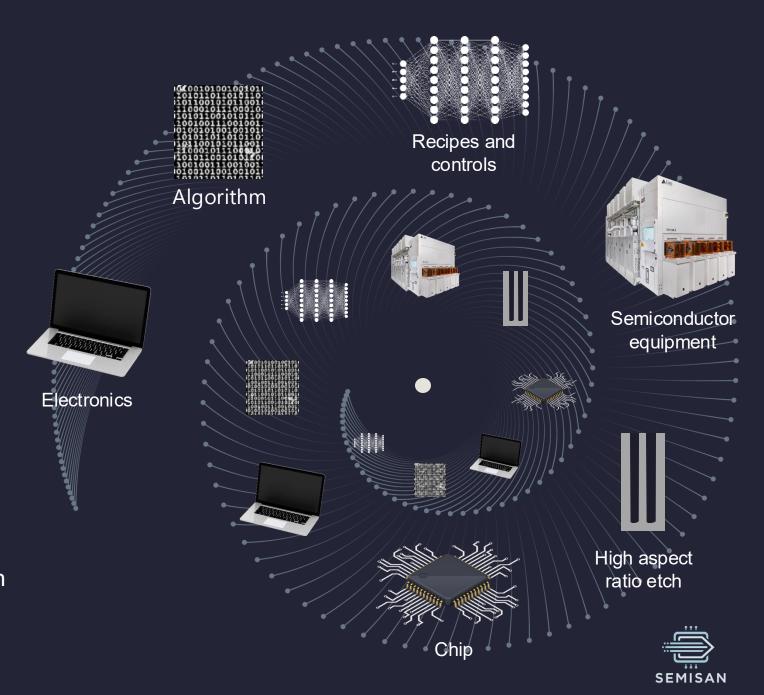
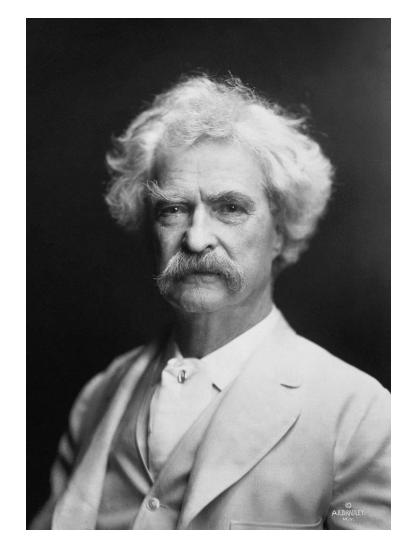
What goes around comes around: Using AI to make AI

Richard A. Gottscho, Ph.D.

President, SemiSan LLC Former Exec VP and CTO of Lam Research





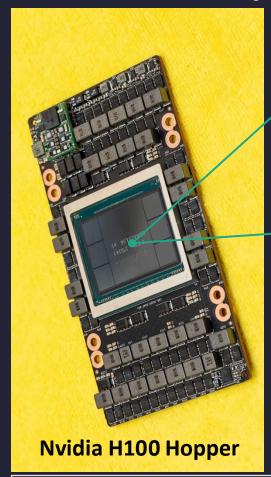
Mark Twain 1835-1910

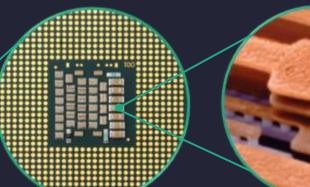
American writer and humorist

It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.



Inside every AI system are chips...











At the heart of every electronic product is a complex microchip

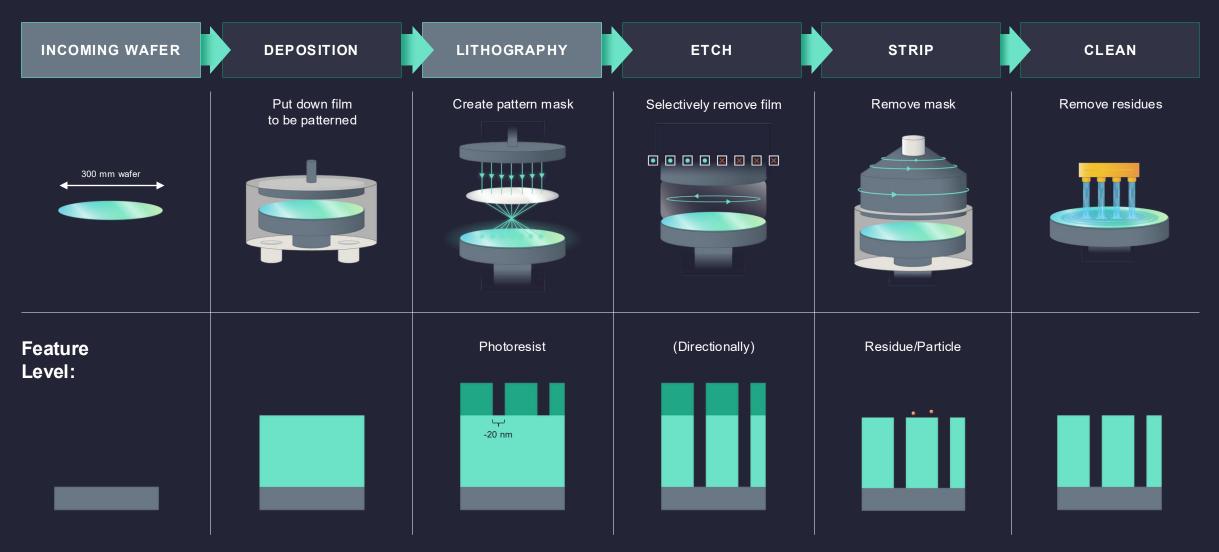
Each chip contains billions of transistors that require advanced technologies to create Lam's equipment is used to manufacture these semiconductor devices with as many as 1000 process steps Innovative people, designing and developing the process

Lam wafer fabrication equipment is behind virtually every chip on the market.





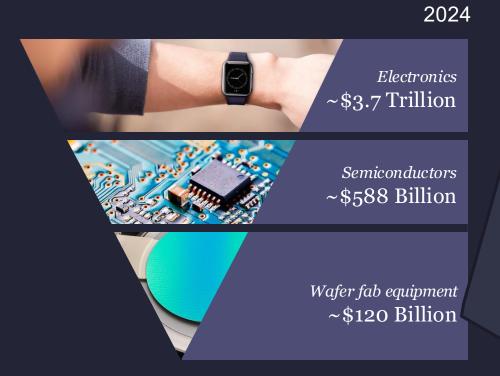
How chips are made

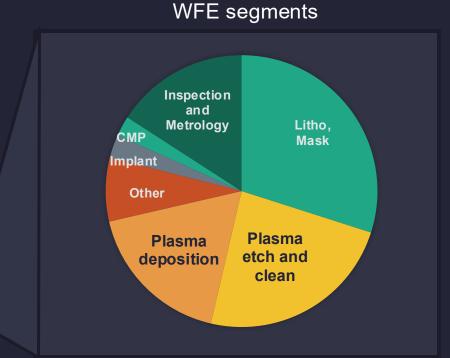


LAM RESEARCH

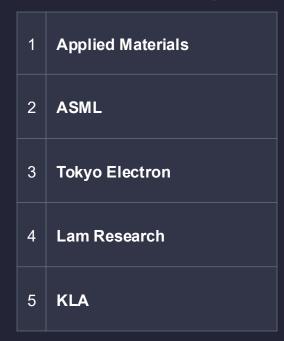
Applied Materials: How do you make a semiconductor Micron: The Hidden Steps of Semiconductor Manufacturing

