

Materials for Energy from AI-driven approaches at ENS and in France

A. Marco Saitta

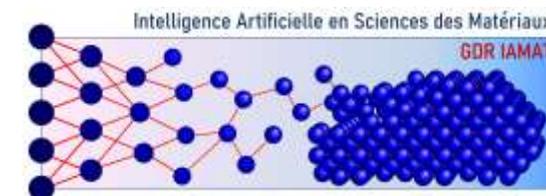
Laboratoire de Physique de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure (LPENS)
Dir GDR IAMAT – CoPil DIAMOND / PEPR DIADEM – PEPR Batteries



PROGRAMME
DE RECHERCHE
MATÉRIAUX
ÉMERGENTS

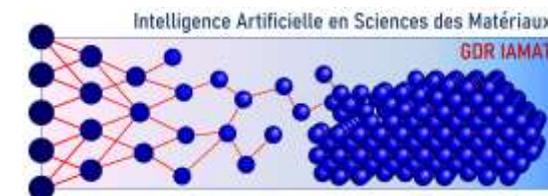


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BATTERIES



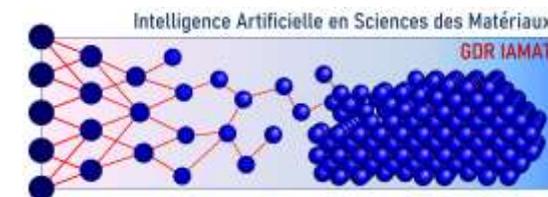
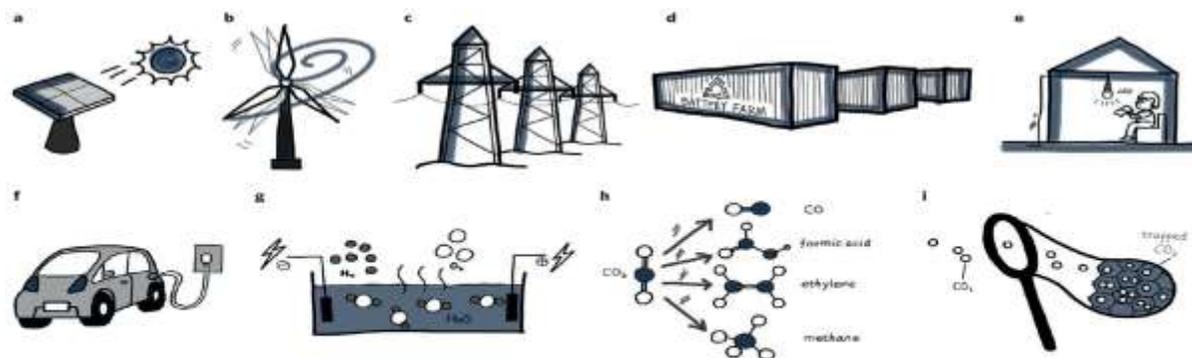
Outline

- AI & ab initio for energy, hydrogen, carbon dioxide storage
- Materials for energy storage, supercapacitors
- Supercapacitors modeling: ab initio calculations, molecular dynamics
- AI and Machine Learning Interatomic Potentials
- French/European ecosystem for AI & Materials



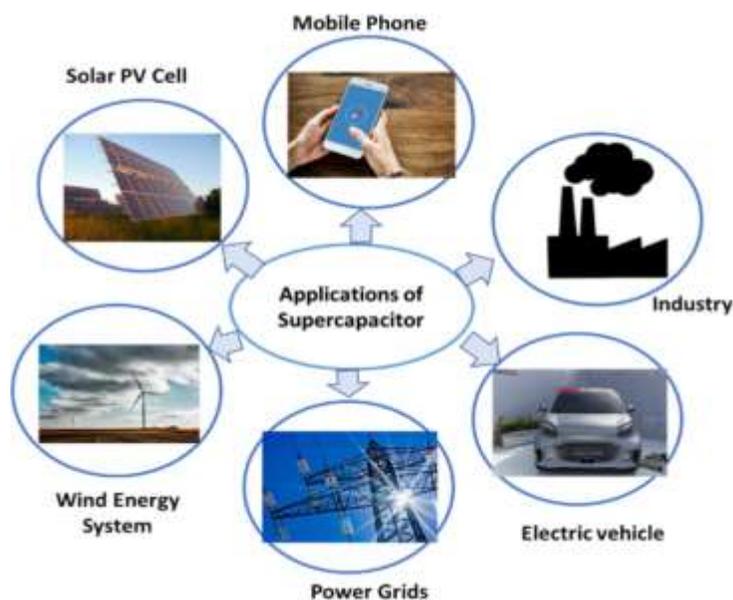
Materials for energy storage

- Energy transition, energy storage, new materials
- Principle of energy-storage materials (ESM): two “states”, one as “storage configuration”, the other one as “release” configuration
- Need to efficiently predict transition mechanisms with a specific control, under a multitude of possible external conditions



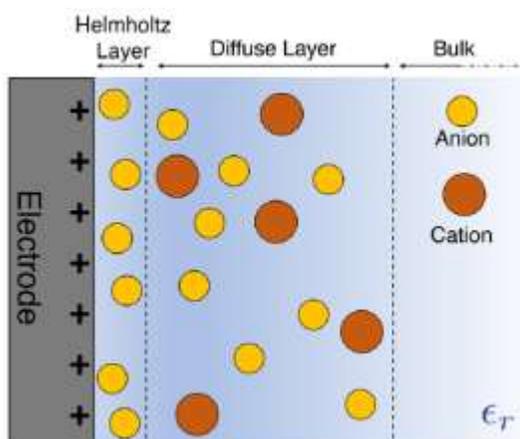
Batteries & supercapacitors

- Batteries: Store energy chemically (Faradaic reactions). High energy, slow delivery.
- Supercapacitors: Store energy electrostatically (physical charge separation).



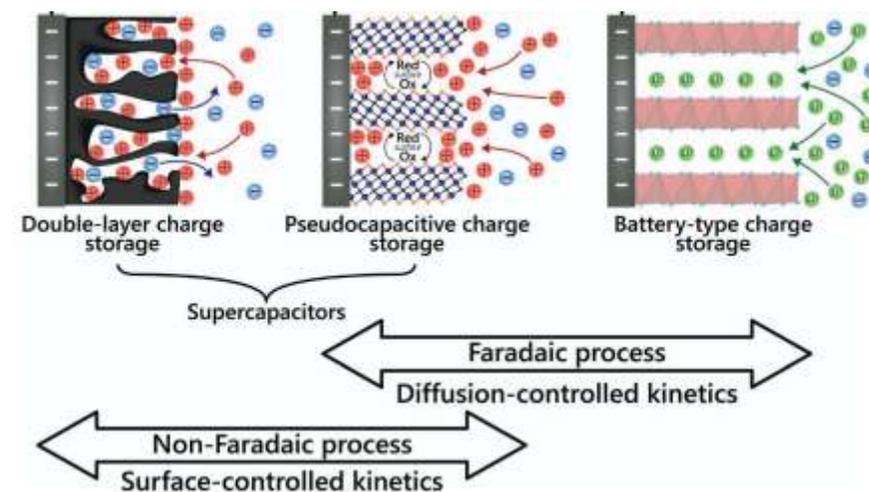
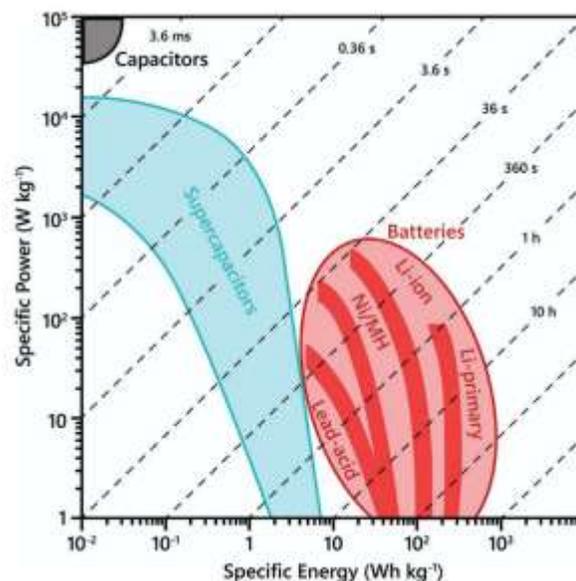
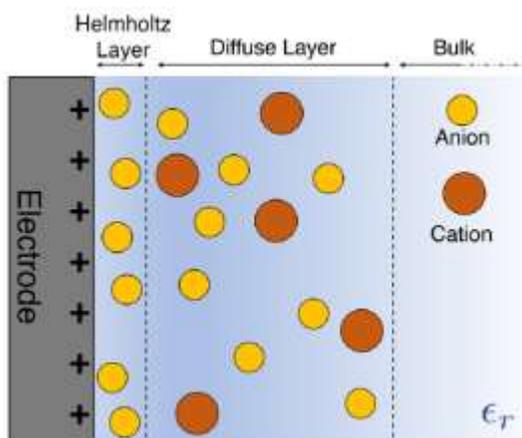
Supercapacitors

- Supercapacitors store energy using either ion adsorption or fast surface redox reactions
- They complement batteries when high-power density or uptake is needed



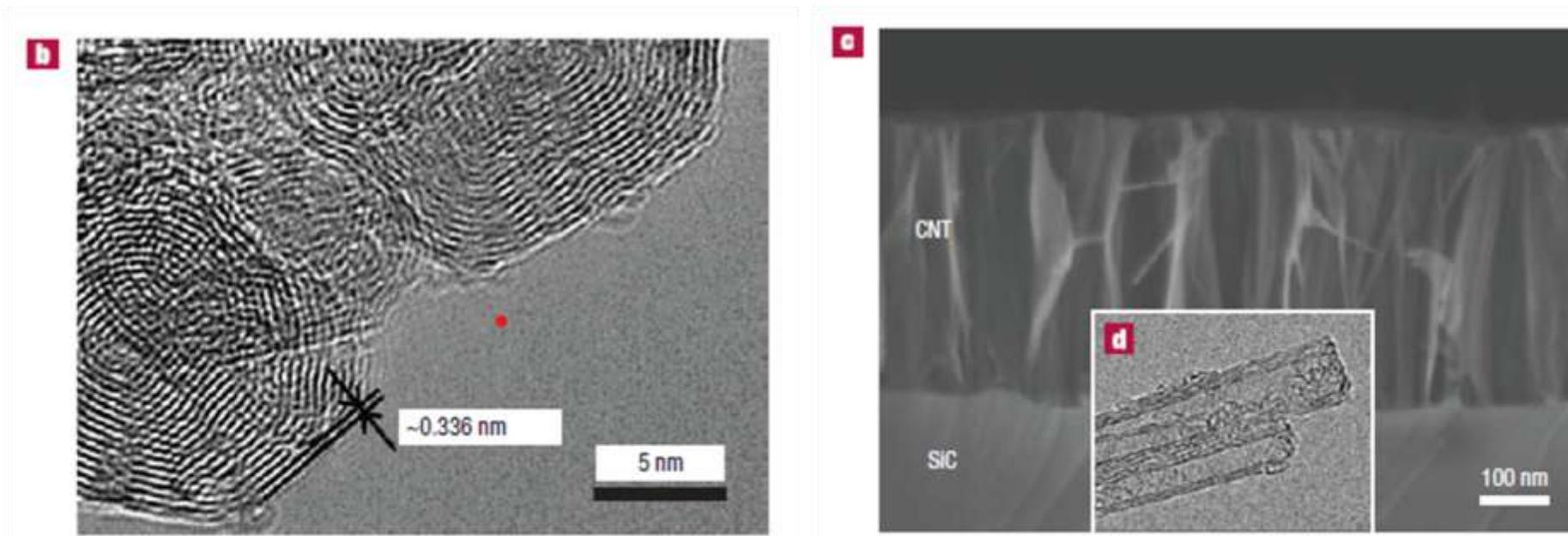
Supercapacitors

- Electric Double Layer (EDLC): Ions form a "double layer" at the electrode/electrolyte interface (Helmholtz layer).
- Pseudocapacitance: Fast, reversible surface redox reactions (adds energy density).
- Rapid Charge/Discharge: Seconds vs. hours. Cycle Life: >1,000,000 cycles (vs. ~1,000 for Li-ion).



