

Accelerating Inorganic Phosphor Development

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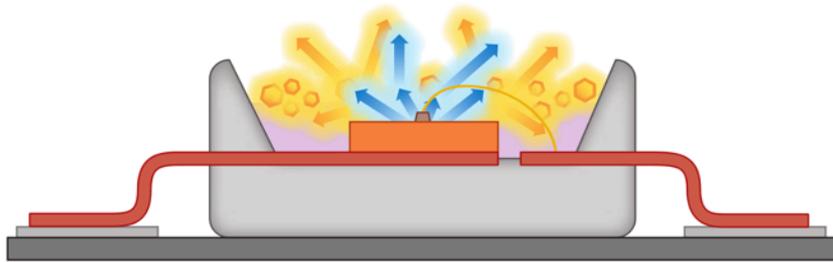
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UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**
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2020 Sloan Research Fellows

Phosphor converted solid-state (LED) lighting

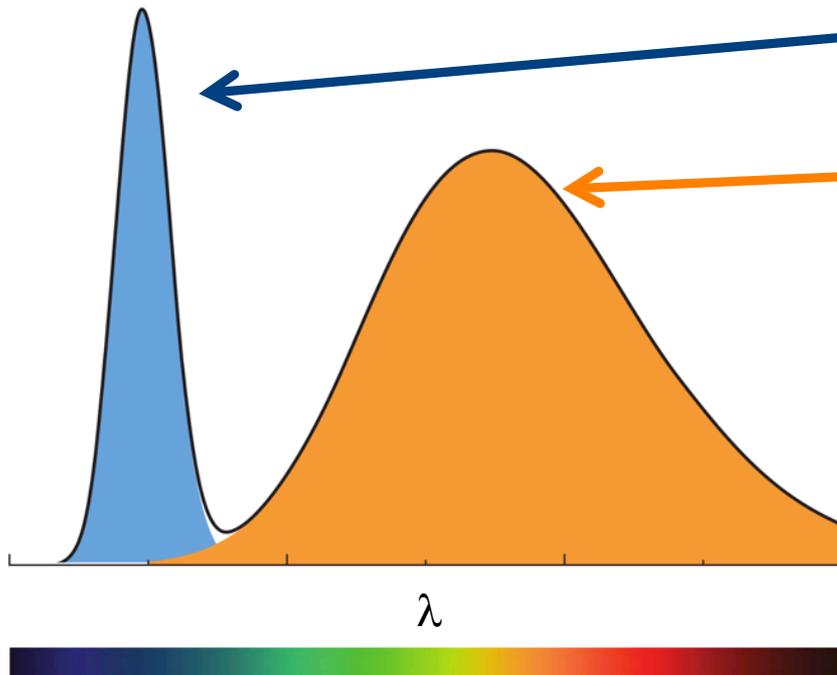
LED + yellow phosphor



White LEDs use a blue (450 nm) or near-UV (405 nm) that is partially converted by a phosphor.

The combination of the LED emission and phosphor emission appear as white light.

Emission characteristics

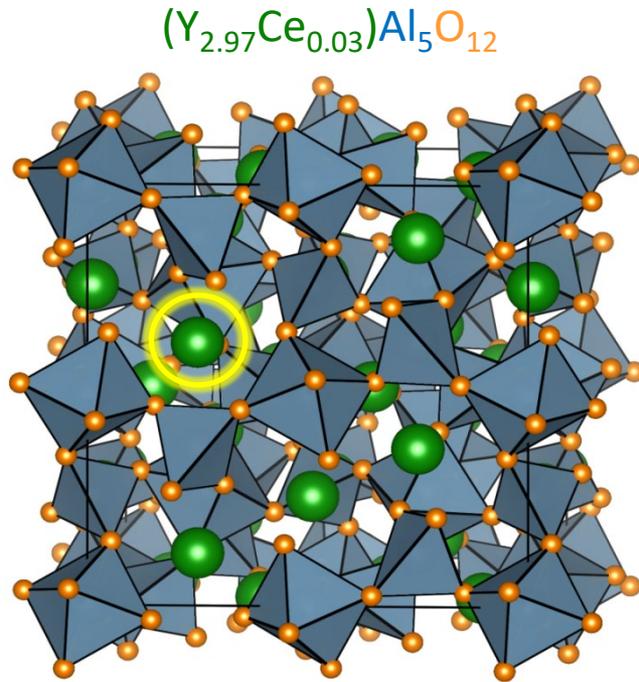


LED + Phosphor

Radiation from LED
(absorbed by phosphor)