Wafer fab equipment enables semiconductor industry



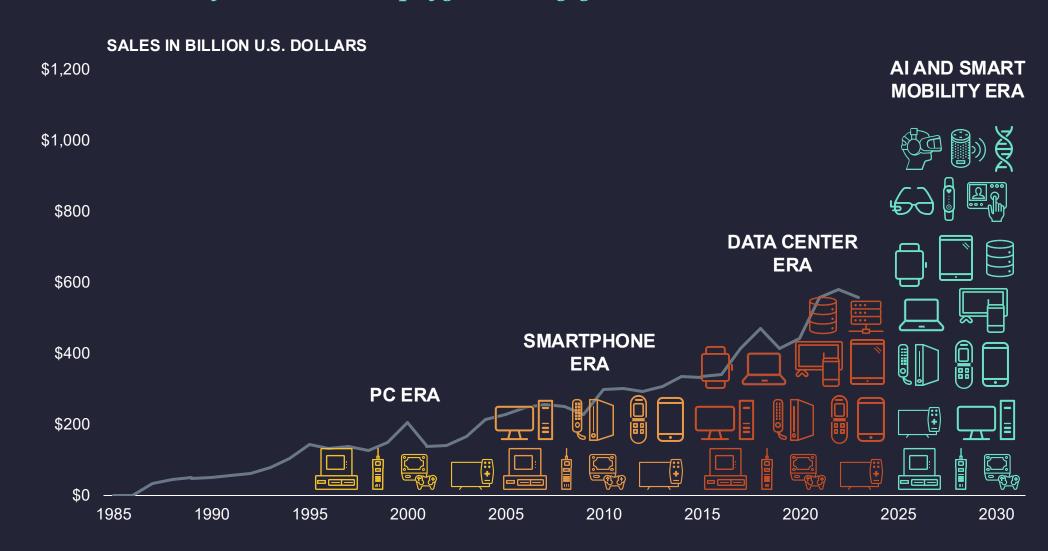


2024 WFE ranking



\$1 trillion semiconductor industry:

A multitude of drivers to amplify industry growth





"The Singularity is Near"

Ray Kurzweil, 1948 -

Futurist and Inventor

Printing

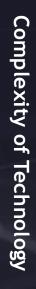


Light Bulb

Telegraph



Man on Moon



Press Telescope 1600 1400

1800 1850 1750

Phone

autopilot

Car

1900 1950 2000

2050

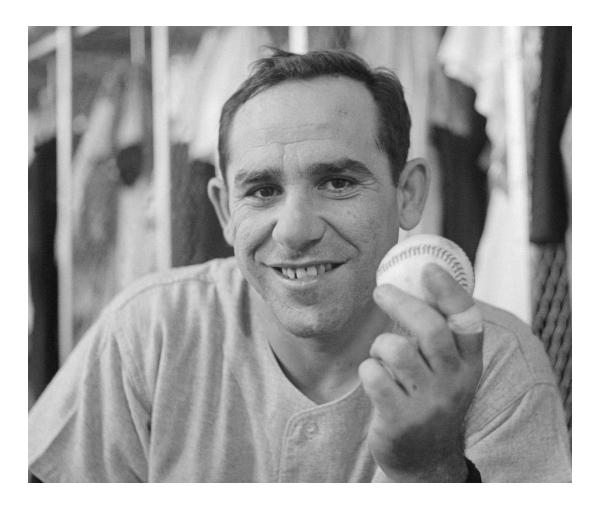
Time

Steam

Engine



"The future ain't what it used to be"



Yogi Berra, 1925-2015 NY Yankee



The Semiverse is Lam's vision for a new digital ecosystem: a seamlessly integrated digital and physical network created to foster creativity and problem solving through unprecedented global collaboration.

Tim Archer, Lam President & CEO,

Accelerating through the Semiverse, imec
International Technology Forum, May 2022

Semiverse for 10,000x lower cost

Virtualization *leverages* (<u>not replaces!</u>) investment in physical assets and real experiments

Virtual experimentation saves time, money, and resources (per recipe)

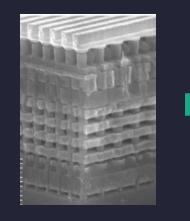
- Real experiments \$1000, 0.5 days
- Simulated experiments \$0.11, 8 mins
- Emulated simulations \$3e-07, 0.0013 s

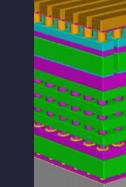
Virtual experimentation can be ubiquitous and an effective workforce training tool

Barriers

- Business model
- Some invention required
- Data sharing/ownership concerns

Virtual process:

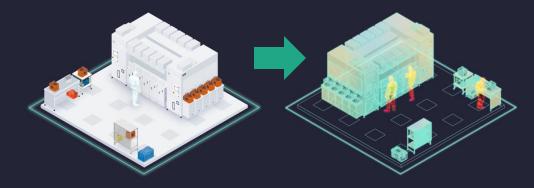




Virtual tool:



Virtual fab:





The Semiverse is **GREEN**er

Every experiment investigated showed lower CO₂ equivalent from simulation







Without simulation (hypothetical) With simulation (actual)

Reactor-scale <u>twin</u>

Simulate operating conditions in the chamber to predict and optimize process behaviors

The power of transformation



Reduce product development cycle time



Accurately estimate the etch or deposition rate on the entire wafer surface



Less waste with enhanced productivity



Equipment-scale twin

Improving first time right from design through install

The power of transformation



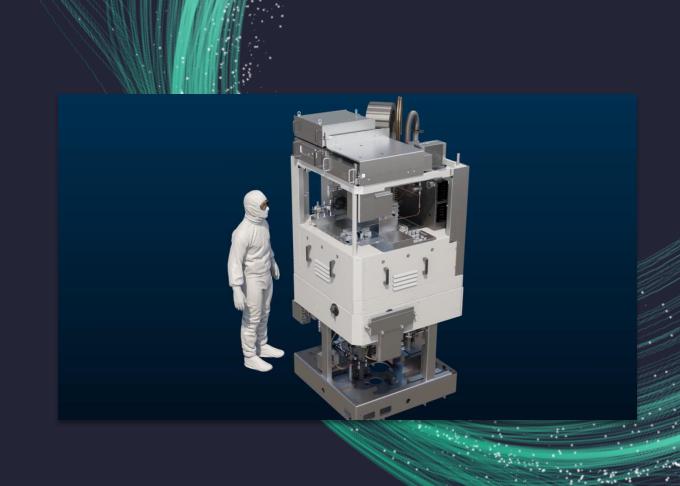
Virtual design, build, test, and verification – find issues before physical build



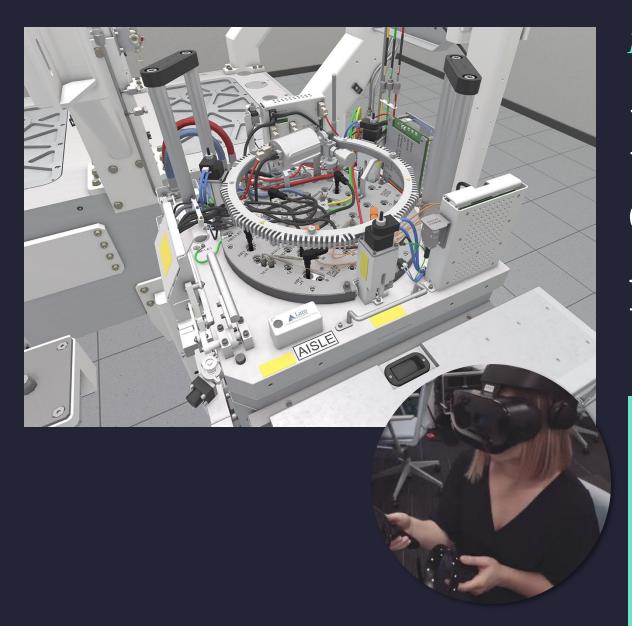
Design for manufacturing and serviceability



Less waste from fewer hardware iterations







Equipment-scale twin

Building equipment expertise faster and more effectively

The power of transformation

- Provides faster more complete learning for engineering workforce
- Allows more frequent refresher training and content updates
- +) Enable earlier access to new product training



Equipment-scale twin

Reducing tool downtime with AI and AR enabled troubleshooting

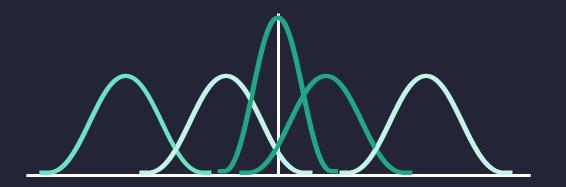
The power of transformation



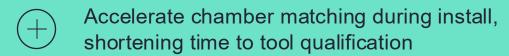
Al identifies problem and prescribes fix using data and learning from various sources