Nanoporous graphitic electrodes for supercapacitors

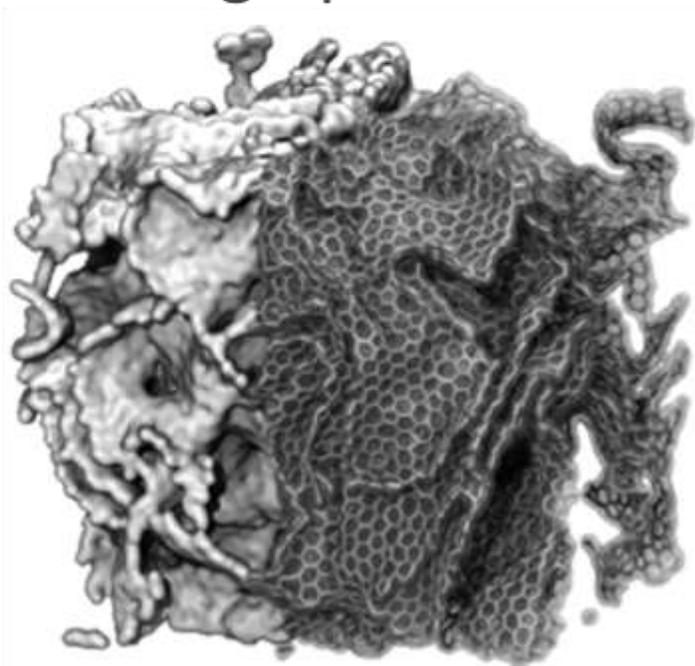
- Ion desolvation in subnanometer pores increases capacitance
- Need for design of high-energy density electrodes



Simon, P. & Gogotsi, Y. Materials for electrochemical capacitors. *Nat. Mater.* **7**, 845–854 (2008).

Computational modeling of supercapacitors

- Classical molecular dynamics
- A special ad hoc development for constant applied voltage
- Ions might be coarse-grained
- What about the graphitic electrodes?



CHEMICAL REVIEWS

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Review

Microscopic Simulations of Electrochemical Double-Layer Capacitors

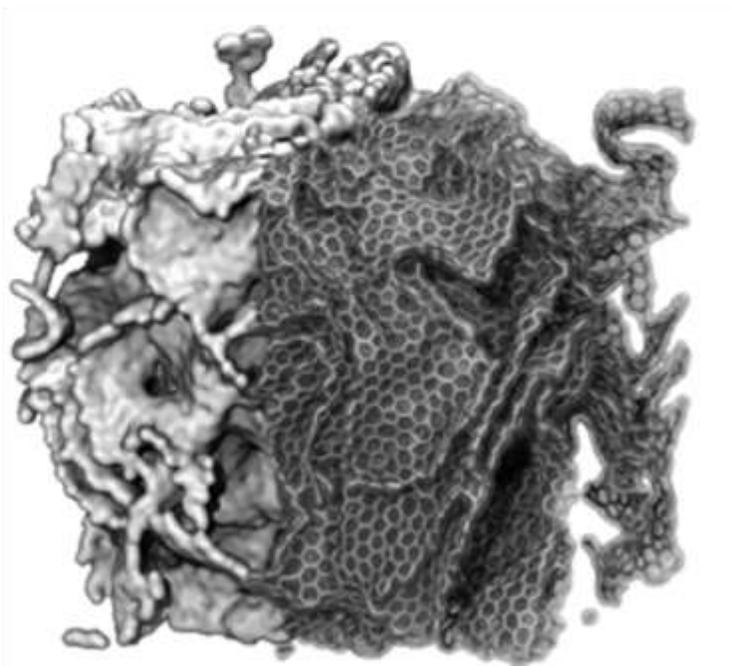
Guillaume Jeanmairet,^{*} Benjamin Rotenberg,[†] and Mathieu Salanne[‡]

Cite This: *Chem. Rev.* 2022, 122, 10860–10898

Read Online

Graphitic electrodes modeling, the dilemma

- Thousands (at best) of C atoms, structural disorder → Classical MD
- Defects, C-C interactions, carbon versatility → Ab initio/DFT



CHEMICAL REVIEWS

pubs.acs.org/CR



Review

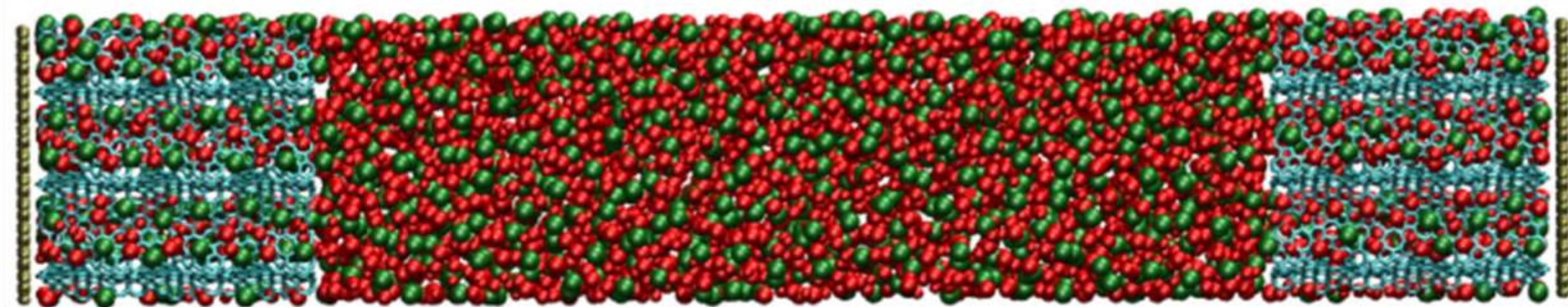
Microscopic Simulations of Electrochemical Double-Layer Capacitors

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Graphitic electrodes modeling, the choice (so far)



Carbon–carbon supercapacitors: Beyond the average pore size or how electrolyte confinement and inaccessible pores affect the capacitance  

Special Collection: [The Chemical Physics of the Electrode-Electrolyte Interface](#)

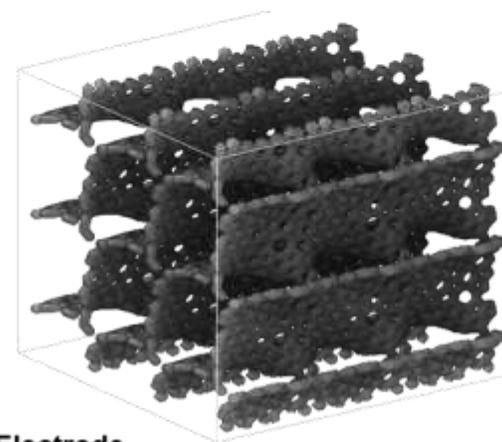
El Hassane Lahrar ; Patrice Simon ; Céline Merlet  

 Check for updates

+ Author & Article Information

J. Chem. Phys. 155, 184703 (2021)

<https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0065150> [Article history](#) 



Electrode

Carbon electrodes are kept completely rigid

DFT and HPC in materials science

MATERIALS ARE KEY TO SOCIETAL WELL BEING

We need novel materials for:

- **Energy harvesting, conversion, storage, efficiency**
- **Environmental protection and reparation**
- **High-tech and high-value industries**
- **Information and communication technologies**
- **Health care and biomedical engineering**
- **Pharmaceuticals** (crystallization, stability, polytypes)
- **Monitoring, provenance, and safety of foods**
- **Fundamental science** (graphene and 2D materials, topological insulators, entangled spins for quantum computing, high- T_c)
- **Experimental science** (detectors, sensors, magnets)



DFT and HPC in materials science

https://www.whitehouse.gov/mgi

the WHITE HOUSE PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

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To help businesses discover, develop, and deploy new materials twice as fast, we're

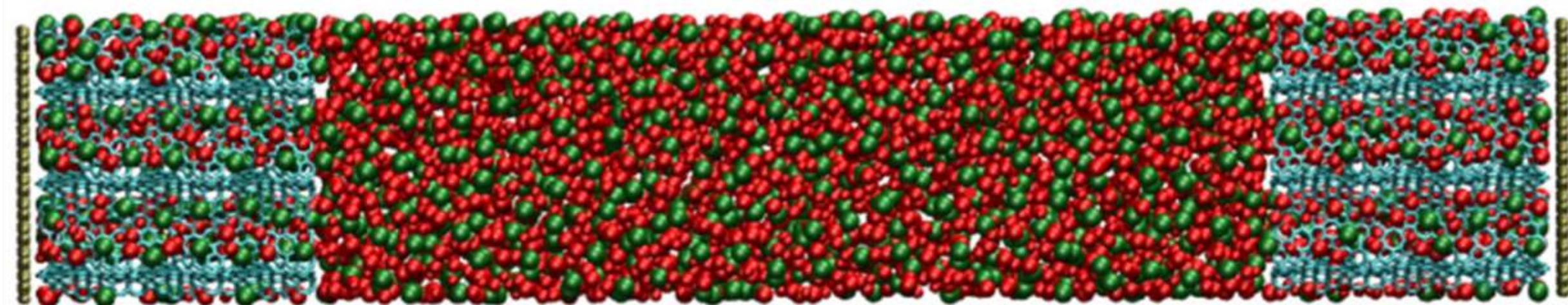
Accelerated Design

FRANCE 2030 PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE MATÉRIAUX ÉMERGENTS

Databases & AI | Codes & Workflows

— President Obama, June 2011 at Carnegie Mellon University

Graphitic electrodes modeling, the choice (so far)



Carbon–carbon supercapacitors: Beyond the average pore size or how electrolyte confinement and inaccessible pores affect the capacitance  

Special Collection: [The Chemical Physics of the Electrode-Electrolyte Interface](#)

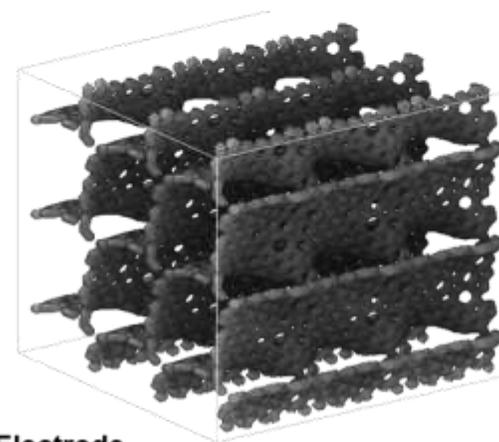
El Hassane Lahrar ; Patrice Simon ; Céline Merlet  

