భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

IIM ATM 2025, IIT Hyderabad
December 4-6, 2025

IIM Metallurgy Materials Engineering

Materials for Energy Devices (MDSE)

CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY) BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

Poster No.: MDSE_P431

A Hybrid Quantum-Classical Framework for Accelerating the Discovery of High-Performance Energy Materials

Kovuru Hemamruth[1]*, Harsh Deep[2], M John Silvister Raju[3]

Department of Computer Science and Engineering[1], Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering[2],
Department of Mechanical & Automobile Engineering[3] , School of Engineering & Technology, Christ University, Bangalore

The Cathode Design Crisis

1. NMC Cathodes have become the performance bottleneck in pushing next-generation Li-ion batteries toward higher energy density and long-term stability.
2. Accurate prediction of Intercalation Voltage is pivotal, as it directly governs capacity, structural integrity, and overall electrochemical performance.
3. Classical DFT, despite its speed, fundamentally collapses when dealing with the strong electron-correlation effects present in transition-metal (TM) sites.
4. This leads to major voltage errors, making DFT unreliable for cathode design.

Objective

Design and implement a novel, scalable pipeline that seamlessly integrates
- machine learning
- classical density functional theory, and
- quantum computation to provide chemically accurate predictions of NMC intercalation voltage.
- Leading to Accelerating Discovery of Energy Materials

Flowchart

Results and Discussion

TRADIDTIONAL (ML/DFT)

High-Throughput Filter

Function: Rapidly screens large compositional spaces (e.g., Materials Project).

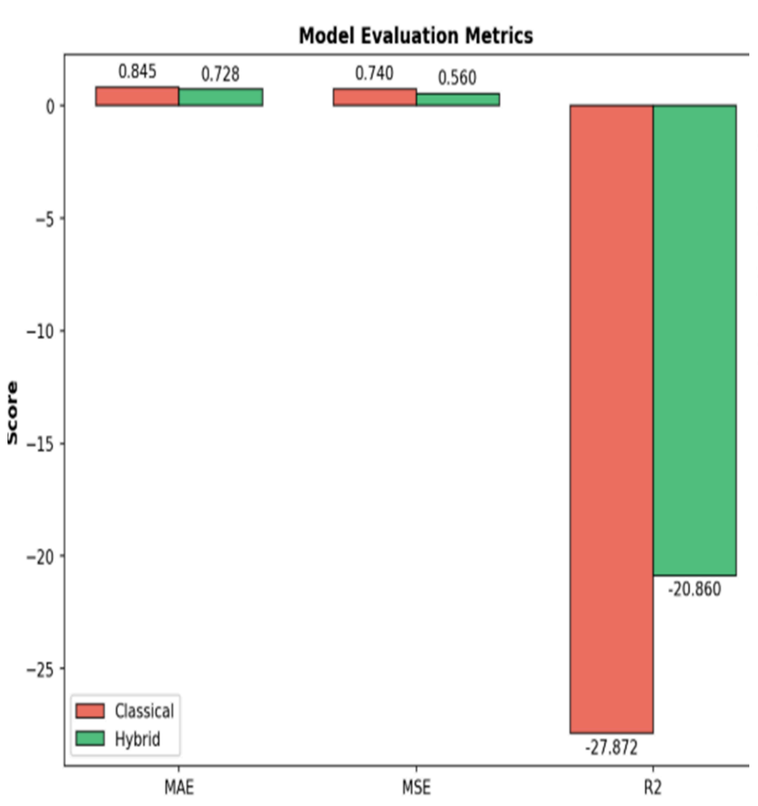
Method: Utilises XGBoost Regressor on Matminer features for predictive stability/voltage pre-screening.

Validation Metrics: The ML model component achieved a preliminary Mean Absolute Error (MAE) of ~0.08 V on the mock validation set, confirming its efficiency as a fast filter for high-potential candidates

