



AI and High-Throughput Testing to Accelerate Catalyst Discovery

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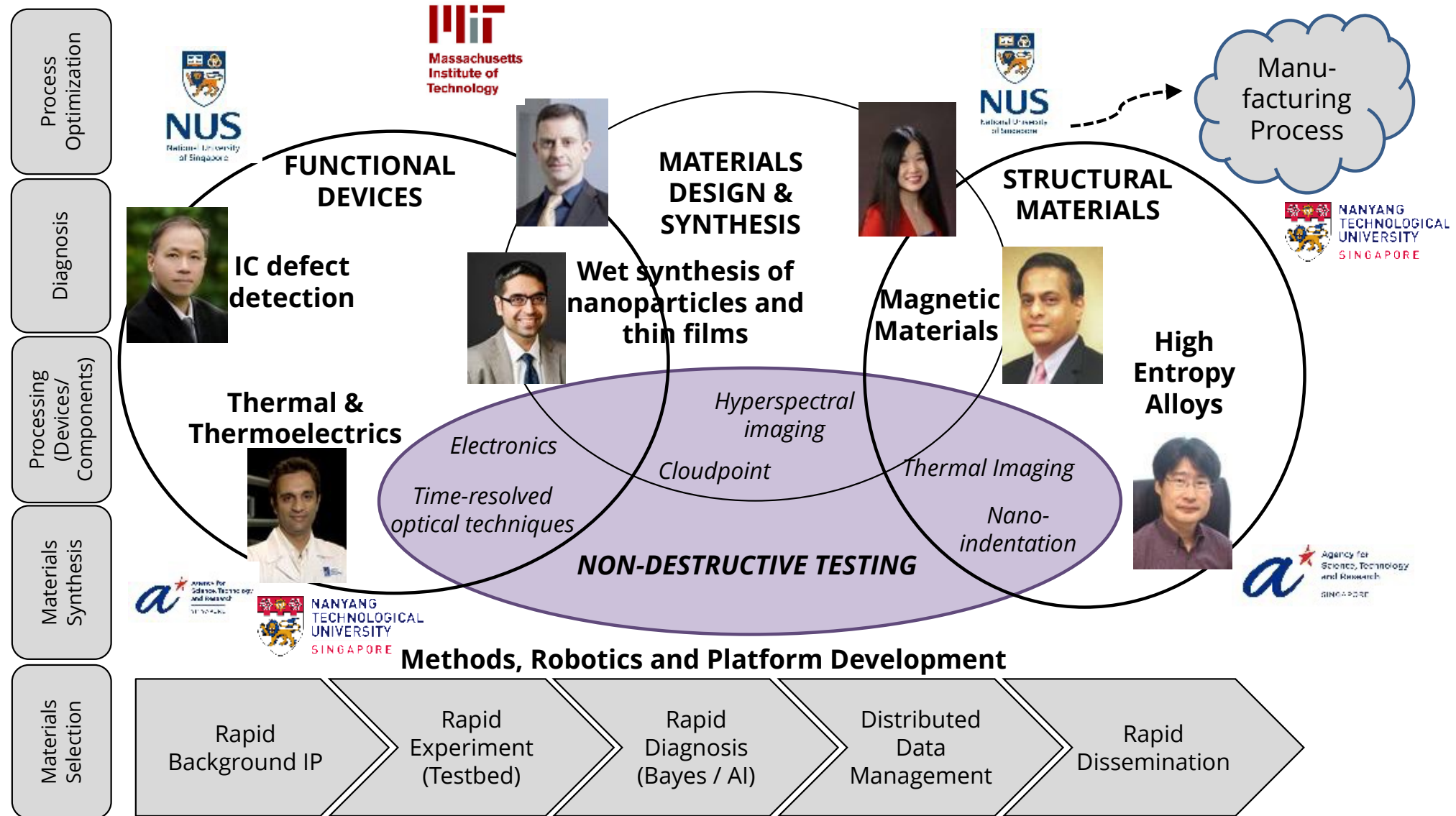
Nanyang Technological University,
Agency for Science Technology and Research
Xinterra

27 June 2024

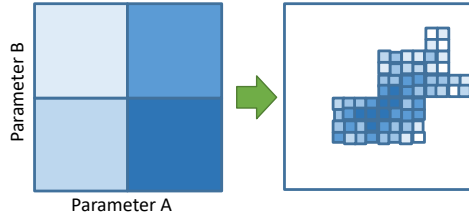
SINGAPORE



US\$18M 5-year Research Program on Accelerated Materials Development

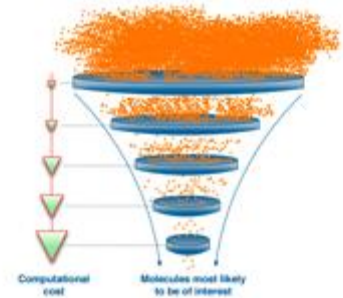
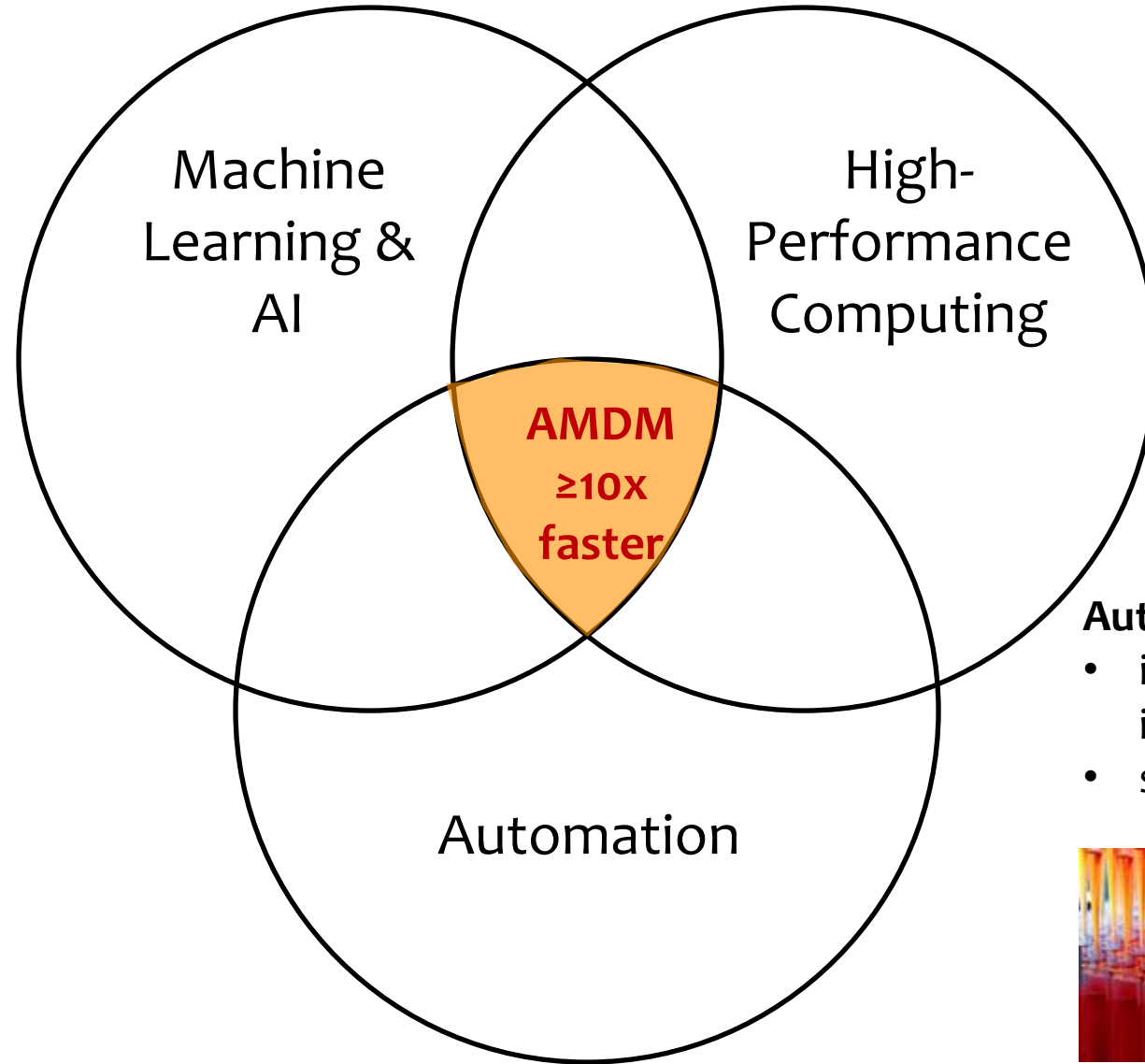


Convergence Enables Accelerated Materials



ML/AI:

- converts experimental data into actionable intelligence
- quickly navigates complex manifolds
- cognitive assistant

