

# High Throughput Optimization of Permanent Magnetic Materials

Project Manager  
Dr. Ingo Opahle

Principal Investigator  
Jun. Prof. Dr. Hongbin Zhang

Project Term  
2018 - 2019

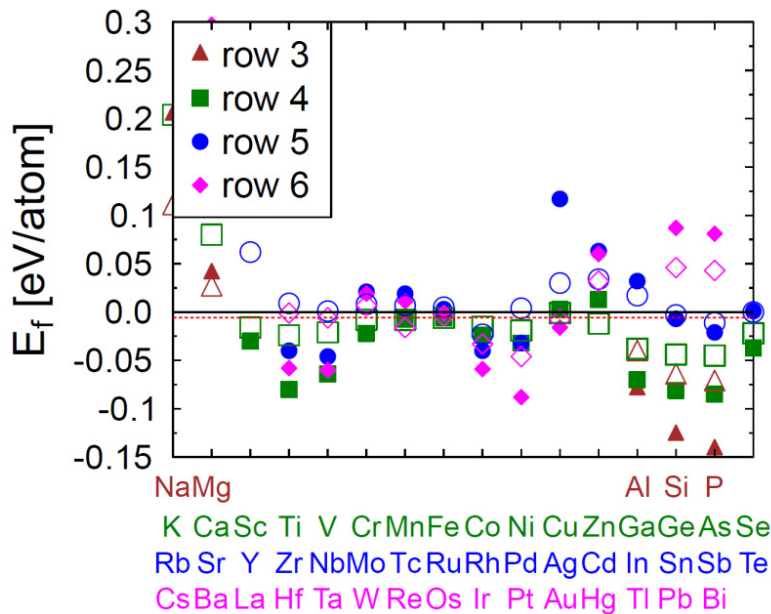
Project Areas  
Theoretical Condensed Matter  
Physics

Clusters  
Lichtenberg Cluster Darmstadt

Software  
VASP, WIEN2K

Institute  
Materials Science

University  
Technische Universität Darmstadt



## Introduction

Permanent magnets are an important component in a wide range of everyday devices. Present high performance magnets like Nd-Fe-B contain a considerable amount of rare-earth elements, which have been subject to strong price fluctuations in the past. In this project, high-throughput density functional calculations are used for the prediction of new rare earth free permanent magnet materials.

## Methods

Within this project, we have built up a database which includes about 9000 relevant competing phases for the calculation of ternary phase diagrams with the magnetic 3d elements Fe, Co, Ni, Cr and Mn, so that the stability of a potential new magnet can be readily obtained. This database was used to predict several so far unreported materials with interesting magnetic properties. Further, we have extended our high-throughput environment HTE [1, 2] to detect possible magnetic spin structures for a reliable prediction of the magnetic ground state. This extends earlier implemented features like structure optimizations, phase stability at ambient and finite pressure, magnetic properties including magnetic anisotropy, and automatic detection of interstitial positions. Our high-throughput environment and database provides thus a unique framework for the high performance prediction of new magnetic materials on a supercomputer.

## Results

Using high-throughput calculations we have investigated the effect of interstitial B, C and N atoms on the stability, structural and magnetic properties of about 250 magnetic compounds with cubic symmetry. Permanent magnets requires in addition to a large saturation magnetization and a high Curie temperature a large uniaxial magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy. For cubic magnetic compounds, often the first two requirements can be fulfilled, while the magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy is typically small due to symmetry reasons. We have shown that in several of these compounds interstitials can lead to a stable, distorted structure with large magnetocrystalline anisotropy energy, in some cases comparable to known hard magnetic materials like  $L_{10}$ -CoPt. Further, we have calculated several binary Fe and Co phase diagrams in the pressure range between 0 and 15 GPa in order to find new magnetic compounds which can be stabilized in high pressure synthesis. For Ca-Co and Bi-Co, where no stable ambient pressure phases are known, our calculations predict  $CaCo_2$  and  $Bi_3Co$  to be stable around 5 GPa, in agreement with their recent synthesis at high pressure [3, 4]. In addition we predict several so far unreported phases to be stable in high pressure synthesis. Our HTE database was also used to analyze the effect of substitutional elements on the stability and magnetic properties of  $YFe_{12}$  (Fig. 3).  $RFe_{12}$  compounds can combine a high Fe content (92 at.% compared to 82 at.% for  $Nd_2Fe_{14}B$ ) with energy products similar to  $Nd_2Fe_{14}B$  [5]. Up to now there is however no stable  $RFe_{12}$  phase reported and the  $ThMn_{12}$  structure has to be stabilized by substitutional elements. In agreement with experimental reports, Ti, V, Cr, Al, Si and Re are identified as stabilizing elements for  $YFe_{12}$ . In addition, we predict new stabilizing elements, where in contrast to the so far known stabilizing elements a degradation of the magnetization can be avoided.