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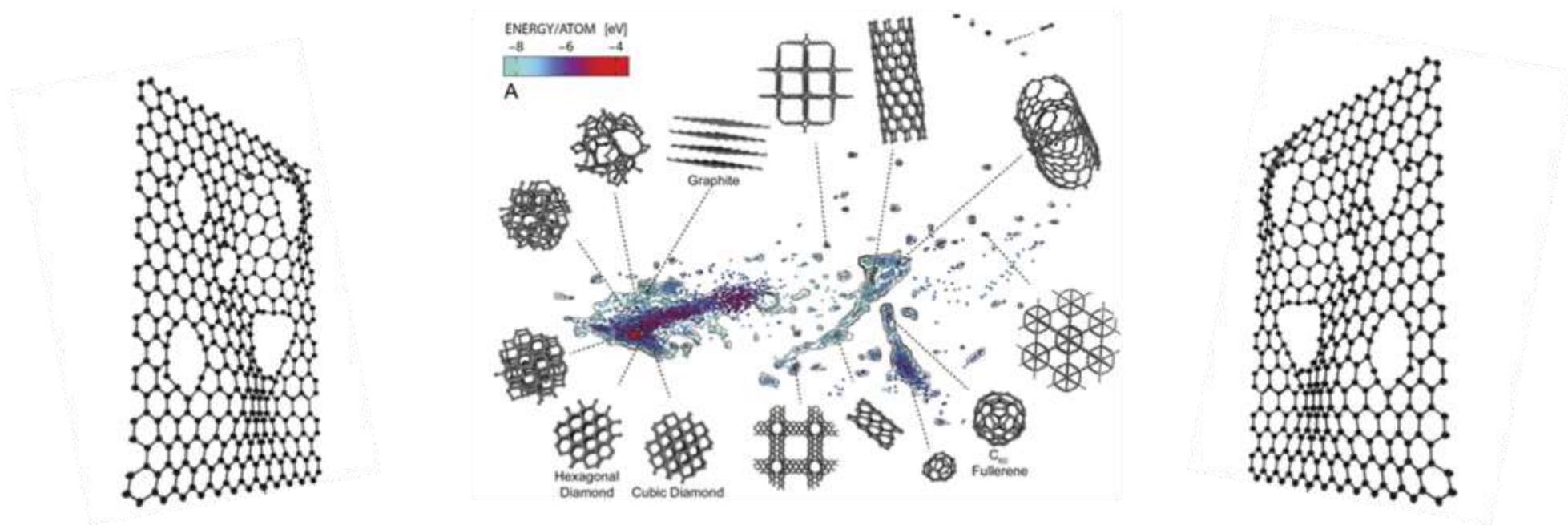


Electrode

Carbon electrodes are kept completely rigid

Graphitic electrodes modeling with MLIPs

- Foundation model (MACE), trained on “all” carbon conformations



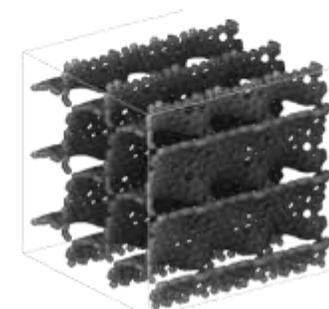
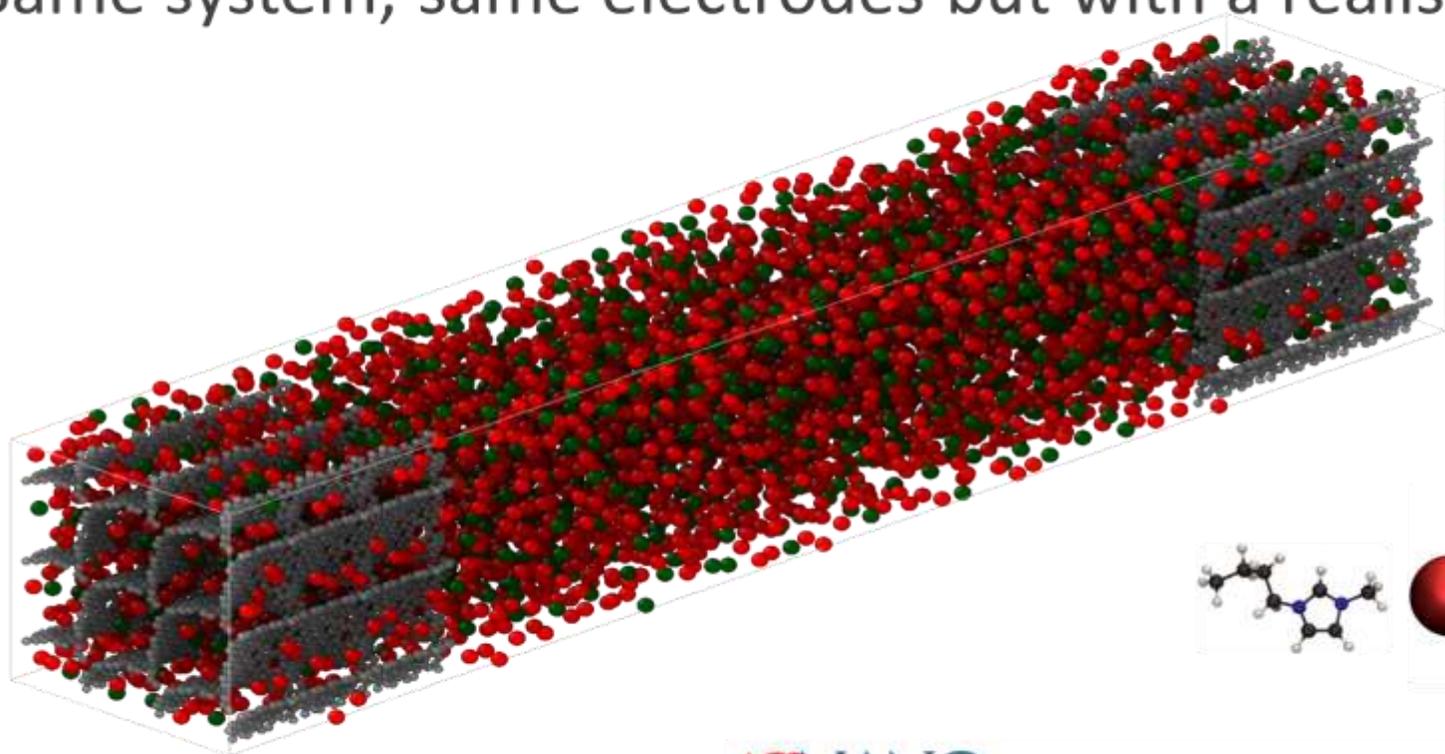
PhD thesis of Zacharie Waysenson



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Supercapacitors with (ordered) flexible electrodes

- Same system, same electrodes but with a realistic MLIP enabling flexibility



Electrode



Cation



Anion

ACS NANO

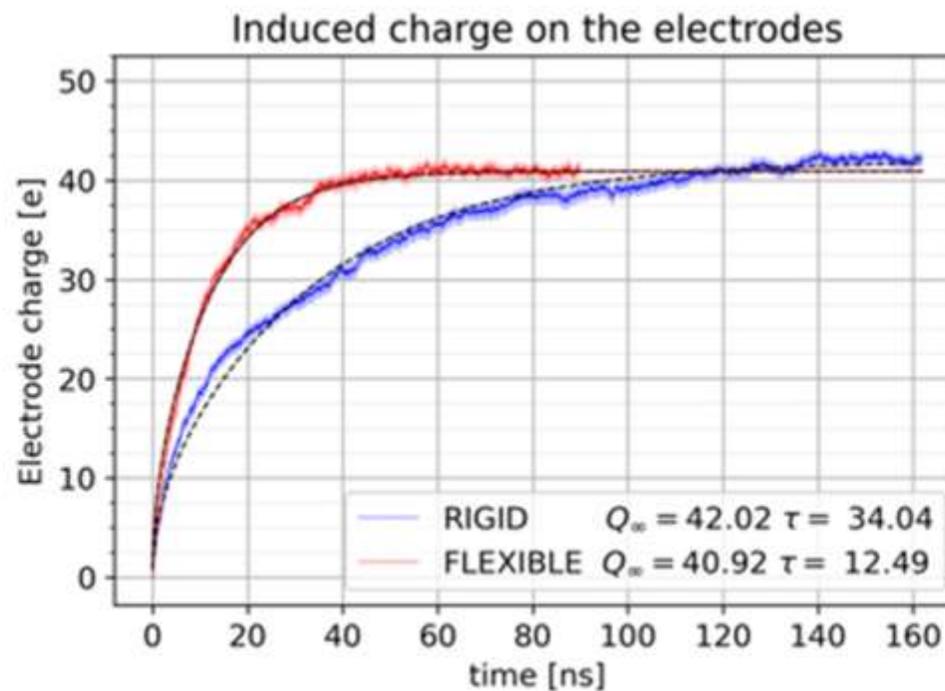
www.acsnano.org

Electrode Flexibility Enhances Electrolyte Dynamics during Supercapacitor Charging

Zacharie Waysenson, Arthur France-Lanord, Alessandra Serva, Patrice Simon, Mathieu Salanne, and A. Marco Saïtta*

Supercapacitors with (ordered) flexible electrodes

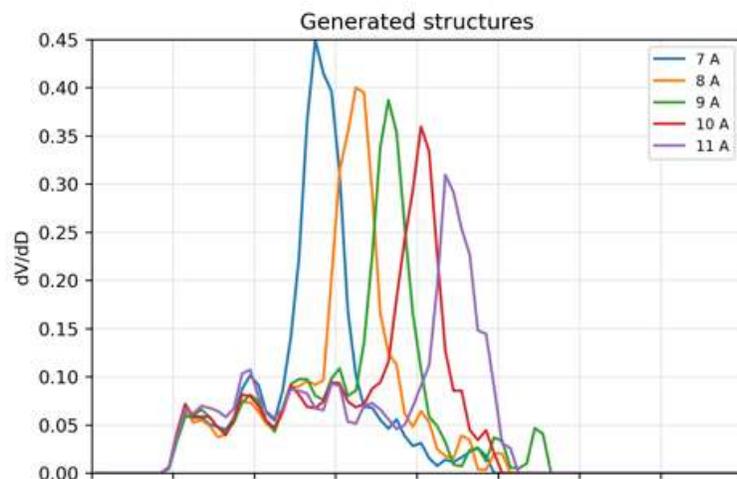
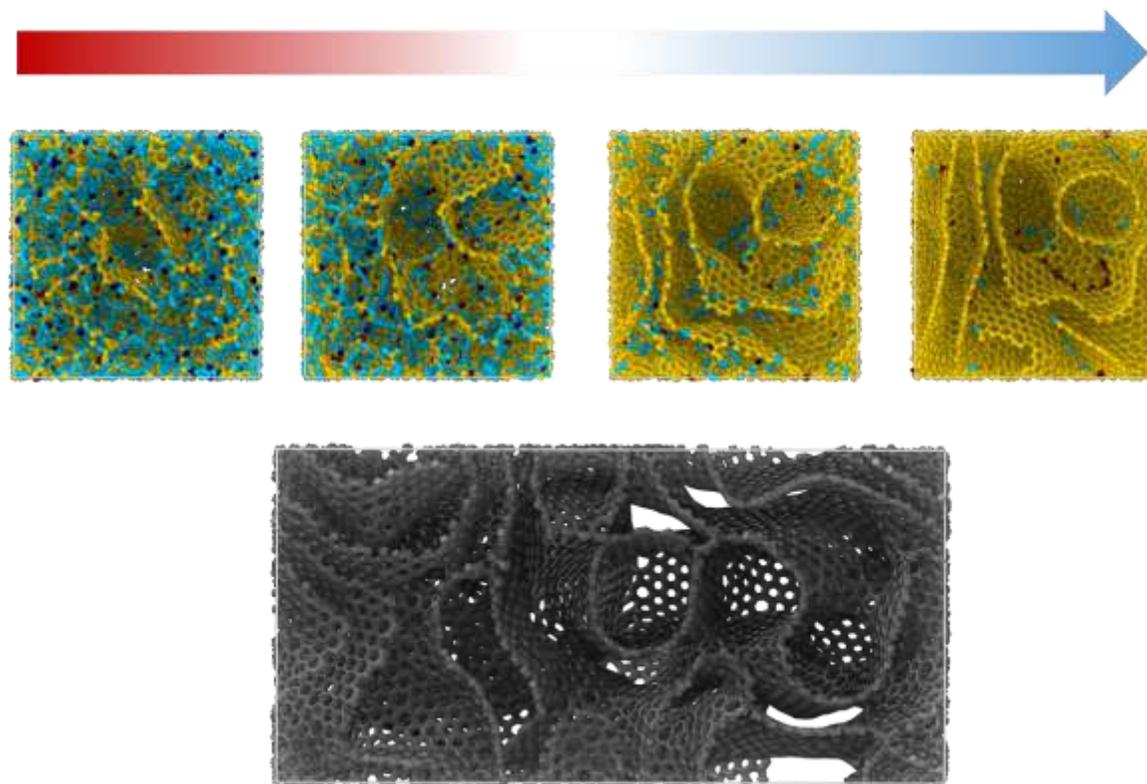
- Same system, same electrodes but with a realistic MLIP enabling flexibility
- Charging time reduced by a factor 3 !