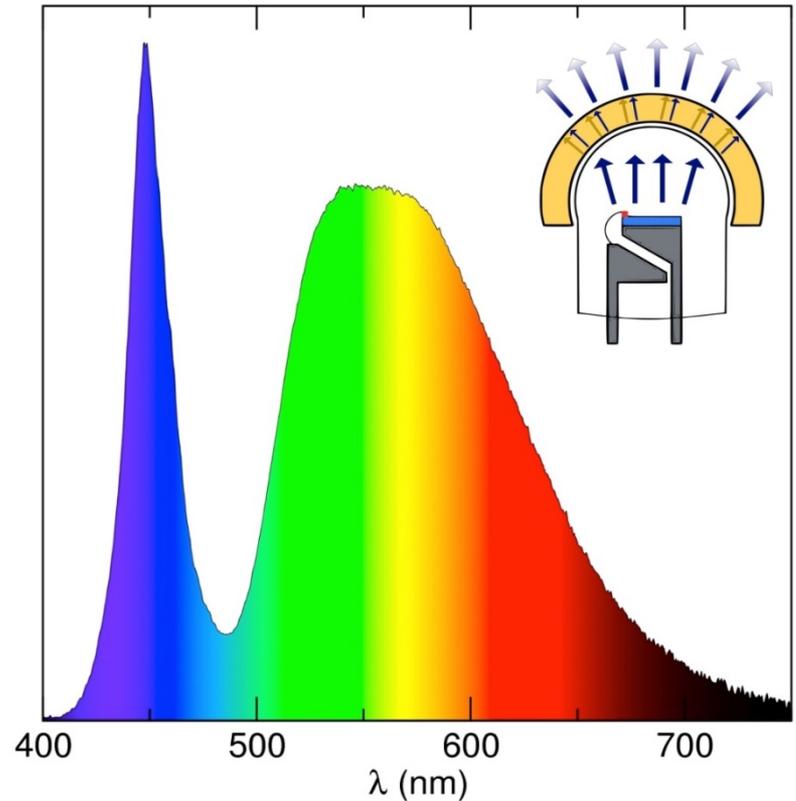
Radiation from phosphor down-conversion
(emission from phosphor)

Cerium-substituted yttrium aluminum garnet: The prototypical phosphor



YAG:Ce³⁺ is a widely used phosphor because of its high photoluminescent quantum yield ($\Phi = 80\%$ to 95%)

Absorbs blue and then down-converts to a yellow emission



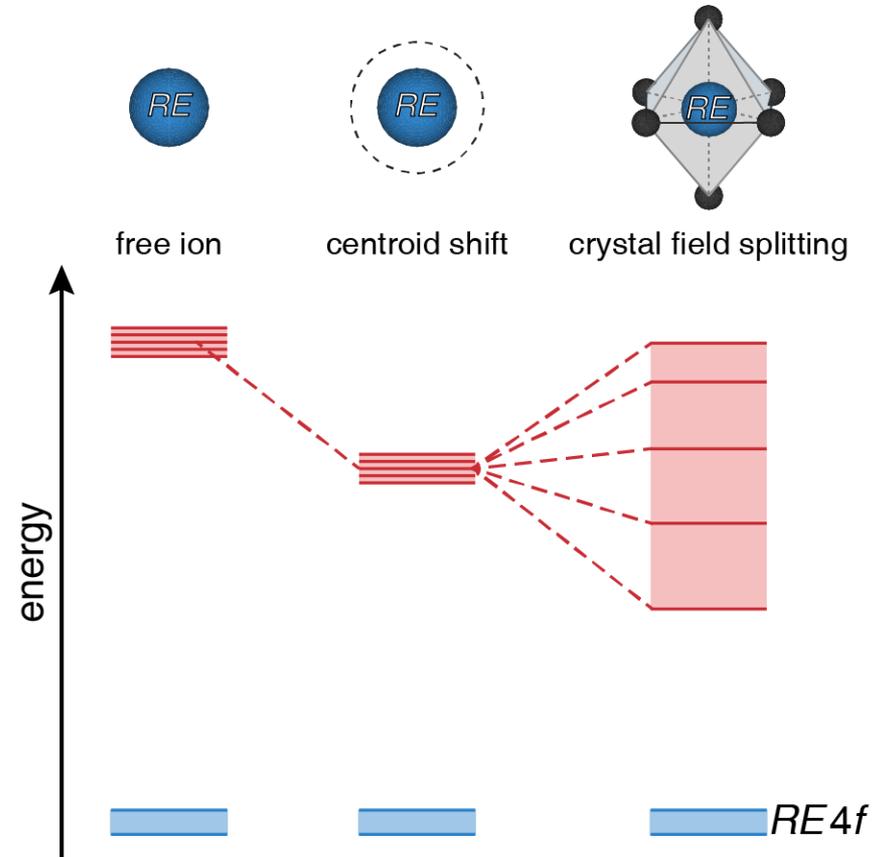
Mechanism of phosphor emission for white LEDs

