

Rachel C. Kurchin

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rkurchin.github.io

EDUCATION

- 2019 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** *Cambridge, MA, USA*
Ph.D., Materials Science and Engineering, GPA 4.6/5.0
- 2014 **University of Cambridge** *Cambridgeshire, UK*
MPhil, Materials Science & Metallurgy (research-based)
- 2013 **Yale University** *New Haven, CT, USA*
B.S., Physics (Intensive), with distinction (magna cum laude, GPA 3.9/4.0)

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 2019 – pres. **Carnegie Mellon University** *Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering*
MFI ('19-'20), MolSSI ('21) Postdoctoral Fellow with Venkat Viswanathan and Jay Whitacre
- 2014 – 2019 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** *Mechanical Engineering*
Ph.D. student with Tonio Buonassisi (committee: V. Stevanović, J. Grossman, B. Yildiz)
- 2016 – 2017 **National Renewable Energy Laboratory** *Solar Energy Research Facility*
Summer Visiting Graduate Student with Vladan Stevanović
- 2013 – 2014 **University of Cambridge** *Materials Science & Metallurgy*
Master's Student with Stoyan Smoukov, advised by Dame Athene Donald
- 2012 – 2013 **Yale University** *Electrical Engineering*
Undergraduate researcher (senior thesis) with Minjoo Larry Lee
- 2012 **Colorado School of Mines** *Physics*
REMRSEC REU Student with Thomas Furtak
- 2012 **Yale University** *Chemical Engineering*
Undergraduate researcher with Chinedum Osuji
- 2011 **Weizmann Institute of Science** *Earth and Planetary Sciences*
Undergraduate summer researcher with Ilan Koren
- 2008 **University of Rochester** *Laboratory for Laser Energetics*
High school summer researcher with R. Stephen Craxton

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, PREPARATION, AND RECOGNITION

- 2021 **Guest lecturer** *CMU Courses 12-623/24-623: Molecular Simulation of Materials*
24-643/27-700: Energy Storage Materials and Systems
12-216: Introduction to Research Skills in CEE
- 2020 **Guest lecturer** *CMU Courses 12-623/24-623: Molecular Simulation of Materials*
24-786: Bayesian Machine Learning (2 lectures)
Future Faculty Program *CMU Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence*
- 2019 **Graduate Student Teaching Award** *MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering*
Graduate Student Teaching Award *MIT School of Engineering*

2018 **Teaching Assistant** *MIT Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering*
3.23: Electronic, Optical, and Magnetic Properties of Materials

2011 – 2013 **Science and Quantitative Reasoning Tutor** *Yale University Dean's Office*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2020 **MolSSI Software Fellowship** *Molecular Sciences Software Institute*
Rising Star in Computational and Data Sciences *Oden Institute at UT Austin*

2019 **MFI Postdoctoral Fellowship** *CMU Manufacturing Futures Initiative*
CCE Symposium Poster Prize *MIT Center for Computational Engineering*

2018 **Materials Day Best Poster Award** *MIT Materials Research Laboratory*

2017 **Blue Waters Graduate Fellowship** *National Center for Supercomputing Applications*

2016 **Total Energy Fellowship** *MIT Energy Initiative*
Second Place, de Florez Award Competition *MIT Dept. of Mechanical Engineering*

2014 **GRFP Honorable Mention** *National Science Foundation*

2013 **Gates Cambridge Scholarship** *Cambridge Gates Trust*
Howard L. Schultz Prize *Yale Physics Department*

2012 **Mellon Grant** *Pierson College at Yale University*
REMRSEC REU Technical Achievement Award *Colorado School of Mines Renewable Energy Materials Research Science and Engineering Center*

2009 **Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship** *US Department of Education*
Intel STS Semifinalist *Intel Science Talent Search*

PUBLICATIONS ([Google Scholar](#))

2021 [16] A. Mistry, A. Verma, S. Sripad, R. Ciez, V. Sulzer, F. Brosa Planella, R. Timms, Y. Zhang, **R. Kurchin**, et al. "A minimal information set to enable verifiable theoretical battery research." *ACS Energy Letters* 3831–3835 (2021)