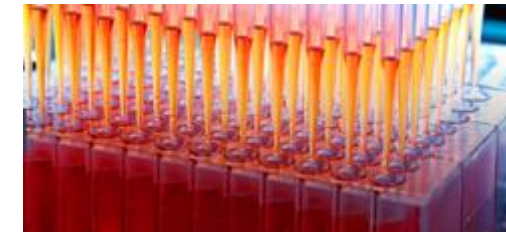


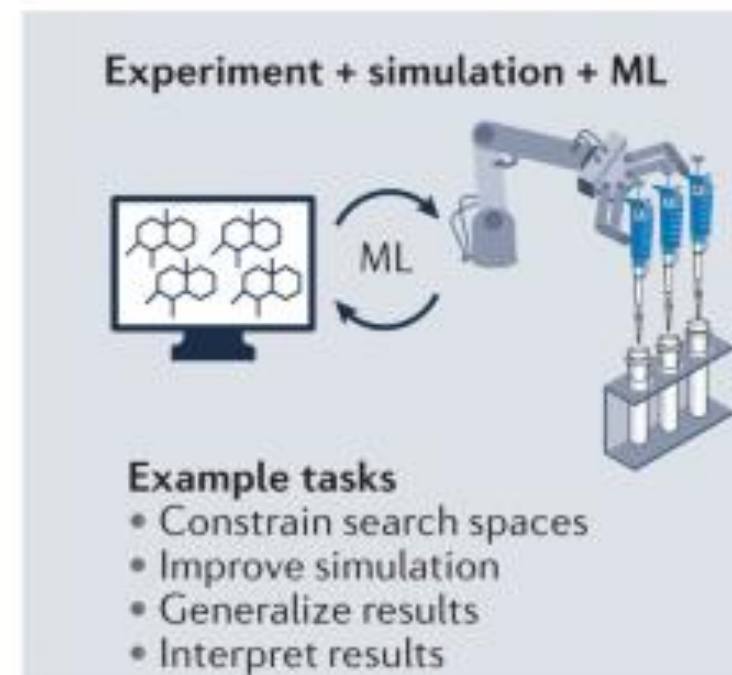
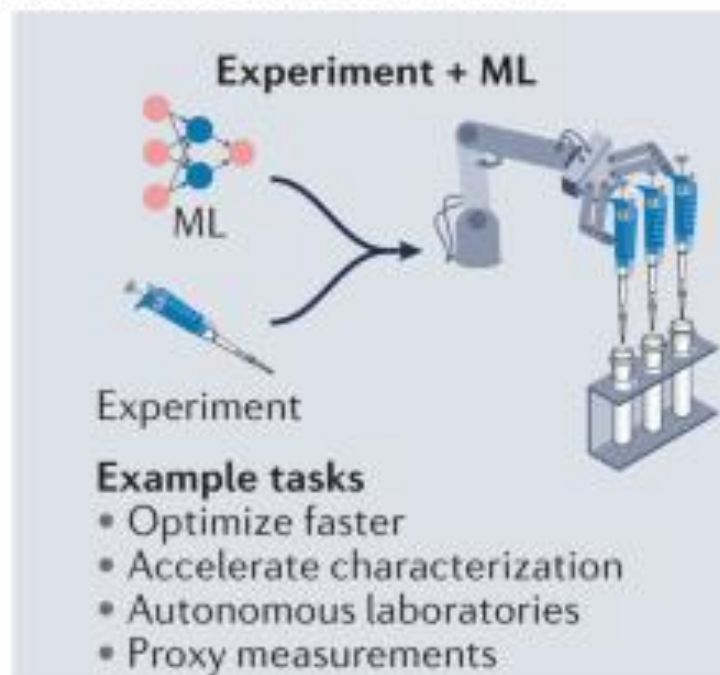
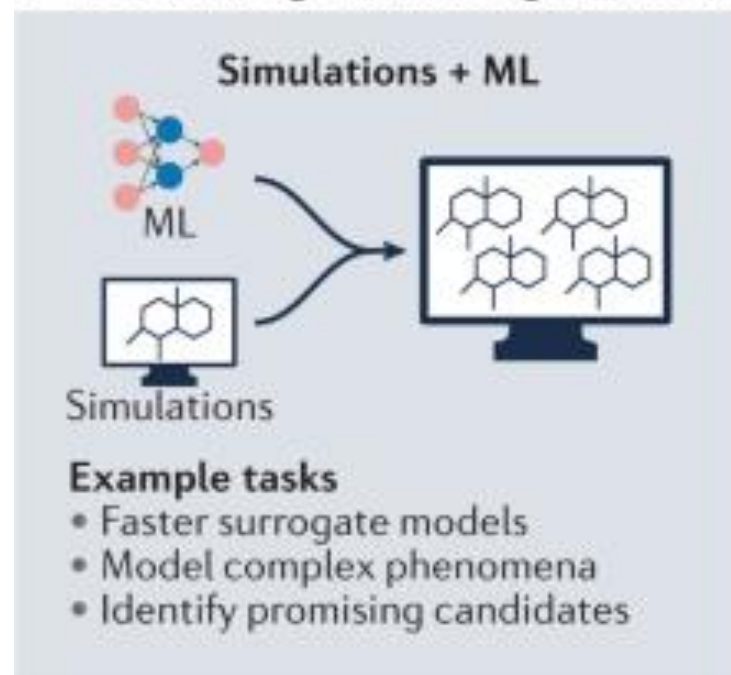
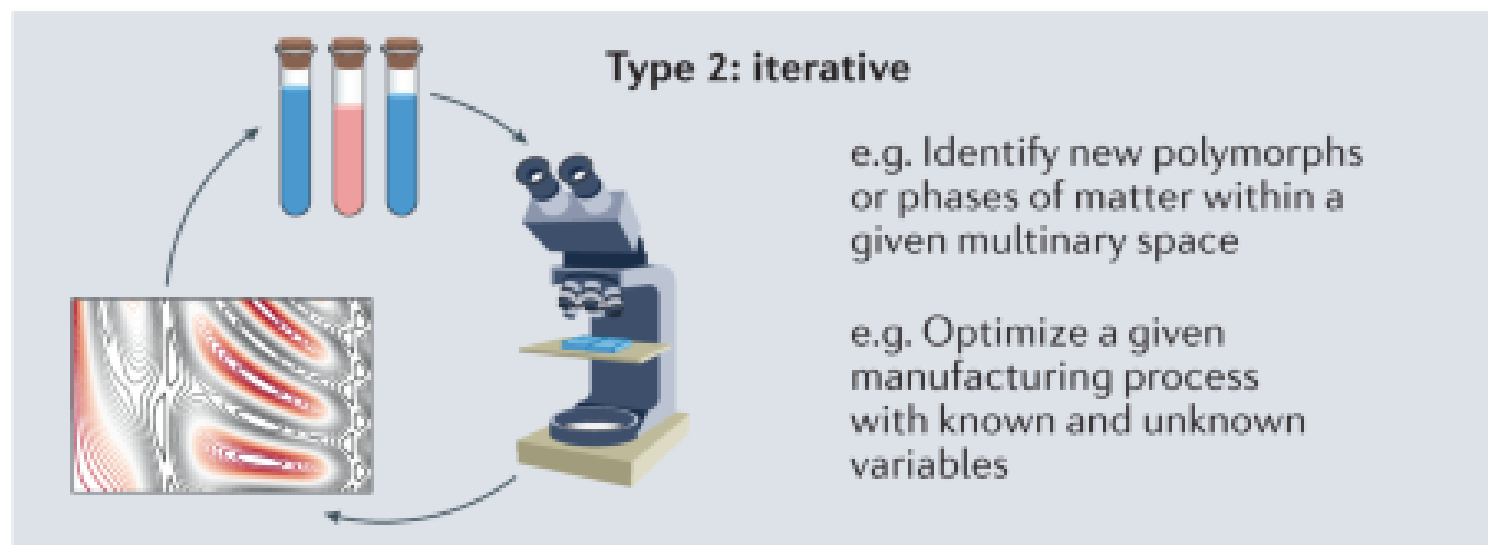
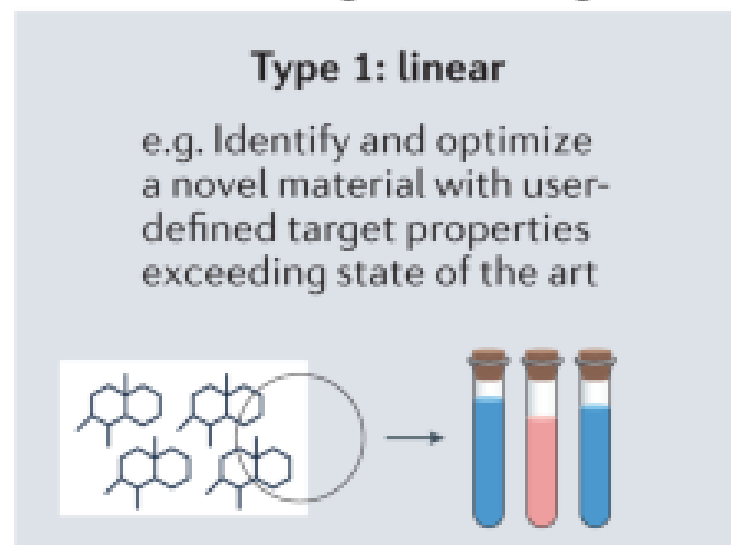
HPC simulation/screening:

- Materials Data
- focuses limited experimental bandwidth on most promising candidates

Automation/robotics:

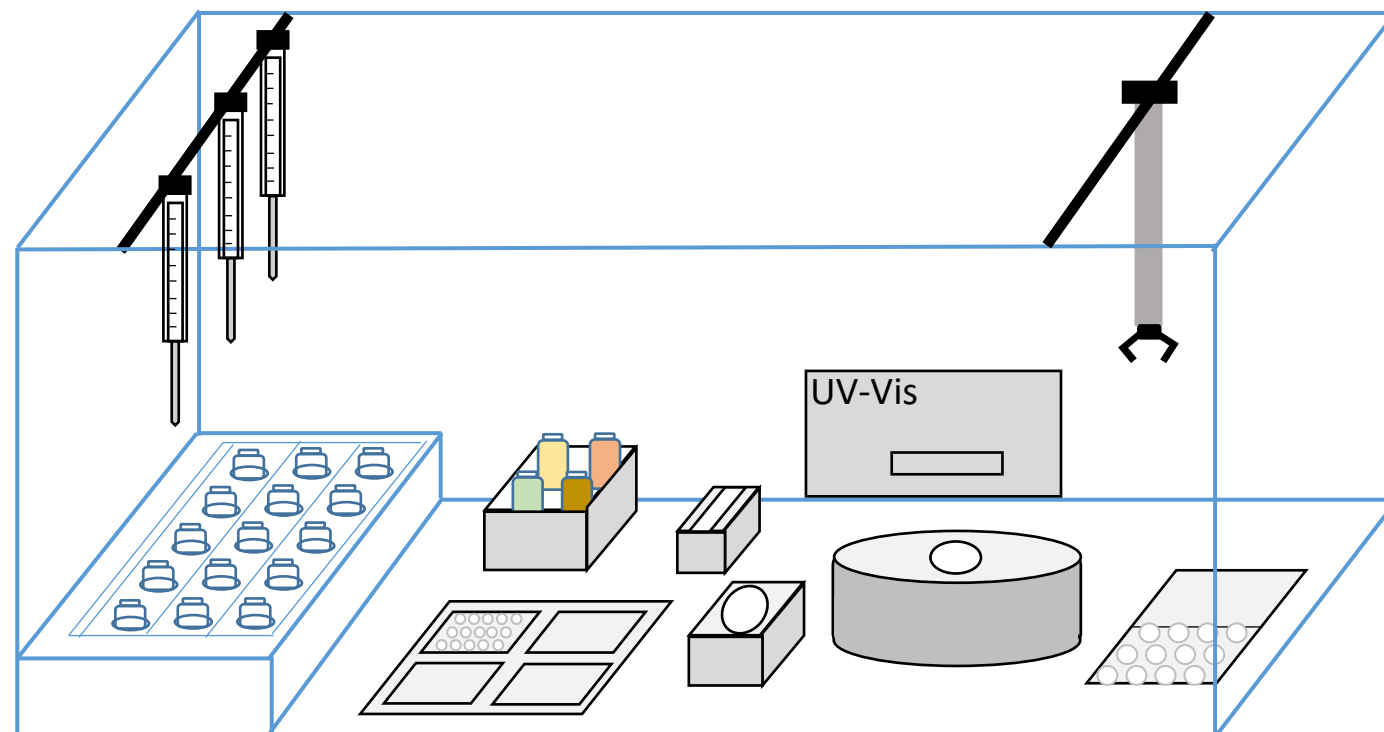
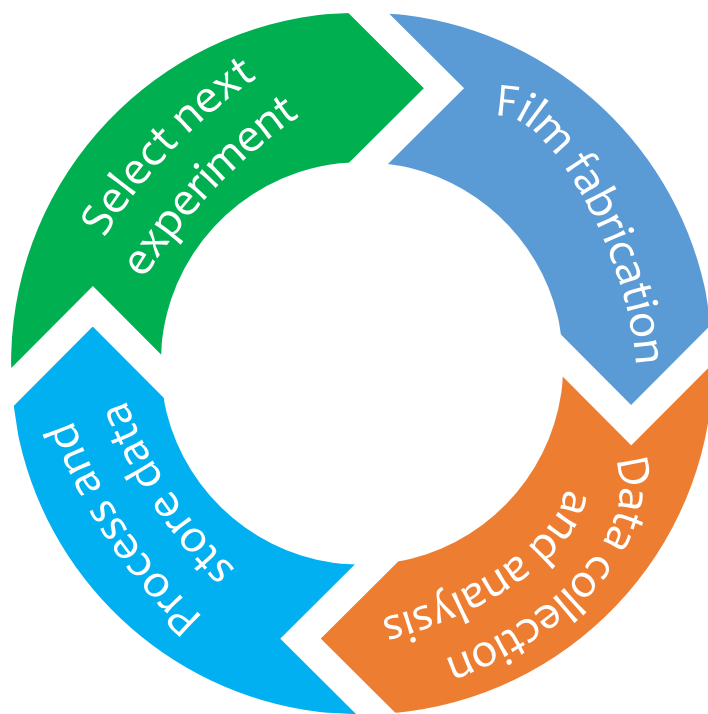
- increases reproducibility, improving signal-to-noise
- speeds up experimentation



**a Toolset integration: integrate ML with (autonomous) research tools****b Workflow integration: integrate discrete ML-enabled (autonomous) research tasks**



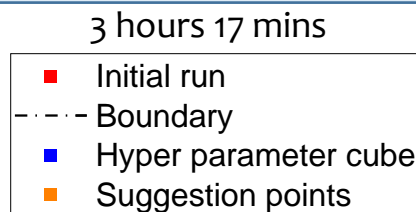
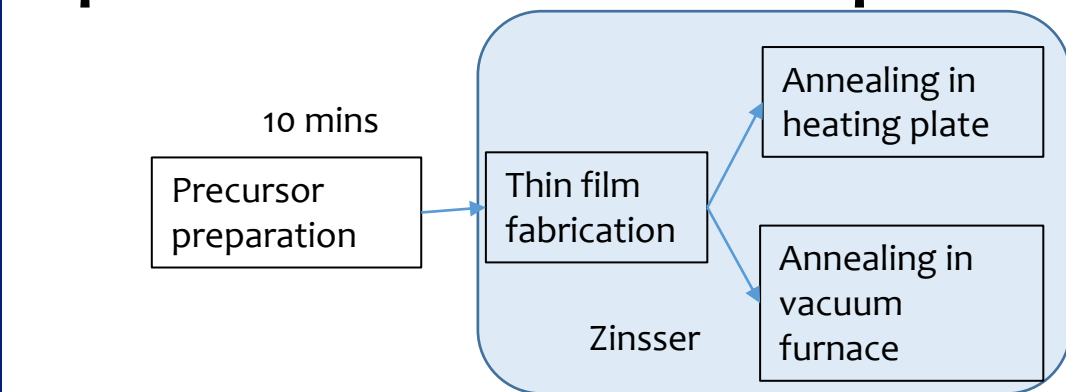
Example #1: Optimization of Cu-Sb-S for photoelectrochemistry



High-fidelity optimization for the best sample from ML-guided materials screening



