# Artificial Intelligence Methods for Discovering Novel Materials and Exotic Chemistry

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## Crystal structure determines physical properties. Crystal structure determination was a major breakthrough.



#### The Nobel Prize in Physics 1914

"for his discovery of the diffraction of X-rays by crystals"



Max von Laue



The Nobel Prize in Physics 1915

"for their services in the analysis of crystal structure by means of Xravs"



Sir William Henry Bragg

#### (from http://nobelprize.org)





"for their outstanding achievements in the development of direct methods for the determination of crystal structures"





Jerome Karle







William Lawrence Bragg

# Zincblende ZnS.

One of the first solved structures (1912-1913)



Herbert A. Hauptman

# **Structure determines properties of materials**



Example: graphite and diamond have the same chemical composition, and their opposite properties are due to their different crystal structures.



Functions of biomolecules are determined by their structure



# Under pressure, Periodic Law breaks down.

#### We understand the laws of nature only insofar as we understand their limitations



At 100 GPa oxygen becomes a superconductor!



Periodic Law disappears at ultrahigh pressures (Al'tshuler, 1999)

## New chemistry of the elements under pressure



New superhard structure of boron (Oganov et al., Nature, 2009)



199 GPa

**High-pressure transparent** allotrope of sodium (Ma & Oganov, Nature, 2009)

## Most matter of the Universe is under pressure





P.W. Bridgman 1946 Nobel laureate (Physics)



# Briefly about big data

# **Big data have predictive power**

#### We have:

~300,000 experimental (& >500,000 theoretical) inorganic crystal structures. For many of them, we have some physical properties (and for many, we don't).

Many studied syntheses of compounds.

Many studied industrial production processes.

## **Big data analysis gives:**

Fast predictions

Predictions where the full calculation would be too complicated.

Input #1 Input #2 Output Input #3 Input #4





# Predicting complex properties: hardness [Chen et al., 2011] and fracture toughness [Niu & Oganov, 2019]



# Mendeleev number (Pettifor, 1984). Prediction of stability, structure, and properties of materials



Mendeleev numbers of the elements



**Figure 5.** The heat of solution of B in liquid metal A according to the semi-empirical model of Miedema *et al* (1977). The full-solid lines and the diagonal correspond to the contour  $\Delta H_{\rm sol} = 0$ . The dotted and full shaded regions correspond to  $0 < \Delta H_{\rm sol} < 200$  and  $\Delta H_{\rm sol} > 200$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> respectively. The light full and broken lines correspond to the contours  $\Delta H_{\rm sol} = -200$  and  $\Delta H_{\rm sol} = -400$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> respectively.

#### **Enthalpies of formation of compounds**

# Example: search for new ternary nitrides (Sun, 2019)



916 systems

**246 contain stable nitrides** 

In 127 of them nitrides were not experimentally known

# Machine learning can be used for accelerating simulations without loss of accuracy



Phase diagram of uranium obtained with machine learning (Kruglov & Oganov, submitted)

# Data mining gives quick-n-reasonable answers, but beware!



Davies & Oganov (2018): 4 interesting semiconductors, and for each data mining gave a wrong structure: -for  $Sn_5S_4Cl_2$  by 24.7 meV/atom, -for  $Sn_4SF_6$  by 5.1 meV/atom, -for  $Cd_4SF_6$  by 0.2 meV/atom, -for  $Cd_5S_4Cl_2$  by 33.3 meV/atom.

# Crystal Structure Prediction: Impossible is Possible

-Crystal structures and stable stoichiometries can be predicted -New tool to explore matter at extreme conditions & discover novel materials -Evolutionary crystal structure prediction, Maxwell's convex hull construction

# Until recently, experiment was the only source of crystal structures



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Herbert A. Hauptman

Jerome Karle

Acc. Chem. Res. 1994, 27, 309-314

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## **Are Crystal Structures Predictable?**

ANGELO GAVEZZOTTI<sup>\*</sup>

"No": by just writing down this concise statement, in what would be the first one-word paper in the chemical literature, one could safely summarize the present state of affairs

 $C = \frac{1}{(V/\delta^3)} \frac{(V/\delta^3)!}{[(V/\delta^3) - N]!N!}$  - Crystal structure prediction is an NP-hard problem. Intractable?