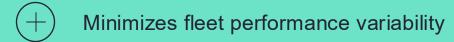


Minimizes engineering service labor and cost



The power of transformation





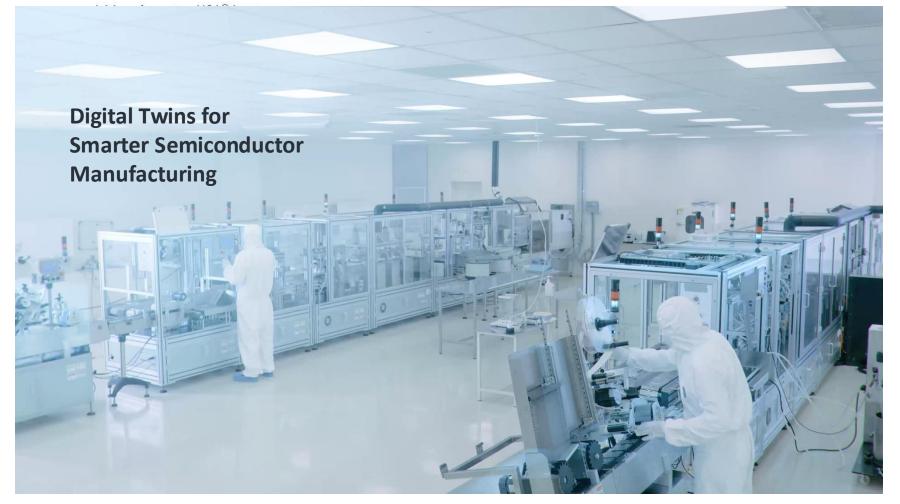
+ Reduces engineering service labor

Fab-scale twins

Using machine learning to achieve yield faster with chamber matching and fleet optimization



https://www.smartusatwins.org/





Ask ChatGPT

Please provide a summary of the state-of-the-art in the use of machine learning to optimize semiconductor chip manufacturing

Thought for 13 seconds...



Machine learning (ML) has rapidly been adopted across semiconductor manufacturing, transitioning from traditional rule-based control to data-driven, adaptive systems. State-of-the-art ML methods now permeate every facet of semiconductor chip manufacturing—from virtual metrology and yield enhancement to recipe tuning, scheduling, and design automation.

Ongoing advancements in explainability, federated training, and quantum-inspired algorithms are poised to drive the next wave of efficiency, quality, and agility in semiconductor fabs.

References included in further reading list at end of this presentation



Some Pertinent References

- E.A Rietman and E.R. Lory, "Use of neural networks in modeling semiconductor manufacturing processes: an example for plasma etch modeling." Semiconductor Manufacturing, IEEE Transactions on Semiconductor Manufacturing 6(4):343 347 (1993)
- Anirudh et al., "2022 Review of Data-Driven Plasma Science," IEEE Trans. Plasma Sci., vol. 51, no. 7, July 2023.

Plasma science is entering a transformative data-driven era Core technologies:

Surrogate modeling & Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs) Workflow automation, visualization, and uncertainty quantification

- Y.-L. Chen et al., "Exploring Machine Learning for Semiconductor Process Optimization: A Systematic Review." Jul. 16, 2024. doi: 10.36227/techrxiv.172114788.85190557/v1
 Optimize semiconductor manufacturing Literature survey identifying 58 publications
- A. D. Bonzanini, K. Shao, D. B. Graves, S. Hamaguchi, and A. Mesbah, "Foundations of machine learning for low-temperature plasmas: methods and case studies," *Plasma Sources Science and Technology*, vol. 32, no. 2, Feb. 2023, doi: 10.1088/1361-6595/acb28c.

Manufacturing leads the way with lots of cheap data

- For a typical fleet of tools
 - 100 sensors, 200 chambers
 - 2000 status variables
 - 100's of process steps
 - 5 Hz frequency
- How much data per fleet?
 - 5000 features extracted per wafer run
 - 100 million feature data points per day
 - 5-10 billion raw data points per day



Al in Chip Design

Automated Floor-planning & Placement

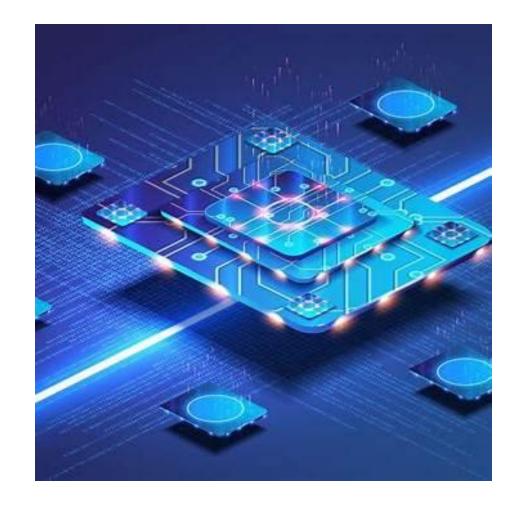
- Placing blocks (compute, memory, I/O) optimally.
- Google's DeepMind-trained AI delivers better layouts for TPU chips in <24 hours

Generative EDA Tools

- ML models to explore countless design variants and optimize multi-objective tradeoffs (power, timing, area).
- Synopsys' DSO.ai applies ML to chip design workflows; Cadence's Cerebrus uses reinforcement learning for automatic optimization of placement, routing, and power use

Physics-aware & Antenna Modeling

- Co-design circuits with electromagnetic properties in mind.
- Achieves faster and better designs for RF/wireless amplifiers—often beyond human capability



iln.ieee.org+12spectrum.ieee.org+12ece.engin.umich.edu+1
https://www.aegissofttech.com/insights/ai-in-semiconductor-industry/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
https://engineering.princeton.edu/news/2025/01/06/ai-slashes-cost-and-time-chip-design-not-all?utm_source=chatgpt.com

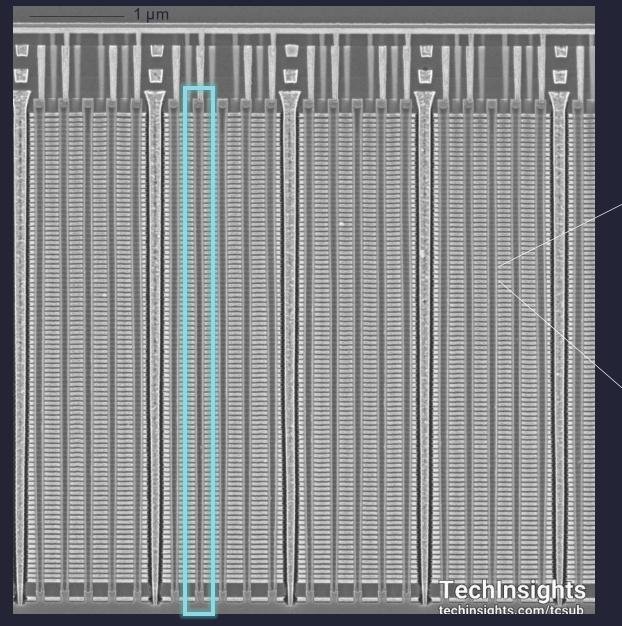


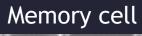
Why can't we design a process like we design a chip?