Optimization of Cu-Sb-S for photoelectrochemistry



5 mins / 5 samples

hyperspectral
imaging

XPS
measurements

5 mins / sample

PES
measurements

Cycle of Learning:

6 hours 30 mins for one batch (5 different samples, 3 repeats for each, total 15 samples, annealing)

30 mins for each sample, 15 samples on one batch
1h preparation
So 5 samples will take 2h 50 mins

Constraints

Cu: $0 \leq X \leq 2000$

Sb: $0 \leq Y \leq 2000$

S: $0 \leq Z \leq 2000$

$Cu \leq S/4$

$X+Y+Z=2000$

Spin speed: 2500-4000

Annealing: 150 °C in air or 200 °C in vacuum furnace

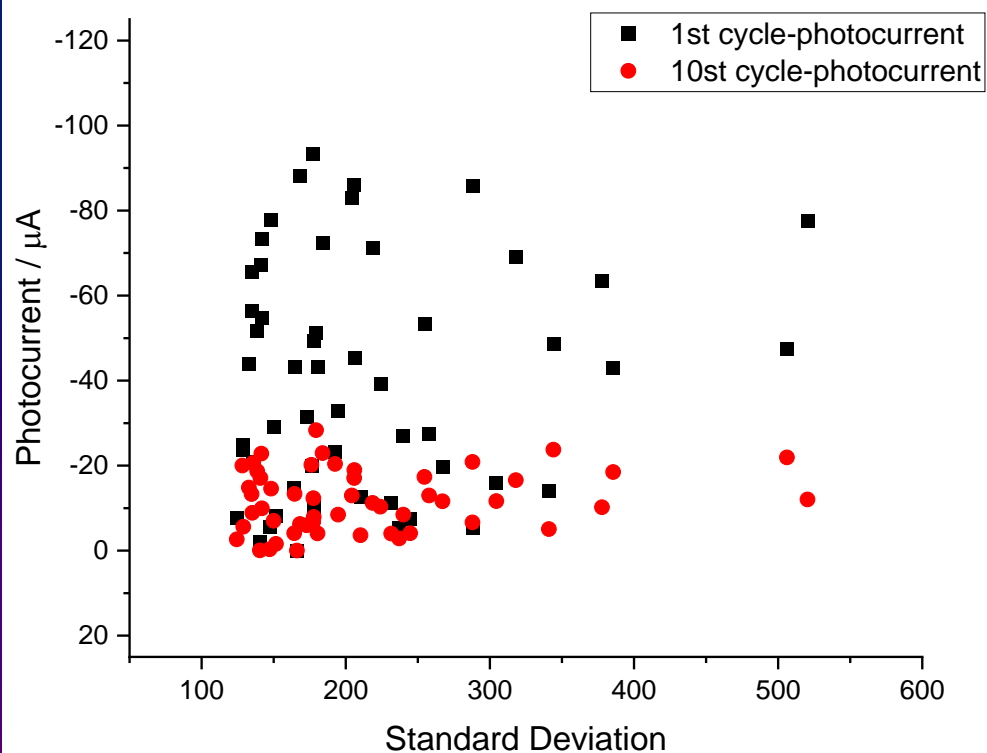
Multi-objectives

- Optical gap ~ 2eV
- Highest Film Uniformity
- More Cu¹⁺ percentage



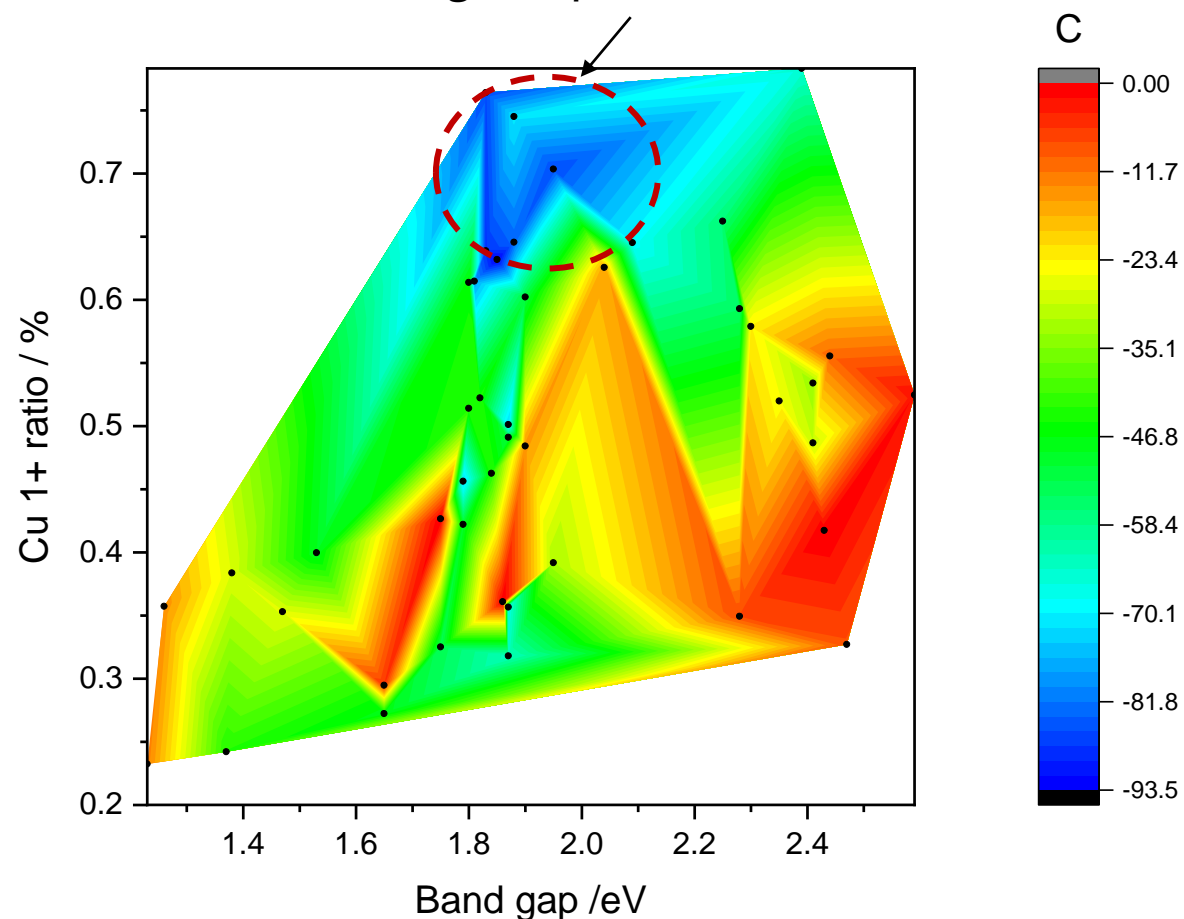
PEC Materials Discovery

Photocurrent VS Uniformity



No clear correlation between the uniformity of sample films and photocurrent

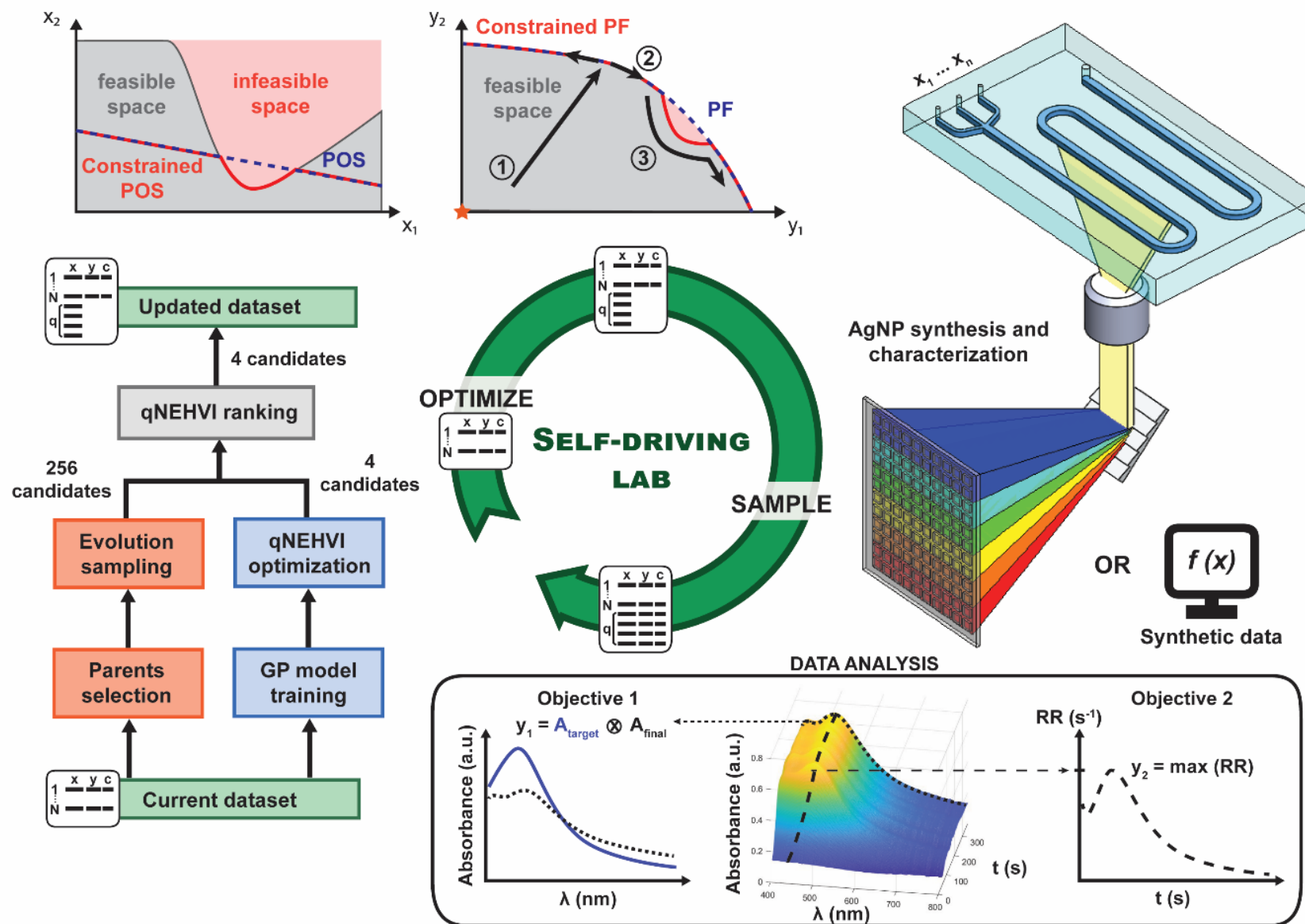
Highest photocurrent area



Bai Yang et. al. *Advanced Materials* 36, 2 , 2304269 (2023)

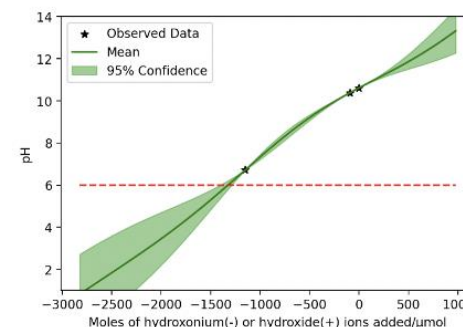
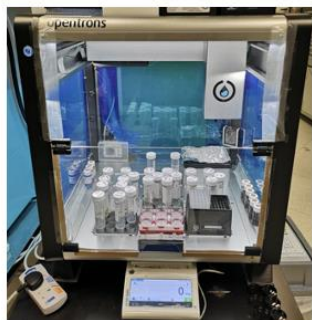
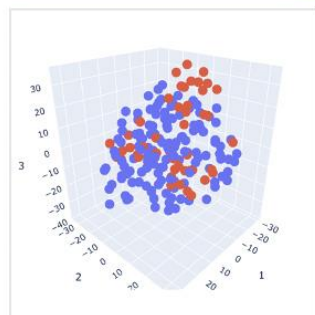
Example #2:

NEW ALGORITHMS – Evolution-Guided Bayesian Optimization Self-Driving Lab



Example #3: Shampoo Formulations

ML-driven Design of Experiments



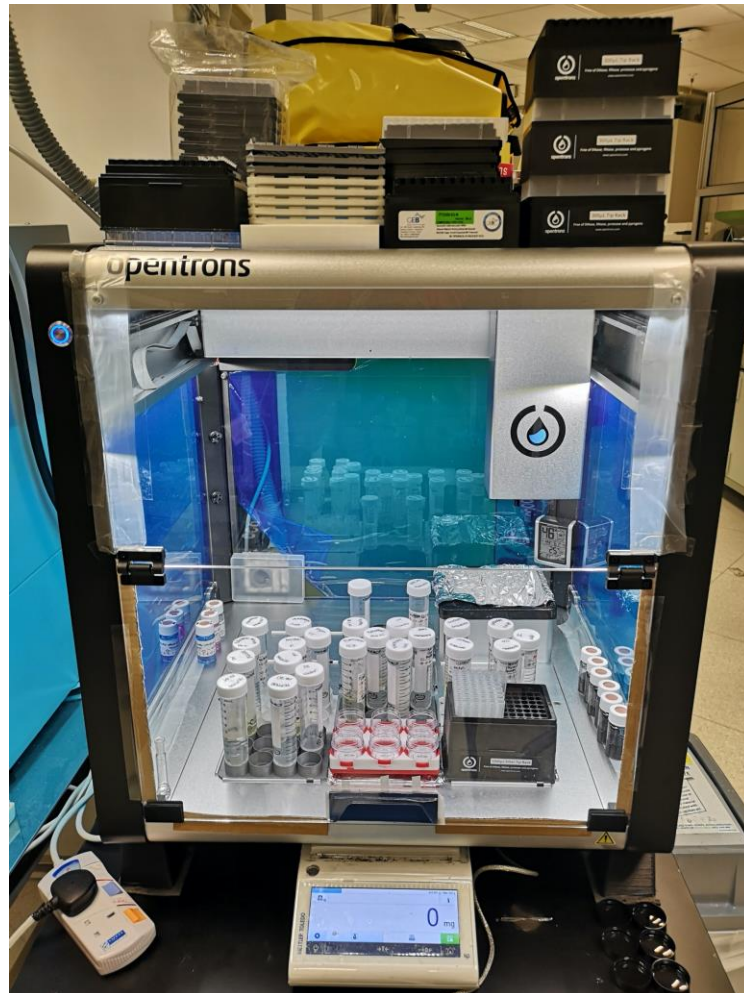
Aniket Chitre, Alexei Lapkin et. al. (2023)

BASF
We create chemistry

 **UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

10

Viscous Liquids Handling



Opentrons

WEBINAR

Opentrons Mass Balance Integration and Developing a Proxy High-Throughput Viscometer

On-demand

This webinar will be a two-part presentation on (i) how to integrate a mass balance with the Opentrons liquid handling robot for automated gravimetric experiments, and (ii) how to utilise this set-up as a proxy high-throughput viscometer. This webinar will be particularly relevant for those working with difficult-to-pipette, viscous fluids.

Sign up to access this 60-minute webinar to learn:

- How to retrofit the Opentrons for automated gravimetric experiments
- Using the Opentrons as a proxy high-throughput viscometer

Access Now

First Name Last Name

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Get the webinar


Subject to your consent given above, by clicking on "Get the webinar" Opentrons may use your personal information to communicate with you for marketing purposes. All information you provide in this site will be governed by our Privacy Policy.

Speakers



Aniket Chitre
PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge

Aniket is a PhD student in the Lapkin Lab at the University of Cambridge working on accelerating liquid formulation design via automation and machine-learning. He is on exchange in Singapore at Cambridge CARES and collaborating within the group of Prof. Kedar Hippalgaonkar at A*STAR to build high-throughput workflows.

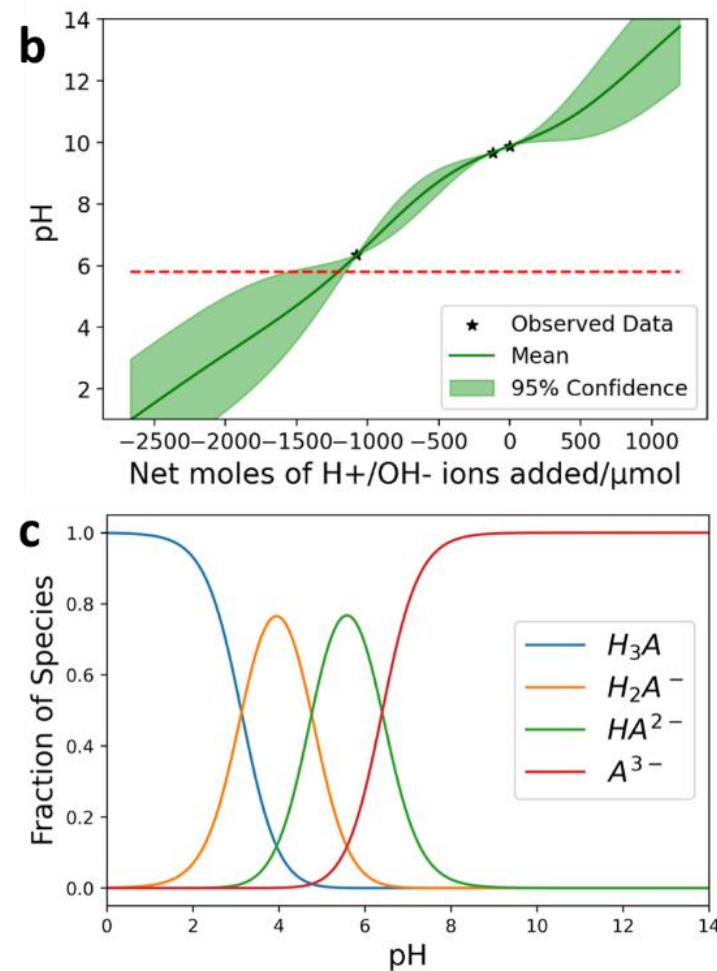
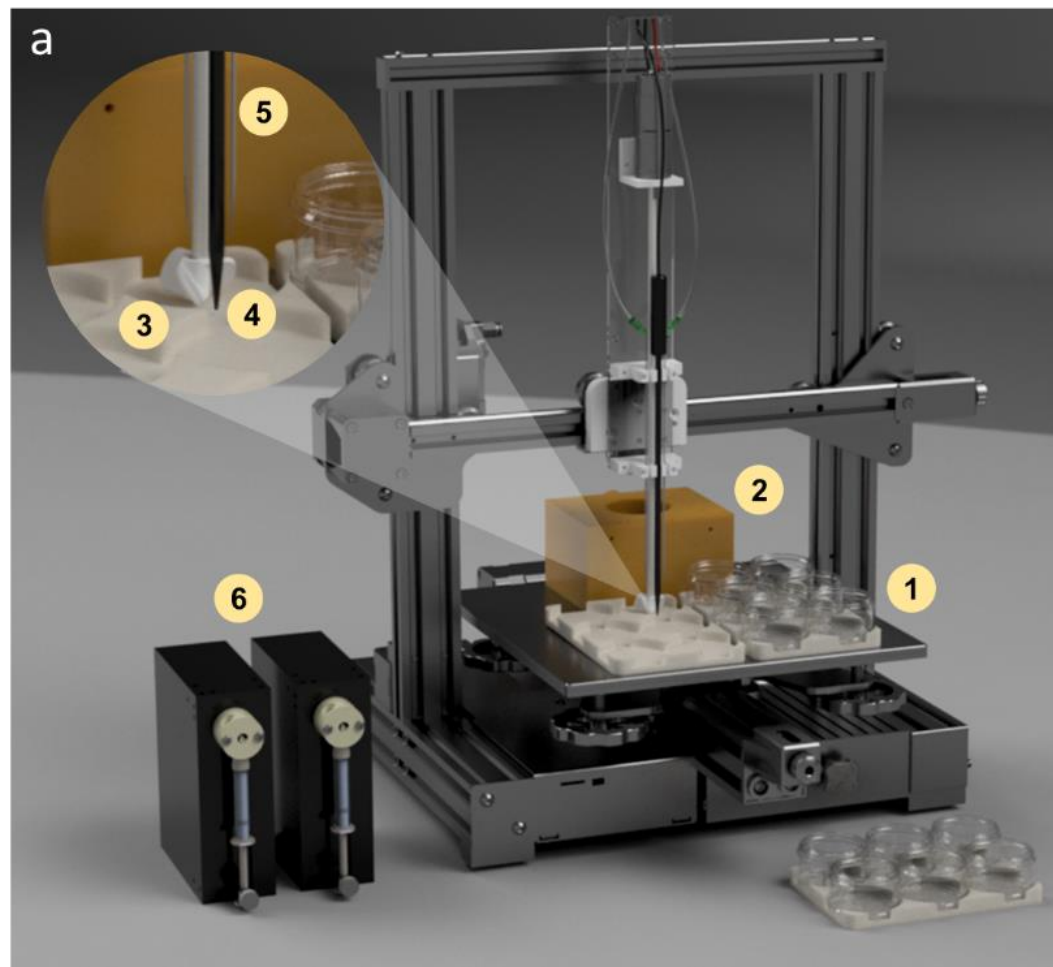


Beatrice Soh
Scientist, Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, A*STAR

Beatrice is a research scientist at the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, A*STAR (Singapore). Her research interests lie at the intersection of microfluidics, soft matter and high-throughput experimentation. She is currently working on developing high-throughput workflows for characterising polymer dynamics.

Aniket Chitre, Beatrice Soh, Kedar Hippalgaonkar et. al. RSC **Digital Discovery** (2023)

pHbot: Automated, ML-driven pH Adjustment of Viscous Formulations



[10.26434/chemrxiv-2023-c46mv](https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv-2023-c46mv)

Aniket Chitre, Jayce Cheng, Alexei Lapkin et. al. in review **Chemistry Methods** (2023)

12

phbot: Supplementary Information Instructions

[10.26434/chemrxiv-2023-c46mv](https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv-2023-c46mv)

pHBÖT



1 GENERAL INFORMATION

DESIGNER INSTITUTION

Aniket Chitre Cambridge Centre for Advanced Research and Education in Singapore
Jayce Cheng Institute of Materials Research and Engineering, A*STAR, Singapore

2 DESCRIPTION

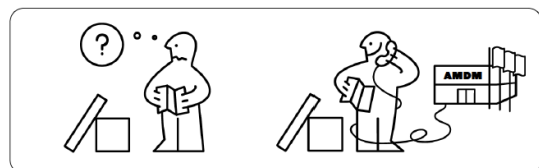
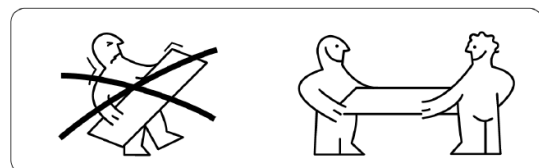
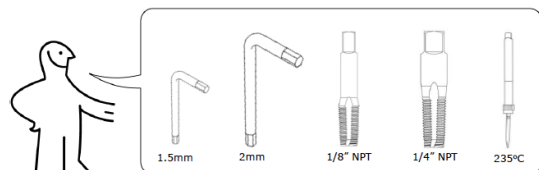
This is the assembly guide for the pHBÖT: self-driving titration robot.