# Introduction(s) to crystal structure prediction

#### **Faraday Discussions**

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#### PAPER

Corchemistry

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# Crystal structure prediction: reflections on present status and challenges

Artem R. Oganov Dabc

Received 30th August 2018, Accepted 30th August 2018

## Faraday Discussions (2018)



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## REVIEWS

## Structure prediction drives materials discovery

Artem R. Oganovo<sup>1,2,3</sup>\*, Chris J. Pickardo<sup>6,5</sup>\*, Qiang Zhu<sup>6</sup> and Richard J. Needs<sup>7</sup>

Abstract | Progress in the discovery of new materials has been accelerated by the development of reliable quantum mechanical approaches to crystal structure prediction. The properties of material dependivery sensitively on as structure; therefore, structure prediction is the key to computational materials discovery. Structure prediction was considered to be a formidable problem, but the development of new computational tools has allowed the structures of many new and increasingly complex materials to be anticipated. These widely applicable methods, based on global optimization and relying on little or no empirical knowledge, have been used to study crystalline structures, point defects, surface and interfaces. In this Review, we discuss structure prediction methods, examining their potential for the study of different materials systems, and present examples of computationally driven discoveries of new materials including superhard materials, superconductors and organic materials — that will enable new technologies. Advances in first-principle structure predictions also lead to a better understanding of physical and chemical phenomena in materials.

## Nature Reviews Materials (2019)

2011

# ...Kepler's, Kekule's and Barlow's "predictions" we will rather call strikes of intuition



Kepler's (1611) and modern models of the structure of ice



Kekule's vision of the structure of benzene (1857)



Barlow's (1897) and Bragg's (1913) models of the structure of NaCl

# The USPEX project (Universal Structure Predictor: Evolutionary Xtallography) http://uspex-team.org

[Oganov A.R., Glass C.W., J.Chem.Phys. 124, 244704 (2006)]

Combination of evolutionary algorithm and quantum-mechanical calculations.
>5000 users.

•Solves «intractable» problem of structure prediction -3D, 2D, 1D, 0D –systems, -prediction of phase transition mechanisms.

• Interfaced with: VASP, Quantum Espresso, CASTEP, FHI-aims, ABINIT, Siesta, Gaussian, ORCA, ATK, DFTB, MOPAC, GULP, LAMMPS, Tinker, DMACRYS





W. Kohn

J. P. Perdew



**Energy landscape of Au<sub>8</sub>Pd** 

$$(-\frac{\nabla^2}{2} + v_{e-n}[\rho(\mathbf{r})] + v_H[\rho(\mathbf{r})] + v_{xc}[\rho(\mathbf{r})]\phi_i(\mathbf{r}) = \varepsilon_i\phi_i(\mathbf{r})$$
$$E_{GGA,xc} = \int d\mathbf{r} F_{xc}(\rho, \frac{|\nabla\rho|}{2k_F\rho(\mathbf{r})})\rho(\mathbf{r})e_x[\rho(\mathbf{r})]$$

# New methodological development: topological structure generator (Bushlanov, Blatov, Oganov, 2019)



Example of KN<sub>3</sub>: (a) topological structure, (c) random symmetric structure, (c) energy distribution of topological (TR) and random symmetric structures

#### Statistics (100 runs) of USPEX performance on MgAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (28 atoms/cell) at 100 GPa

	Old USPEX	On-the-fly adaptation	Adaptation +topology	GPSO CALYPSO	SABC CALYPSO
<#structures>	1307	1069	368	1443	611
Success rate	100%	100%	100%	86%	100%



α-boron  $E^{DFT} = -6.706 \text{ eV/atom}$ Atoms: 12, Space group: R-3m, Core-hours: 10<sup>3</sup> AL-MTP vs.  $3 \cdot 10^3 \text{ DFT}$  $|E^{DFT} - E^{MTP}| = 28.6 \text{ meV/atom}$ 



β-boron approximant  $E^{DFT} = -6.704 \text{ eV/atom},$ Atoms: 106, Space group: *P*1, Core-hours: 7·10<sup>3</sup> AL-MTP vs. 6.6·10<sup>7</sup> DFT  $|E^{DFT} - E^{MTP}| = 10.1 \text{ meV/atom}$ 

