Matthew Evans

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I am an open source software developer trying to actualise my vision for the future of decentralized data management in the chemical and materials sciences.

materials discovery • ab initio calculations
decentralized data management• open science & software

EDUCATION

2019–2023 **PhD Physics**, Theory of Condensed Matter Group, University of Cambridge
2015–2016 **MPhil Scientific Computing**, University of Cambridge, *Pass with distinction*
2011–2015 **MPhys Physics with Theoretical Physics**, University of Manchester, *First Class (Hons)*

EXPERIENCE

2020– **Postdoctoral Researcher** then **BEWARE Research Fellow** (2022 onwards)
Université catholique de Louvain and Matgenix, with Prof Gian-Marco Rignanese
– Co-creator and architect of `datalab`, open source data management software for sample tracking and characterisation, lab management, and machine learning, deployed at several labs internationally.
– High-throughput machine-learning accelerated workflows for materials discovery and design.
– Leading development of the OPTIMADE API specification and associated software.

2021– **Visiting Researcher: Data management platforms for materials chemistry research**
University of Cambridge, with Prof Clare Grey FRS
– Developing bespoke data management platforms for materials chemistry and battery research.
– Supervising development contributions from group members and a part-time software developer.

2024– **Scientific Software Consultant** and **Director** (part-time)
datalab industries ltd.
– Supporting the open source development of OPTIMADE and *datalab* via consultancy services.
– Customisation and deployment of *datalab* for industrial R&D and academic labs.

2022 **Postdoctoral Research Associate**
Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre
2-month contract to implement a recommender system for the Cambridge Structural Database.

2016–2020 **PhD student: Crystal structure prediction for next-generation energy storage**
with Dr Andrew Morris (*University of Cambridge*)
– Computational materials discovery for conversion anodes for Li, Na and K-ion batteries.
– Author of two open-source Python packages: database approaches for high-throughput calculations and materials design with `matador` and crystal structure prediction with `ilustrado`.
– Active member of the OPTIMADE consortium for materials database interoperability and author of the `optimade-python-tools` package (used in production by The Materials Project, NOMAD, Materials Cloud and others) and `odbx` implementation.

2019 **Visiting Researcher: Machine learning for materials discovery**
with Prof Adam Foster & Prof Patrick Rinke, *Department of Applied Physics, Aalto University*

2019 **Scientific Software Developer (Intern)**
Enthought Inc., Cambridge

2014, 2015 **UG research: Interactions of quantised vortices in superfluid helium**
with Dr Paul Walmsley & Prof Andrei Golov (*University of Manchester*)

2014–2015 **MPhys project: Electronic structure of defects in graphene superlattices**
with Prof Francisco Guinea (*University of Manchester*)

2013 **UG research: Hard sphere packing of nanotube-encapsulated fullerenes**
with Dr Ho-Kei Chan & Prof Elena Besley (*University of Nottingham*)

COMPUTING

Exposure: **Daily**, Intermittent, *Occasional*.

Languages **Python**, Javascript, Vue.js, Fortran, Cython, C++
DFT **CASTEP**, Quantum Espresso, *GPAW*
Tools **git**, **vim**, **Docker**, **Ansible**, **Terraform**
Expertise Web APIs & databases, HT workflows, ML, Cloud Automation
Stack FastAPI, pydantic, Flask, Tensorflow
Practices **Test-driven development, CI/CD**

(TEACHING + SERVICE)

2022– Organiser of the CECAM Workshop series *Machine-actionable Data Interoperability for Chemical Sciences* (MADICES, February 2022 and 2024)
2022–2024 Founded and co-lead a MaRDA working group on metadata extractors for materials science and chemistry
2018– Reviewed manuscripts and data for *npj. Comp. Mater.* (x1), *Sci Data* (x1), *J. Phys.: Cond. Mat.* (x4), *Scientific Reports* (x1), *Digital Discovery* (x4), *Machine Learning: Science & Technology* (x2), and *Journal of Open Source Software* (x6)
2020–2022 Co-chair of the Research Data Alliance (RDA) IG *Materials Data, Infrastructure & Interoperability*
2021 Lecturer for "Working with Materials Databases" at the ICTP-East African Institute for Fundamental Research Training School *Machine Learning for Electronic Structure and Molecular Dynamics*
2021 Mentor at Acceleration Consortium Hackathon on Scientific Databases
2021 Developed and delivered a 2-day OPTIMADE tutorial for the NOMAD Virtual Tutorial Series.
2018–2020 Active member of TCM `sysadmin` team, Cavendish Laboratory
2019-2021 Demonstrator: Part II Computational Physics, Cavendish Laboratory
– Demonstrated scientific Python to beginners in weekly labs (2019 only).
– Conceptualised and delivered a tutorial on the basics of version control with Git (2019-2021).
2018–2018 Supervisor: 2x Part IB Electromagnetism, Dynamics and Thermodynamics, Selwyn College
– Small group teaching, providing detailed feedback on assigned problems.
2016–2019 Demonstrator: 3x Part IB Introduction to Computing (C++), Cavendish Laboratory
2018–2019 Demonstrator: 4x at annual CASTEP workshop, University of Oxford
2017 Volunteer: 2nd Conference of Research Software Engineers, University of Manchester
2015–2017 Volunteer: Key Stage 2 Code Club, Ridgefield Primary School, Cambridge
2012–2015 Tutor: GCSE Maths & Key Stage 2 Programming for The Tutor Trust, Manchester
– Provided tuition to small groups and 'looked after children' across 15 schools.
– Helped lead a successful pilot to teach primary school children programming using Scratch.

