

# Matthew Evans

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

## EDUCATION

- 2016–2023 **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– **Researcher** then **BEWARE Research Fellow** (jointly at [Matgenix](#), 2022 onwards)  
with Prof Gian-Marco Rignanese (*Université catholique de Louvain*)  
– Machine learning for small materials datasets (MODNet).  
– High-throughput workflows for computational materials discovery and molecular dynamics.  
– Continued development of the [OPTIMADE](#) API specification and associated software.
- 2021– **Visiting Researcher**  
in the group of Prof Clare Grey (*University of Cambridge*)  
– Data management, analysis software and open APIs for materials chemistry research.  
– Funded by BIG-MAP External Stakeholder Initiative to develop [dataLab](#), a data management API and web UI for samples and associated characterisation via electrochemical cycling, NMR and XRD.  
– Founder and co-leader of a [MaRDA](#) working group on interoperable [metadata extractors](#) in materials science and chemistry.
- 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**  
*Department of Applied Physics, Aalto University*  
Received HPC-Europa funding to visit the group of Prof Adam Foster for 7 weeks, with computational resources provided by the Finnish IT center for science (CSC).
- 2019 **Scientific Software Developer (Intern)**  
*Enthought Inc., Cambridge*  
Worked on the open source, Horizon 2020 [FORCE project](#), adding functionality to a workflow manager for multi-criteria optimisations. Helped develop Cython bindings for the ACADO toolkit.
- 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: <b>Daily</b> , Intermittent, <i>Occasional</i> .		
Languages	<b>Python</b> , Javascript, Vue.js, Fortran, Cython, C++	Expertise	Web APIs & databases, HT workflows, ML
DFT	<b>CASTEP</b> , Quantum Espresso, <i>GPAW</i>	Stack	FastAPI, pydantic, Flask, Tensorflow
Tools	<b>git</b> , <b>vim</b> , <b>Docker</b>	Practices	<b>Test-driven development</b> , <b>CI</b>

## (TEACHING + SERVICE)

- 2022– Founded and co-lead a [MaRDA](#) working group on [metadata extractors](#) for materials science and chemistry
- 2020– Co-chair of the Research Data Alliance (RDA) IG *Materials Data, Infrastructure & Interoperability*
- 2018– Reviewed manuscripts and data for *npj. Computational Materials*, *Scientific Data*, *J. Phys.: Cond. Mat.*, *Scientific Reports*, *Digital Discovery* and *Journal of Open Source Software*
- 2022 Organiser for the CECAM Virtual Workshop *Machine-actionable Data Interoperability for Chemical Sciences* ([MADICES](#))
- 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.
- 2016–2020 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).
- 2016–2018 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
- 2016–2019 Demonstrator: 4x at annual CASTEP workshop, University of Oxford
- 2017 Volunteer: 2nd Conference of Research Software Engineers, University of Manchester
- 2016–2017 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

- 2023 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 CECAM Flagship Workshop for FAIR and TRUE Soft Matter Simulations, Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research, Germany.  
Invited seminar: *Interoperable data management for fundamental battery research*, Laboratory of Materials Simulation, Paul Scherrer Institut, Switzerland.  
Invited talk: *Metadata extractors for interoperable ETL*, MaRDA Alliance Annual Meeting  
Invited talk: *Open Databases Integration for Materials Design* at the Actively Learning Materials Science (AL4MS2023) 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) 16th 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.

12. Lertkiatrakul, M., [Evans, M. L.](#) & Cliffe, M. J. PASCAL Python: A Principal Axis Strain Calculator. *Journal of Open Source Software* ([accepted](#)), (2023).
11. Jablonka, K. M., Ai, Q., Al-Feghali, A., Badhwar, S., Bocarsly, J. D., M., A., Bringuier, S., Brinson, L. C., Choudhary, K., Circi, D., *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:[10.1039/D3DD000113J](#). arXiv: 2306.06283. (2023).
10. Ells, A. W., [Evans, M. L.](#), Groh, M., Morris, A. J. & Marbella, L. E. Phase transformations and phase segregation during potassiation of Sn<sub>x</sub>P<sub>y</sub> anodes. *Chemistry of Materials*, (2022). DOI:[10/h69d](#).
9. [Evans, M. L.](#), Andersen, C. W., Dwaraknath, S., Scheidgen, M., Fekete, Á. & Winston, D. 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. Andersen, C. W., Armiento, R., Blokhin, E., Conduit, G. J., Dwaraknath, S., [Evans, M. L.](#), 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. *Journal of Physics: Condensed Matter* **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/gmf4mv](#).
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/gg5x3](#).
4. Harper, A. F., [Evans, M. L.](#), Darby, J. P., Karasulu, B., Koçer, 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](#).