

curriculum vitae of
Rachel C. Kurchin

ASSISTANT RESEARCH PROFESSOR · CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY · MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

rkurchin.github.io rkurchin@cmu.edu [google scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=...) [github](https://github.com/rkurchin)

EDUCATION

2014 – 2019	Ph.D. Materials Science and Engineering (GPA: 4.6/5.0) Thesis title: “Computational Frameworks to Enable Accelerated Development of Defect-Tolerant Photovoltaic Materials”	MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
2013 – 2014	MPhil Materials Science & Metallurgy (research-based)	UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
2009 – 2013	BS Physics (Intensive) (GPA 3.9/4.0, magna cum laude)	YALE UNIVERSITY

PAST RESEARCH POSITIONS

2019 – 2022	Postdoctoral Fellow , Mechanical Engineering, advised by V. Viswanathan	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
2014 – 2019	PhD student , Materials Science and Engineering Advised by T. Buonassisi (Mechanical Engineering) (committee members V. Stevanović, B. Yildiz, J. Grossman)	MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
2016 – 2018	Visiting student , Solar Energy Research Facility Summer stays advised by V. Stevanović	NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY
2013 – 2014	MPhil student , Materials Science & Metallurgy Supervised by S. Smoukov, advised by Dame A. Donald (Physics)	UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
2012 – 2013	Undergraduate researcher , Physics (senior thesis) Advised by M. L. Lee (Electrical Engineering)	YALE UNIVERSITY
Summer 2012	REU Student , Renewable Energy MRSEC, advised by T. Furtak (Physics)	COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
2012	Undergraduate researcher , Physics, advised by C. Osuji (Chemical Engineering)	YALE UNIVERSITY
Summer 2011	Undergraduate researcher , Earth and Planetary Sciences Advised by I. Koren	WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

TEACHING EXPERIENCE, PREPARATION, AND RECOGNITION

2023	Instructor 27-100: Engineering the Materials of the Future 27-210: Materials Engineering Essentials	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
	Guest Lecturer 27-537/27-737: Data Analytics for Materials Science 24-786: Bayesian Machine Learning	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
2022	Guest Lecturer 27-100: Engineering the Materials of the Future 12-623/24-623: Molecular Simulation of Materials	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
2021	Guest Lecturer 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	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
2020	Guest Lecturer 12-623/24-623: Molecular Simulation of Materials 24-786: Bayesian Machine Learning (2 lectures)	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
	Future Faculty Program Alum , Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
2019	Graduate Student Teaching Award , Mat. Sci. and Eng. Graduate Student Teaching Award , School of Engineering	MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
2018	Teaching Assistant 3.23: Electronic, Optical, and Magnetic Properties of Materials	MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
2011 – 2013	Science and Quantitative Reasoning Tutor , Dean’s Office	YALE UNIVERSITY

HONORS

2023	Best Oral Presentation, Symposium EN10	MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY FALL MEETING
	PASC Early Career Travel Award	ACM SIGHPC
2022	DCOMP Travel Award	APS DIVISION OF COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS
	DMP Post-Doctoral Travel Award	APS DIVISION OF MATERIALS PHYSICS
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 INSTITUTE
	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 DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
2014	GRFP Honorable Mention	NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
2013	Gates Cambridge Scholarship	CAMBRIDGE GATES TRUST
	Howard L. Schulz Prize	YALE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
2012	Mellon Grant	PIERSON COLLEGE AT YALE UNIVERSITY
	REMRSEC REU Technical Achievement Award	COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES RENEWABLE ENERGY MRSEC
2009	Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship	US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
	Intel STS Semifinalist	INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

RESEARCH SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

2021 – present	Co-Developer , AtomsBase	GITHUB LINK
	Julia interface for representing atomic structures, currently being used by >10 other Julia packages	
2020 – present	Lead Developer , ElectrochemicalKinetics	GITHUB LINK
	Julia package for modeling and fitting of electrochemical reaction rate models	
2020 – present	Lead Developer , Chemellia	GITHUB LINK
	Machine learning ecosystem for atomistic systems in the Julia Language	
2017 – present	Lead Developer , Bayesim	GITHUB LINK
	Python package for Bayesian parameter estimation from experimental data using high-throughput simulation	

PUBLICATIONS

Authors who equally contributed to a publication are marked with a †.