*Labware not included

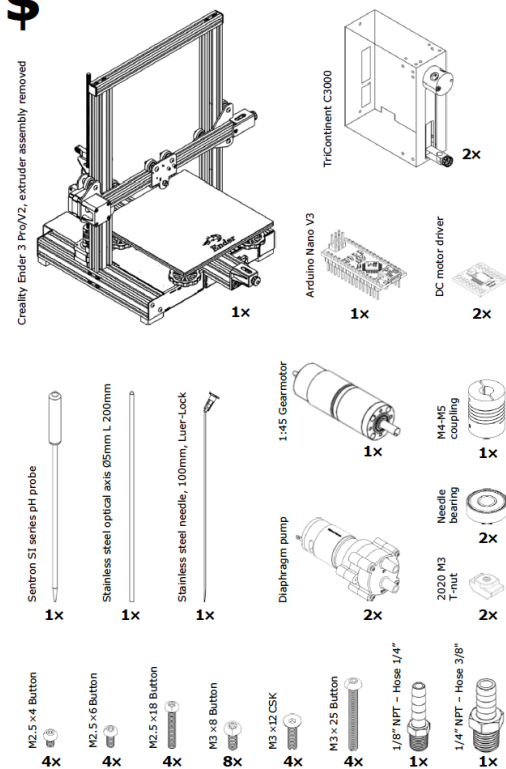
*Wiring and tubing not shown

3 RESOURCES

- Access to FDM 3D printing
- Access to SLA, DLP or equivalent resin 3D printing
- Basic soldering



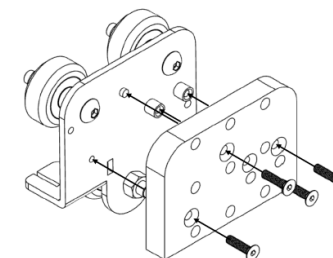
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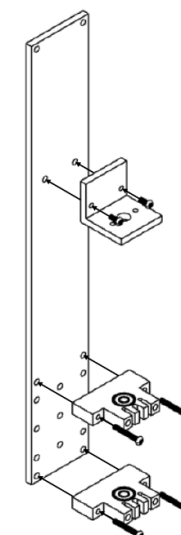
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4 Assembly

1

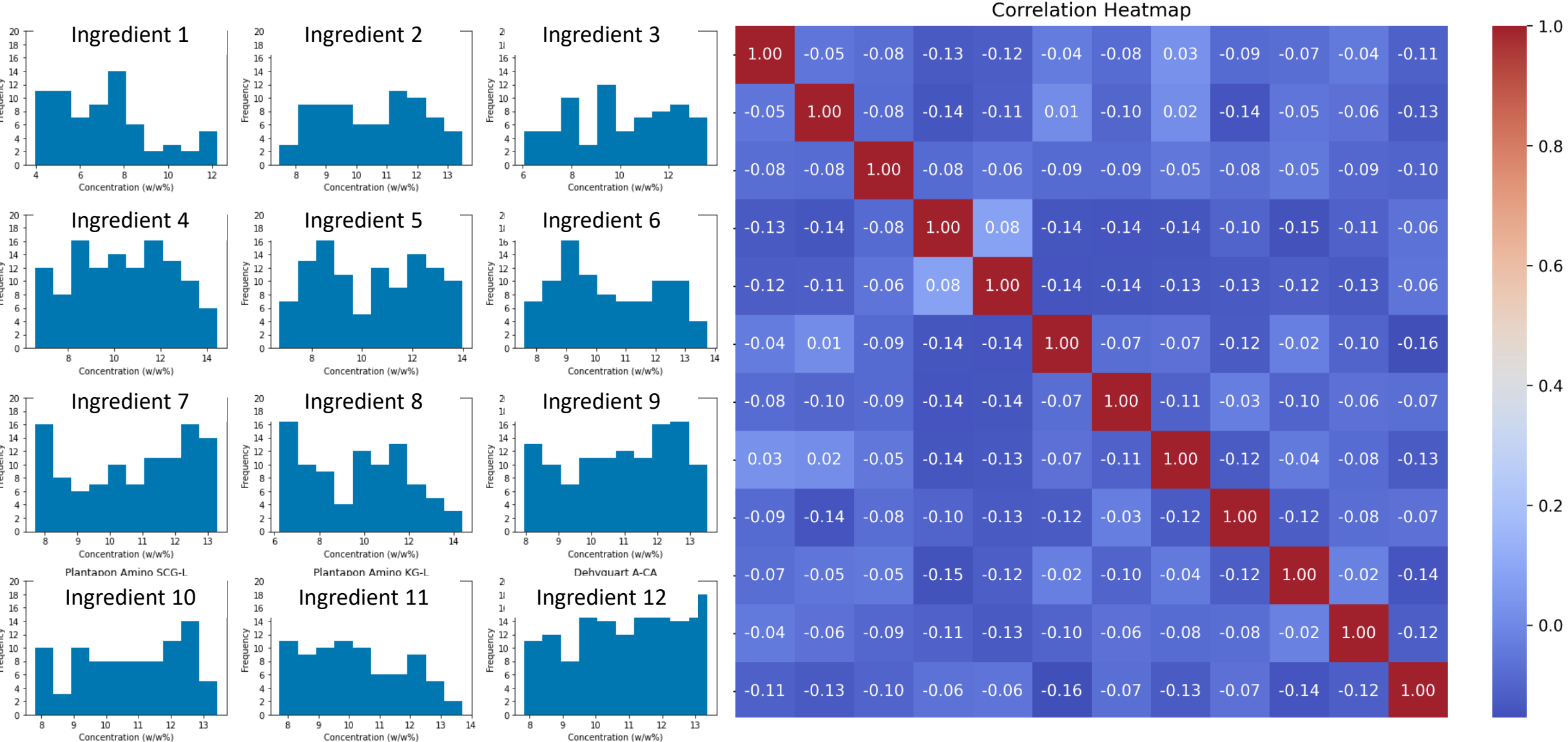


2



6

Effective Sampling – target is NOT optimization, but balanced dataset

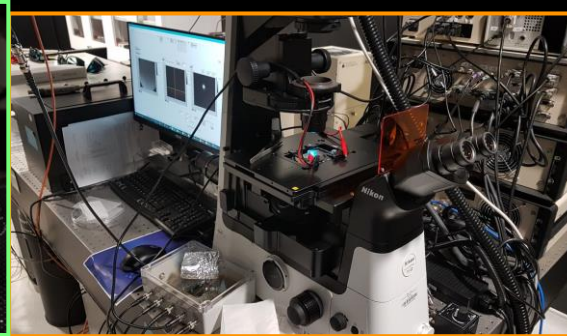
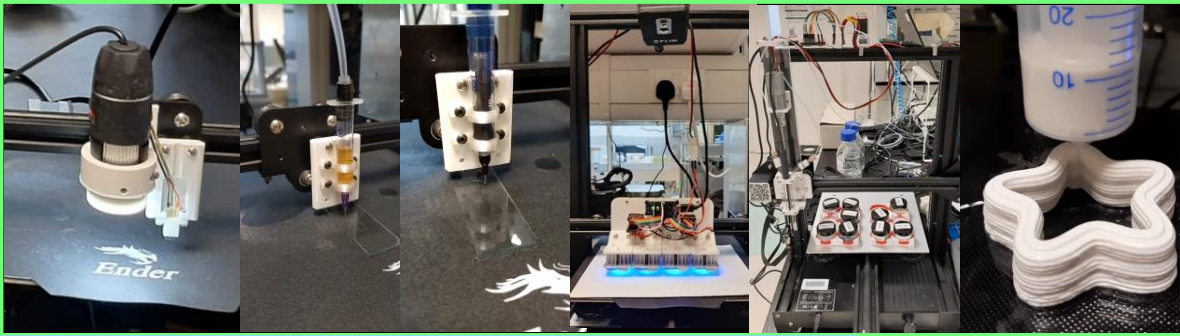


Aniket Chitre, Kedar Hippalgaonkar, Alexei Lapkin et. al. *Chemistry Methods* (2023), *Nature Scientific Data* (2024)

AI for New Materials Discovery

ender 'bots'

Microscope, electrical probe Hydrogel Ink Printing UV curing pH titration Concrete



DNA & polymers

Automatic Electrokinetic Stretcher

Nature Comp Science 4, 66 (2024)

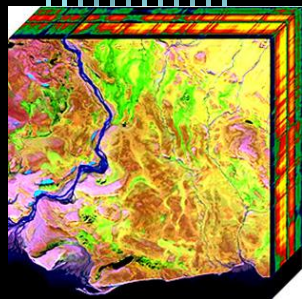


Sustainable Materials



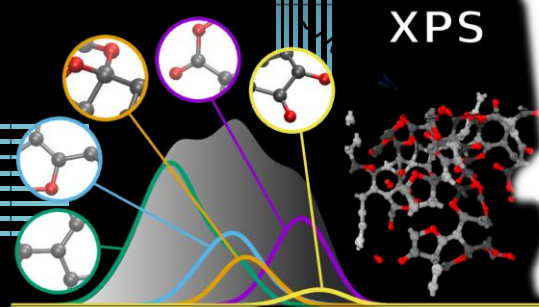
Battery Materials

Auto-Pipettor



Hyperspectral Imaging

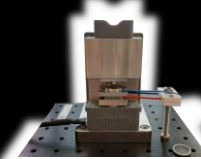
XPS



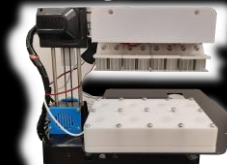
Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy



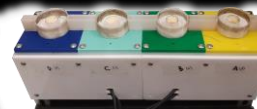
Dynamic Mechanical Analysis (Thermal)



