Explainable Machine Learning Models for Predicting Oxygen Activation Energies in Perovskites and Pyrochlores

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Solid Oxide Fuel-Cells



SOFC Operating Principle. *National Energy Technology Laboratory*. https://netl.doe.gov/carbon-management/sofc/operating-principle

- Motivation: Reduce operating temperature (500°C) – improve oxygen diffusion kinetics
- Large experimental space rapid screening of new materials
- Goal: Obtain physical insight into oxygen diffusion using a grouped analysis of machine learning models
 - Why ML? More complicated relationships than just correlation
 - Why grouping? Negate inconsistencies between models

Individual Feature Importances for Hydrogen Diffusion in Metals[1]

- Permutation importances: shuffled feature impacts R^2
- Packing factor is the most important feature
- Inconsistent features between models
- Top 3 feature of each model: 9 different features



[1] **GML**, Witman, M., Agarwal, S., Stavila, V., Trinkle, D. R. (2023)

Grouped Features Enable Interpretability for H Diffusion [1]



- Packing factor: Diffusion pathways
 - Structural
 - Energies
- Electronic specific heat: H interaction with bulk
 - Electronic properties
 - Bulk modulus
- Similar features to Flynn and Stoneham's self-trapping model [2]

$$Q = \frac{M\omega_D^2 d^2}{360} \left(\frac{1+\nu}{1-\nu}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\delta V}{\Omega}\right)^2 \Phi(q_m d, \eta)$$

[1] GML, Witman, M., Agarwal, S., Stavila, V., Trinkle, D. R. (2023)[2] Flynn, C. P., and Stoneham, A. M. (1970)

M: Atomic mass w_D : Debye frequency d: Jump distance v: Poisson's ratio δV : Lattice dilation due to defect Ω : Solvent atomic volume

 q_m : Radius of Debye sphere η : fraction of volume change due to dipole component of the strain field

Database (Perovskites and Pyrochlores)



- 76 Perovskites (ABO₃) and 42 Pyrochlores ($A_2B_2O_7$) oxides with the most experimental measurements
- Number of times each element appears in the database
- La (62), Ga (60), and Sr (57) most prevalent perovskite elements
- Zr (34) most common pyrochlore element

Easily-Obtained Features



- 139 total features from MAGPIE
 [1] combine elemental properties
 - Oxygen not included
 - Split A and B site

1.0

0.5

0.0

-0.5

-1.0

- One-Hot Encoding of the space group number
- Oxygen partial pressure: diffusion mechanism
- Oxide properties band gap, bulk modulus, melting temperature
- Strong correlations between features

Feature Reduction



- Feature reduction occurs first before model fitting
 - Ward hierarchical clustering
 - Groups most correlated features at each step
- Group A/B features separately using combined database
 - Choose included feature using a greedy algorithm to maximize correlation with residual
 - Same grouping used, but different features



Machine Learning Models

- 6 ML models: small datasets
- Linear Model number of features minimize 80-20% test error



- 3 test-train splits
 - All training
 - Leave-One-Out
 - Random (80-20%)

ML Models	Kernel Based	Decision Tree	Linear	Error Prediction
<i>K</i> -Nearest Neighbors				
Gaussian Process				
Random Forest				
Gradient Boosting Tree				
Bayesian Ridge				
Linear				

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Combined Machine Learning Model

- Larger standard deviation for pyrochlore activation energies (282 meV) vs. perovskite (185 meV)
- Linear models have poor training errors cannot grasp difference between pyrochlores and perovskites



Perovskite Machine Learning Model

- Largest experimental activation energy (LaCaO₃) also has the largest error (618 meV) almost twice as large as the second largest (372 meV)
- High Oxygen partial pressure



Pyrochlore Machine Learning Model

- Multiple diffusion pathways:
 - DFT-based Single vacancy (26) vs. Split vacancy (14) based on cation radii
- Models, especially linear, cannot differentiate



Pyrochlore Single Vacancy

- Similar performance to full pyrochlore models
- Linear model still lacks the ability to fit activation energy



Pyrochlore Split Vacancy Woes

- Large RMSEs for split vacancy models
 - Larger than the standard deviation (141 meV) for any test data
- Low correlation between activation energies and features: highest correlation = 0.49





Feature Importances

- Median Shapley additive explanation (SHAP)
 Importances: measure how the feature impacts each prediction
- Site B more important than Site A
 - Site A features are more important for pyrochlores than perovskites
- Agreement between models
- pO₂: differences arise from experimental conditions

Perovskite Feature Importances

- Most important features: Std Melting Temperature B, Mean Melting Temperature B, pO_{2}
- Agreement with linear model features also have high correlation with the activation energy



Pyrochlore Feature Importances

- Most important features: Mean Oxide Bandgap B, Mean Melting Temperature B, Std Oxide Melting Temperature A
 - Oxide features are a better representation of pyrochlore features
- Disagreement with linear model



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