## Figures

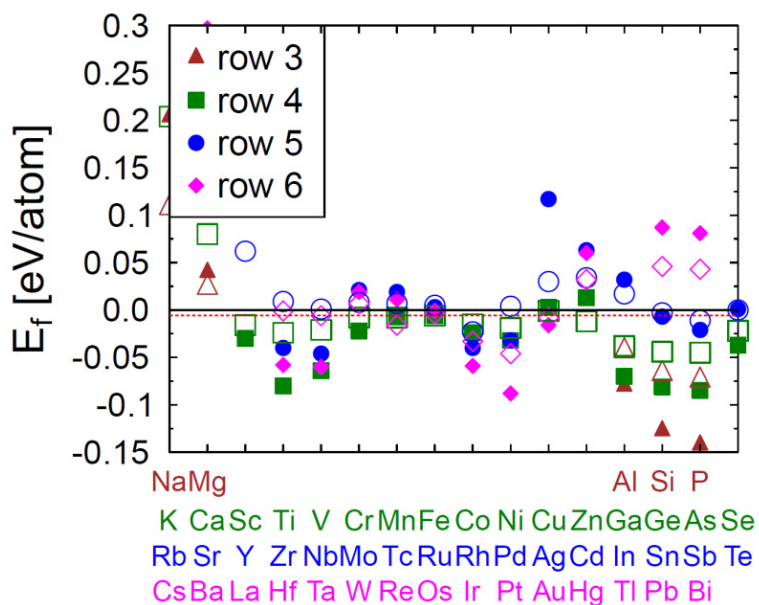
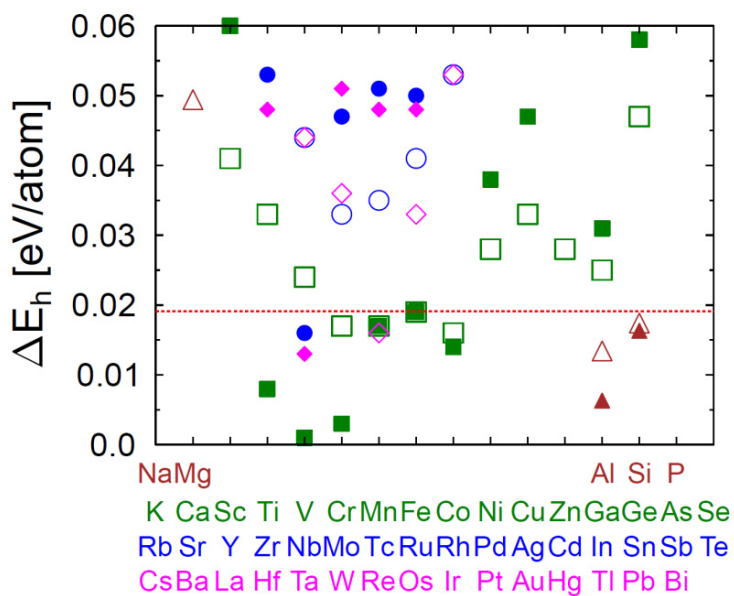
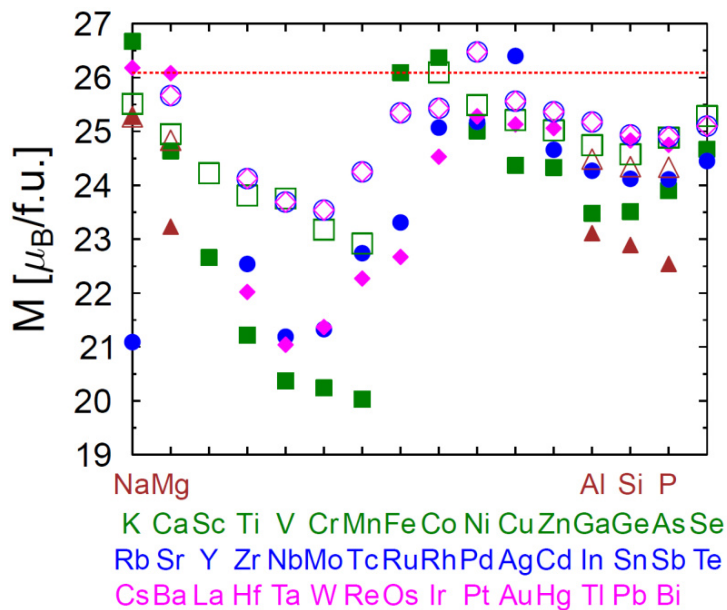


Figure: Effect of substitutional elements X in  $YFe_{11}X$  (filled symbols) and  $YFe_{11.5}X_{0.5}$  (open symbols) on the formation energy  $E_f$  (left), the distance from convex hull  $\Delta E_h$  (middle) and the total magnetic moment  $M$  (right). Dashed red lines indicate the respective values for  $YFe_{12}$ .





## Reference

[1] Opahle, I.; Madsen, G. K. H.; Drautz, R.: High throughput density functional investigations of the stability, electronic structure and thermoelectric properties of binary silicides, *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics*, 14(47):16197- 16202 (2012).  
<https://doi.org/10.1039/C2CP41826F>

[2] Opahle, I.; Parma, A.; McEniry, E. J.; Drautz, R.; Madsen, G. K. H.: High-throughput study of the structural stability and thermoelectric properties of transition metal silicides, *New Journal of Physics*, 15(10):105010 (2013).  
<http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1367-2630/15/10/105010/meta>

[3] Tsvyashchenko, A. V.; Fomicheva, L. N.; Magnitskaya, M. V.; Sidorov, V. A.; Kuznetsov, A. V.; Eremenko, D. V.; Trofimov, V. N.: New ferromagnetic compound CaCo<sub>2</sub> (C15) synthesized at high pressure, *Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics Letters*, 68(12):908–914 (1998). <https://rdcu.be/bdRr1>

[4] Schwarz, U.; Tencé, S.; Janson, O.; Koz, C.; Krellner, C.; Burkhardt, U.; Rosner, H.; Steglich, F.; Grin, Y.: CoBi<sub>3</sub>: A Binary Cobalt-Bismuth Compound and Superconductor, *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 52(37):9853–9857 (2013).  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/anie.201302397>

[5] Hiroswawa, M. N. S.; Nishino, M.; Miyashita, S.: Perspectives for high-performance permanent magnets: applications, coercivity, and new materials. *Adv. Nat. Sci.: Nanosci. Nanotechnol.*, 8:013002 (2017).  
<http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/2043-6254/aa597c/meta>

*Last Update:* 2022-04-29 17:10