18. **R. C. Kurchin**, D. Gandhi, and V. Viswanathan. “Nonequilibrium Electrochemical Phase Maps: Beyond Butler-Volmer Kinetics” *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **14**, 7802–7807 (2023)
17. E. Annevelink[†], **R. C. Kurchin**[†], et al. “AutoMat: Automated Materials Discovery for Electrochemical systems.” *MRS Bulletin* **47**, (2022)
16. A. Mistry, ..., **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. “A minimal information set to enable verifiable theoretical battery research.” *ACS Energy Lett.* **6**, 11, 3831–3835 (2021)
15. **R. C. Kurchin** and V. Viswanathan. “Marcus-Hush-Chidsey kinetics at electrode-electrolyte inter-faces.” *J. Chem. Phys.* **153**, 134706 (2020)
14. **R. C. Kurchin** et al. “How much physics is in a current-voltage curve? Inferring defect properties from photovoltaic device measurements.” *IEEE JPV* **10**, 1532–1537 (2020)
13. **R. C. Kurchin**, G. Romano, T. Buonassisi. “Bayesim: a tool for adaptive grid model fitting with Bayesian inference.” *Comp. Phys. Comm.* **239**, 161–165 (2019)
12. **R. C. Kurchin**[†], P. Gorai[†], Tonio Buonassisi, Vladan Stevanović. “Structural and chemical features giving rise to defect tolerance of binary semiconductors.” *Chem. Mater.* **30**, 5583–5592 (2018)

11. J. Correa-Baena, L. Nienhaus, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "A-site cation in inorganic $A_3Sb_2I_9$ perovskite influences structural dimensionality, exciton binding energy, and solar cell performance." *Chem. Mater.* **30**, 3734–3742 (2018)
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." *Chem. Mater.* **30**, 336–343 (2017)
9. R. E. Brandt, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "Rapid semiconductor device characterization through Bayesian parameter estimation." *Joule* **1**, 843–856 (2017)
8. R. Hoye, L. C. Lee, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "Strongly enhanced photovoltaic performance and defect physics of air-stable bismuth oxyiodide (BiOI)" *Adv. Mater.* **29**, 1702176 (2017)
7. R. E. Brandt, J. R. Poindexter, P. Gorai, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "Searching for "defect-tolerant" photovoltaic materials: combined theoretical and experimental screening." *Chem. Mater.* **29**, 4667–4674 (2017)
6. J. R. Poindexter, R. Hoye, L. Nienhaus, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "High tolerance to iron contamination in lead halide perovskite solar cells." *ACS Nano* **11**, 7101–7109 (2017)
5. R. Hoye, ..., **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "Perovskite-inspired photovoltaics: best practices in materials characterization and calculations." *Chem. Mater.* **29**, 1964–1988 (2016)
4. D. B. Needleman, J. R. Poindexter, **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "Economically sustainable scaling of photovoltaics to meet climate targets." *Energy Environ. Sci.* **9**, 2122–2129 (2016)
3. A. Gufan, ..., **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "Segmentation and tracking of marine cellular clouds observed by geostationary satellites." *Int. J. Remote Sens.* **37**, 1055–1068 (2016)
2. R. Hoye, ..., **R. C. Kurchin**, et al. "Methylammonium bismuth iodide as a lead-free, stable hybrid organic-inorganic solar absorber." *Chem. Eur. J.* **22**, 2605–2610 (2015)
1. R. E. Brandt, **R. C. Kurchin**, R. Hoye, et al. "Investigation of bismuth triiodide (BiI₃) for photovoltaic applications." *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **6**, 4297–4302 (2015)