The difference in energy between the $5d$ and $4f$ orbitals of free ion is in the UV region

$5d$ orbitals stabilize when placing in a host

The different degree of covalency between the activator ion and surrounding anions causes the $5d$ orbitals to split

The well-shielded $4f$ orbitals are not strongly affected



Information on centroid shift and crystal field splitting

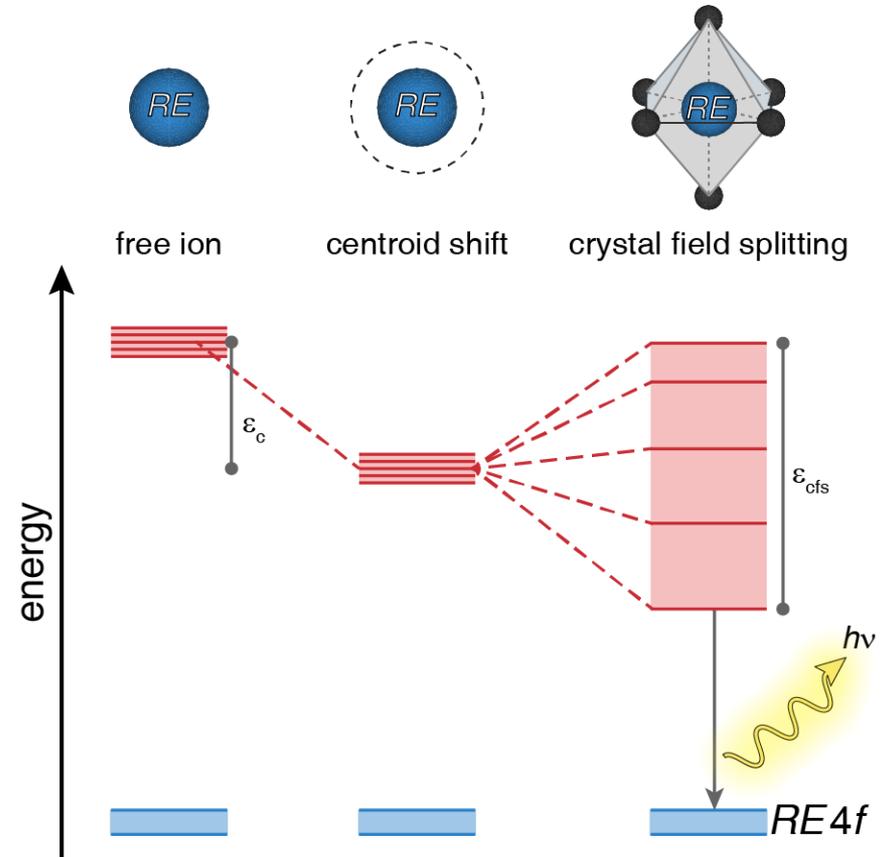
$D(A)$ is determined by centroid shift (ϵ_c) and crystal field splitting (ϵ_{cfs})

ϵ_c - centroid shift

ϵ_{cfs} - size and shape of rare-earth polyhedron

ϵ_{cfs} and ϵ_c behave independently.