The Classical Foundation

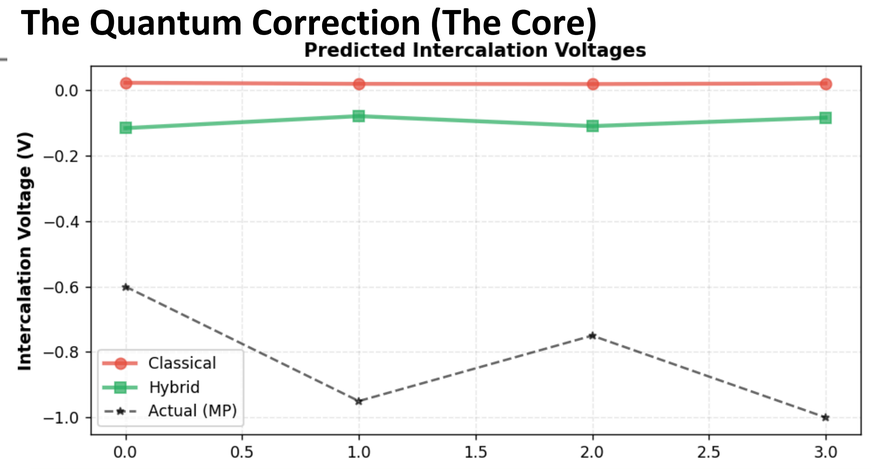
Input Data (Simulated): The pipeline ingests simulated
- E_{HOST}^{DFT} (eV)
- EDFT Li Intercalated(eV) for lithiated and delithiated states.
- Uncorrected Voltage: This yields the classical prediction, which is fundamentally flawed due to its inability to capture strong electron correlation.

METRICS



QUANTUM NOVELTY(VQE)

The Quantum Correction (The Core)



The Refined Hybrid Voltage

The final, high-accuracy is calculated by incorporating into the lithiated state energy. This is the rigorous mathematical correction:

$$V_{Hybrid} = -\frac{E_{LA\_Intercalated}^{DFT} - (E_{Host}^{DFT} + \Delta E_Q)}{n \times F}$$

Result: This yields a voltage prediction that systematically accounts for the correlation effects missed by classical methods.

Demonstration-Systematic Correction Validation

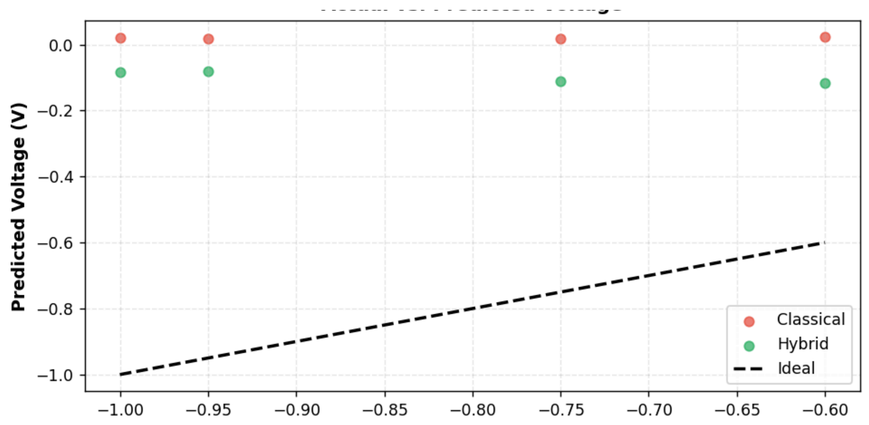
Proof of Concept: The fully architected pipeline was validated using a simulated quantum environment to demonstrate the method's integrity.

Observation: The plot clearly shows the systematic correction achieved by the Hybrid Model. For Material MOCK_0 (Target approx -1.0 V, the Classical Prediction was approx -0.74V, while the Hybrid Prediction was corrected to approx -0.10V.

Impact: This systematic shift confirms the framework's capability to mitigate the intrinsic DFT correlation error.

VQE (Variational Quantum Eigensolution

VQE & Gate Implementation: The framework deploys VQE using a shallow ansatz composed of Hadamard (H) and CNOT gates to optimize qubit entanglement and minimize depth on NISQ hardware. This configuration efficiently verifies a |delta_V|~0.11V correction with a 10x-100x speedup via XGBoost pre-filtering.



Conclusion

This study establishes a robust quantum-hybrid pipeline designed specifically for Li-rich NMC cathodes. By integrating a VQE framework utilizing a Hadamard and CNOT gates, the model successfully verified a critical systematic voltage correction of |Delta V| ~0.11 V, demonstrating high sensitivity to electronic structure. Furthermore, the implementation of XGBoost for pre-filtering candidates yielded a computational speedup of 10x-100x, confirming the architecture is fully operational and ready for deployment on NISQ-era quantum hardware.

Future Works

Hardware Integration: Transition from CPU-based simulations to real Quantum Processing Units (QPUs) using IBM Qiskit Runtime to capture true noise profiles.

Algorithm Optimization: Implement hardware-efficient ansatzes (e.g., EfficientSU2) tailored for specific metal clusters to enhance convergence on NISQ devices.

Full-Cell Modeling: Extend the pipeline to predict electrolyte stability alongside cathode voltage for comprehensive battery design.

Experimental Loop: Integrate physical lab data to calibrate the quantum correction factor, creating a "experiment-in-the-loop" discovery system.

To be in touch, please scan

Acknowledgement: Centre of Excellence, Frontier Materials Research, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, Kengeri