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

2023	Materials Modeling (Data-Driven and Otherwise) in the Julia Language	VIRTUAL
	Artificial Intelligence for Materials Science Workshop	
	It's All About That Bayes: Data-Driven Insights into Energy Devices without the Black Box	DAVOS, SWITZERLAND
	Platform for Advanced Scientific Computing (PASC) Conference	
2022	It's All About That Bayes: Data-Driven Insights into Energy Devices without the Black Box	LAS VEGAS, NV
	American Physical Society March Meeting	
	Point Defects in Photovoltaics: From Materials to Devices	EVANSTON, IL
	Snyder Group Meeting, Northwestern University	
	Science Stories with Julia	PITTSBURGH, PA (VIRTUAL)
	Jordan Group Meeting, University of Pittsburgh	
	Building a Materials Computation Ecosystem in Julia	OTTAWA, CA (VIRTUAL)
	Institute of Data Science, Carleton University	
	Design of Defect-Tolerant Materials for Photovoltaic Applications	CHICAGO, IL
	American Physical Society March Meeting	
2021	Building a Materials Computation Ecosystem in Julia	CAMBRIDGE, MA (VIRTUAL)
	MIT CESMIX seminar	
	Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation	BOSTON, MA (VIRTUAL)
	Boston University Materials Science seminar	
	Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation	ATLANTA, GA
	Georgia Institute of Technology Department of Materials Science and Engineering	

	<i>Do Me a Solid: Materials Modeling to Fight Climate Change</i>	PITTSBURGH, PA
	Carnegie Mellon University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	
2020	<i>High-Fidelity Accelerated Design of Electrochemical Systems</i>	ONLINE
	Materials Science & Technology Conference	
	<i>Graph Convolutional Networks for Atomic Structures</i>	CAMBRIDGE, UK (VIRTUAL)
	Cambridge Machine Learning Discussion Group	
	<i>Marcus-Hush-Chidsey Kinetics at Solid Surfaces</i>	ONLINE
	Battery Modeling Webinar Series	
	<i>Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation</i>	NUREMBERG, GERMANY (VIRTUAL)
	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)	
	<i>Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation</i>	PITTSBURGH, PA (VIRTUAL)
	Carnegie Mellon Department of Materials Science and Engineering	
	<i>Accelerating Energy Materials Discovery with Computation</i>	URBANA, IL
	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering	
2019	<i>Bayesim Workshop</i>	NUREMBERG, GERMANY (VIRTUAL)
	Helmholtz Institute for Renewable Energy	
2018	<i>Semiconductor Parameter Extraction (and more!) with Bayesian Inference</i>	CAMBRIDGE, MA
	MIT Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics	
	CONTRIBUTED TALKS	
2023	<i>Modeling Electrochemical Reaction Rates at Fluid-Solid Interfaces</i>	BOSTON, MA
	MRS Fall Meeting	
	<i>Teaching Introductory Materials Science with Pluto Demos</i>	CAMBRIDGE, MA
	JuliaCon	
2022	<i>Non-equilibrium Electrochemical Phase Diagrams with Automatic Differentiation</i>	CHICAGO, IL
	American Physical Society March Meeting	
2021	<i>Introducing Chemellia: Machine Learning, with Atoms</i>	ONLINE
	JuliaCon	
	<i>Building a Chemistry and Materials Science Ecosystem in Julia</i>	ONLINE
	JuliaCon (Birds of a Feather discussion leader)	
2018	<i>Computational Screening for Defect-Tolerant Semiconductors</i>	NEW LONDON, NH
	Gordon Research Seminar on Defects in Semiconductors	
	<i>Structural and Chemical Features Contributing to Defect Tolerance of Binary Semiconductors</i>	SUNRIVER, OR
	Blue Waters Research Symposium	
2017	<i>Toward Quantitative Metrics to Screen for Defect Tolerance in Novel Semiconducting Materials</i>	BOSTON, MA
	Materials Research Society Fall Meeting and Exhibit	
2013	<i>Cross-Sectional EBIC Characterization of III-V Semiconductors for Photovoltaic Applications</i>	NEW HAVEN, CT
	Yale Physics Department	
2012	<i>Improving Active Layer Performance of Hybrid Photovoltaics by Nano Imprinting with Bulk Metallic Glass</i>	NEW HAVEN, CT
	Yale Physics Department	
	POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
2022	<i>Differentiable Modeling of Electrochemical Reaction Rates</i>	VENTURA, CA
	Gordon Research Seminar/Conference: Batteries	
2020	<i>High-fidelity Accelerated Design of High-performance Electrochemical Systems</i>	ONLINE
	NeurIPS Climate Change and AI Workshop	