Core-hours: 2.10<sup>3</sup> AL-MTP vs. 2.5.10<sup>4</sup> DFT

 $|E^{\text{DFT}} - E^{\text{MTP}}| = 58.1 \text{ meV/atom}$ 

 $|E^{\text{DFT}} - E^{\text{MTP}}| = 7.3 \text{ meV/atom}$ 

γ-boron

Atoms: 28,

Atoms: 54, Space group: Im-3,

 $E^{\text{DFT}} = -6.678 \text{ eV}/\text{atom}$ 

 $E^{\text{DFT}} = -6.667 \text{ eV/atom},$ 

Space group: Pnnm,









Core-hours: 3.103 AL-MTP vs. 3.5.105 DFT



$$\begin{split} E^{\text{DFT}} &= -6.665 \text{ eV/atom}, \\ \text{Atoms: 26,} \\ \text{Space group: } \underline{Cccm}, \\ \text{Core-hours: } 2\cdot 10^3 \text{ AL-MTP vs. } 2.1\cdot 10^4 \text{ DFT} \\ |E^{\text{DFT}} - E^{\text{MTP}}| &= 13.6 \text{ meV/atom} \end{split}$$

# Handling complexity with machine learning: boron allotropes

(E.Podryabinkin, E. Tikhonov, A. Shapeev, A.R. Oganov, PRB, 2019)

- ML potential with active learning (Shapeev, 2018). 800 parameters.
- MAE = 11 meV/atom.
- Reproduced α-, β-, γ-, T52 phases of boron.
- Predicted low-energy metastable cubic cl54 phase.
- Speedup by 100-10,000 times.

# **Test:** MgSiO<sub>3</sub> at 120 GPa



#### 120 GPa: post-perovskite is stable

[Oganov & Glass, J.Chem.Phys. 2006]

# Properties of D" layer (2700-2890 km) were explained by MgSiO<sub>3</sub> post-perovskite in 2004



D" – root of hot spots

# MgSiO<sub>3</sub> makes ~75 vol.% of lower mantle

Anomalies of D": seismic discontinuity, anisotropy





NATURE | VOL 430 | 22 JULY 2004 | www.nature.com/nature Received 24 March; accepted 27 May 2004; doi:10.1038/nature02701.

Artem R. Oganov<sup>1</sup> & Shigeaki Ono<sup>2</sup>

# Is there a post-post-perovskite?

# Mg-Si-O (super)Earths

No: MgSiO<sub>3</sub> post-perovskite decomposes inside super-Earths, expect complex structure of super-Earths:

 $MgSiO_3 \rightarrow Mg_2SiO_4 + MgSi_2O_5 \rightarrow Mg_2SiO_4 + SiO_2 \rightarrow MgO + SiO_2 (T < 6500 \text{ K})$ 

 $MgSiO_3 \rightarrow Mg_2SiO_4 + MgSi_2O_5 \rightarrow MgSi_2O_5 + MgO \rightarrow MgO + SiO_2 (T > 6500 \text{ K})$ 





**Figure 4.** (a) Pressure-composition phase diagram of the pseudo-binary MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub> system. (b) *P*-*T* phase diagram of MgSiO<sub>3</sub>. The core-mantle boundary (CMB) pressures of super-Earths and mega-Earths with 5, 8 and 17  $M_{\oplus}$  are also plotted by vertical dashed lines.

# Do we really know what's inside planets? "Forbidden" MgO<sub>2</sub>, Mg<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, SiO<sub>3</sub>, AlO<sub>2</sub> etc. are stable at planetary pressures



(Niu & Oganov, Sci. Rep. 2015)



Mg-O phase diagram and structure of MgO<sub>3</sub> (Niu & Oganov, *Sci. Rep.* 2015; Zhu & Oganov, *PCCP* 2012)

#### Al-O system:

Stable aluminum "oxide peroxides":  $AI_4O_7 = AI_4O_5[O_2]$ , stable at 330-443 GPa  $AIO_2 = AI_2O_2[O_2]$ , stable at >332 GPa

(Liu, Oganov, Kresse, Sci. Rep. 2015)



Structure of AIO<sub>2</sub>

# **Predicting Unusual Compounds**

-"Forbidden" stoichiometries become stable: Na<sub>3</sub>Cl, etc. -Unusual valence/oxidation states appear: Cl<sup>2-</sup>, Cs<sup>5+</sup>, etc. -He becomes chemically active.

-Unusual properties: e.g., room-temperature superconductivity.



