

AI-driven discovery of material "genes": application to CO₂ activation on semiconductor oxide surfaces (12 min talk + 3 min discussion)

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Using subgroup discovery (SGD), an AI approach that discovers statistically exceptional subgroups in a dataset, we develop a strategy for a rational design of catalytic materials. SGD allows for the identification of distinct, possibly competing mechanisms of a catalytic activation. Here, it is applied to the problem of converting CO₂ into useful chemicals. We demonstrate that the bending of CO₂, previously proposed as the indicator of activation, is insufficient to account for the good catalytic performance of experimentally characterized oxide surfaces. Instead, our approach identifies the asymmetric strong elongation of the molecular C-O bond as a more accurate indicator.

Poster title

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