Accelerating thermoelectric materials discovery - Uniting experiment and computation

Over the last decade, significant effort has been devoted to creating computational predictive frameworks for predicting the thermoelectric performance of materials. Such efforts shine light into reciprocal space, where we often have less chemical intuition, and thus enable the accelerated down-selection of candidate materials. Computational predictions, interrogated by experiment, has revealed new classes of thermoelectric materials, thereby validating this approach as a key tool in the search for thermoelectric materials. However, we now face a new problem: We have more predicted candidates than experimental bandwidth to test these candidates. Further, the expansion of thermoelectric training sets for machine learning remains quite slow. As such, our current efforts are focused on developing the infrastructure to accelerate synthesis and characterization of thermoelectric materials by x50 without significant sacrifices in material or data quality. These efforts are inspired by develops over the last three decades in combinatorial thin film growth, but are focused instead on bulk materials. Efforts to develop high throughput weighing, milling, consolidation, and transport measurements will be discussed in the context of pnictide and chalcogenide thermoelectric materials.

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