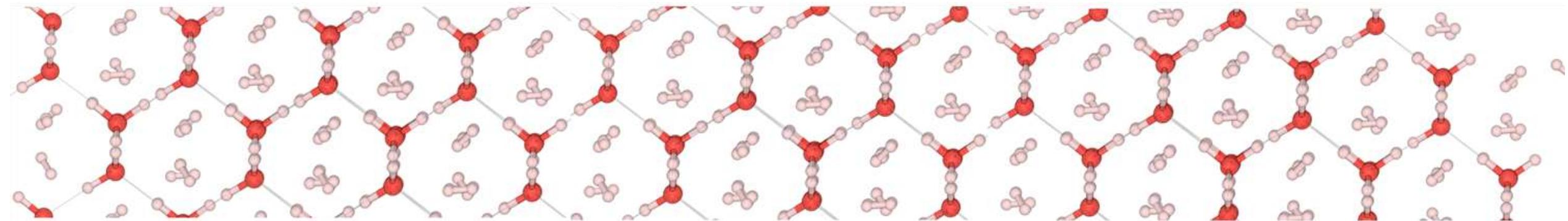
Supercapacitors with realistic disordered electrodes?

- MLIP-driven design of disordered electrodes
- Fine-tuning the morphology
- Optimizing the ion-accessible surface

- Quench MD



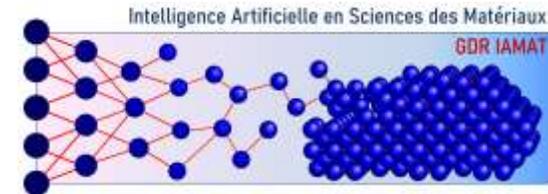
Optimization of Hydrogen Storage in Clathrates and Ices through Advanced Molecular Simulations



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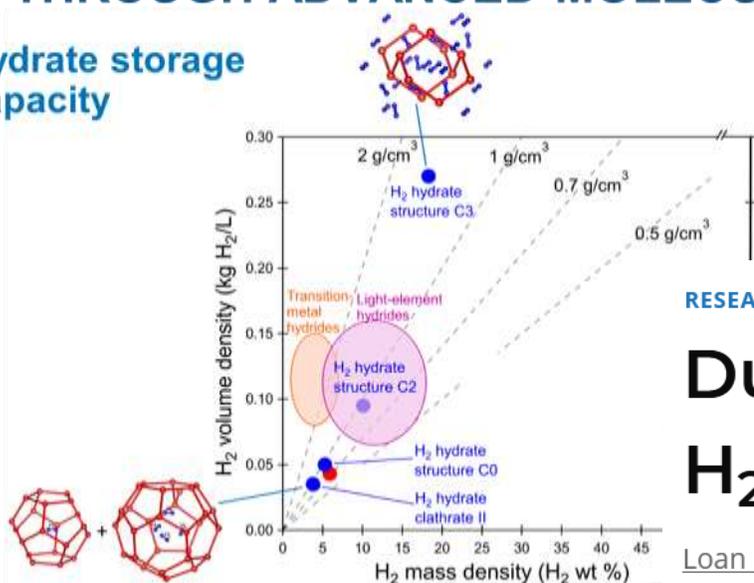


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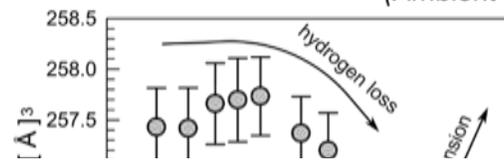


OPTIMIZATION OF HYDROGEN STORAGE IN CLATHRATES AND ICES THROUGH ADVANCED MOLECULAR SIMULATIONS

Hydrate storage capacity



H₂ gradual desorption in the C2 phase (Ambient pressure)



RESEARCH ARTICLE | PHYSICS

f X

Dual quantum locking: Dynamic coupling of H₂ and H₂O sublattices in hydrogen-filled ice

Loan Renaud , Tomasz Poreba, Simone Di Cataldo , +6, and Livia Eleonora Bove [Authors Info &](#)

[Affiliations](#)

Edited by Russell Hemley, University of Illinois at Chicago, **PNAS** November 23, 2025; accepted January 16, 2026

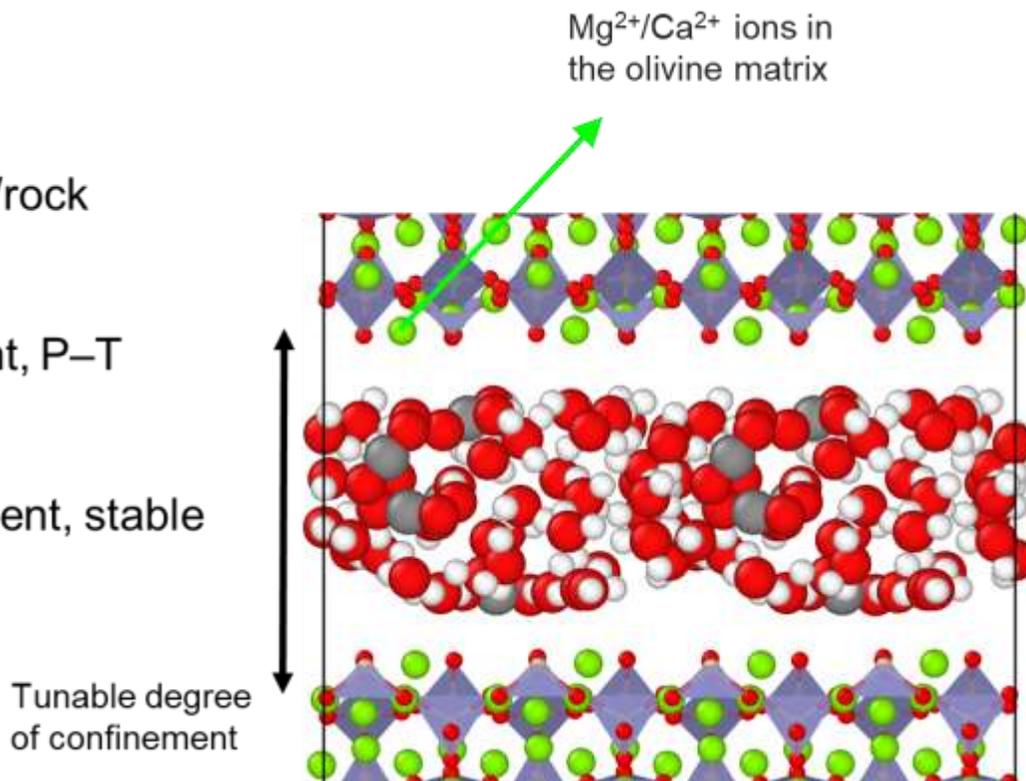
February 10, 2026 | 123 (7) e2526369123 | <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2526369123>

Adsorption and desorption of gas in the structures



NATURE-CO₂ : Natural Ability of Trapping and Using REsources for CO₂

- Understand CO₂ speciation and mineralization mechanisms at water/rock (Mg₂SiO₄) interfaces
- Explore effects of nanoconfinement, P–T conditions, and surface chemistry
- Identify optimal conditions for efficient, stable CO₂ trapping



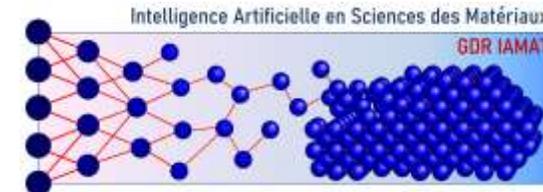
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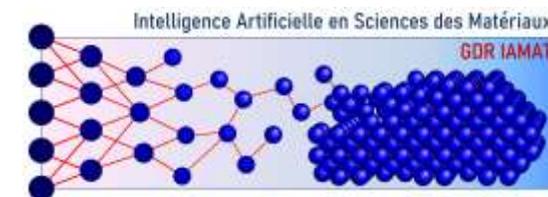


PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE
BATTERIES



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- Materials for energy storage, supercapacitors
- Supercapacitors modeling: ab initio calculations, molecular dynamics
- AI and Machine Learning Interatomic Potentials
- **French/European ecosystem for AI & Materials**



Discovery Acceleration for the Deployment of Emerging Materials

DIADEM, a pioneer PEPR* at the crossroads of
Materials Science and Artificial Intelligence



Frédéric Schuster (CEA)
Mario Maglione (CNRS)
Fernando Lomello (CEA)
Lucie Bard (CNRS)

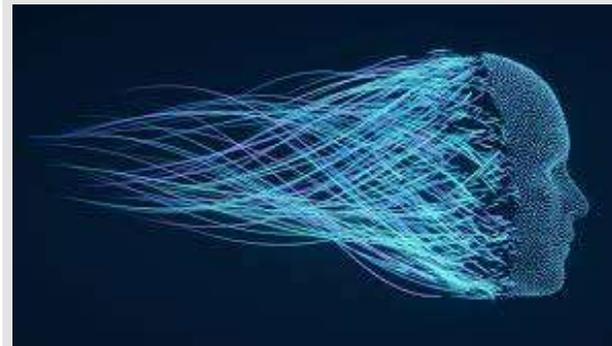
www.pepr-diadem.fr

Les matériaux sont stratégiques pour les grandes transitions

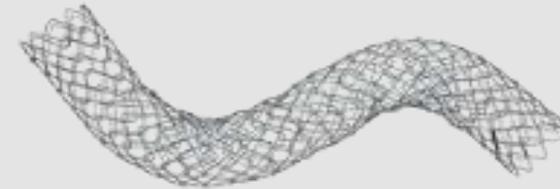
DIADEM : **D**iscovery **A**cceleration for the **D**eployment of **E**merging **M**aterials
La convergence entre Science des Matériaux & Science des données