Bader analysis: -Reasonable atomic charges (close to Pauling)

# **USPEX can automatically find all stable compounds** in a multicomponent system.

## Thermodynamic stability in variable-composition systems



Stable structure must be below all the possible decomposition lines !!

# **Unexpected chemistry of sodium chloride(s) :**

Na<sub>3</sub>Cl, Na<sub>2</sub>Cl, Na<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, NaCl, NaCl<sub>3</sub>, NaCl<sub>7</sub> are stable under pressure. Why? (Zhang, Oganov, Goncharov, *Science*, 2013).



## **Chemical anomalies:**

- -Divalent CI in Na<sub>2</sub>CI!
- -Coexistence of metallic and ionic blocks in Na<sub>3</sub>Cl! -Positively charged Cl in NaCl<sub>7</sub>!



NaCl<sub>3</sub>: atomic and electronic structure, and experimental XRD pattern

[Zhang, Oganov, et al., *Science* (2013)] [Saleh & Oganov, *PCCP* (2015)]



# "Forbidden" compounds can be practically useful Cs-F



Phase diagram of the Cs-F - Miao (2013) and corrected (Zhu & ARO, 2014)



- Miao (2013): predicted (incorrectly) novel compounds using CALYPSO. Zhu & Oganov (2015) new phase diagram using USPEX.
- $CsF_2$ ,  $CsF_3$ ,  $CsF_5$  are stable at 1 atm and can be used for fluorine storage. Decomposition temperatures ~250-400 K. US patent (2013).
  - At >40 GPa Cs(V) in Fddd-CsF<sub>5</sub>.

Structure of CsF<sub>5</sub>, at 1 atm

[Zhu & Oganov, Sci. Rep. (2015)]

## Helium chemistry? Yes! (Dong, Oganov, Goncharov, *Nature Chemistry* 2017)



- Helium is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most abundant element in the Universe (24 wt.%).
- Helium: ionization potential = 24.39 eV (record!)

electron affinity = 0.08 eV

 No stable compounds are known at normal conditions. Under pressure: van der Waals compound NeHe<sub>2</sub> (Loubeyre et al., 1993).



- 1. Na<sub>2</sub>He is stable at >120 GPa, at least up to 1000 GPa.
- 2. Stabilized by an acceptor of an electron pair on the "2e" site. Na<sub>2</sub>HeO stable already at 14 GPa.

## Noble gases are not inert under pressure (Liu et al., *Nature Comm.* 2018)

- Helium reacts with Na, Na<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>O, SiO<sub>2</sub>, MgF<sub>2</sub>, CaF<sub>2</sub>, ...
- Noble gases can be retained in Earth's mantle (and core?).



# Recent record of high-Tc superconductivity: 203 Kelvin (Duan et al., *Sci. Rep.* 4, 6968 (2014))





# OPEN Pressure-induced metallization of dense $(H_2S)_2H_2$ with high- $T_c$ superconductivity

THEORY AND COMPUTATION Defang Duan<sup>1,2</sup>, Yunxian Liu<sup>1</sup>, Fubo Tian<sup>1</sup>, Da Li<sup>1</sup>, Xiaoli Huang<sup>1</sup>, Zhonglong Zhao<sup>1</sup>, Hongyu Yu<sup>1</sup>, Bingbing Liu<sup>1</sup>, Wenjing Tian<sup>2</sup> & Tian Cui<sup>1</sup>

Received 7 July 2014 Accepted 29 September 2014 Published 10 November 2014

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The high pressure structures, metallization, and superconductivity of recently synthesized  $H_2$ -containing compounds ( $H_2S$ )<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> are elucidated by *ab initio* calculations. The ordered crystal structure with P1 symmetry is determined, supported by the good agreement between theoretical and experimental X-ray diffraction data, equation of states, and Raman spectra. The *Cccm* structure is favorable with partial hydrogen bond symmetrization above 37 GPa. Upon further compression,  $H_2$  molecules disappear and two intriguing metallic structures with R3m and *Im-3m* symmetries are reconstructive above 111 and 180 GPa, respectively. The predicted metallization pressure of bulk molecular hydrogen. Application of the currently suggested metallization pressure of bulk molecular hydrogen. Application of the Allen-Dynes-modified McMillan equation for the *Im-3m* symmetrize tructure yield high *T*, values of 191 K to 204 K at 200 GPa, which is among the highest values reported for  $H_2$ -rich van der Waals compounds and MH<sub>3</sub> type hydride thus far.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS | 4:6968 | DOI: 10.1038/srep06968