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

SERVICE TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

JOURNAL EDITING

2021 – present Journal of Open-Source Software

JOURNAL REVIEWING

2023 – present Physical Review Letters

2022 – present Computer Physics Communications, APL Machine Learning

2021 – present Journal of Physical Chemistry, Chemistry of Materials, Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters, PR Materials, Computational Materials Science, IEEE Journal of Photovoltaics, Nature Computational Science

2020 – present NPJ Computational Materials

2019 – present	Applied Energy Materials	
2017 – present	Energy & Environmental Science	
	CONFERENCE SERVICE	
May 2023	Technical Presentation Judge	CMU MSE GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM
March 2023	Poster Session Judge	CMU ENERGY WEEK
March 2022	Session Chair	SCIENTIFIC MACHINE LEARNING WEBINAR SERIES
March 2022	Session Chair, B67: Advanced Approaches in Modeling and Simulation of Defects	APS MARCH MEETING
July 2021	Session Chair, Volunteer	JULIACON
2021 – present	Reviewer	JULIACON
2019 – 2020	Organizer	PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN IN PHYSICS
2019	Reviewer	NEURIPS ML4PS WORKSHOP
October 2019	Poster Session Judge	PITT SCIENCE2019
2015	Organizer	SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION IN MEXICO WORKSHOP
January 2015	Panelist	NORTHEAST CONFERENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN IN PHYSICS
2011 – 2012	Organizer	NORTHEAST CONFERENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATE WOMEN IN PHYSICS

LEADERSHIP AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2023 – present	Member, Open Science Advisory Board	CMU LIBRARIES
October 2023	Panelist, Mentor	CMU MSE RISING STARS WORKSHOP
April 2023	Design Judge, Buggy Design Competition	CMU SPRING CARNIVAL
2022 – present	Working Group Chair, Notebooks Now! Initiative	AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION
2018 – 2019	Member, Graduate Student Advisory Group for Engineering	MIT SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
2018 – 2019	Co-President, Womxn of Materials Science	MIT DMSE
2017	Mentor, Solar Spring Break (service trip)	MIT ENERGY INITIATIVE
2016 – 2019	Member, Energy Education Task Force	MIT ENERGY INITIATIVE
2016 – 2019	Member, Solar Test Bed Steering Committee	MIT OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
2015 – 2017	Co-Leader, Solar/Grid Community	MIT ENERGY CLUB
2012 – 2013	Co-Leader, Project Bright	YALE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
2012	Co-President, Society of Physics Students	YALE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

OUTREACH AND OTHER SERVICE

2022 – present	Mentor	PRISON MATHEMATICS PROJECT
May 2022	Guest Speaker	JULIA GENDER INCLUSIVE
2021 – present	Volunteer	SKYPE A SCIENTIST
2021 – 2022	Grand Award Judge, Materials Science Division	REGENERON ISEF
Summer 2021	GSoC Mentor, Julia Language (Chemellia)	GOOGLE SUMMER OF CODE
March 2014	Demonstrator	CAMBRIDGE HANDS-ON SCIENCE (CHAOS)

OTHER SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

2003 – present	Spanish , proficient
2010 – present	Hebrew , intermediate
2020 – present	Mandarin , beginner

MUSIC: VIOLINIST

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

ATHLETICS

2019 – 2021	Finisher , Ironman Maryland, Ironman 70.3 Musselman, and Pumpkinman Half Iron triathlons
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), **Treasurer** (2010 – 2011), Yale Bulldog Cycling Team