Random search: a tool for discovery and the end of water?





Chris J Pickard University College London & London Institute for Mathematical Sciences





























Condensed matter!

















2





Computers



705,024

A real challenge

Many small calculations

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30779 c.ip	25	0	201m	107m	5680	R 99.9	9 0.7	2:08,21 castep-serial	
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30695 c.jp	25	0	181w	87m	5620	R 99.5	5 0.5	1:24.95 castep-serial	
30857 cjp	25	0	200m	106m	5684	R 92.8	5 0.7	1:40,22 castep-serial	

Lots of data

Materials science as search







Gerd Ceder's Materials Project, MIT

Materials Genome Initiative: A Renaissance of American Manufacturing

\$100M to accelerate materials discovery

The elemental palette



Is the ICSD empty?



A very important problem

What structure will a collection of atoms adopt? What will they do?



Material

Typically answered by experiment



Ab initio random structure searching



Pickard & Needs, PRL 2006 and JPCM 2011

Discovery through virtual experiments



Nature Physics, 2007



Ammonia is ionic



Nature Materials, 2008

Aluminium is complex



Nature Materials, 2010



Physical Review Letters, 2011

HCP Lennard-Jones Crystal



The size of configuration space rapidly increases - but the ground state basin is also growing





A tougher one



20xC@I00GPa, 30K structures

Constraints Hard and soft



Carbon and Hydrogen



Graphane - Sofo, Jorge O. et al. (2007)

Cell shape gamma-Boron 28 atoms



Comparing to EAs

Oganov et al *Natur*e 2009 ~550

Ji, Wang & Ho PCCP 2010 ~288

Units 2B₁₂ + 4B



Comparing to EAs

Oganov et al Nature 2009 ~550

Ji, Wang & Ho PCCP 2010 ~288

Symmetry B₁₂ + 2B, 2 symm ops





~108





Experiment

Ammonia monohydrate

JACS, 2009 with Dom Fortes



Input lattice parameters and density Output solved crystal structure containing 112 atoms

"easy experiment, easy theory - new science"

Iron at extremes



Aluminium at Terapascals



Ba-IV and Rb-IV united

fcc - hcp - bcc - Ba-IV - sh -

Pickard & Needs, Nature Materials, 2010

Boron





Nitrogen: from cages to salt to waves



Sun et al, condmat, 2012





Dense rock

O, Mg, Al, Si, Ca, Fe

and squeeze (theoretically) to 10TPa



Calculate binary convex hulls using AIRSS $2 \times Fe + 50 \times O + 19 \times Si + 17 \times Mg + 1 \times Al + 2 \times Ca$ 0.5 x Al₂O₃ + 17 x MgO + 12.5 x SiO₂ + 6.5 x SiO₃ + 2 x FeCa

2 x Fe + **25** x O + I9 x Si + I7 x Mg + I x AI + 2 x Ca I x AIO + I7 x MgO + 7 x Si₂O + 5 x Si + 2 x FeCa



H_2O at TPa

Space group	Stability range (TPa)	No. fu	Source	
Ice X	-0.30	2	Ref. [12]	
Pbcm	0.30-0.71	4	Ref. [13]	
Pbca	0.71-0.78	8	Ref. [14]	
P3121	0.78 - 2.01	12	This work	
Pcca	2.01 - 2.24	12	This work	
C2	2.24 - 2.36	12	This work	
$P2_1$	2.36 - 2.75	4	Ref. [15-17]	
$P2_1/c$	2.75 - 6.06	8	Ref. [16]	
C2/m	6.06-	2	Ref. [15]	

P (TPa)	Phase	density (g/cm ³)	
0	ordered-Ih	0.917 (expt)	
0.1	x	3.18	
0.5	Pbem	4.87	
0.8	Pbca	5.70	
1.0	P3:21	6.29	
2.0	Peca	8.16	
2.25	C2	8.55	
2.5	P21	8.94	
3.25	$P2_1/c$	9.93	
6.0	C2/m	12.84	

Enthalpies



Phase Diagram



Structures





Electronic properties



Does H₂O exist?

Maybe not - H₂O₂ is very stable



$$\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O}
ightarrow rac{\delta}{1+\delta} rac{1}{2} \,\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O}_2 + rac{1}{1+\delta} \,\mathrm{H}_{2+\delta}\mathrm{O}_2$$

Decomposition of H_2O



H₂O is not a thermodynamically stable composition above 5TPa

A hydrogen sponge



Fermi surface effects



The doping of C2/m with H moves E_f to a minimum in the eDOS



Virtual experimentation

AIRSS - **much** better than you would think

It will be increasingly difficult to distinguish theory, modelling and experiment

Acknowledgements Richard J Needs



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