2020 [15] **R. Kurchin**, V. Viswanathan. "Marcus-Hush-Chidsey kinetics at electrode-electrolyte interfaces." *The Journal of Chemical Physics* 153, 134706 (2020)

[14] **R. C. Kurchin**, J. R. Poindexter, V. Vahanissi, et al. "How much physics is in a current-voltage curve? Inferring defect properties from photovoltaic device measurements." *IEEE Journal of Photovoltaics* 10, 1532–1537 (2020)

2019 [13] **R. C. Kurchin**, G. Romano, T. Buonassisi. "Bayesim: a tool for adaptive grid model fitting with Bayesian inference." *Computer Physics Communications* 239, 161–165 (2019)

2018 [12] **R. C. Kurchin**, P. Gorai, T. Buonassisi, V. Stevanović. "Structural and chemical features giving rise to defect tolerance of binary semiconductors." *Chemistry of Materials* 30, 5583–5592 (2018)

[11] J. Correa-Baena, L. Nienhaus, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "A-site cation in inorganic $\text{A}_3\text{Sb}_2\text{I}_9$ perovskite influences structural dimensionality, exciton binding energy, and solar cell performance." *Chemistry of Materials* 30, 3734–3742 (2018)

2017 [10] S. S. Shin, J. Correa-Baena, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "Solvent-engineering method to deposit compact bismuth-based thin films: mechanism and application to photovoltaics." *Chemistry of Materials* 30, 336–343 (2017)

- [09] R. Brandt, **R. C. Kurchin**, V. Steinmann, et al. “Rapid semiconductor device characterization through Bayesian parameter estimation.” *Joule* 1, 843–856 (2017)
- [08] R. Hoyer, L. C. Lee, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. “Strongly enhanced photovoltaic performance and defect physics of air-stable bismuth oxyiodide (BiOI).” *Advanced Materials* 29, (2017)
- [07] R. E. Brandt, J. Poindexter, P. Gorai, **R. Kurchin**, et al. “Searching for “defect-tolerant” photovoltaic materials: combined theoretical and experimental screening.” *Chemistry of Materials* 29, 4667–4674 (2017)
- [06] J. R. Poindexter, R. Hoyer, L. Nienhaus, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. “High tolerance to iron contamination in lead halide perovskite solar cells.” *ACS Nano* 11, 7101–7109 (2017)
- 2016 [05] R. Hoyer, P. Schulz, L. T. Schelhas, A. M. Holder, K. H. Stone, J. D. Perkins, D. Vigil-Fowler, S. Siol, D. O. Scanlon, A. Zakutayev, A. Walsh, I. C. Smith, B. C. Melot, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. “Perovskite-inspired photovoltaics: best practices in materials characterization and calculations.” *Chemistry of Materials* 29, 1964–1988 (2016)
- [04] D. B. Needleman, J. R. Poindexter, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. “Economically sustainable scaling of photovoltaics to meet climate targets.” *Energy & Environmental Science* 9, 2122–2129 (2016)
- [03] A. Gufan, Y. Lehahn, E. Fredj, C. Price, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. “Segmentation and tracking of marine cellular clouds observed by geostationary satellites.” *International Journal of Remote Sensing* 37, 1055–1068 (2016)
- 2015 [02] R. Hoyer, R. E. Brandt, A. Osherov, V. Stevanović, S. D. Stranks, M. Wilson, H. Kim, A. J. Akey, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. “Methylammonium bismuth iodide as a lead-free, stable hybrid organic-inorganic solar absorber.” *Chemistry - A European Journal* 22, 2605–2610 (2015)
- [01] R. E. Brandt, **R. C. Kurchin**, R. Hoyer, et al. “Investigation of bismuth triiodide (BiI₃) for photovoltaic applications.” *The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters* 6, 4297–4302 (2015)