Transitions
écologique et énergétique
vers un futur décarboné



Transition vers un
numérique frugal



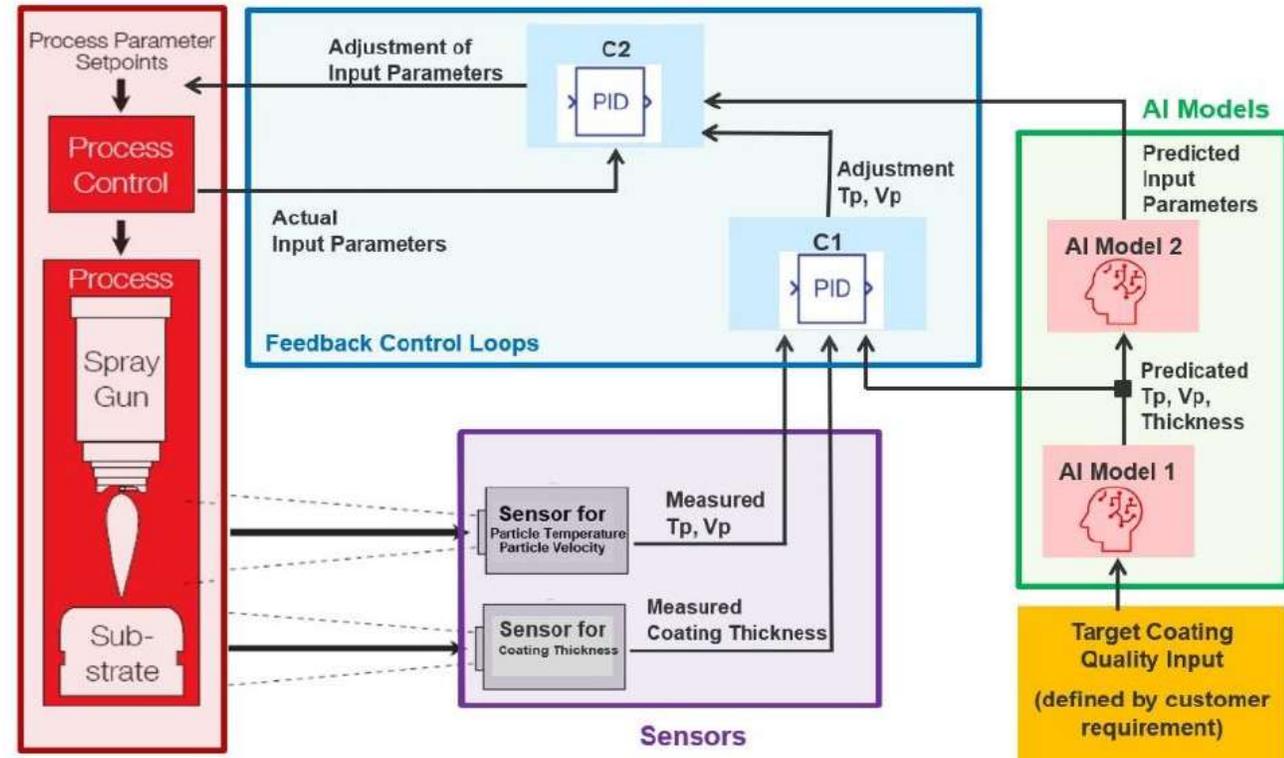
Innovation technologique
pour la médecine du futur

DIADEM ...

... le recours à l'IA pour deux principales problématiques



Accélérer le **design de nouveaux matériaux** grâce aux plates-formes d'accélération et aux laboratoires autonomes (DIADEM Discovery Hub)

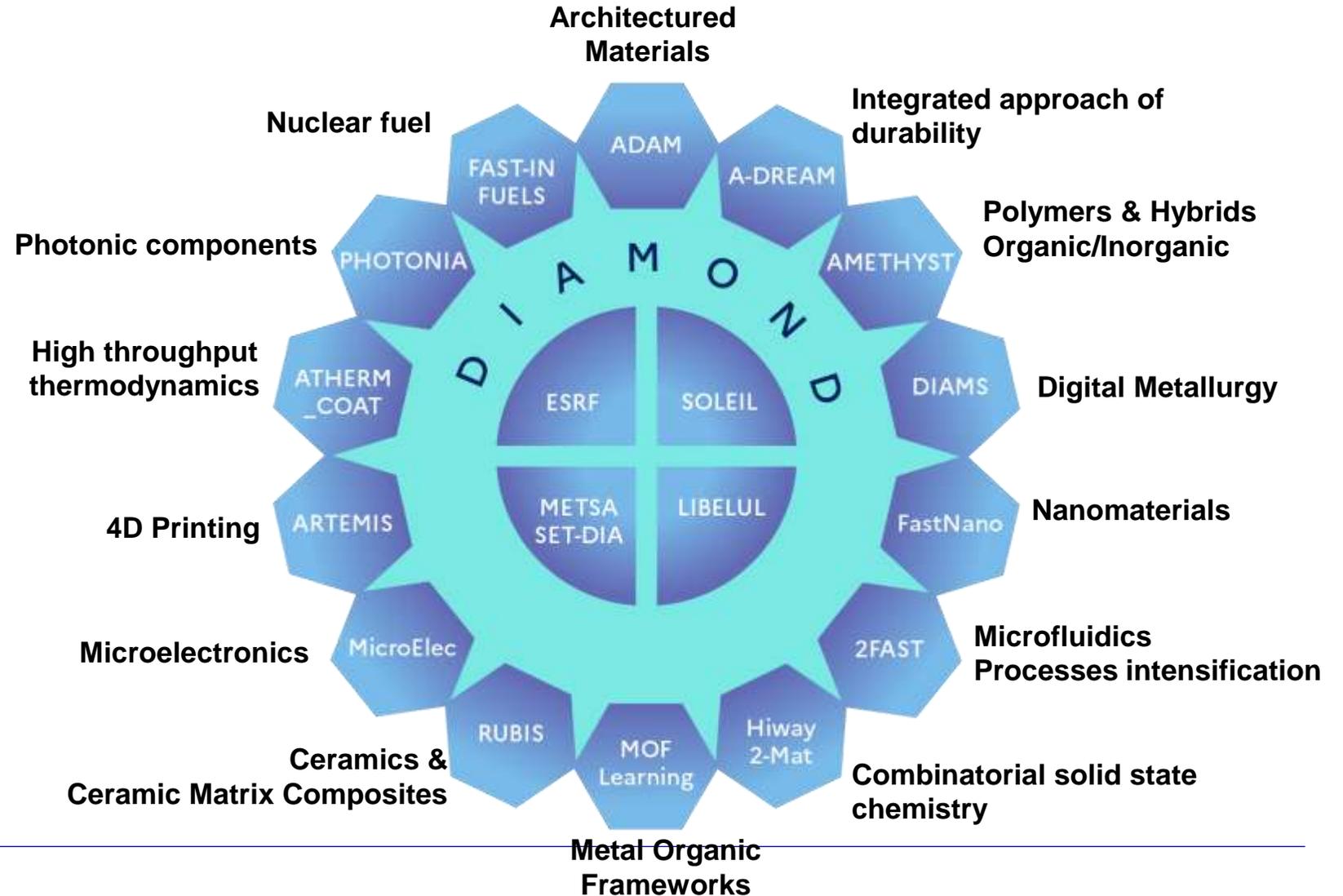


Accélérer le **déploiement de procédés** grâce à des jumeaux numériques (procédés émergents 1D,2D,3D,4D & conventionnels)

DIADEM pioneering strategy

DIADEM main features
85 M€ / 8 years

- 19** platforms
- 33** selected projects
- 1** DIADEM ACADEMY
- 6** transverse working groups
- 1** National Infrastructure
(DIADEM DISCOVERY HUB)



Machine Learning Interatomic Potentials (MLIP)

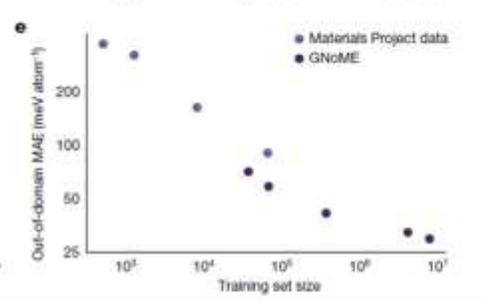
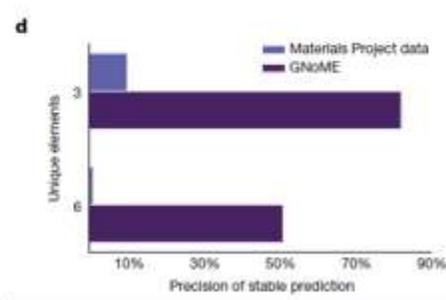
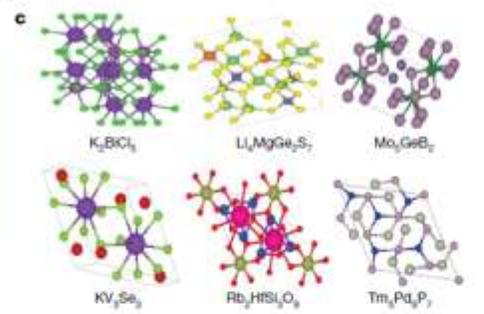
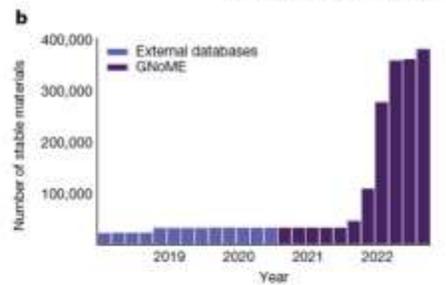
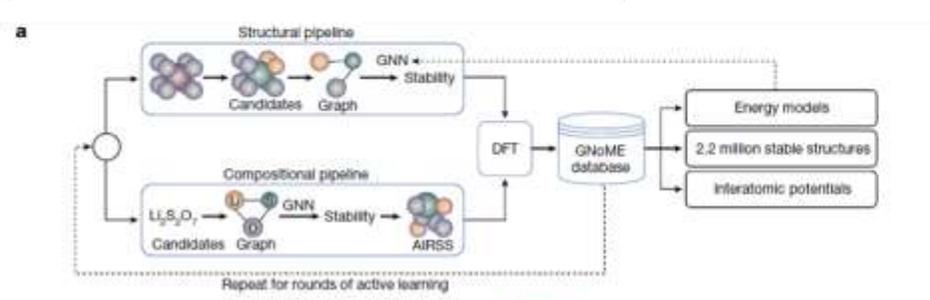


Google DeepMind About Research Technologies Discover

Millions of new materials discovered with deep learning

29 NOVEMBER 2023
Amil Merchant and Ekin Dogus Cubuk

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Scaling deep learning for materials discovery

[Amil Merchant](#), [Simon Batzner](#), [Samuel S. Schoenholz](#), [Muratban Aykol](#), [Gowoon Cheon](#) & [Ekin Dogus Cubuk](#)