Access of ϵ_{cfs} and ϵ_c gives insight into the optical properties



Host band gap also plays an important role

$D(A)$ is determined by centroid shift (ϵ_c) and crystal field splitting (ϵ_{cfs})

ϵ_c - centroid shift

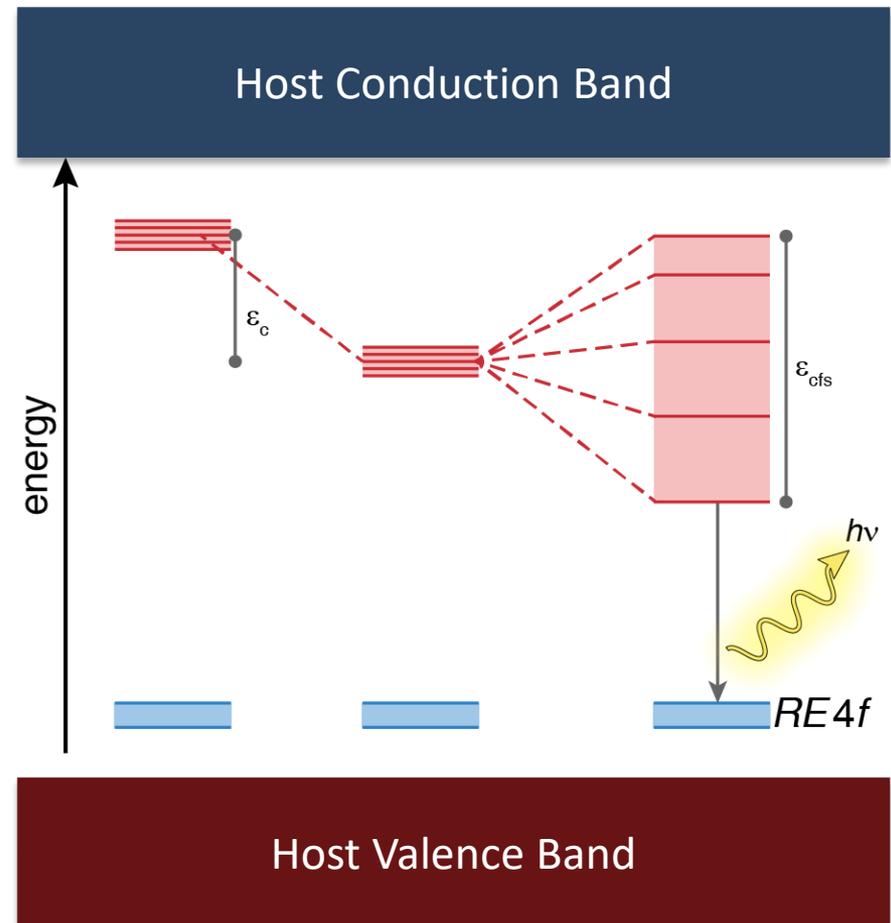
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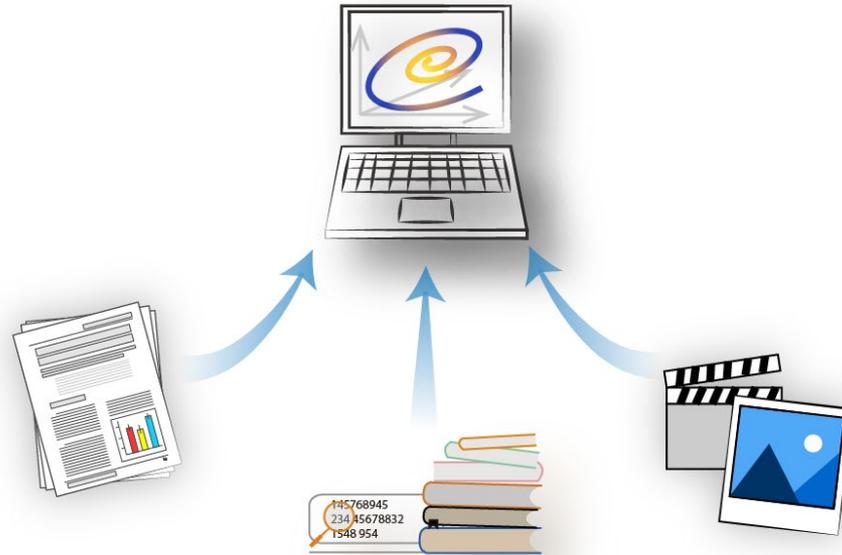
Access of ϵ_{cfs} and ϵ_c gives insight into the optical properties