UV Curing



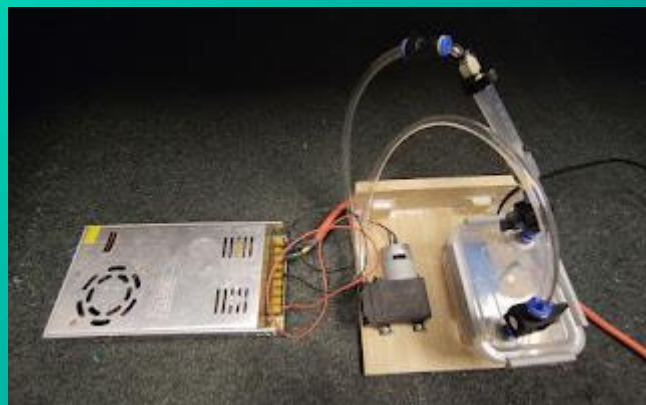
Spin Coater





Example #4: Xinterra - carbon capture fabric

*A*STAR spinoff, technology licensed, IMRE staff/students co-founders*



3 months
2 prototypes
1.5 FTEs

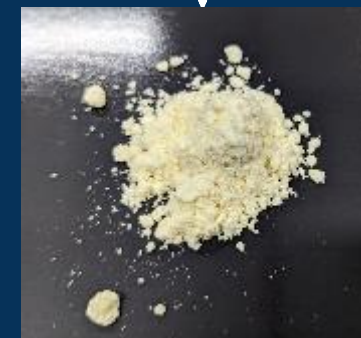


4 months
120 materials
3 FTEs



AI Round 1

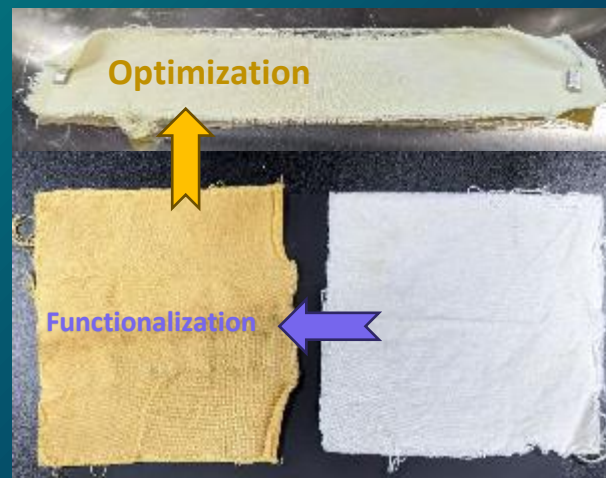
2 FTEs



**Powdered
cellulose**



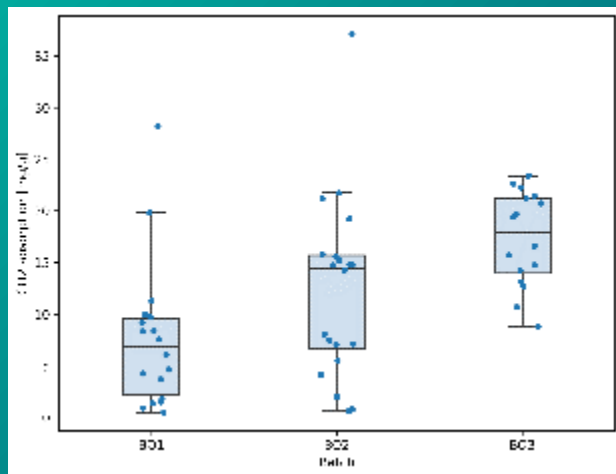
AI Round 2
2 FTEs



Textile Prototypes: Cellulosics



AI Round 3
2 FTEs

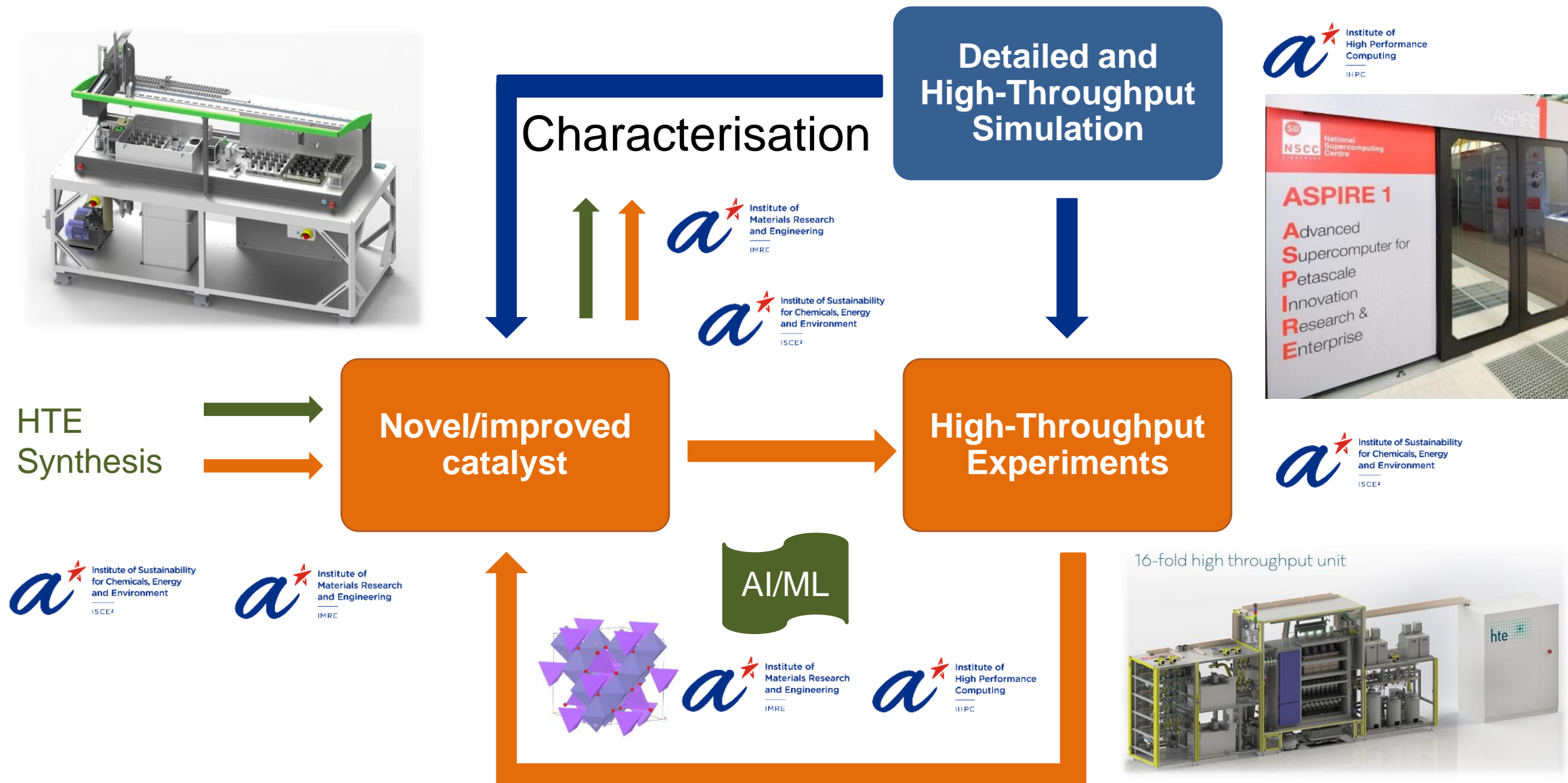


AI driven optimization + IP Filing

4 months, TRL 2 to 5, now discussion with toll manufacturers.



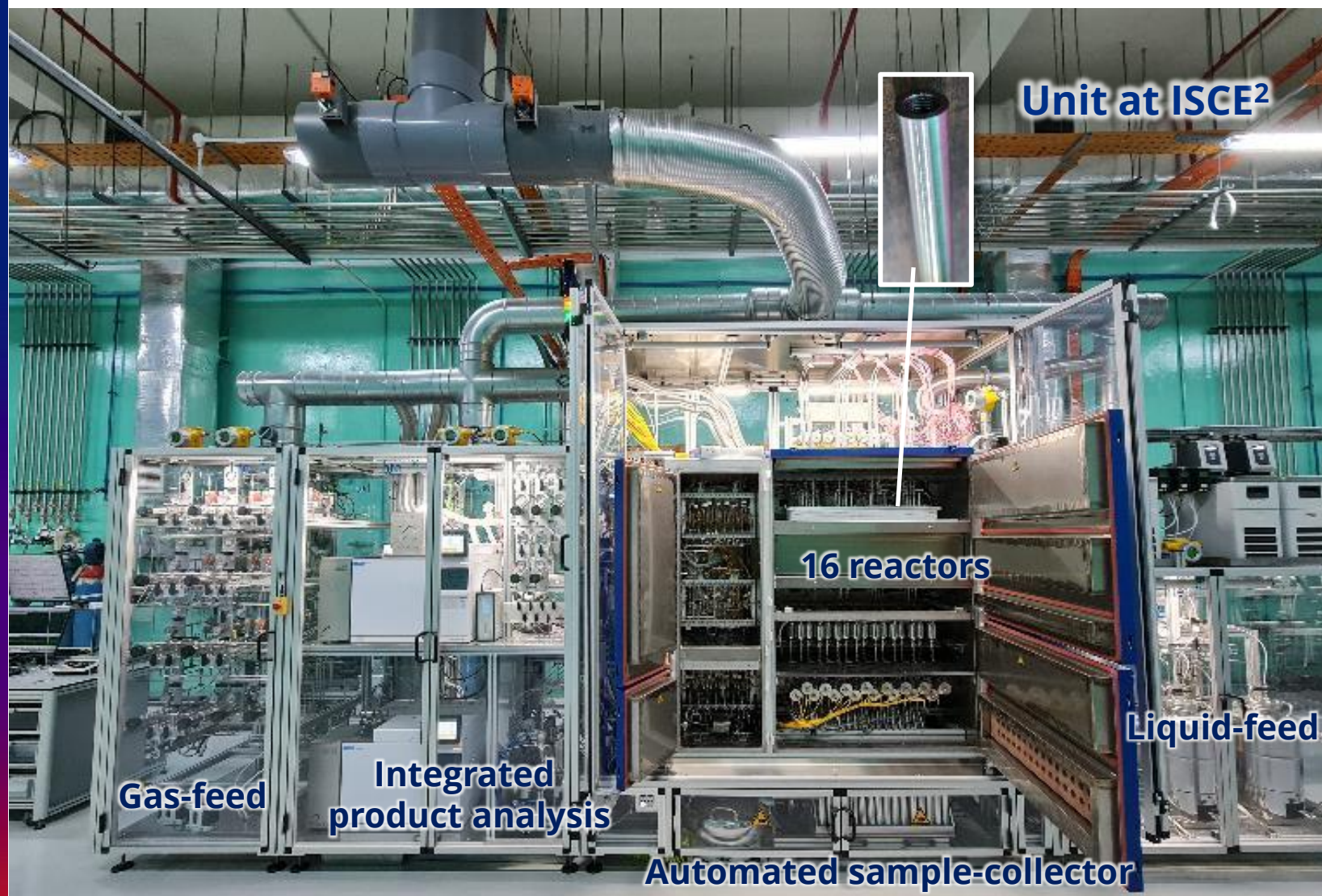
Accelerated Catalyst Development Platform (US\$8M, 36 months)





High-throughput Catalyst Screening

► Automated high-throughput catalyst screening system



- ✓ 16 parallel reactor system
- ✓ Gas feed → Plug-flow
- ✓ Liquids feeds → Trickle-bed
- ✓ RT to 700°C
- ✓ Up to 200 bar
- ✓ Up to 8 ml catalyst scale
- ✓ Powder or shaped forms
- ✓ Online GC & offline analysis
- ✓ Multipoint T monitoring
- ✓ Multiplies output by >5 times

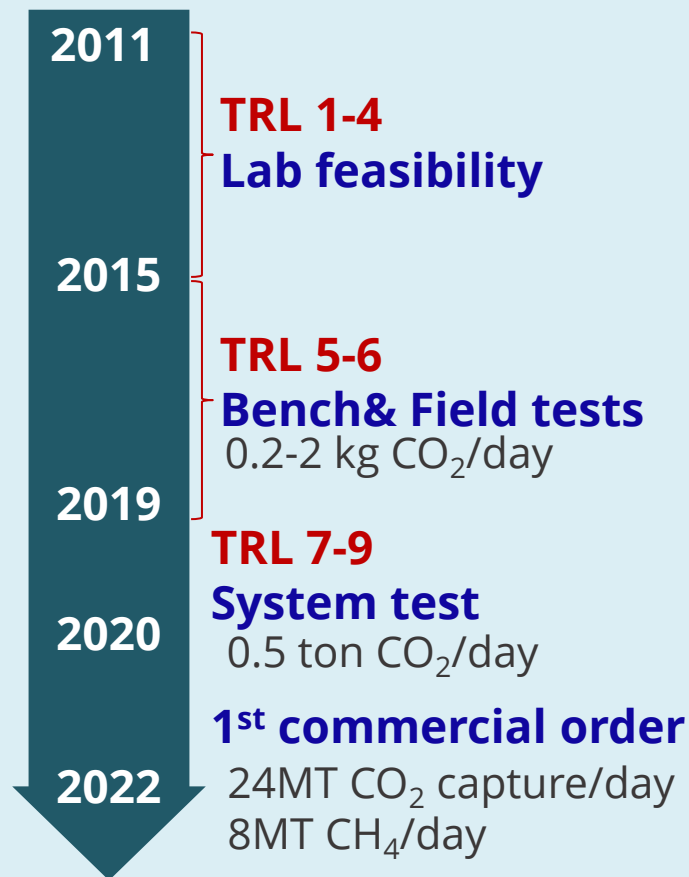


Industry adoption of AI developed materials for CO₂ utilization



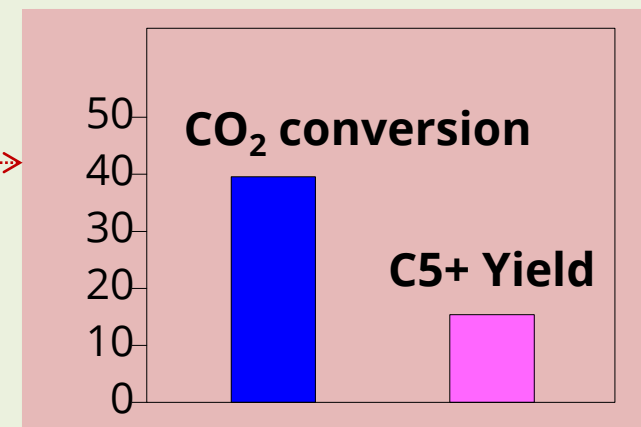
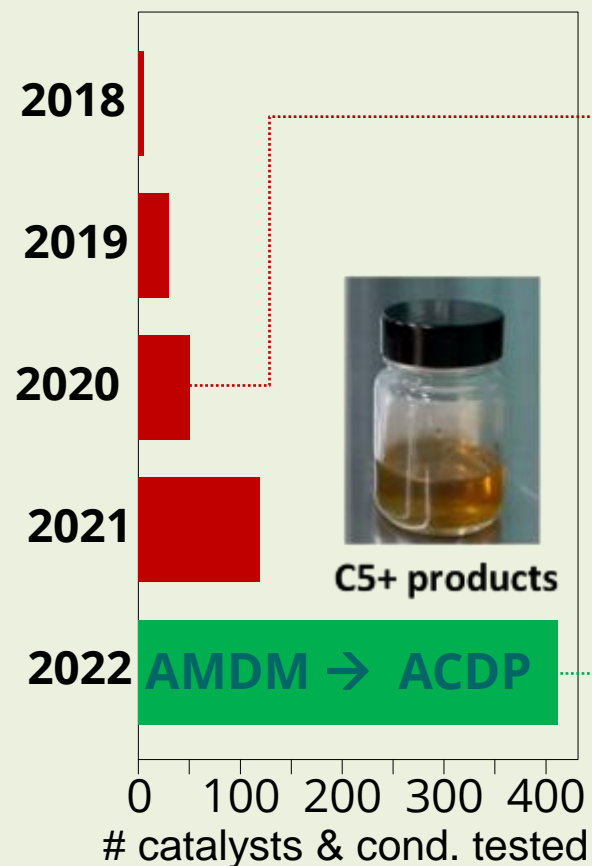
Traditional Development

CO₂ methanation technology by conventional approach took **more than 10 years**

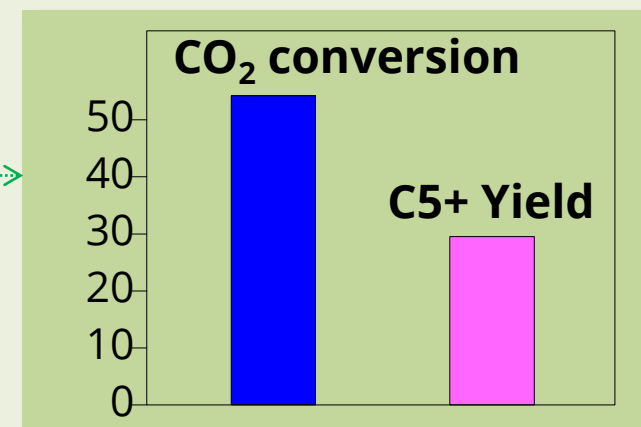


From 10 years down to 2 years!