[Nature](#) 624, 80–85 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

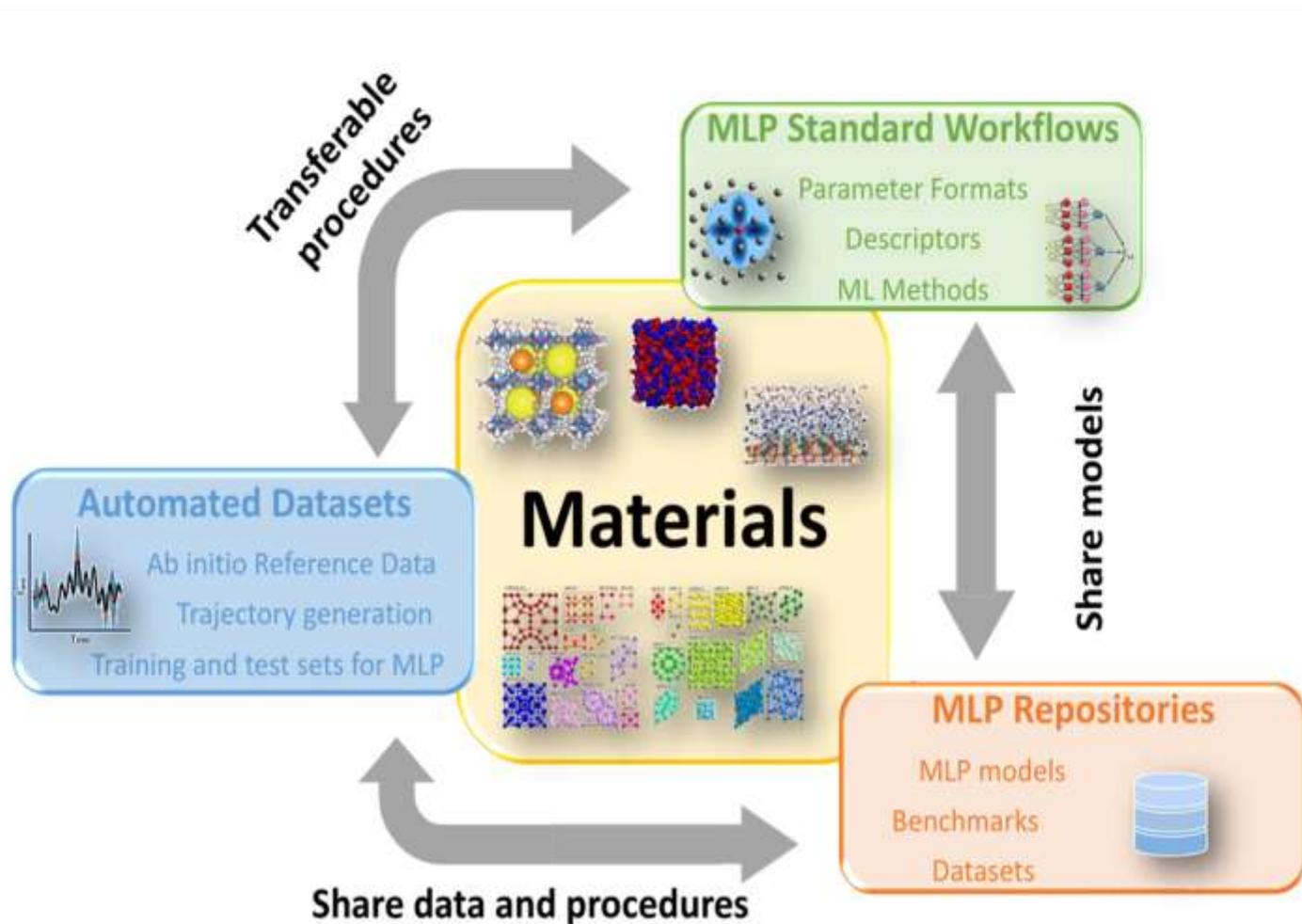
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AI tool GNoME finds 2.2 million new crystals, including 380,000 stable materials that could power future technologies

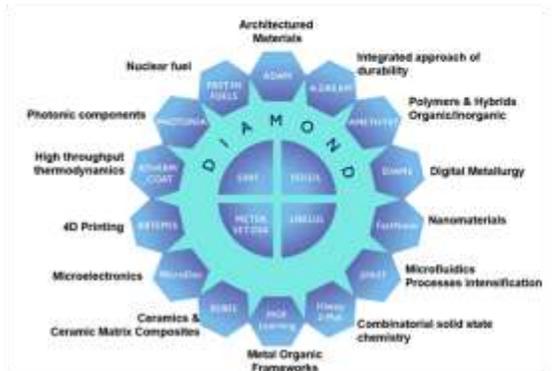
Modern technologies from computer chips and batteries to solar panels rely on inorganic crystals. To enable new technologies, crystals must be stable otherwise

Machine Learning Interatomic Potentials (MLIP)

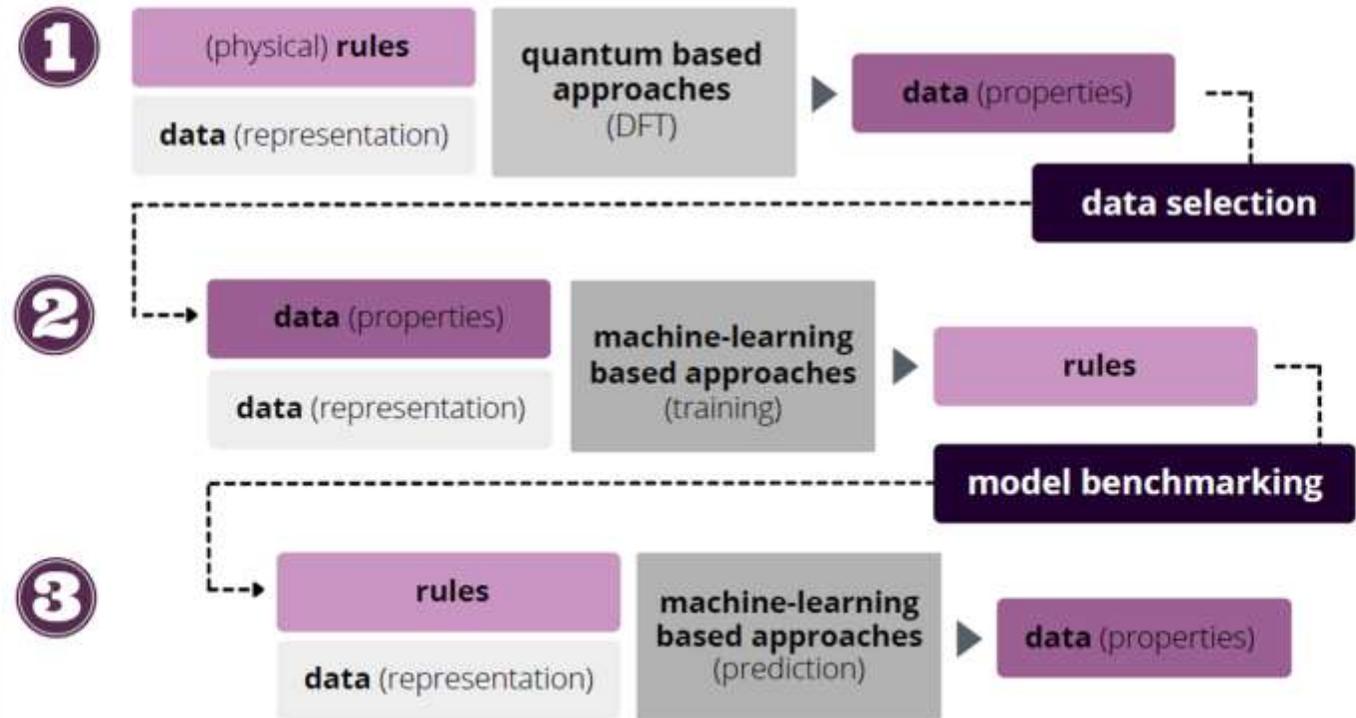


Akshay Ammothum Kandy (postdoc)

Machine Learning Interatomic Potentials (MLIP)



DFT-MLIP approach



© IAPM - Carole Dubois

Akshay Ammothum Kandy (postdoc)

DIADEM Academy : programme de formation du PEPR DIADEM

Formation initiale

(Noël Jakse et Marco Saitta)

Création de l'Ecole
Internationale DIADEM

Hackathon

Stages de Master

Formation continue

(Fabrice Rossignol)

Formations spécialisées
(théorie & pratique)

Formation « sensibilisation à
la découverte accélérée autour
des MAPs

Journée annuelle de
sensibilisation à l'IA

Programme doctoral et

post-doctoral

international

(Frédéric Schuster)

Thèses et post-doctorats
internationaux
(Co-financements DIADEM)

<https://formation.pepr-diadem.fr/>

Initial Training 1st edition of the DIADEM international school

August 25-29, 2025, at Sorbonne Université in Paris

80 participants

Theory courses and hands-on tutorials

Visit of the Synchrotron SOLEIL



Initial Training

Future editions of the DIADEM international school

August 31- Sept 4, 2026, in Grenoble

120 participants (open to permanent/industrials)

2027 edition within the AISSAI-IVADO « semestre thématique IA & Matériaux »

In Paris or Bordeaux Aug 30-Sept 3 2027





DIADEM pionnier pour la collaboration internationale



Singapour

- Deux réunions de travail avec la **NRF** (04/2024, 10/2024)
- **Projet ADVANCE sur la catalyse pour la production d'H2 vert** (AAP 2023) Pr. LIU Zheng, CINTRA IRL 3288 (CNRS, NTU Singapore, Thales)
- 3 thèses avec **NTU** (H2, recyclage, 3D printing de métamatériaux) et 1 thèse avec **NUS** (batteries)

Canada

- Réunions avec l'**Institut Courtois** and **Polytechnique Montréal**
- Intégration de Polytechnique Montréal dans le projet **ASTERIX** dédié aux couches minces
- 1 Post-Doc avec l'Institut Courtois (photovoltaïque)

USA

- **Projet REBORN** sur matériaux 2D pour l'électronique Ougazzaden Abdallah GT-CNRS IRL 2958 CNRS Metz, GeorgiaTech Atlanta
- 1 thèse sur 4D printing avec **Georgia Tech Atlanta** (robotic freeform direct ink writing)

Japon

- **Projet MADNESS** (synthèse de nanomatériaux en sels fondus - AAP 2023) et **projet GREENTEA** (synthèse de nouveaux alliages de sulfures thermoélectriques - AAP 2024) avec le **LINK** (NIMS Tsukuba)
- Discussion sur la coopération sur la structuration des bases de données avec le **NIMS**
- 2 thèses en discussion avec le **LINK**

Développer les outils d'interaction avec les industriels

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SYENSQO



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oerlikon

Futures actions

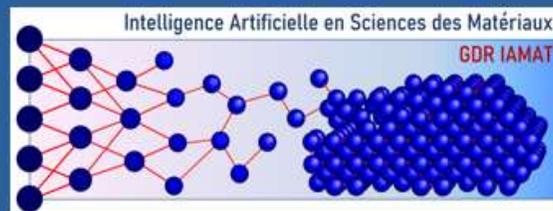
- ✓ Appel à Projets « Pionniers de l'IA » coordonné par le SGPI : contribution des outils DIADEM à l'accélération du design de nouveaux matériaux et à la mise en oeuvre de nouveaux procédés (ex : base de données nationale sur les polymères, Valorisation industriels d'Expressif Materials...)
- ✓ AG DIADEM avec des tables rondes avec PEPR et Agences de Programmes – 24 nov à l'ENS Paris-Saclay
- ✓ Première édition de la journée « DIADEM Industrial Day »
12 décembre 2025 / Maison de la Chimie

AI for materials science in France: GDR IAMAT

- Created in 2022, to federate from « developments in AI » towards applications in materials science, interdisciplinarity
- Broad interpretation of AI & data sciences: machine learning, data mining, high throughput, dimensionality reduction, clustering etc...