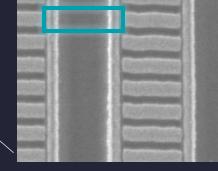


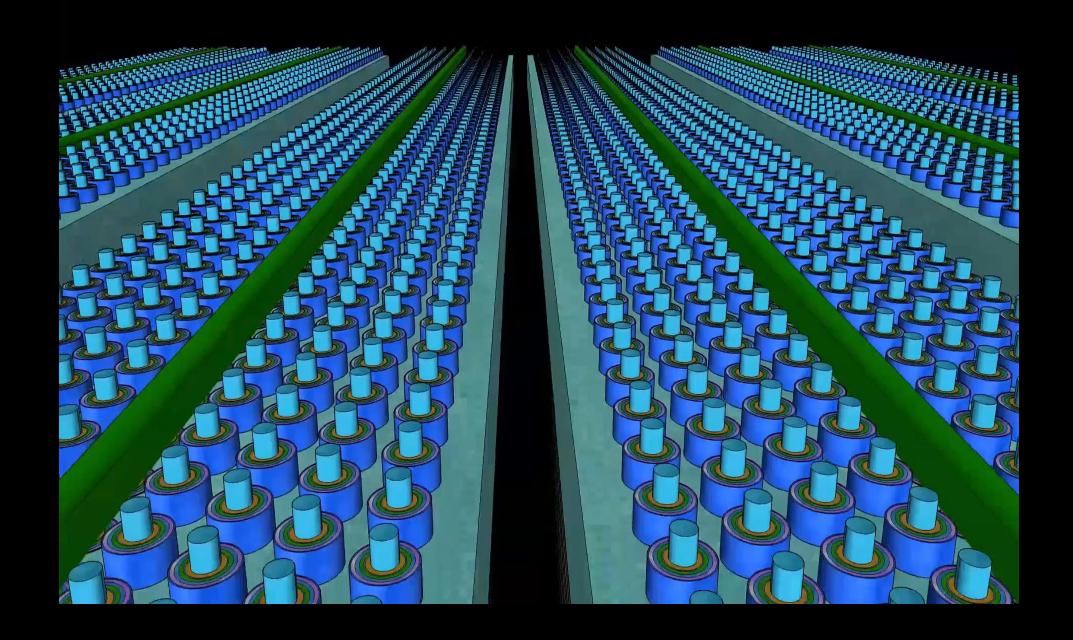


Consider memory hole etch in 3D NAND







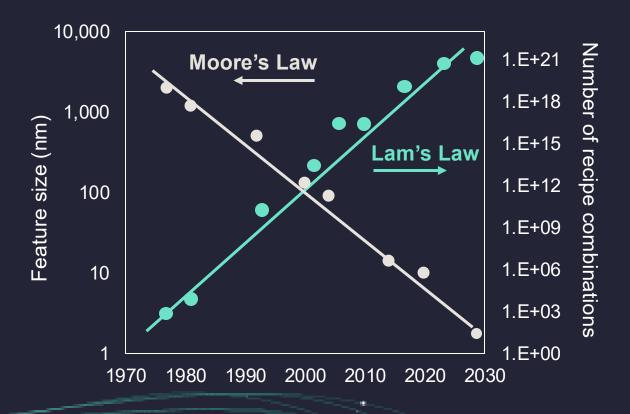


Why not just use a big data approach?

Simply put, it costs too much and takes too long



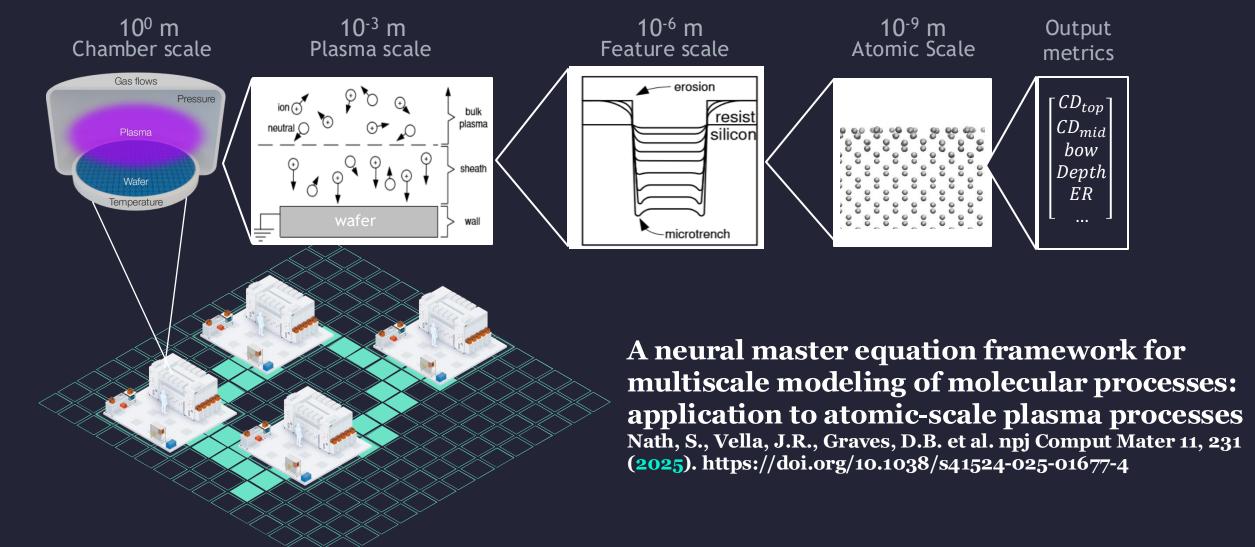
Little data world but big dimensional space



What about physics?...

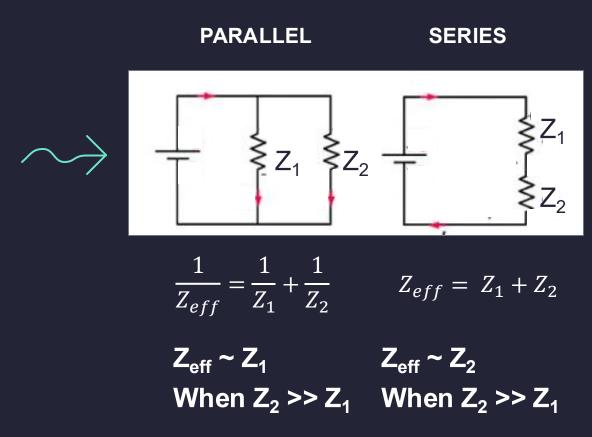
Scales that span at least nine orders of magnitude

AM RESEARCH



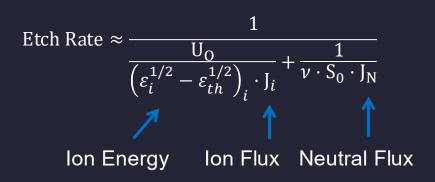
Complexity Reduction and Semi-Empiricism

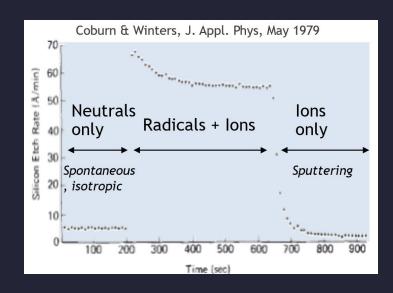
TABLE I. Oxygen reaction set.			
	Reaction		Rate coefficients
$e + O_2$	<u></u> →	$O_2^+ + 2e$	$k_1 = 9.0 \times 10^{-10} (T_e)^2 \exp(-12.6/T_e) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$e + O_2$		$O(^{3}P) + O(^{1}D) + e$	$k_2 = 5.0 \times 10^{-8} \exp(-8.4/T_e) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$e + O_2$		$O(^{3}P) + O^{-}$	$k_3 = 4.6 \times 10^{-11} \exp(2.91/T_e - 1.26/T_e^2 + 6.92/T_e^3) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$e + O(^{3}P)$		O^++2e	$k_4 = 9.0 \times 10^{-9} (T_e)^{0.7} \exp(-13.6/T_e) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$O^- + O_2^+$		$O(^{3}P) + O_{2}$	$k_5 = 1.4 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$O^{-} + O^{+}$	\longrightarrow	$O(^{3}P) + O(^{3}P)$	$k_6 = 2.7 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$e + O^-$		$O(^{3}P) + 2e$	$k_7 = 1.73 \times 10^{-7} \exp(-5.67/T_e + 7.3/T_e^2 - 3.48/T_e^3) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$e + O_2$		$O(^{3}P) + O(^{3}P) + e$	$k_8 = 4.23 \times 10^{-9} \exp(-5.56/T_e) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$e + O(^{3}P)$	\longrightarrow	$O(^{1}D)+e$	$k_9 = 4.47 \times 10^{-9} \exp(-2.286/T_e) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$O(^{1}D)+O_{2}$		$O(^{3}P) + O_{2}$	$k_{10} = 4.1 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$O(^{1}D) + O(^{3}P)$	$\xrightarrow{\hspace*{1cm}}$	$O(^{3}P) + O(^{3}P)$	$k_{11} = 8.1 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
	(wall)		
$O(^1D)$		$O(^3P)$	$k_{12} = D_{\text{eff}} / \Lambda^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$
$e + O(^1D)$	$\xrightarrow{\hspace*{1cm}}$	O^++2e	$k_{13} = 9.0 \times 10^{-9} (T_e)^{0.7} \exp(-11.6/T_e) \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
	(wall)	2	2 2
$O^+(g)$		$O(^3P)(g)$	$k_{14} = 2u_{B,O} + (R^2h_L + RLh_R)/R^2L \text{ s}^{-1}$
-4.	(wall)	- / /	
$O_2^+(g)$	$\xrightarrow{\hspace*{1cm}}$	$O_2(g)$	$k_{15} = 2u_{B,O_2^+}(R^2h_L + RLh_R)/R^2L \text{ s}^{-1}$
2()	(wall)	10.70	n (A2 -1
O(g)		$\frac{1}{2}O_2(g)$	$k_{16} = \gamma_{\rm rec} D_{\rm eff} / \Lambda^2 \mathrm{s}^{-1}$