The luminescence occurs in the band gap

- Need wide band gap materials that can accommodate Ce^{3+}

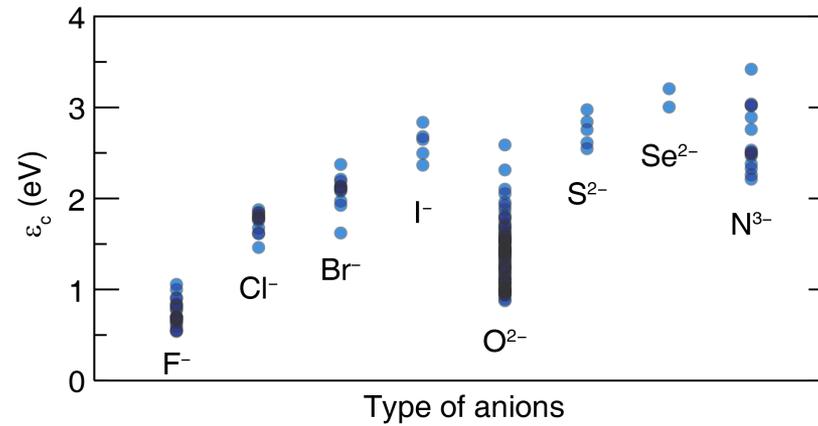


Using data science to predict the optical properties of phosphors



- Centroid shift from 160 Ce^{3+} phosphors collected and curated in a database
- In collaboration with Pieter Dorenbos – TU Delft

Centroid shift (ϵ_c) is closely related to host anion



Centroid shift from 160 Ce³⁺ phosphors collected and curated in a database

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Fluorides have smallest centroid shift because of its ionic nature

Oxides and halides tend to have a wide range of centroid shift

Nitrides, sulfides, and selenides possess the largest centroid shift due to their extensive covalent bonding

Developing a physics-based feature set for machine learning

An ensemble learning method was constructed to predict ϵ_c using features based on numerical equations

$$\chi_{av} = \frac{\sum n_i z_i \chi_i}{\sum n_i z_i} \quad \alpha_{av} = \frac{\sum m_e \alpha_e}{\sum m_e}$$

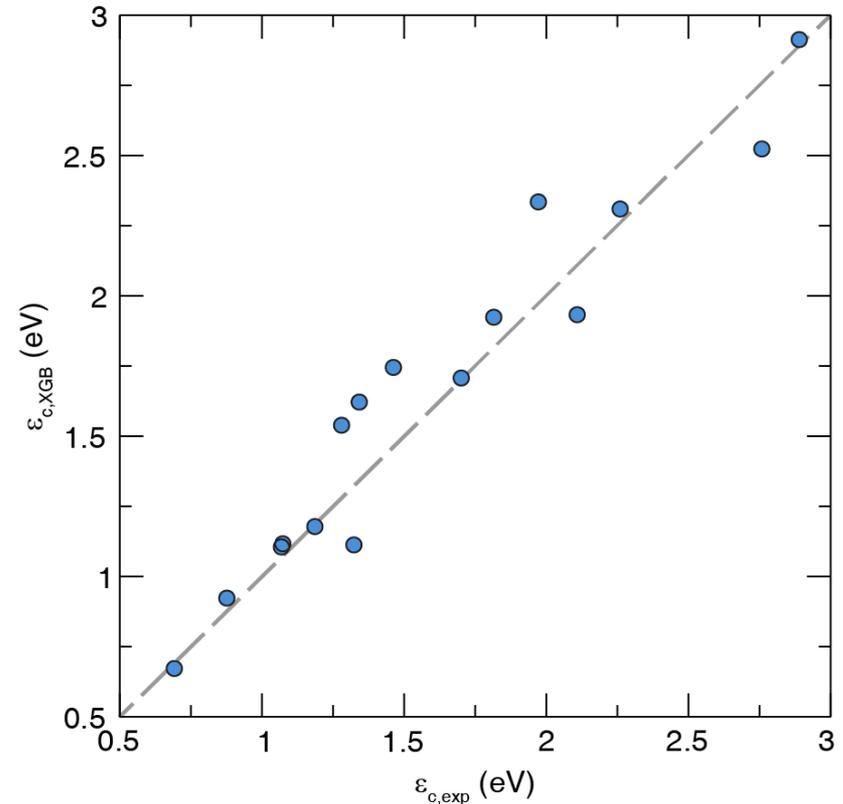
Variable	Notation
Relative permittivity	ϵ_r
Avg. cation EN	χ_{av}
Avg. anion polarizability	α_{av}
Ionic radius	R_M
Difference in radius	ΔR
Average bond length	R_{av}
Coordination number	n_j
Condensation	cond.