(AWARDS + HONOURS)

2022 BEWARE2 Fellowship from the Wallonia-Brussels Federation to fund 3 years of postdoctoral work (approx. €300,000).
2021 PI for "Interoperable data management for fundamental battery research", BIG-MAP External Stakeholder Initiative, total funding €150,000 (personal allocation €50,000).
2019 HPC-Europa 3 funding to visit Aalto University for 7 weeks and associated computing time.
2018 Tier-2 HPC Resource Allocation: PI on project awarded 2 MCPUh, *Crystal structure prediction for next-generation solar absorbers*, **M. L. Evans**, D. O. Scanlon and A. J. Morris.
HPC Midlands+ Substantial Project: awarded 1.3 MCPUh for *High-throughput materials discovery for energy applications*, **M. L. Evans** and A. J. Morris.
2017 Tier-2 HPC Resource Allocation: Co-investigator on project awarded 4 MCPUh, *Ab initio structure prediction for next-generation battery materials*, B. Karasulu, **M. L. Evans** and A. J. Morris.
2015 Tesella Prize for Software, University of Manchester, for the most effective use of software in a final year physics project.
2013, 2014 Undergraduate research bursary for two summers as an undergraduate, totalling £4200.
2011–2015 Means-tested and merit based scholarship to study at the University of Manchester, worth £12,000.

PRESENTATIONS

2024 Invited talk (upcoming): *Decentralized materials research data management, curation and dissemination for accelerated discovery*, Democratizing AI in Materials Science — A Pathway to Broaden the Impact of Materials Research, MRS Fall Meeting, Boston, USA
Contributed paper: *Optical materials discovery and design with federated databases and machine learning*, Faraday Discussions, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.
Invited talk: *Federated, interoperable databases for accelerated materials discovery and design*, CECAM Flagship Workshop on MLIPs and Accessible Databases, Grenoble, France.
Contributed talk: *datalab: bespoke, extensible data management platforms for materials research*, Physical Sciences Data Infrastructure Townhall Meeting, United Kingdom.
Invited seminar: *Interoperable data management for fundamental materials chemistry research*, Department of Chemical Engineering, Imperial College London, United Kingdom.
2023 Invited seminar: *Interoperable data management for fundamental materials chemistry research*, Department of Chemistry, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.
Contributed talk: *Interoperable data management for fundamental battery research*, RSC Annual Advanced Battery Materials Symposium, Institute of Physics, United Kingdom.
Invited seminar: *Interoperable data management for fundamental battery research*, Conductivity and Catalysis Lab, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany.
Invited talk: *Open Databases Integration for Materials Design* at the Advanced Learning Materials Science (ALMS2023) workshop, Aalto University, Finland.
2021 Invited panel discussions: *International Materials Data: Joint Meeting* and *Metadata for Data Indexing and Discovery in Materials Science*, Research Data Alliance (RDA) 18th Virtual Plenary Meeting
Invited talk: *The OPTIMADE Ecosystem*, DoE Battery Genome Initiative
Invited panel discussion: *Delivery platforms for open marketplaces*, Research Data Alliance (RDA) 17th Virtual Plenary Meeting
2020 Invited talk: *The OPTIMADE Specification*, Research Data Alliance (RDA) 18th Virtual Plenary Meeting: Data Infrastructure for Collaborations in Materials Research
Invited talk and workshop demonstration: `odbx` & `OPTIMADE` and `optimade-python-tools`, CECAM Workshop, Open Databases Integration for Materials Design 2020
2019 Contributed talk: *Phosphorus anodes for potassium-ion batteries: insights from crystal structure prediction*, EMRS Spring 2019, Nice, France
Invited talk: `matador` & `OPTIMADE`, CECAM Workshop, Open Databases Integration for Materials Design 2019, EPFL, Switzerland
2018 Contributed talk: *Sn-P anodes for potassium-ion batteries: insights from crystal structure prediction*, SMARTER6 Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Invited talk: *matador: databases and crystal structure prediction* (slides), CECAM Workshop, Open Databases Integration for Materials Design 2018, EPFL, Switzerland
2017 Invited seminar: *Crystal structure prediction for next-generation battery anodes* (slides), Solid State Seminar Series, University of Cambridge
Poster Presentation: 13th RSC Conference in Materials Chemistry (poster), University of Liverpool
2016 Poster Presentation: SMARTER5 Conference, University of Bayreuth, Germany

PUBLICATIONS

Underline indicates (joint) first authorship.

