

# Rachel C. Kurchin

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## EDUCATION

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- 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

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- 2019 – pres.    **Carnegie Mellon University** *Depts. of Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering*  
MFI, MolSSI Postdoctoral Fellow with Venkat Viswanathan and Jay Whitacre
- 2014 – 2019    **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** *Dept. of 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** *Dept. of Materials Science & Metallurgy*  
Master's Student with Stoyan Smoukov, advised by Dame Athene Donald
- 2012 – 2013    **Yale University** *Dept. of Electrical Engineering*  
Undergraduate researcher (senior thesis) with Minjoo Larry Lee
- 2012            **Colorado School of Mines** *Dept. of Physics*  
Summer REU Student with Thomas Furtak
- 2012            **Yale University** *Dept. of Chemical Engineering*  
Undergraduate researcher with Chinedum Osuji
- 2011            **Weizmann Institute of Science** *Dept. of 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

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- 2020            **Guest lecture** *CMU Course 12-623/24-623: Molecular Simulation of Materials*  
**Future Faculty Program** *CMU Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence*  
**Guest lectures** *CMU Course 24-786: Bayesian Machine Learning*
- 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*  
 TA 3.23: Electronic, Optical, and Magnetic Properties of Materials

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

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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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

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- 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. .. 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 A<sub>3</sub>Sb<sub>2</sub>I<sub>9</sub> 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 (BiI<sub>3</sub>) for photovoltaic applications.” *The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters* **6**, 4297–4302 (2015)

## TALKS

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- 2020 *Graph Convolutional Networks for Atomic Structures*  
Cambridge Machine Learning Discussion Group  
*Marcus-Hush-Chidsey Kinetics at Solid Surfaces*  
Battery Modeling Webinar Series  
*Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation*  
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)  
*Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation*  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Electrical & Computer Engineering Department
- 2019 *Bayesim Workshop*  
Helmholtz Institute for Renewable Energy Erlangen Nuremberg
- 2018 *Semiconductor Parameter Extraction (and more!) with Bayesian Inference*  
MIT Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
*Computational Screening for Defect-Tolerant Semiconductors*  
Gordon Research Seminar on Defects in Semiconductors  
*Structural and Chemical Features Contributing to Defect Tolerance of Binary Semiconductors*  
Blue Waters Research Symposium
- 2017 *Toward Quantitative Metrics to Screen for Defect Tolerance in Novel Semiconducting Materials*  
Materials Research Society Fall Meeting and Exhibit
- 2013 *Cross-Sectional EBIC Characterization of III-V Semiconductors for Photovoltaic Applications*  
Yale Physics Department
- 2012 *Improving Active Layer Performance of Hybrid Photovoltaics by Nano Imprinting with Bulk Metallic Glass*  
Yale Physics Department

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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- 2019      *Measuring Real-World Quantities from Computer Simulation with Bayesian Inference*  
MIT de Florez Award Competition  
*Semiconductor Parameter Extraction via Current-Voltage Characterization and Bayesian Inference Methods*  
MIT CCE Symposium
- 2018      *Semiconductor Parameter Extraction via Current-Voltage Characterization and Bayesian Inference Methods*  
MIT Materials Day  
*Structural and Chemical Features Contributing to Defect Tolerance of Binary Semiconductors*  
Gordon Research Seminar on Defects in Semiconductors  
*Semiconductor Parameter Extraction via Current-Voltage Characterization and Bayesian Inference Methods*  
World Conference on Photovoltaic Energy Conversion  
*Design Principles for Defect-Tolerant Photovoltaic Absorbers*  
MIT de Florez Award Competition
- 2016      *Quantitative Metrics for Defect Tolerance in Semiconductors*  
Materials Research Society Fall Meeting and Exhibit  
*Photovoltaics R&D: Thin Film Materials*  
MIT Energy Night  
*Bayes-Sun Inference: Next-Generation Photovoltaics through Advanced Probabilistic Modeling*  
MIT de Florez Award Competition  
*Statistical Inference of Materials Properties from Solar Cell Measurements*  
Beyond 2016: MIT's Frontiers of the Future Symposium
- 2015      *Improving the Accuracy of Novel Materials Screening: Growing Defect-Tolerant Photovoltaic Absorbers*  
MRS Fall Meeting and Exhibit  
*Solar Energy Technology & Innovation in Mexico*  
MIT Energy Initiative Solar Day  
*Toward Algorithmic Screening of Novel, Defect-Tolerant Solar Materials*  
NREL HOPE workshop
- 2013      *Raman Spectroscopy of Silicon Quantum Dots*  
Northeast Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics
- 2012      *Raman Spectroscopy of Silicon Quantum Dots*  
REMRSEC REU Poster Session

## REVIEWING

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- 2020 – present    **NPJ Computational Materials** Springer Nature
- 2019 – present    **NeurIPS ML4PS Workshop**
- 2019 – present    **Applied Energy Materials** American Chemical Society
- 2017 – present    **Energy & Environmental Science** Royal Society of Chemistry

## SERVICE

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2019 – 2020	<b>Conference Organizer</b> <i>Pittsburgh Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics</i>
2018 – 2019	<b>Member, Graduate Student Advisory Group for Engineering</b> <i>MIT School of Engineering</i>
2018 – 2019	<b>Co-President, Women of Materials Science</b> <i>MIT Department of Materials Science</i>
Spring 2017	<b>Graduate Student Mentor, Solar Spring Break</b> <i>MIT Energy Initiative</i>
2016 – 2019	<b>Student Representative, Energy Education Task Force</b> <i>MIT Energy Initiative</i>
2016 – 2019	<b>Graduate Student Representative, Solar Test Bed Steering Committee</b> <i>MIT Office of Sustainability</i>
2015	<b>Conference Organizer</b> <i>Solar Energy Technology &amp; Innovation in Mexico Workshop</i>
2015 – 2017	<b>Solar/Grid Community Co-Leader</b> <i>MIT Energy Club</i>
January 2015	<b>Graduate Student Panelist</b> <i>Northeast Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics</i>
March 2014	<b>Science Demonstrator</b> <i>Cambridge Hands-On Science</i>
2012 – 2013	<b>Project Bright Co-Leader</b> <i>Yale University</i>
2012	<b>SPS Co-President</b> <i>Yale Society of Physics Students</i>
2011 – 2012	<b>Conference Organizer</b> <i>Northeast Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics</i>

## COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

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<i>Simulation</i>	VASP, PC1D, SCAPS-1D
<i>Languages/ Environments</i>	Python (incl. numpy, scipy, pandas, matplotlib), Julia (incl. DifferentialEquations, Flux, and other SciML packages), Jupyter, MATLAB, Mathematica, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Unix
<i>HPC</i>	Have earned allocations on and used both Intel and Cray systems including Peregrine (NREL), NERSC (LBL), Blue Waters (UIUC), Supercloud (MIT)

## OTHER SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

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### Foreign Languages

Spanish	Proficient
Hebrew	Intermediate

### Music – Violinist

2018 – 2019	MIT Musical Theater Guild
2014 – 2017	MIT Gilbert & Sullivan Players
2014 – 2016	MIT Chamber Music Society
2009 – 2013	Jonathan Edwards College Philharmonic, Pit orchestras for the Yale Dramat, Yale Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Opera Theatre of Yale College, and various independent theatrical productions

### Athletics

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 women's VIII in May Bumps 2014)
2009 – 2012	Member (2009 – 2012), Manager (2010 – 2011), Yale Bulldog Cycling Team