INVITED TALKS

- 2022 *Chemellia: Machine Learning, with Atoms!*
Rowley Group Seminar, Ottawa, Canada (virtually)
Design of Defect-Tolerant Materials for Photovoltaic Applications
APS March Meeting, Chicago, IL
Chemellia: Machine Learning, with Atoms!
MIT CESMIX seminar, Cambridge, MA (virtually)
- 2021 *Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation*
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA (virtually)
Do Me a Solid: Materials Modeling to Fight Climate Change
Carnegie Mellon Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2020 *High-fidelity Accelerated Design of High-performance Electrochemical Systems*
Materials Science & Technology Conference, online
Graph Convolutional Networks for Atomic Structures
Seminar Cambridge Machine Learning Discussion Group, Cambridge, UK
Marcus-Hush-Chidsey Kinetics at Solid Surfaces
Battery Modeling Webinar Series, online
Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation
Friedrich-Alexander-Universitt Erlangen-Nrnberg (FAU), virtually in Nuremberg, Germany
Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation
Carnegie Mellon University Materials Science and Engineering Department, online

Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation
UIUC Electrical & Computer Engineering Department, Urbana, IL

- 2019 *Bayesim Workshop*
Helmholtz Institute for Renewable Energy, virtually in Nuremberg, Germany
- 2018 *Semiconductor Parameter Extraction (and more!) with Bayesian Inference*
MIT Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Cambridge, MA

CONTRIBUTED TALKS

- 2022 *Non-equilibrium Electrochemical Phase Diagrams with Automatic Differentiation*
APS March Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2021 *Introducing Chemellia: Machine Learning, with Atoms*
JuliaCon, online
- Building a Chemistry and Materials Science Ecosystem in Julia*
JuliaCon, online
- 2018 *Computational Screening for Defect-Tolerant Semiconductors*
Gordon Research Seminar on Defects in Semiconductors, New London, NH
- Structural and Chemical Features Contributing to Defect Tolerance of Binary Semiconductors*
Blue Waters Research Symposium, Sunriver, OR
- 2017 *Toward Quantitative Metrics to Screen for Defect Tolerance in Novel Semiconducting Materials*
Materials Research Society Fall Meeting and Exhibit, Boston, MA
- 2013 *Cross-Sectional EBIC Characterization of III-V Semiconductors for Photovoltaic Applications*
Yale Physics Department, New Haven, CT
- 2012 *Improving Active Layer Performance of Hybrid Photovoltaics by Nano Imprinting with Bulk Metallic Glass*
Yale Physics Department, New Haven, CT

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 *High-fidelity Accelerated Design of High-performance Electrochemical Systems*
NeurIPS 2020 Climate Change and AI Workshop, online
- 2019 *Measuring Real-World Quantities from Computer Simulation with Bayesian Inference*
MIT de Florez Award Competition, Cambridge, MA
- Semiconductor Parameter Extraction via Current-Voltage Characterization and Bayesian Inference Methods*
MIT CCE Symposium, Cambridge, MA
- 2018 *Semiconductor Parameter Extraction via Current-Voltage Characterization and Bayesian Inference Methods*
MIT Materials Day, Cambridge, MA
- Structural and Chemical Features Contributing to Defect Tolerance of Binary Semiconductors*
Blue Waters Research Symposium, Sunriver, OR
- Semiconductor Parameter Extraction via Current-Voltage Characterization and Bayesian Inference Methods*
World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion, Waikoloa, HI
- Design Principles for Defect-Tolerant Photovoltaic Absorbers*
MIT de Florez Award Competition, Cambridge, MA
- 2016 *Quantitative Metrics for Defect Tolerance in Semiconductors*
Materials Research Society Fall Meeting and Exhibit, Boston, MA

Photovoltaics R&D: Thin Film Materials

MIT Energy Night, Cambridge, MA

Bayes-Sun Inference: Next-Generation Photovoltaics through Advanced Probabilistic Modeling