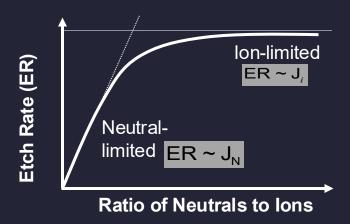


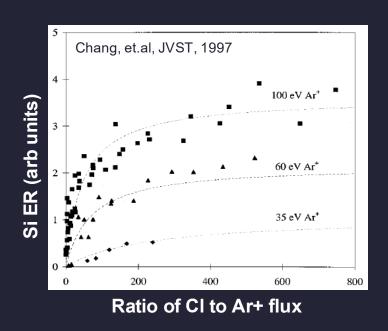
Where Z ≡ chemical impedance ~1/keff

Basic Plasma Etch Mechanism: Ion-Neutral Synergy

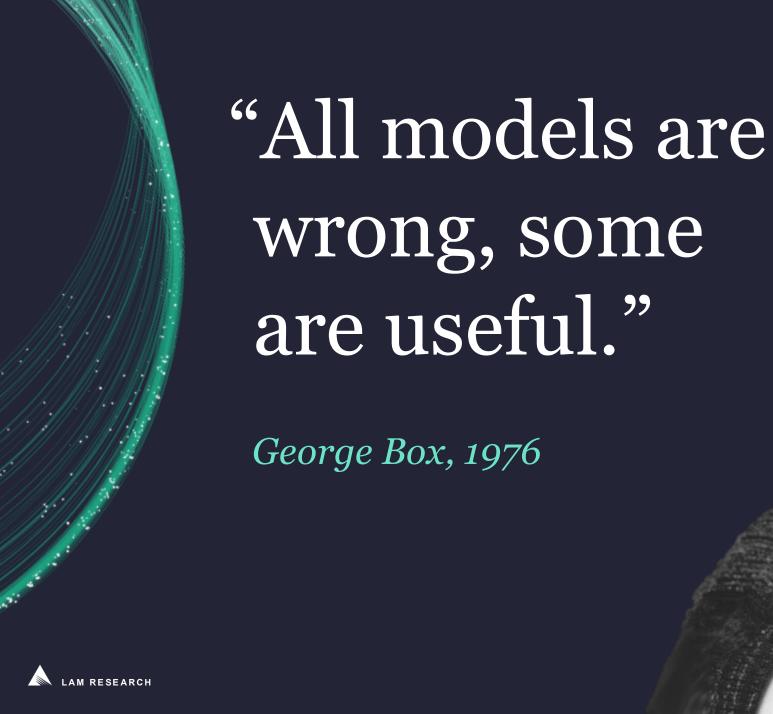


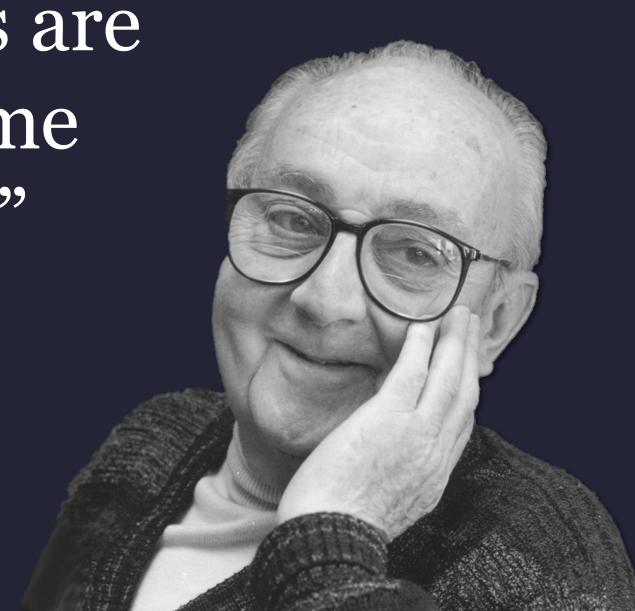










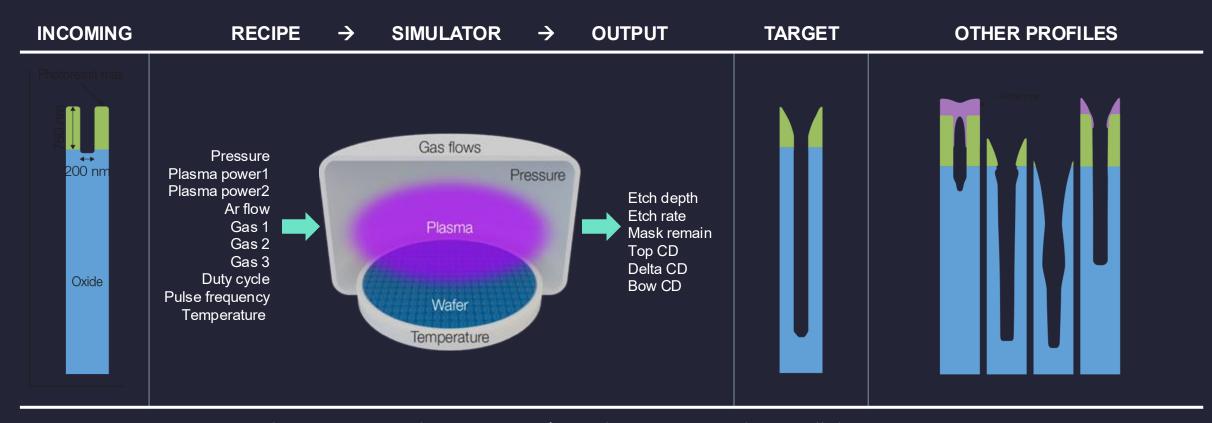


Let's play a "game" to benchmark models (and Humans)