Predicting centroid shift with ensemble machine learning

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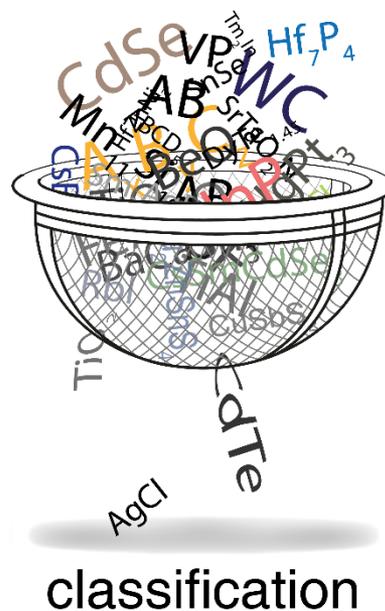
Machine learning also predicts the host bandgap (E_g)

A second machine-learning model was constructed to predict E_g using 4916 experimentally measured values

A classification algorithm was first used to separate metals from nonmetals

- 97% accuracy achieved

	Total
PCD*	102,532
Metals	66,819
Nonmetals	35,371



Using machine learning to predict the bandgap (E_g)

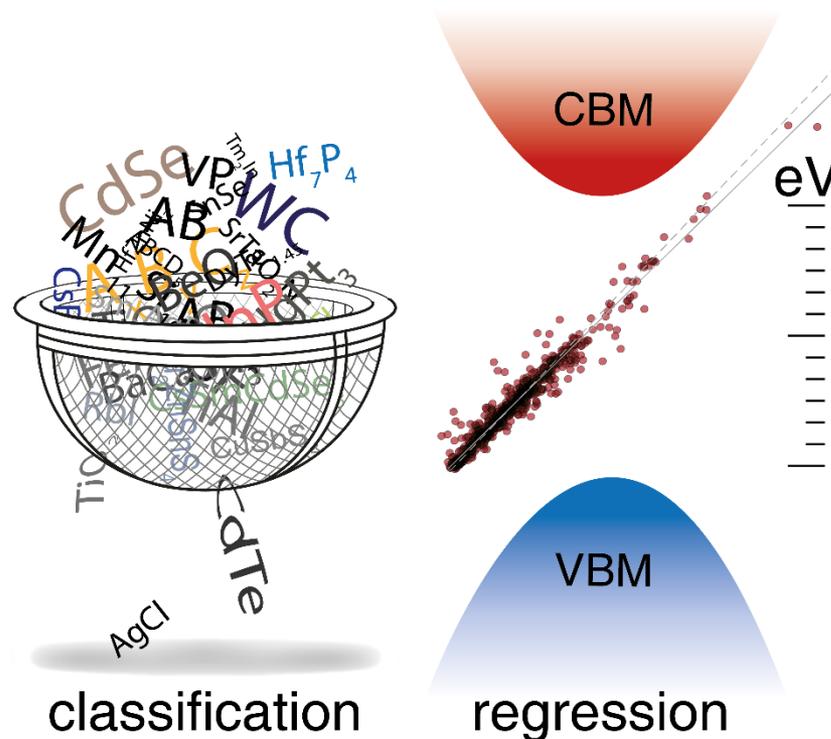
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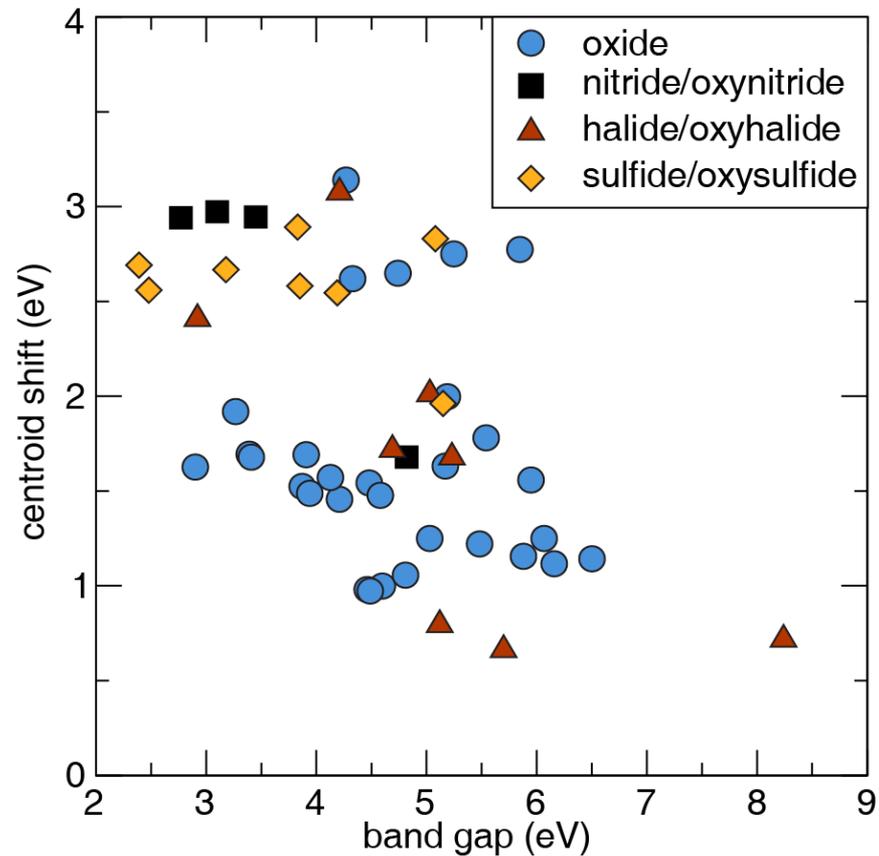
- 97% accuracy achieved