Conventional superconductivity at 203 kelvin at high pressures in the sulfur hydride system

A. P. Drozdov, M. I. Eremets, I. A. Troyan, V. Ksenofontov & S. I. Shylin

Nature (2015) | doi:10.1038/nature14964 Received 25 June 2015 | Accepted 22 July 2015 | Published online 17 August 2015

A superconductor is a material that can conduct electricity without resistance below a superconducting transition temperature,  $T_c$ . The highest  $T_c$  that has been achieved to date is in the copper oxide system<sup>1</sup>: 133 kelvin at ambient pressure<sup>2</sup> and 164 kelvin at high pressures<sup>3</sup>. As the nature of superconductivity in these materials is still not fully understood (they are not conventional superconductors), the prospects for achieving still higher transition temperatures by this route are not clear. In contrast, the Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer theory of conventional superconductivity gives a guide for achieving high  $T_c$  with no theoretical upper bound—all that is needed is a favourable combination of high-frequency phonons, strong electron-phonon coupling. and a high density of states<sup>4</sup>. These conditions can in principle be fulfilled for metallic hydrogen and covalent compounds dominated by hydrogen<sup>5, 6</sup>, as hydrogen atoms provide the necessary highfrequency phonon modes as well as the strong electron-phonon coupling. Numerous calculations support this idea and have predicted transition temperatures in the range 50-235 kelvin for many hydrides<sup>7</sup>, but only a moderate T<sub>c</sub> of 17 kelvin has been observed experimentally<sup>8</sup>. Here we investigate sulfur hydride9, where a T c of 80 kelvin has been predicted 10. We find that this system transforms to a metal at a pressure of approximately 90 gigapascals. On cooling, we see signatures of superconductivity: a sharp drop of the resistivity to zero and a decrease of the transition temperature with magnetic field, with magnetic susceptibility measurements confirming a  $T_c$  of 203 kelvin. Moreover, a pronounced isotope shift of  $T_c$  in sulfur deuteride is suggestive of an electron– phonon mechanism of superconductivity that is consistent with the Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer scenario. We argue that the phase responsible for high- $T_c$  superconductivity in this system is likely to be H<sub>3</sub>S, formed from H<sub>2</sub>S by decomposition under pressure. These findings raise hope for the prospects for achieving room-temperature superconductivity in other hydrogen-based materials.

 Old record Tc=135 K (Schilling, 1993) is broken: theorists (T. Cui, 2014) predicted new compound H<sub>3</sub>S with Tc~200 K.

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Confirmed by A. Drozdov et al. (*Nature* 525, 73 (2015)).

## Superconductivity is linked with Mendeleev's Table

[Semenok & Oganov, JPCL, 2018]



## **Distribution of Tc for hydrides**





 $CaH_{6}$ ( $T_{c} = 220 - 235 \text{ K}$ )

LaH<sub>10</sub> ( $T_c = 274 - 286 \text{ K}$ ) AcH<sub>10</sub> ( $T_c = 226 - 251 \text{ K}$ ) YH<sub>10</sub> ( $T_c = 305 - 326 \text{ K}$ ) ThH<sub>10</sub> ( $T_c = 220 - 241 \text{ K}$ )

 $AcH_{16}$ ( $T_{c} = 221 - 241 \text{ K}$ )

# **Predicting Stable Nanoclusters**

-Only conditional stability. Magic clusters. Similar to atomic nuclei. -Unusual stable compositions are typical. -Explanation of carcinogenicity of oxide dust?

# **Stability of nanoparticles: conditional**



Stability grows with cluster size. We define stability relative to neighboring compositions. Especially stable clusters have filled electronic and/or structural shells.

# **Stability of clusters**



(from Poole & Owens, 2003)

**Real system: Pb clusters** 

# Model system: Lennard-Jones clusters



Criterion of local stability (magic clusters):  $\Delta^{2}E = E(n+1) + E(n-1) - 2E(n) > 0$  For binary clusters  $(A_m B_n)$ :  $\Delta_X^2 E = E(m, n+1) + E(m, n-1) - 2E(m, n) > 0$  $\Delta_y^2 E = E(m+1, n) + E(m-1, n) - 2E(m, n) > 0$ 

## Map of stability of Si-O clusters [Lepeshkin & Oganov, J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 2019]



Analogy with magic atomic nuclei

Si-O

Magic numbers of electrons = 2, 10, 18, 36, 54, 86, 118

13



## Unusual compositions of transition metal oxide clusters [Yu & Oganov, Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., 2018]



Do crystals grow from such particles?