A virtual plasma etch process twin

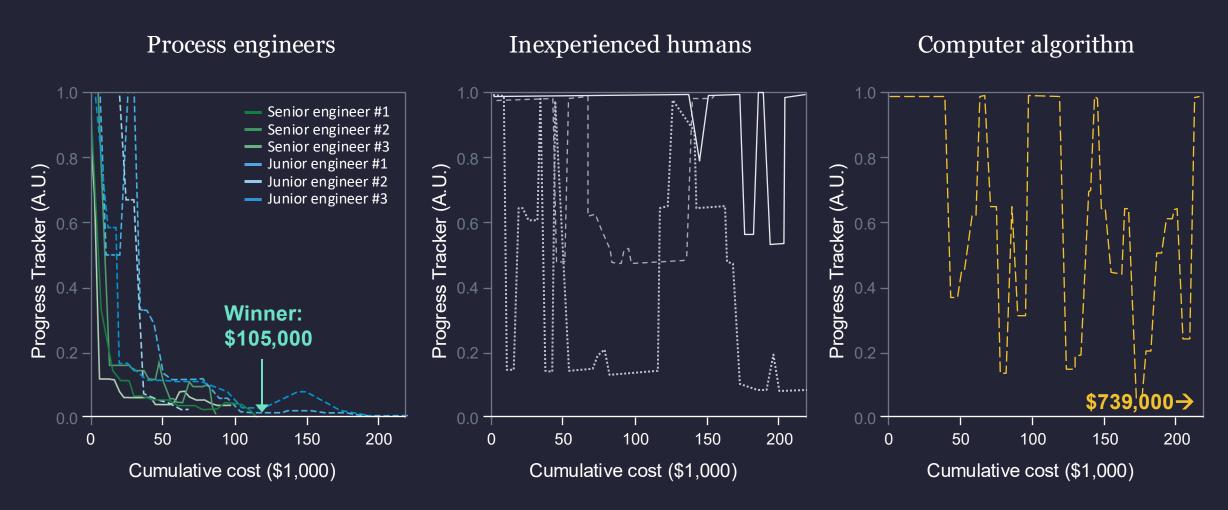


Kanarik, K.J., Osowiecki, W.T., Lu, Y.(. *et al.* Human–machine collaboration for improving semiconductor process development. *Nature* **616**, 707–711 (2023). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-05773-7



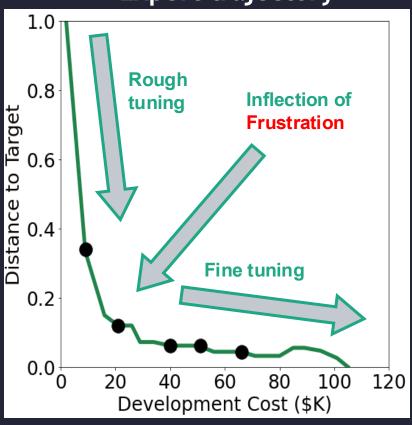


Machine alone was no match for expert engineer

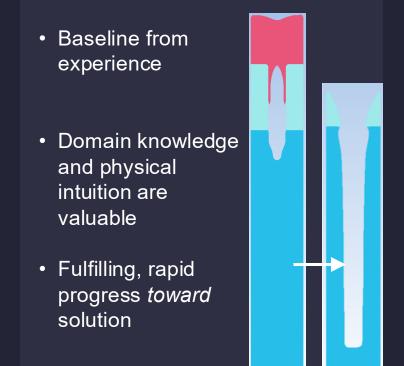


Human learning curve consists of rough and fine tuning

Expert trajectory



Rough-tuning stage



Fine-tuning stage

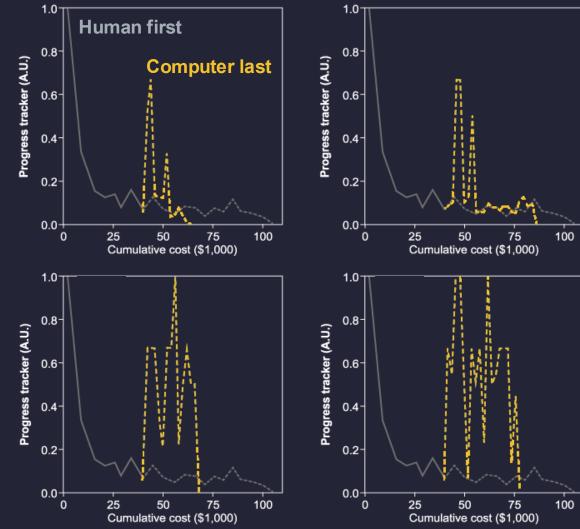
- Close to spec
- Physical intuition and domain knowledge less useful
- Frustrating, lowproductivity path to solution



Human-machine collaboration yields cost and time savings

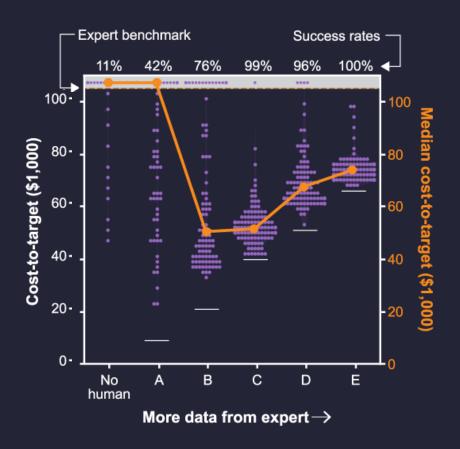
Expert trajectory



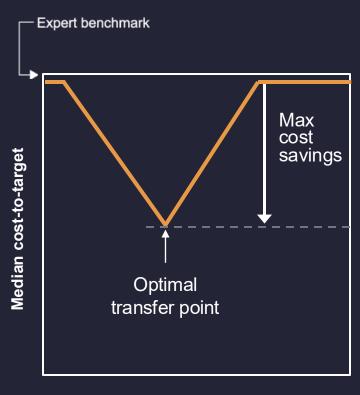


Optimal transfer leverages human investment

Experimental V-curve



Schematic



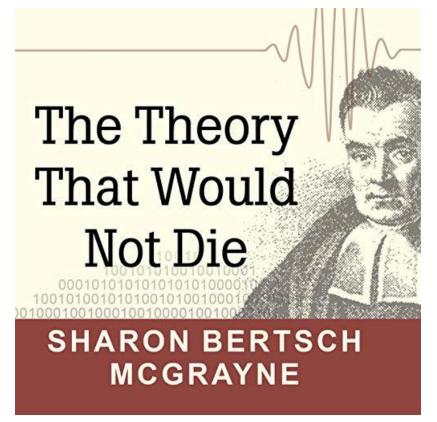
More data from expert→

Bayesian Optimization Algorithm Comparison





And the winner is...



How Bayes' Rule Cracked the Enigma Code, Hunted Down Russian Submarines, and Emerged Triumphant from Two Centuries of Controversy

Bayesian Optimization using a Gaussian Process

Görtler, et al., "A Visual Exploration of Gaussian Processes", Distill, 2019. https://distill.pub/2019/visual-exploration-gaussian-processes/

Eric J. Ma, An Attempt At Demystifying Bayesian Deep Learning https://ericmjl.github.io/bayesian-deep-learning-demystified/#/IntroductionSlide