MIT de Florez Award Competition, Cambridge, MA

Statistical Inference of Materials Properties from Solar Cell Measurements

Beyond 2016: MIT's Frontiers of the Future Symposium, Cambridge, MA

2015

Toward Algorithmic Screening of Novel, Defect-Tolerant Solar Materials

MIT Materials Day, Cambridge, MA

Solar Energy Technology & Innovation in Mexico

MIT Energy Initiative Solar Day, Cambridge, MA

Toward Algorithmic Screening of Novel, Defect-Tolerant Solar Materials

NREL HOPE workshop, Golden, CO

2013

Raman Spectroscopy of Silicon Quantum Dots

Northeast Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, Ithaca, NY

2012

Raman Spectroscopy of Silicon Quantum Dots

REMRSEC REU Poster Session, Golden, CO

SERVICE

Journal Editor

since 2021

Journal of Open-Source Software *Open Journals*

Journal Reviewer

since 2021

Journal of Physical Chemistry *American Chemical Society*

Chemistry of Materials *American Chemical Society*

Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters *American Chemical Society*

PR Materials *Physical Review Journals*

JuliaCon

Computational Materials Science *Elsevier*

Journal of Photovoltaics *IEEE*

Nature Computational Science *Springer Nature*

since 2020

NPJ Computational Materials *Springer Nature*

since 2019

Applied Energy Materials *American Chemical Society*

since 2017

Energy & Environmental Science *Royal Society of Chemistry*

Conferences

March 2022

Session Chair *APS March Meeting*

B67: Advanced Approaches in Modeling and Simulation of Defects

K67: Quantum Emitters and Spin Devices

July 2021

Session Chair, Volunteer *JuliaCon*

2019 – 2020

Conference Organizer *Pittsburgh Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics*

2019

Reviewer *NeurIPS ML4PS Workshop*

2015

Conference Organizer *Solar Energy Technology & Innovation in Mexico Workshop*

January 2015

Graduate Student Panelist *Northeast Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics*

2011 – 2012

Conference Organizer *Northeast Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics*

Leadership/Outreach

2021 – present	Grand Award Judge <i>Regeneron ISEF</i>
2018 – 2019	Graduate Student Advisory Group for Engineering <i>MIT School of Engineering</i>
2018 – 2019	Co-President, Women of Materials Science <i>MIT Department of Materials Science</i>
Spring 2017	Graduate Student Mentor, Solar Spring Break <i>MIT Energy Initiative</i>
2016 – 2019	Energy Education Task Force <i>MIT Energy Initiative</i>
2016 – 2019	Solar Test Bed Steering Committee <i>MIT Office of Sustainability</i>
2015 – 2017	Solar/Grid Community Co-Leader <i>MIT Energy Club</i>
March 2014	Science Demonstrator <i>Cambridge Hands-On Science</i>
2012 – 2013	Project Bright Co-Leader <i>Yale University</i>
2012	SPS Co-President <i>Yale Society of Physics Students</i>

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

<i>Simulation</i>	VASP, GPAW, PC1D, SCAPS-1D
Languages	Julia, Python, Matlab, Mathematica, L ^A T _E X, bash
<i>HPC</i>	Have earned allocations and used systems at national labs, NSF facilities, and universities
<i>Software Development</i>	Git, GitHub, open-source package development and maintenance in Julia and Python incl. CI, docs, issues/PR's, etc.

OTHER SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

Foreign Languages

Spanish	Proficient
Hebrew	Intermediate
Mandarin	Beginner

Music – Violinist

2014 – 2019	MIT Chamber Music Society, MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players, MIT Musical Theater Guild
2009 – 2013	Jonathan Edwards College Philharmonic, Pit orchestras for the Yale Dramat, Yale Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Opera Theatre of Yale College, and various independent productions

Athletics

2021	Finisher, Ironman Maryland and Ironman 70.3 Musselman triathlons
2019	Finisher, Pumpkinman Half Iron triathlon
2018 – 2019	Treasurer, MIT Triathlon Team
2014, 2018	Finisher, Stockholm and Marine Corps Marathons
2013 – 2014	Rower, Churchill College Boat Club (1st womens VIII in May Bumps 2014)
2009 – 2012	Member (2009 – 2012), Manager (2010 – 2011), Yale Bulldog Cycling Team