A regression model was then constructed to quantitatively estimate E_g of 35,371 nonmetals contained in PCD

- RMSE = 0.45 eV



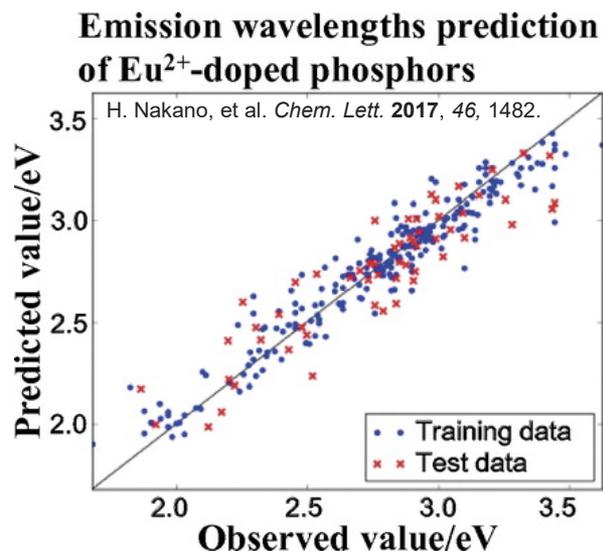
Maximizing centroid shift and band gap in inorganic phosphors



Plotting the machine-learning predicted centroid shift and band gap for unknown compounds provides high-level Ce^{3+} phosphor screening

Research opportunities for developing inorganic phosphors

Predicting a material's emission spectrum using data science



Accelerated phosphor discovery using robotics



Y. Zhuo and J. Brgoch, *Opportunities for Next-Generation Luminescent Materials through Artificial Intelligence*, *J. Phys. Chem. Lett.* **2021**, 12, 764.