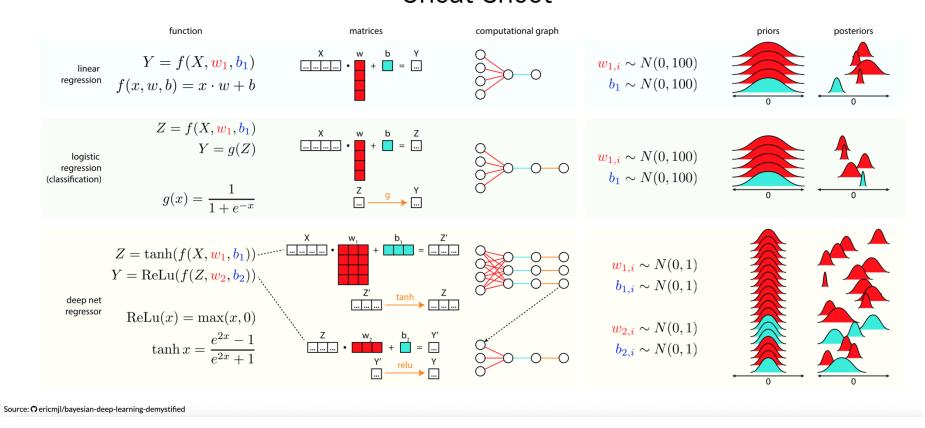




An Attempt At Demystifying Bayesian Deep Learning Eric J. Ma

https://ericmjl.github.io/bayesian-deep-learning-demystified/#/IntroductionSlide

Cheat Sheet

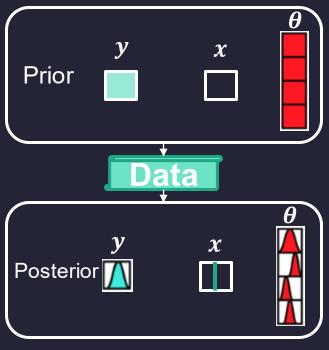


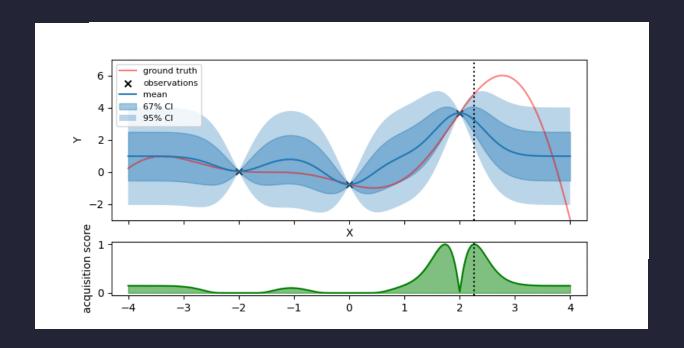


Bayesian Optimization

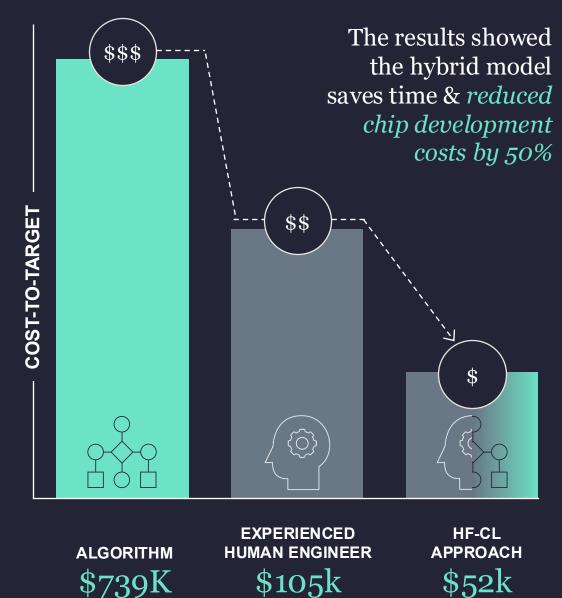
Bayes theorem:
$$p(\theta|D) = \frac{p(\theta)p(D|\theta)}{p(D)}$$

Surrogate:
$$\mathbf{y} = f(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$
 Noise





- Bayesian Optimization is a widely adopted ML/AI framework for optimization and inverse design where performance evaluation is costly
 - -Bayesian inference allows one to characterize epistemic uncertainty
 - BO makes cost-efficient decisions for next experiment based on evidence collected from existing data and remaining uncertainty of model
 - BO updates the model and experiment decision based on new data

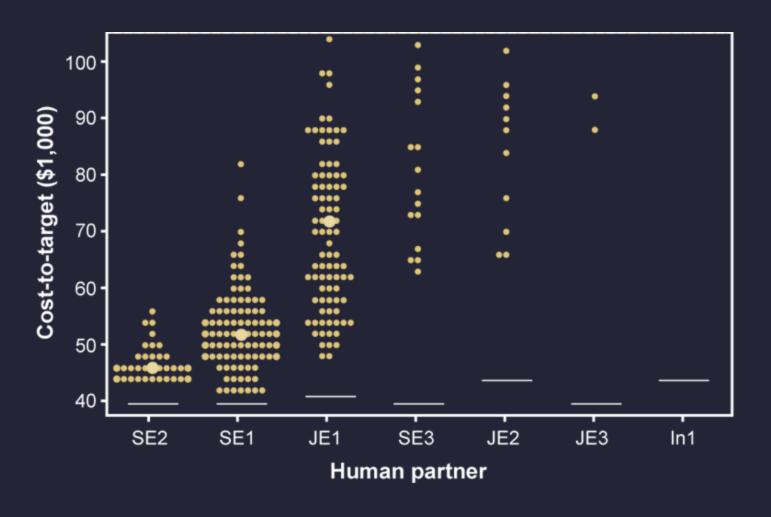


Hybrid approach wins

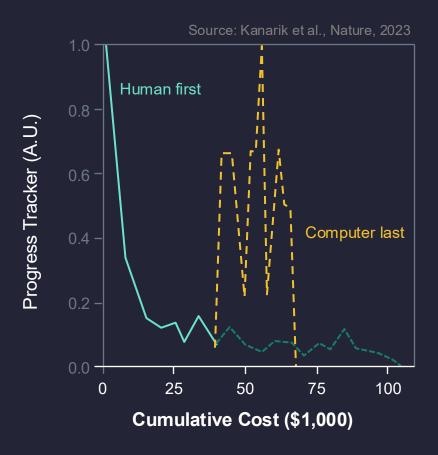
Human-first, machine-last saves countless hours and millions of dollars

AM RESEARCH

Computer should partner with an experienced engineer



Algorithm behaves differently than process engineer



<u>.</u> %	es ^t	ie v	giet 3	ates A	eter 6	eter 0	ier 1	ger 8
Q atameté	Patat	Paran	6 sto	weger b	eser s	dankieler 6	aneter ¹	neter 8
1148.6	68.5	4026	90.7	33.9	20.9	220.0	50.9	
1165.2	66.5	3594	198.7	33.3	22.3	231.0	58.4	
1166.8	67.1	3480	167.6	32.6	21.3	226.1	58.2	
1149.3	68.3	3842	109.2	30.7	17.9	252.7	58.3	
1160.1	60.5	3110	181.0	27.2	17.8	204.5	58.1	
1158.0	60.0	3103	156.8	27.0	17.8	202.9	58.0	
1143.9	68.6	3550	90.1	33.4	16.1	180.0	59.5	
1137.1	67.3	3715	96.7	34.1	17.4	180.6	59.5	
1160.5	67.7	3830	169.9	30.2	18.0	199.4	57.0	
1170.7	67.0	3728	196.3	29.2	17.5	195.7	56.3	
1161.6	67.2	3687	181.9	30.2	17.7	194.5	56.0	

There is high value learning from virtual worlds that are not precisely predictive

Few-Shot Test-Time Optimization Without Retraining for Semiconductor Recipe Generation and Beyond

http://arxiv.org/abs/2505.16060

Shangding Gu1*, Donghao Ying1, Ming Jin2, Yu Joe Lu3, Jun Wang 4, Javad Lavaei 1, Costas Spanos1 (May 2025)

We validate MFL on semiconductor plasma etching tasks, where it achieves target recipe generation in just five iterations, significantly outperforming both Bayesian optimization and human experts.



Physics Informed Machine Learning

Fewer experiments needed

Improved extrapolation

Ensure physics is obeyed!