CO₂ to SAF via ACDP embarks on TRL 5/6 **within a year**

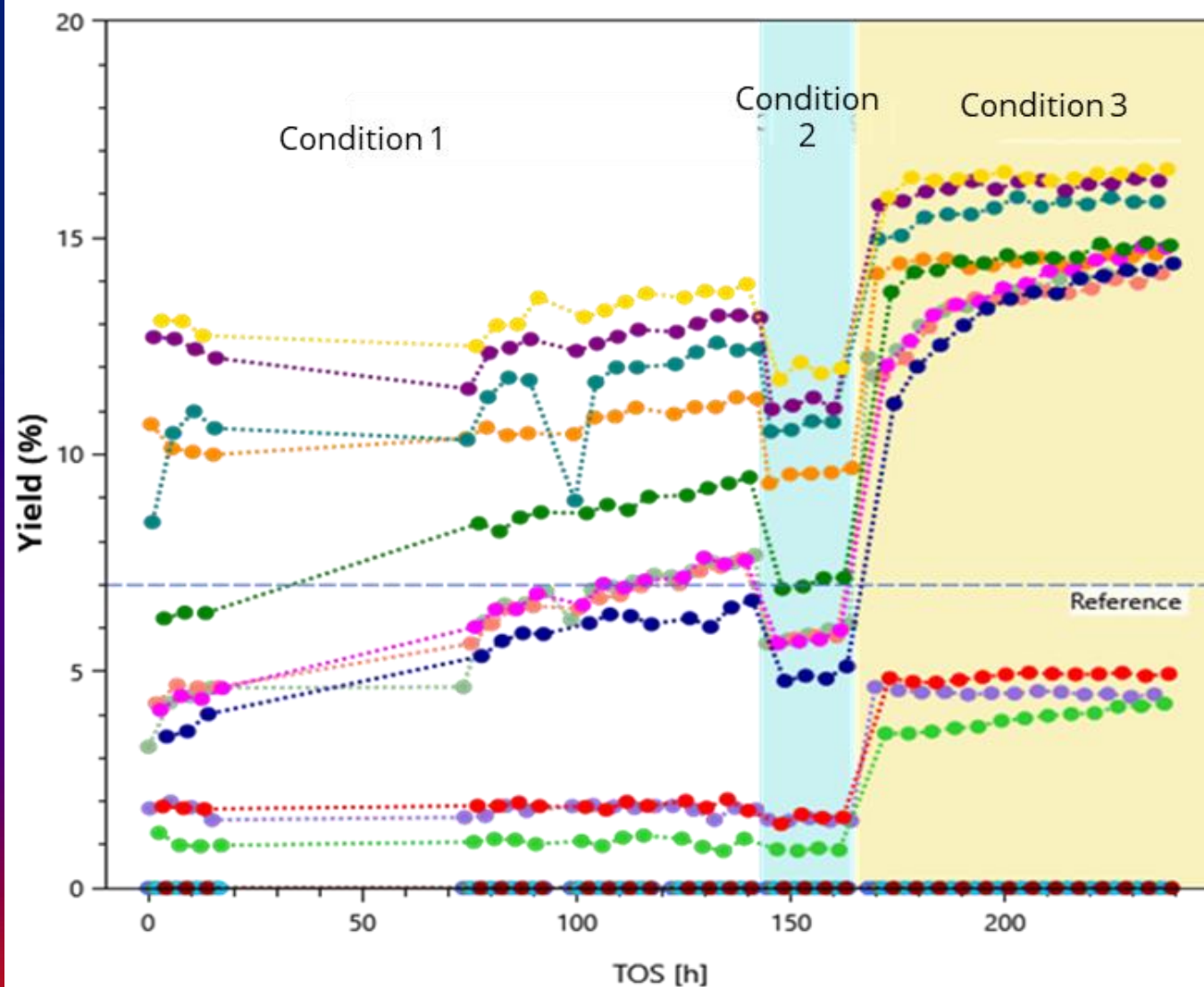


2x more yield via ACDP

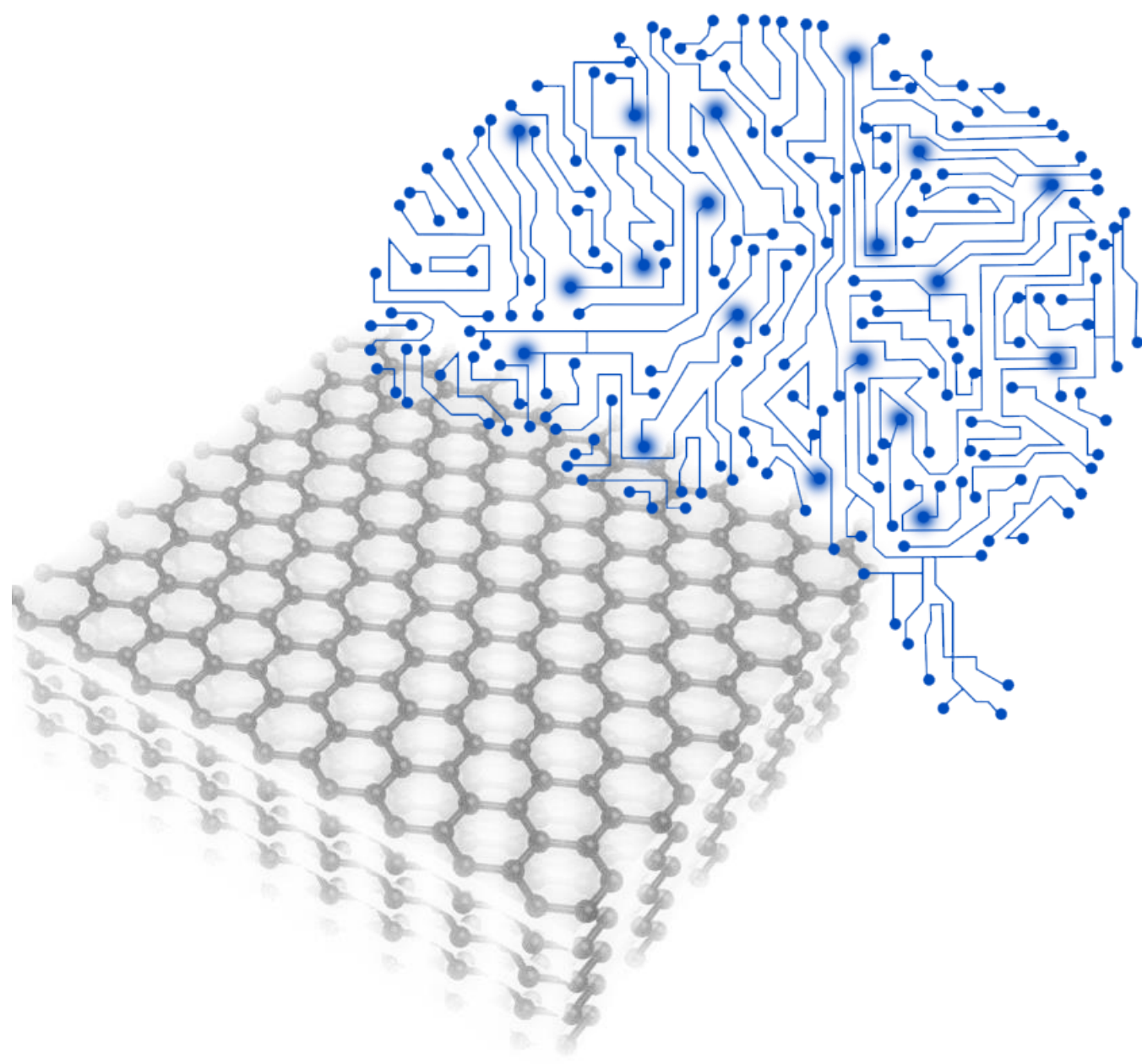




Parallel in-line monitoring of Fischer Tropsch reactions



- 16 catalysts are evaluated in HTE fixed bed reactor simultaneously
- 3 different reaction conditions are tested, over 200 hours Time on Stream
- In-line GC monitoring allows quantification of both gaseous and liquid products
- >10x acceleration in catalyst screening time



*What's
next?*



Generative Model for Inorganics:

MAT-GDT (Materials Generative Design and Testing Framework)

Data Driven Design of functional materials

Discovering **new sustainable materials** with **desired performance** requires

- (a) generative design and development of a **foundation AI** model,
- (b) accelerated validation through high-throughput simulations and experiments (self-driving labs)



Language – (LLMs)
Chat GPT, BingChat etc.