16. **Evans, M. L.**, Trinquet, V., Hargreaves, C. J., De Breuck, P.-P. & Rignanese, G.-M. Optical materials discovery and design with federated databases and machine learning. *Faraday Discussions*, (2024). DOI:10.1039/D4FD00092G. arXiv:2405.11335.
15. **Evans, M. L.**, Bergsma, J., Merkys, A., Andersen, C. W., *et al.* Development and application of the OPTIMADE API for materials data exchange and discovery. *Digital Discovery*, (2024). DOI:10.1039/D4DD00083H.
14. Rosen, A. S. *et al.* Jobflow: Computational Workflows Made Simple. *Journal of Open Source Software* **9**, 5995, (2024) ISSN: 2475-9066. DOI:10.21105/joss.05995. (2024).
13. Wang, Z., Gong, Y., **Evans, M. L.**, *et al.* Machine learning-accelerated discovery of A_2BC_2 ternary electrides with diverse anionic electron densities. *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* **145**, 26412–26424, (2023). DOI:10.1021/jacs.3c10538.
12. Lenkiattakul, M., **Evans, M. L.** & Cliffe, M. J. PASCal Python: A Principal Axis Strain Calculator. *Journal of Open Source Software* **8**, 5556, (2023). DOI:10.21105/joss.05556.
11. Jablonka, K. M. *et al.* 14 Examples of How LLMs Can Transform Materials Science and Chemistry: A Reflection on a Large Language Model Hackathon. *Digital Discovery*, (2023). DOI:10/gswbnx.
10. Ells, A. W., **Evans, M. L.**, Groh, M., Morris, A. J. & Marbella, L. E. Phase transformations and phase segregation during potassiation of Sn_4P_3 anodes. *Chemistry of Materials*, (2022). DOI:10/h69d.
9. **Evans, M. L.**, Andersen, C. W., *et al.* optimade-python-tools: a Python library for serving and consuming materials data via OPTIMADE APIs. *Journal of Open Source Software* **6**, 3458, (2021). DOI:10/gn3w9f.
8. **Evans, M. L.**, Andersen, C. W., Armiento, R., Blokhin, E., Conduit, G. J., Dwaraknath, S., Fekete, Á., Gopakumar, A., Gražulis, S., Merkys, A., *et al.* OPTIMADE, an API for exchanging materials data. *Scientific Data* **8**, 217, (2021). DOI:10/gmnrxj.
7. Breuck, P.-P. D., **Evans, M. L.** & Rignanese, G.-M. Robust model benchmarking and bias-imbalance in data-driven materials science: a case study on MODNet. *J. Phys.: Cond. Mat.* **33**, 404002, (2021). DOI:10/gpw93d.
6. **Evans, M. L.** & Morris, A. J. matador: a Python library for analysing, curating and performing high-throughput density-functional theory calculations. *Journal of Open Source Software* **5**, 2563, (2020). DOI:10/gmf4ev.
5. Harper, A. F., **Evans, M. L.** & Morris, A. J. Computational Investigation of Copper Phosphides as Conversion Anodes for Lithium-Ion Batteries. *Chemistry of Materials*, (2020). DOI:10/gq5vx3.
4. Harper, A. F., **Evans, M. L.**, Darby, J. P., Karasulu, B., Köçer, C. P., Nelson, J. R. & Morris, A. J. Ab initio Structure Prediction Methods for Battery Materials : A review of recent computational efforts to predict the atomic level structure and bonding in materials for rechargeable batteries. *Johnson Matthey Technology Review* **64**, 103–118, (2020). DOI:10/ggrmgf.
3. Mayo, M., Darby, J. P., **Evans, M. L.**, Nelson, J. R. & Morris, A. J. Correction to Structure Prediction of Li–Sn and Li–Sb Intermetallics for Lithium-Ion Batteries Anodes. *Chemistry of Materials*, (2018). DOI:10/gf25zc.
2. Marbella, L. E., **Evans, M. L.**, Groh, M. F., Nelson, J., Griffith, K. J., Morris, A. J. & Grey, C. P. Sodiation and Desodiation via Helical Phosphorus Intermediates in High-Capacity Anodes for Sodium-Ion Batteries. *Journal of the American Chemical Society* **140**, 7994–8004, (2018). DOI:10/gdq6h4.
1. Zhu, T., **Evans, M. L.**, Brown, R. A., Walmsley, P. M. & Golov, A. I. Interactions between unidirectional quantized vortex rings. *Physical Review Fluids* **1**, 044502, (2016). DOI:10/gf2529.