Physics-Informed Gaussian Processes for Bayesian Optimization

- Additive Models (Data + Physics Residuals)
 - $f(x) = f_{physics}(x) + f_{residual}(x)$
 - $f_{physics}(x)$: physics-based model (PDE, surrogate, empirical)
 - $f_{residual}(x)$: GP correction
 - Train GP on $y f_{physics}(x)$
 - Total prediction = physics model + GP-predicted residual
- Informed Kernels
 - Embed constraints: periodicity, conservation laws, symmetries
 - Example: Periodic kernel: $k(x,x') = \sigma^2 \exp(-2 \sin^2(\pi |x-x'|/p)/l^2)$
 - Learn a composite kernel that combines a physics-informed part and a flexible part.
- Physics-Based Priors
 - Default GP: $\mu(x) = 0$
 - Replace with $\mu(x) = f_{physics}(x)$
- Physics-Informed Acquisition Functions
 - Guide exploration to physics-interesting areas
 - Feasibility-aware acquisition



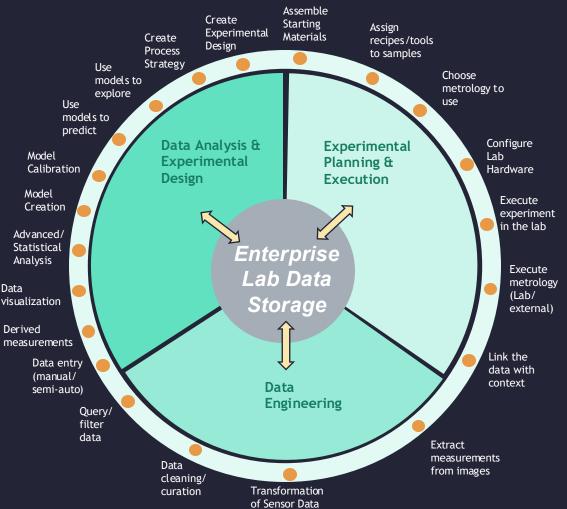
Three Approaches to Physics-Informed ML

	Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs)	Physics-Informed Gaussian Processes (PIGPs)	Physics-Informed Neural Operators (PINOs)
Physics incorporation	Penalize PDE residuals in loss function	Embed physics in prior mean/kernels or residuals	Embed PDE constraints into operator learning
Uncertainty quantification	No (unless Bayesian PINNs)	Yes	Not standard
Data requirement	Moderate to high	Low	High
Strengths	Handles complex nonlinear PDEs, flexible	Excellent in data-scarce regimes, principled uncertainty	Learns solution operators across PDE families
Computation	Optimization (can be costly, especially with stiff PDEs)	GP regression (scales poorly with data size)	Requires large training data + compute



Virtual Process Development

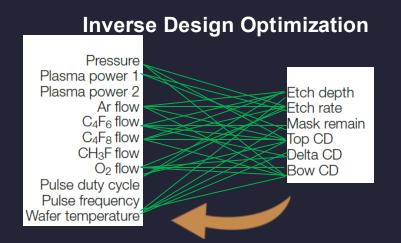
Transform process development through digitalization, automation, simulation & data analysis



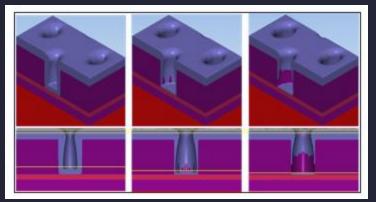
- Process Development is not one monolithic workflow.
 It is many different paths through a variety of different activities. Catering to these varied workflows requires a holistic strategy.
- The activities largely reside in three disciplines, with specific requirements, and must be connected through enterprise-scale storage of experimental process data.
- Modernizing and <u>automating</u> physical experimental activities in the lab is key to delivering the contextual data to the data store
- Image analysis and flexible platforms for data science, machine learning and advanced analytics are critical for data engineering.
- Connecting platforms and systems to create efficient,
 friction-free workflows = Virtual Process Development

Virtual Process Development – Physics and Data

Predictive



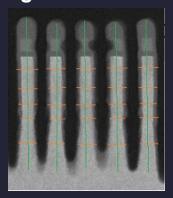
Mechanistic Unit Process Models



Data-driven

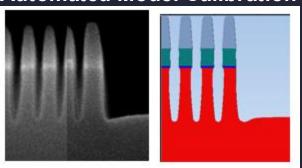
Physics-Based

Image Measurement



Analytical

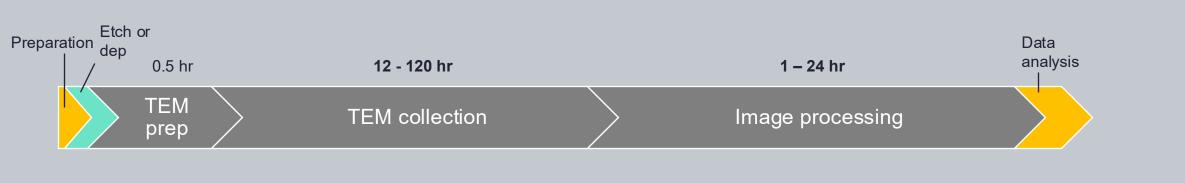
Automated Model Calibration





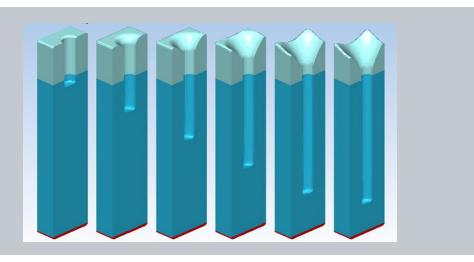
Real-time profile metrology for 100x cycle time reduction

Metrology for high aspect ratio solution development costly, time-consuming, and destructive











Barriers: Business model and some invention required

New Materials Development

- DFT/AI predictions of stability and transition states
- Synthesis has been a bottleneck, but...
 - Combinatorial techniques combined with automation and autonomy is revolutionizing the pace of new materials innovation
- Process integration and device fabrication remain bottlenecks



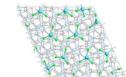




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Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Materials Discovery, Synthesis and Characterization

The use of artificial intelligence, including machine learning, is rapidly rising in all areas of materials science, from materials discovery, synthesis, characterization, and performance. This special collection explores these areas and highlights successes and challenges.



Guest Editors:

Parag Banerjee, University of Central Florida

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Image Credit: S. Kondati Natarajan, J. Schneider, N. Pandey, J. Wellendorff, and S. Smidstrup, JVST A 43, 033404 (2025) doi.org/10.1116/6.0004288.



Thin Film

Analysis of x-ray emission spectroscopy (XES) data using artificial intelligence techniques included in the XES Neo package Θ

Alaina Humiston; Miu Lun Lau; Tim Stack; Evan Restuccia; Alberto Herrera-Gomez; Min Long; Daniel T. Olive; Jeff

https://doi.org/10.1116/6.0004326



Epitaxial Growth of Materia

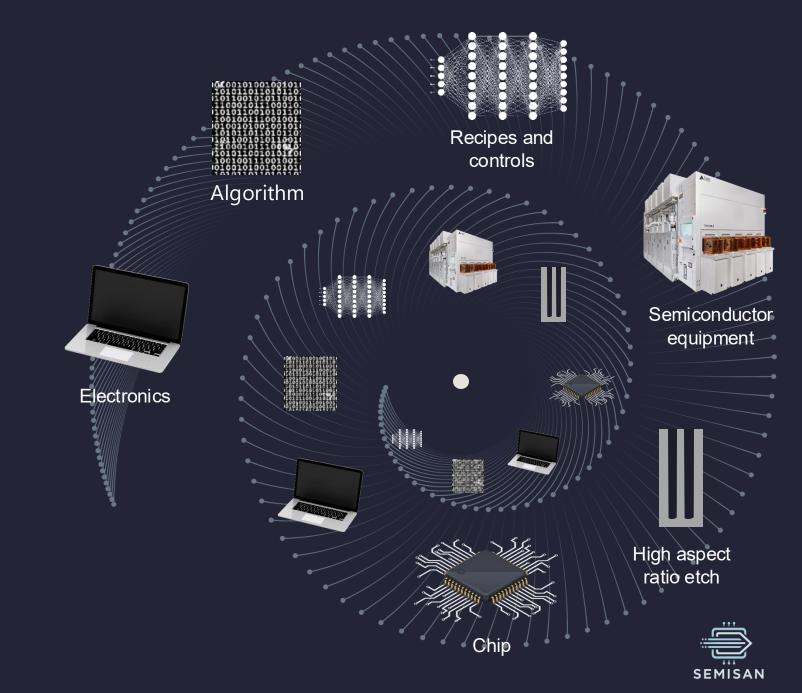
Al-guided frame prediction techniques to model single crystal diamond growth ⊘
Rohan Reddy Mekala; Arjun Srinivasan; Matthias Muehle; Elias Garratt; Adam Porter; Mikael Lindvall

https://doi.org/10.1116/6.0004290

Focus	Count
Synthesis	I
Characterization/Analysis	IIII
Monitoring/Control	IIII
Discovery	I



What goes around comes around faster and better



Further reading

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