# **Predicting Optimal Materials**

-Superior thermoelectrics: possible! -New superhard materials: WB<sub>5</sub> etc.

-Pareto optimization of properties & stability. -Mendelevian search for exploring chemical space.

## **Towards materials design: example of thermoelectrics**



http://www.gizmag.com/ge-dual-piezo-cooling-jet/25447

# How to improve efficiency of thermoelectric devices?

"One shouldn't work on semiconductors, that is a filthy mess; who knows whether any semiconductors exist"

-W. Pauli, letter to R. Peierls (1931)



# Multiobjective (Pareto) optimization finds a new thermoelectric polymorph of $Bi_2Te_3$

Computer Physics Communications 222 (2018) 152–157

# Efficient technique for computational design of thermoelectric materials

Maribel Núñez-Valdez, Zahed Allahyari, Tao Fan, Artem R. Oganov



Pareto optimization of ZT and stability in the Bi-Te system

## Similar conclusions from data mining



We can simultaneously optimize composition, structure, stability and other properties for a given chemical system.

Now, let's predict the best material(s) among all possible chemical systems!

## Mendelevian Search – breakthrough method for discovering best materials among all possible compounds [Allahyari & Oganov, 2018]





- 118 elements
- 7021 binary systems
- 273937 ternaries
- In each system  $\infty$  possible structures

## Mendeleev Number – a way to arrange elements and compounds by properties [Pettifor, 1984; Allahyari & Oganov, 2018]

Mendeleev	Atom	Mendeleev	Atom	Mendeleev	Atom
Number		Number		Number	
1	Fr	32	п	62	Po
2	Cs	33	U	63	Fe
3	Rb	34	Pa	64	Cu
4	к	35	Zr	65	Co
5	Ra	36	Pu	66	As
6	Ba	37	Np	67	Ni
7	Sm	38	Nb	68	Kr
8	Gd	39	Та	69	Mo
9	Eu	40	In	70	1
10	Sr	41	Pb	71	Pd
11	Tm	42	Cd	72	Ir
12	Pm	43	Xe	73	Os
13	Ca	44	п	74	Р
14	Na	45	AI	75	Ru
15	Ac	46	Bi	76	Pt
16	La	47	Sn	77	At
17	Yb	48	Hg	78	Rh
18	ть	49	Zn	79	w
19	Y	50	Ga	80	Rn
20	Dy	51	v	81	Se
21	Ho	52	Mn	82	в
22	Ce	53	Sb	83	Au
23	Er	54	Te	84	s
24	u	55	Cr	85	Br
25	Th	56	Ag	86	н
26	Lu	57	Be	87	c
27	Pr	58	Go	88	СІ
28	Nd	59	Re	89	N
29	Mg	60	Si	90	0
30	Sc	61	Тс	91	F
31	Hf				



Grouping of hardness by (a) sequential number, (b) Pettifor's Mendeleev number, (c) our Mendeleev number

## Mendelevian search for the hardest possible material: diamond and lonsdaleite are found!



## "Treasure map" of superhard materials [Kvashnin, Allahyari, Oganov, 2019]



## WB<sub>5</sub>: new supermaterial [Kvashnin & Oganov, J. Phys. Chem. Lett., 2018]



# Advanced algorithms predict new supermaterials and help us understand nature



Power and limitations of machine learning



New unusual compounds & almost room-T superconductivity



New superhard materials

# Limitations/challenges of structure prediction methods

**Complex metallic alloys:** e.g., Samson phase,  $\beta$ -Mg<sub>2</sub>Al<sub>3</sub>: cF1168 (M. Feuerbacher et al., *Z. Kristallogr.* 222, 259 (2007)).







**Non-collinear magnets:** e.g., α-Mn (D. Hobbs, J. Hafner, D. Spisak, *PRB* **68**, 014407 (2003).



Large proteins: are they thermodynamically controlled?

# The team. Where great minds do NOT think alike





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