

Leo J. Beck

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EDUCATION

University of Colorado Boulder

Doctor of Philosophy in Materials Science & Engineering
Master of Science in Materials Science & Engineering

Aug 2023 – Present
Aug 2023 – May 2025
GPA: 3.90/4.00

Clemson University

Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences

Aug 2019 - May 2023
GPA: 3.84/4.00

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Researcher

Interfaces Laboratory – Dr. Hendrik Heinz

Dec 2023 - Present

- Simulate hybrid organic-inorganic perovskites to determine stability and crystal structure descriptors for thin-film solar cells using LAMMPS
- Calculate thermal and mechanical properties of dopamine binding to $Ti_3C_2T_x$ MXenes using NAMD and VMD
- Develop high-throughput workflows and automations for model setup, simulation, and analysis using Python, bash, Packmol, and C++
- Aggregate data from chemical databases to train machine learning models for predicting structural properties of hybrid perovskites
- 3 coauthor publications submitted for review

Materials & Manufacturing Directorate – Air Force Research Lab

May 2024 – Aug 2024

- Simulated $Ti_3C_2T_x$ MXenes using LAMMPS to determine inter-sheet shear strength

Undergraduate Researcher

Materials Computation and Data Science Group – Dr. Dilpuneet Aidhy

Aug 2022 – Jun 2023

- Performed point defect energy simulations on high entropy alloys using VASP
- Trained Machine Learning models from simulation data to predict material properties

Dr. Margaret Wiecek and Dr. Hyesuk Lee Group

Jan 2022 – Dec 2022

- Programmed in MATLAB and used high-performance computing to perform bi-objective optimization of fourth order partial differential equations

Texas A&M Center for the Mechanical Control of Chemistry – Dr. Jonathan Felts

May 2022 - Aug 2022

- Designed a normal and shear force controlled mechanochemical reactor using SolidWorks

Foulger Research Group - Dr. Stephen Foulger

May 2021 - Aug 2021

- Fabricated 3 terminal thin film organic memristors
- Coauthor – Nonconformal Electrochemical Memristor through Vapor Phase Polymerization of Pyrrole

WORK EXPERIENCE

Classical Simulations Consultant, FAIRmat	May 2025-Aug 2025
• Updated NOMAD LAMMPS parser in Python to handle a wide variety of input and output formats	Berlin, DE
• Consulted on LAMMPS methods, options, and packages	
• Curated set of LAMMPS input and output files for future test cases	
Engineering and Planning Intern, Benore Logistic Systems, Inc.	May 2023 – Aug 2023
• Created a visualizing tool to track hour-by-hour driver utilization	Erie, MI
• Implemented first-fit decreasing algorithm in Visual Basic to sort pallets into trucks	
• Automated splitting process and daily analytics using Visual Basic and Power Automate	
Programming Tutor, Code Ninjas	Sep 2018 - Aug 2019
• Taught children ages 6-14 JavaScript and Scratch	Fort Mill, SC
Carhop, Sonic Drive-In	Jun 2018 – Sep 2018
• Managed drive-thru, dining room, and drive-in	
• Took orders, made drinks and dairy items, maintained clean workspace	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Colorado Boulder	
Phys 1140 – Experimental Physics 1 – 1 credit hour	Spring 2026
Led 2 sections of lab with 35 students each, graded lab notebooks	
Phys 2210 – Classical Mechanics and Math Methods 1 – 3 credit hours	Spring 2026
Graded homework, proctored and graded exams	
Phys 1110 – General Physics 1 – 4 credit hours	Fall 2023
Led 4 recitations of 25 students each, graded homework, proctored exams	

PROJECTS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Financial and Logistics Officer, Clemson Formula SAE	May 2021 - Jun 2022
• Increased team yearly Clemson revenue from \$30,000 to \$70,000	
• Managed a \$100,000 budget and logistics of 30 members	
Head of Procurement, Clemson Formula SAE	May 2020 – May 2023
• Ordered and tracked hundreds of purchase requests from 8 divisions per year	
Electrical Division Member, Clemson Formula SAE	Aug 2019 – May 2023
• Wired vehicle electrical harness and sensors	
• Assisted test days and general vehicle assembly	
Member, Clemson Adopt-a-Stream	Dec 2019 – May 2023
Member, Clemson Materials Advantage	Nov 2021 – May 2023

SKILLS

Programming: Python, MATLAB, bash, C/C++, Visual Basic, Julia
Simulation: LAMMPS, NAMD, VMD, Materials Studio, SolidWorks, Packmol
Miscellaneous: Microsoft Excel, Linux, LaTeX, Optimization, Scientific Computing, German (A2)

HONORS & AWARDS

Gilbert Robinson Research Award – Clemson University
South Carolina High School State Geography Champion
Employee of the Month, *Sonic Drive-In*

Apr 2023
Feb 2019
Aug 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Grant, B., Wanless, T., Crooks, J., Beck, L., Bandera, Y., & Foulger, S. H. (2023). Nonconformal electrochemical memristor through vapor phase polymerization of pyrrole. *ACS Applied Electronic Materials*, 5(7), 3993–4001. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acsaelm.3c00708>

Submitted to 2D Materials

Shuck, C. *et al.* (2025). MXenes 2025: A Roadmap on Synthesis, Processing, and Applications. 92–98.

Submitted to ACS Nano

Armstrong, I., Slocik, J., Beck, L., Nepal, D., Zhu, C., Varshney, V., & Heinz, H. (2025). Validated Reactive Force Field Quantifies Mxene Interfacial Properties, Mechanics, and Thermal Transport. <https://doi.org/10.26434/chemrxiv-2025-212s7>

Submitted to arXiv

Karabin, M., Armstrong, I., Beck, L., Apanel, P., Eisenbach, M., Mitzi, D., Terletska, H., & Heinz, H. (2025). Enhancing Dimensionality Prediction in Hybrid Metal Halides via Feature Engineering and Class-Imbalance Mitigation.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2512.05367>