GDR IAMAT

Intelligence Artificielle en
science des MATériaux



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Direction adjointe

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Silke Biermann (CPHT – Saclay)

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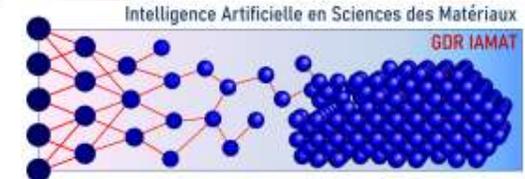
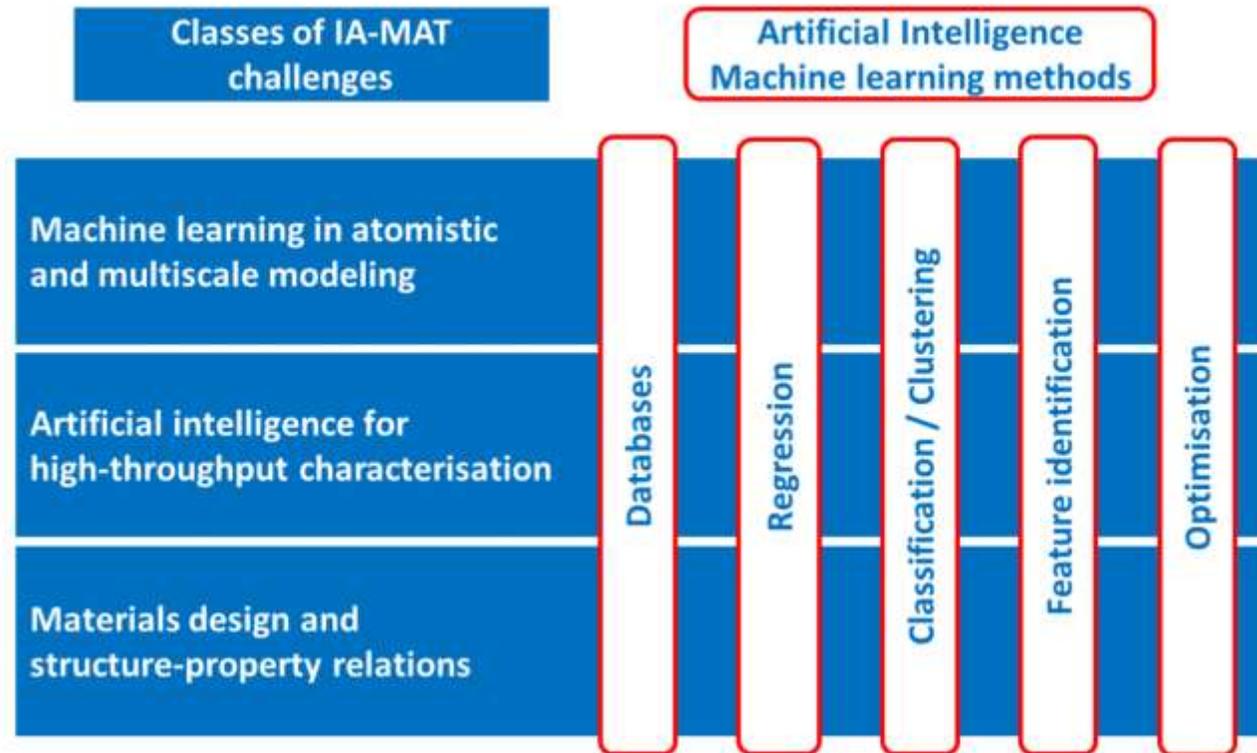
Ambroise Van Roekeghem (LITEN – Grenoble)

Helena Zapolsky (GPM – Rouen)



AI for materials science in France: GDR IAMAT

- Created in 2022, to federate from « developments in AI » towards applications in materials science, interdisciplinarity
- Broad interpretation of AI & data sciences: machine learning, data mining, high throughput, dimensionality reduction, clustering etc...



AI for materials science in France: GDR IAMAT

- Upcoming activities 2026 : Workshop Big and Small Data



- Plénières 2026: 2-5 juin, ENSAM, Aix-en-Provence



PEPR Batteries

Programme et Équipements Prioritaires de Recherche sur les Batteries



Piloté par



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Opéré par



PEPR Batteries



Combiner l'intelligence artificielle aux modèles physiques **pour développer de nouvelles batteries**

Aperçu

Exploration de données, intelligence artificielle et jumeaux numériques pour la nouvelle génération de batteries

Pr. Mathieu Salanne (PHENIX, Sorbonne Université / CNRS)

Pr. Alejandro Franco (LRCS, Université de Picardie Jules Verne / CNRS)

La recherche sur le stockage de l'électricité utilise de plus en plus les simulations numériques, généralement basées sur des principes physiques. BATMAN vise à développer de nouveaux modèles intégrant les approches de la science des données et de l'intelligence artificielle. Trois objectifs principaux sont visés : trouver des électrolytes et des matériaux optimisés, comprendre les réactions chimiques aux interfaces des batteries, et optimiser les processus de fabrication. Le projet vise également à créer un jumeau numérique pour prédire les performances des batteries en fonction des propriétés des électrodes fabriquées.

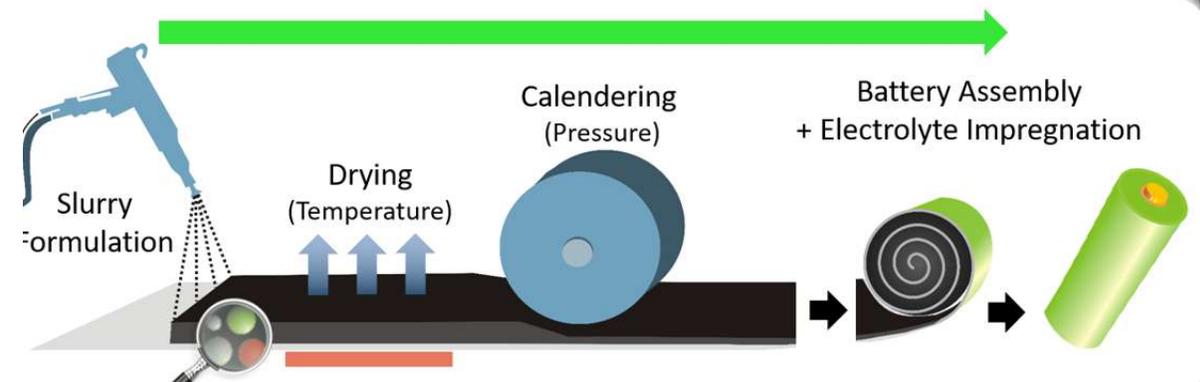
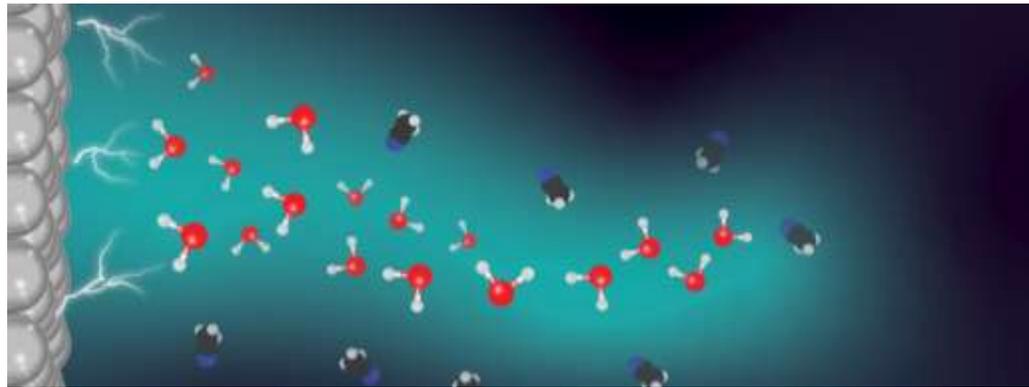


BATMAN BAtteries: data Mining, Artificial intelligence and digital twins for the Next generation



Coordinator Mathieu Salanne (PHENIX – Sorbonne Université/CNRS)
Co-coordinator: Alejandro Franco (LRCS – UPJV/CNRS)

January 2nd, 2023 → January 1st, 2029





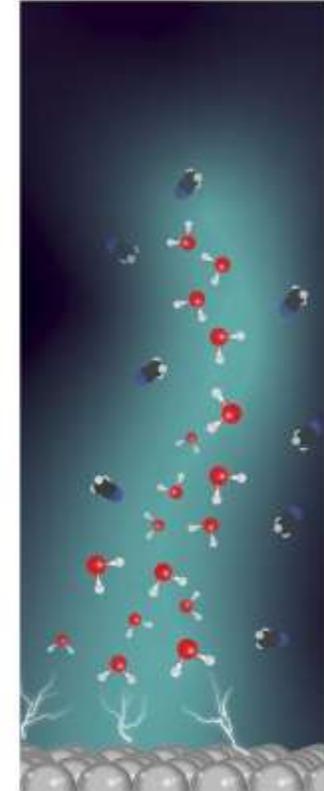
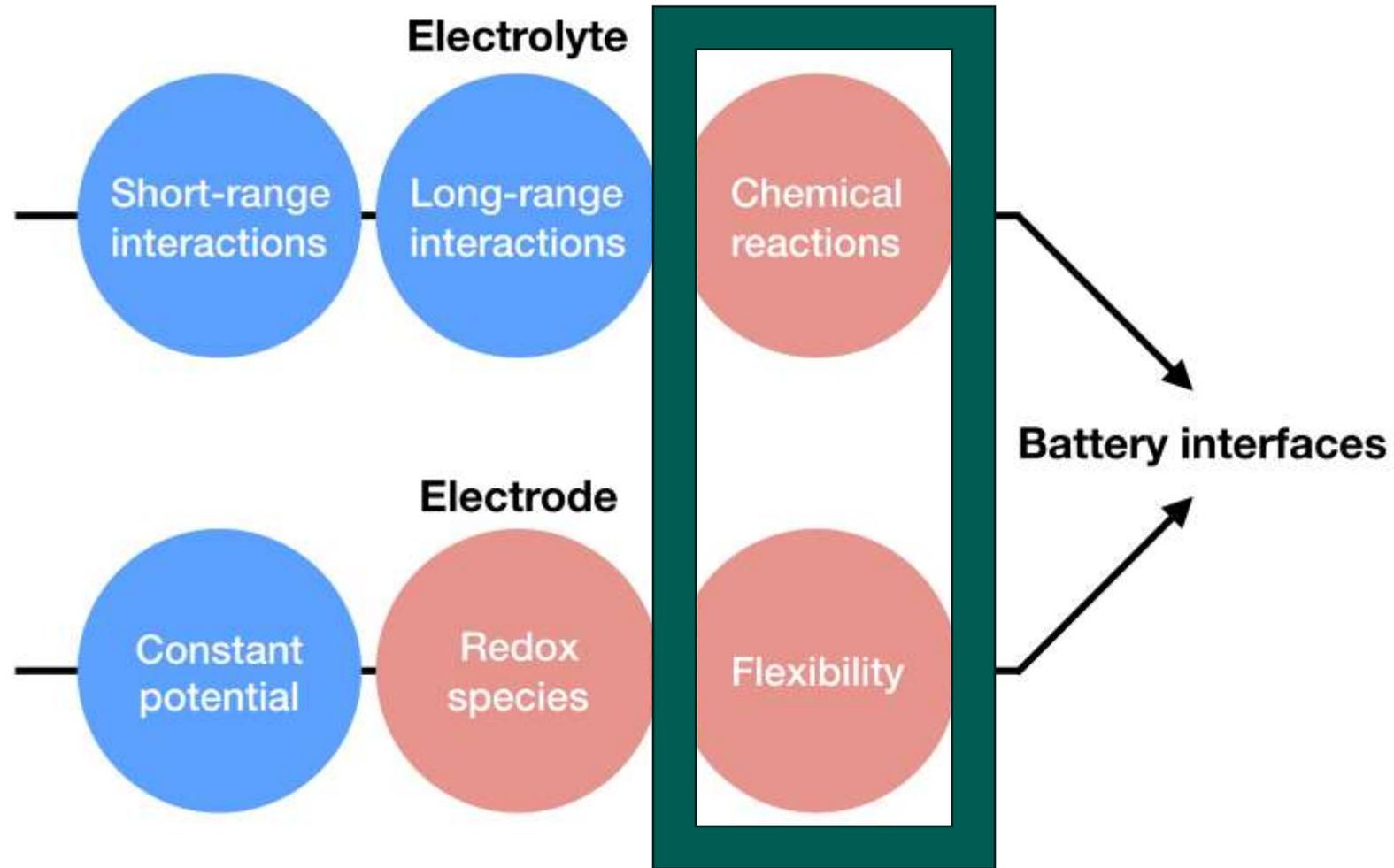
Challenges