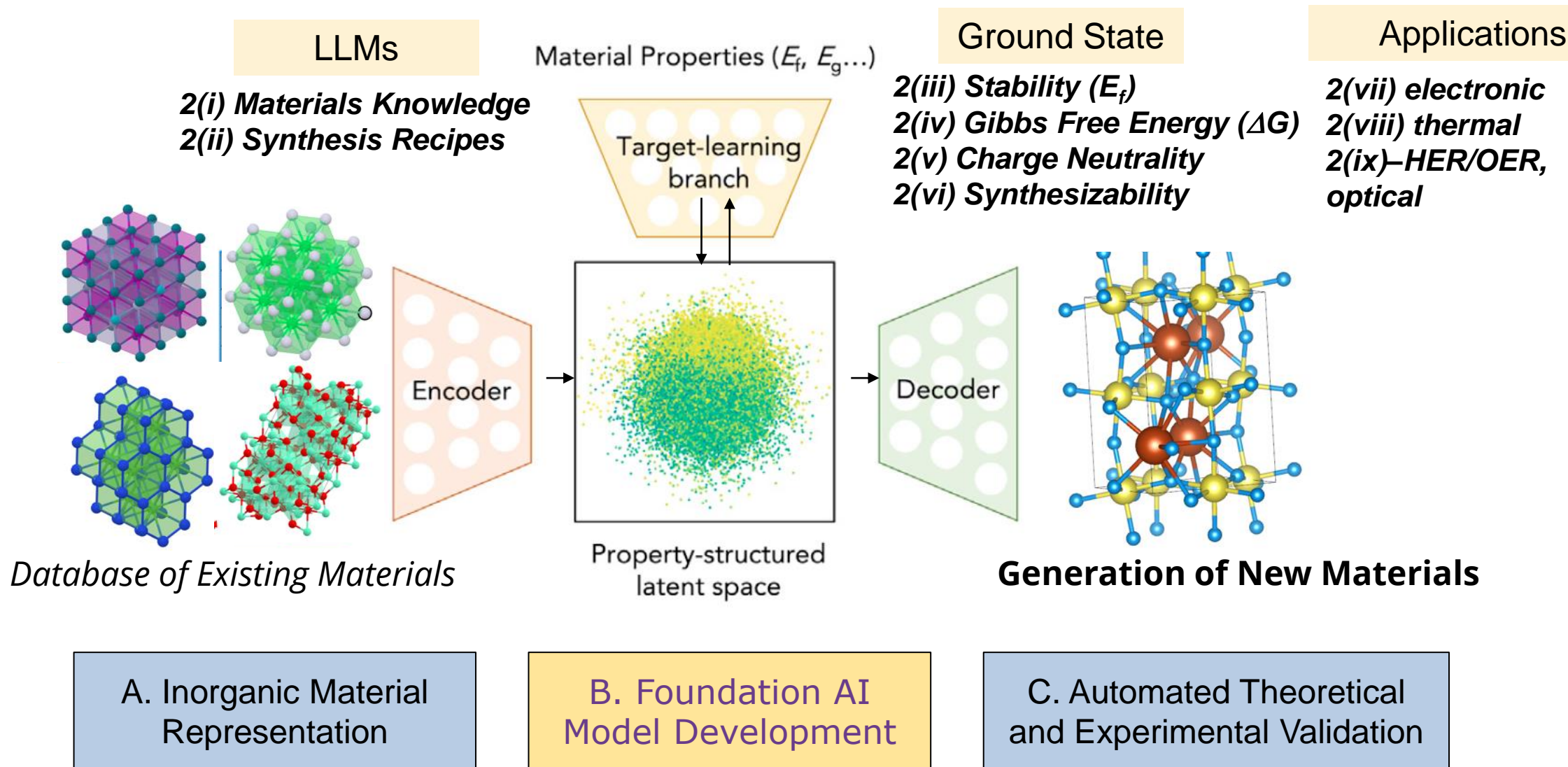
Images – **Stable Diffusion**



Materials? – **Mat GDT!**

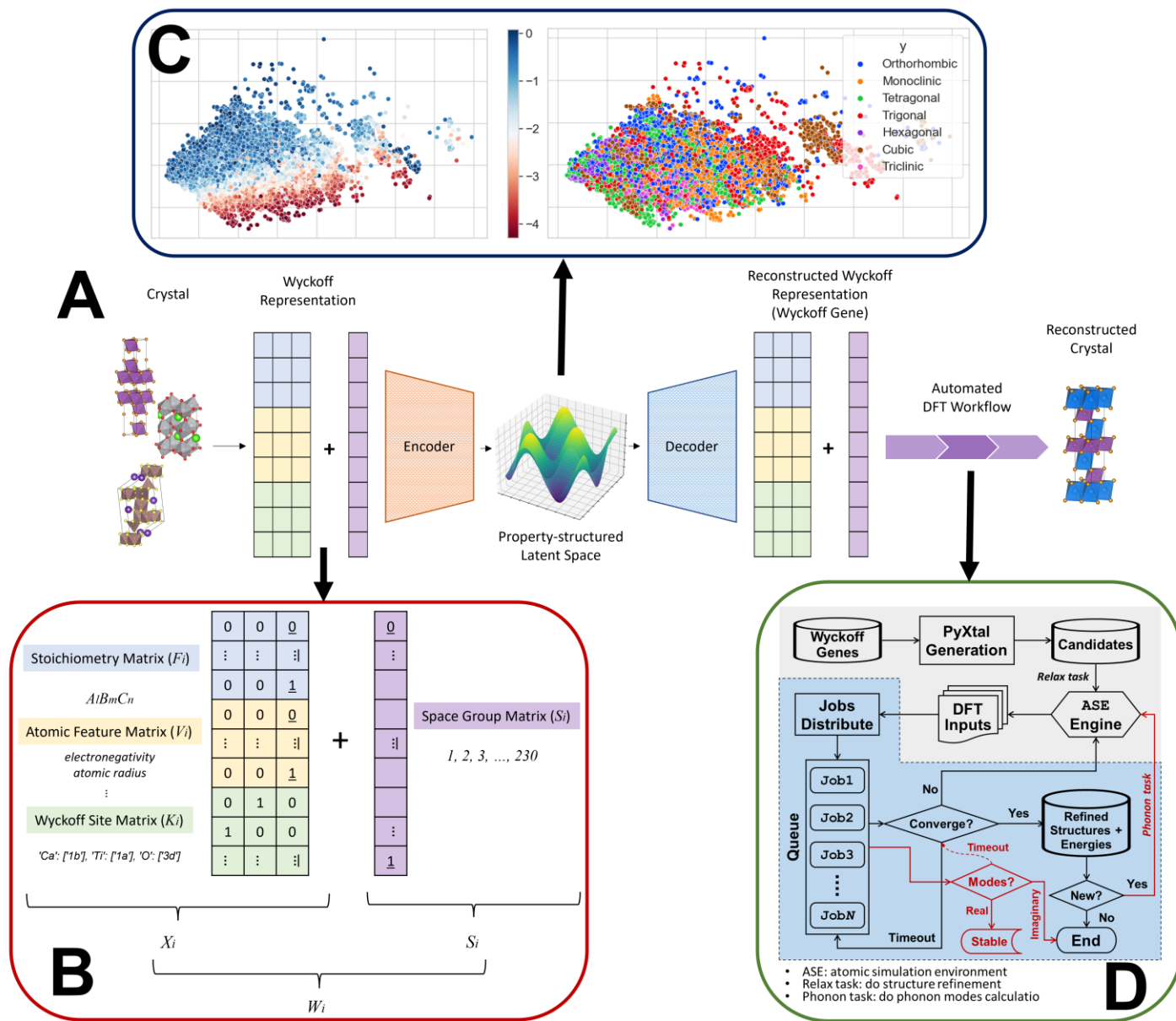


Property-directed design



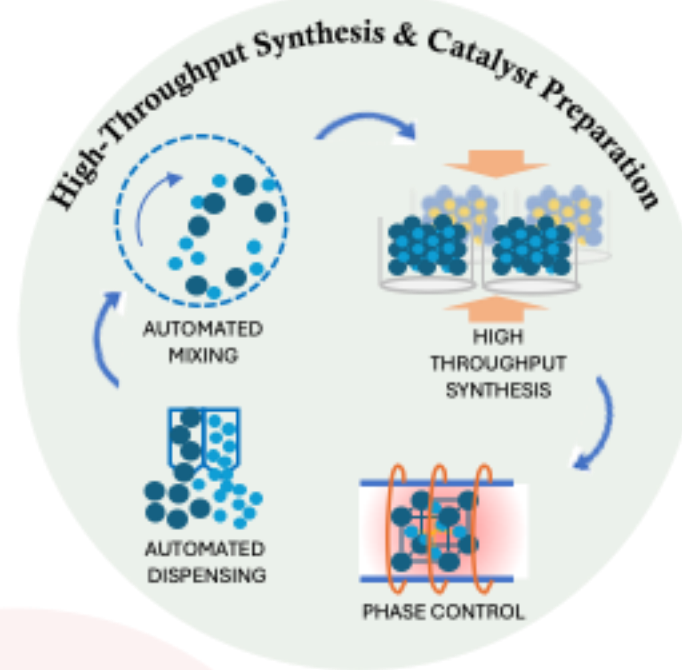
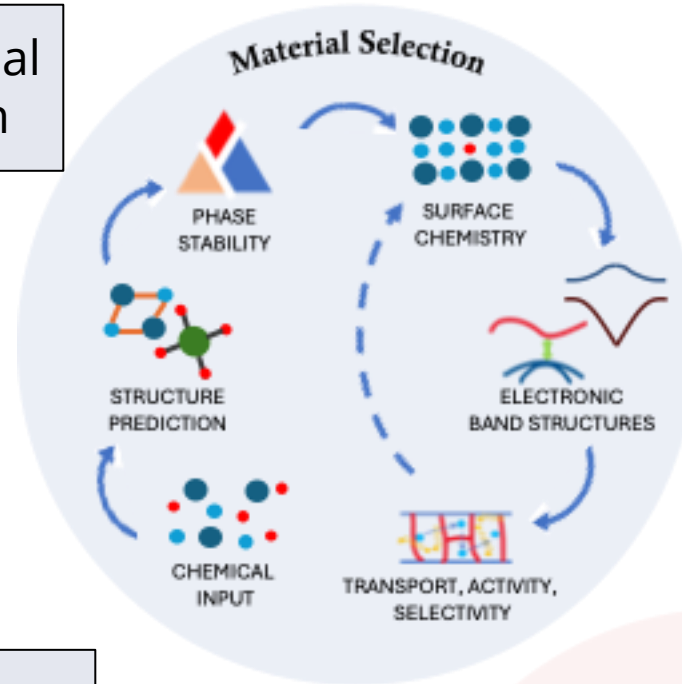


WyCryst – Wyckoff Inorganic Crystal Generator Framework



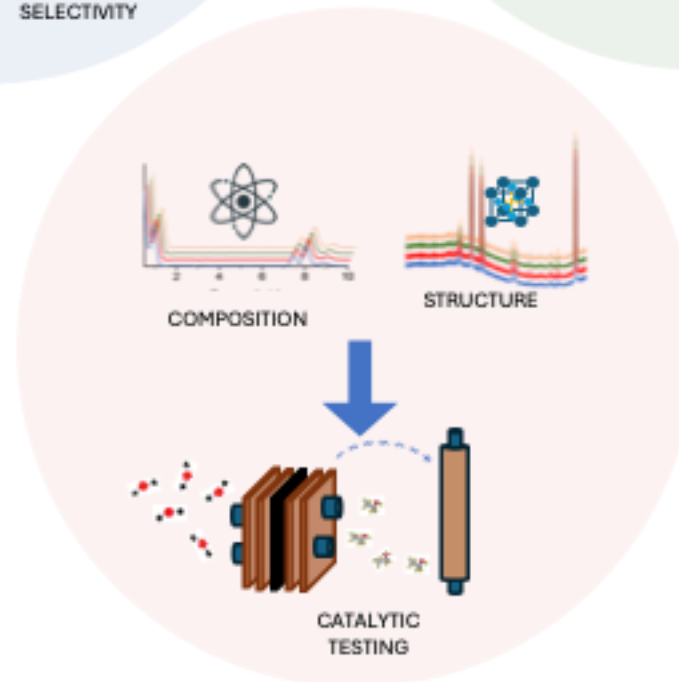
AI and high-throughput integrated catalyst design

Inorganic Material Representation

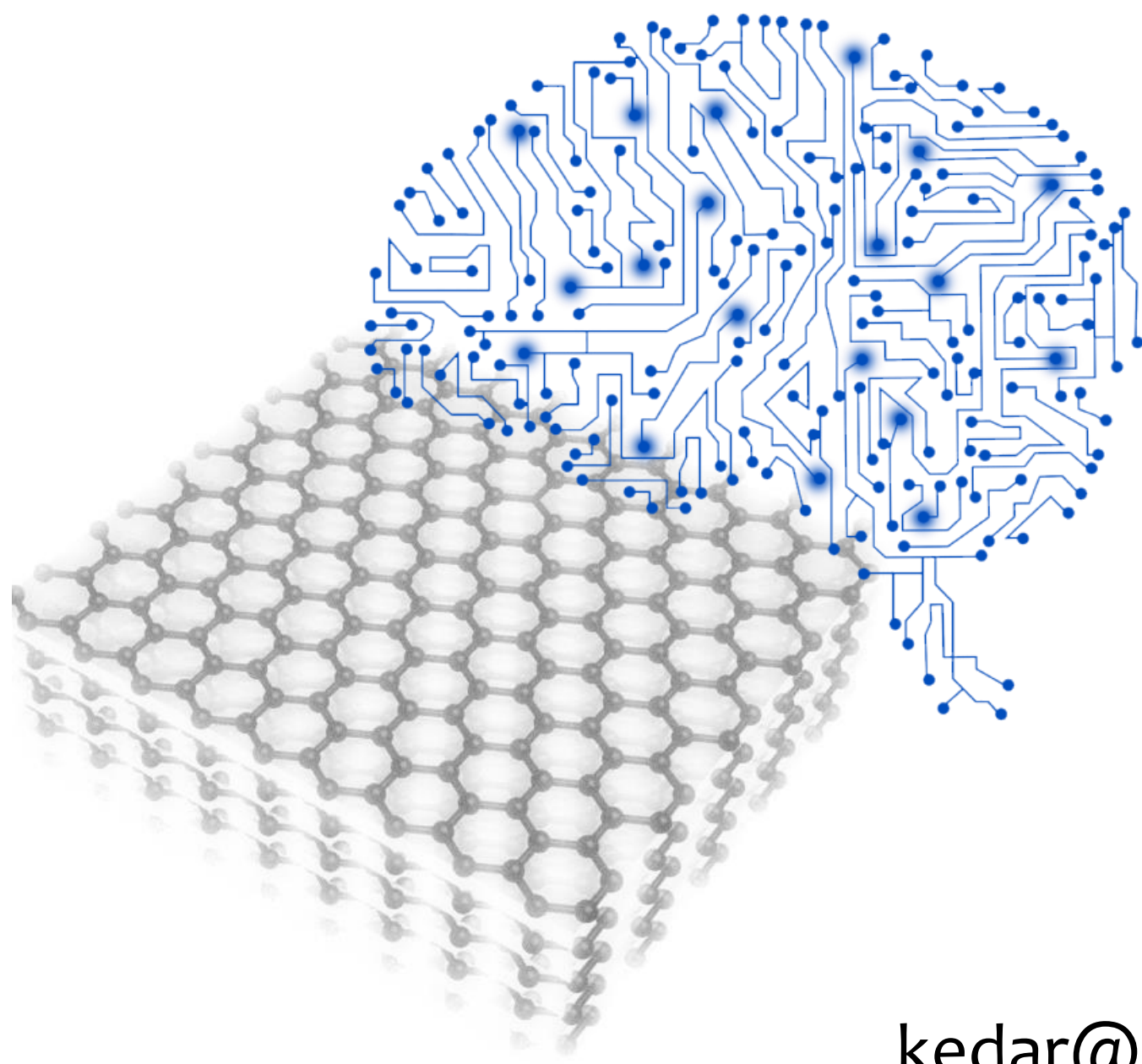


AI Model Development

High-Throughput Theoretical and Experimental Validation



Generation of Datasets



Conclusions

- AI-integrated Material—by-design approach allows for property directed searches.
- Databases for functional properties need to be generated
- DFT and Rapid Experimental Validation is necessary

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