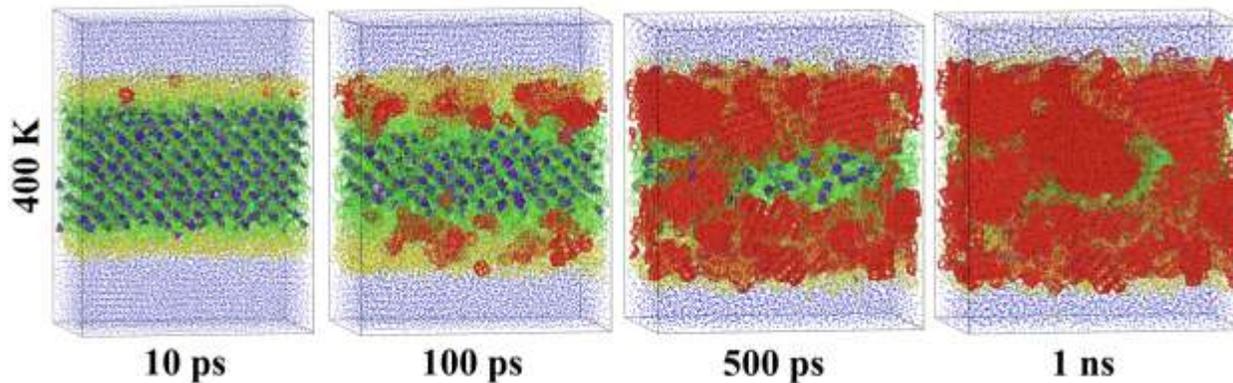
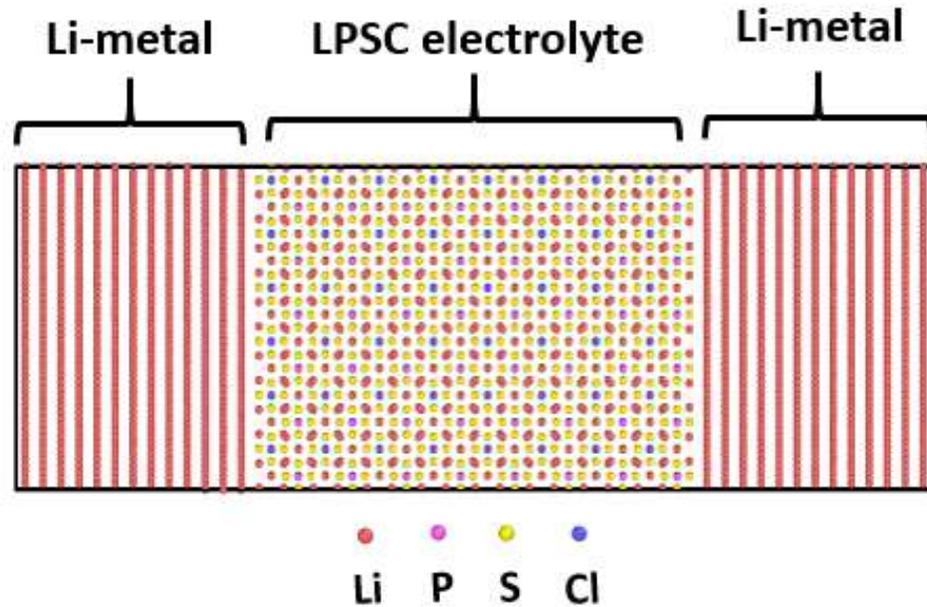
- Stability of the lithium metal / solid electrolyte interfaces
- Choice of the electrolytes/electrodes for Na-ion batteries and for high power batteries
- Optimization of the fabrication processes of next-generation batteries

Objectives

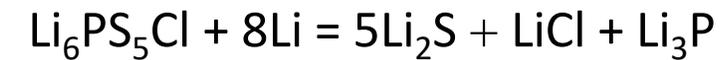
- i. Database of liquid electrolyte properties (in particular additives in Na-ion batteries)
- ii. Selection of solid state electrolytes forming mechanically and chemically stable interfaces with lithium metal
- iii. Selection of 2D materials with optimized stability and energy density for high power batteries
- iv. Codes based on physical modeling and machine learning for the optimization of the manufacturing processes

Use of machine-learning / data science approaches to improve simulations **accuracy** and **efficiency**

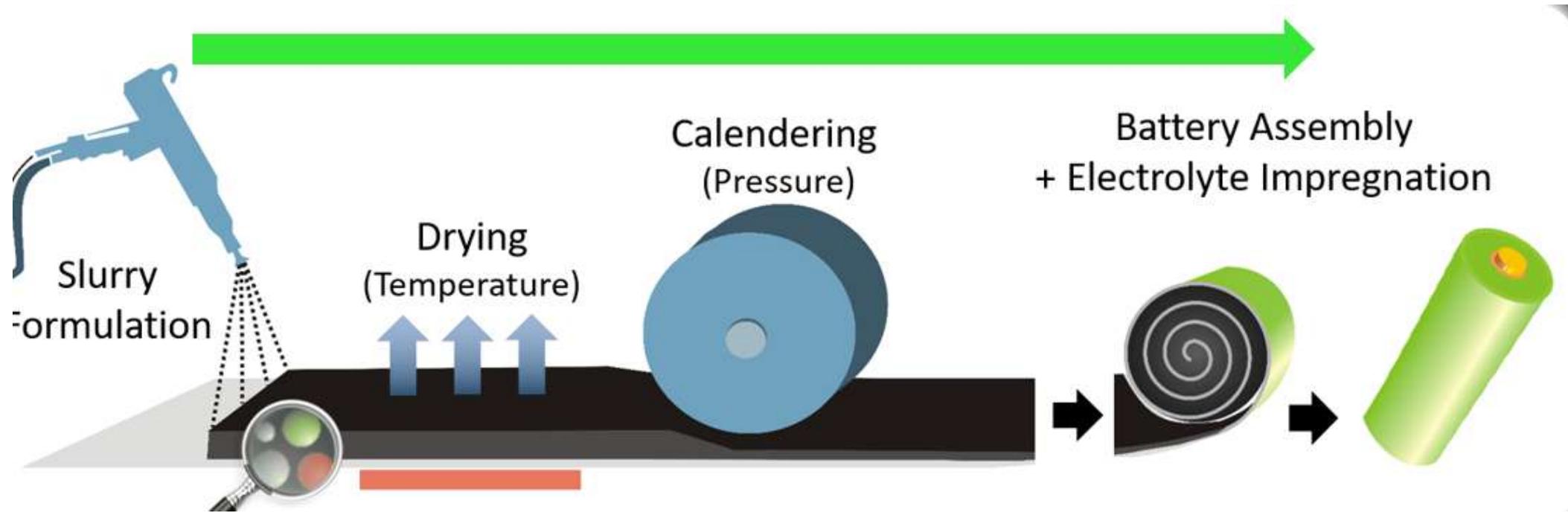




- Argyrodite degradation reaction at the contact of the lithium anode:



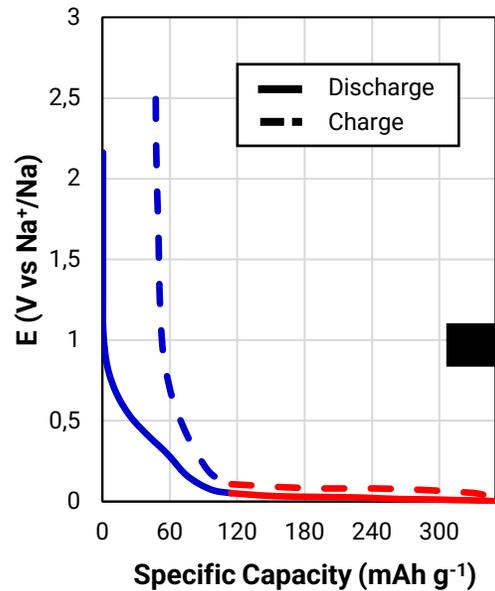
- Simulation of large interfaces using machine-learning interaction potentials
- Two-step growth process consisting of an initial electrolyte reduction followed by the gradual crystallization of the reaction product



- Fabrication process of next-generation batteries is expected to be similar to Li-ion
- Much fewer data: can we optimize quicker the process thanks to the use of artificial intelligence



HC electrochemistry



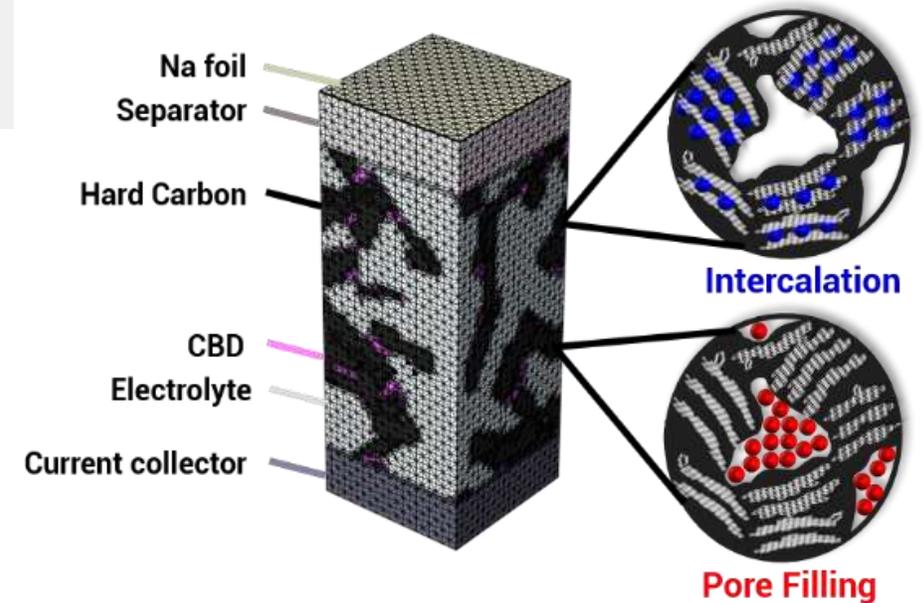
GOALS:

1. Model multiple sodiation processes of HC
2. Use the model for electrode design (for formulation and porosity)



CONTROVERSIAL SODIATION MECHANISM

Effective “blend” approach



PEPR Hydrogène



Conclusions

- AI & ab initio for energy, hydrogen, carbon dioxide storage
- Materials for energy storage, supercapacitors
- Supercapacitors modeling: ab initio calculations, molecular dynamics
- AI and Machine Learning Interatomic Potentials
- Towards the design of efficient realistic electrodes
- French/European ecosystem for AI & Materials

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- Sonia Salomoni (PhD “Phase transformations” SCAI)
- Zacharie Waysenson (PhD “Supercapacitors” PEPR Batteries)
- Loan Renaud (PhD “Hydrogen storage”)
- Akshay Ammothum Kandy (Computer engineer “MLIP databases” DIADEM)
- Stefano Ferrero (Postdoc “CO₂ sequestration”)



PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE BATTERIES



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