

# Rebooting Materials Design and Discovery

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President, [Property Vectors](#) (1+ year)

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June 14, 2018, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom

6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Computational Mechanics (ECCM 6)

7<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Computational Fluid Dynamics (ECFD 7)

European Materials Modeling Council: Training for Translators I (MS147A)

# Outline

- Materials modeling: *theory vs. reality*
- Practice of Materials Modeling
  - Discovery vs. Design
  - Challenges in Semiconductors
  - Vision, strategy, & planning
- Materials Modeling Software Design
- Summary

# Materials Modeling in Theory

- Materials design and discovery (atomic scale) impacts broadening:
  - Drug discovery (gold standard)
  - Semiconductors (early adopter) ← Large corporation
  - Nanotechnology (nanoparticles) ← Small defense contractor
  - Manufacturing (structural alloys)
  - Batteries/Energy Industry (high growth in last 5+ years)
  - Chemistry (steady chemical and polymer R&D)
  - Materials Genome/NOMAD/Materials Project/SUNCAT/TRI/Citrine (NIST/DOE/DOD/NSF/public/private)

*Focus of this talk*

Ex: Intel  
Materials  
Modeling  
Range

1 H 1.0079	2	[2000s]										18 Ar 39.962	19 K 39.098	20 Ca 40.078	21 Sc 44.956	22 Ti 47.88	23 V 50.942	24 Cr 51.996	25 Mn 54.938	26 Fe 55.845	27 Co 58.933	28 Ni 58.693	29 Cu 63.546	30 Zn 65.38	31 Ga 69.723	32 Ge 72.64	33 As 74.922	34 Se 78.96	35 Br 79.904	36 Kr 83.80	37 Rb 85.468	38 Sr 87.62	39 Y 88.906	40 Zr 91.224	41 Nb 92.906	42 Mo 95.94	43 Tc (99)	44 Ru 101.07	45 Rh 101.07	46 Pd 106.36	47 Ag 107.868	48 Cd 112.411	49 In 114.818	50 Sn 118.710	51 Sb 121.757	52 Te 127.603	53 I 126.905	54 Xe 131.29	55 Cs 132.91	56 Ba 137.33	57-71 * La 138.91	72 Hf 178.49	73 Ta 180.95	74 W 183.84	75 Re 186.21	76 Os 190.23	77 Ir 192.22	78 Pt 195.08	79 Au 196.967	80 Hg 200.59	81 Tl 204.38	82 Pb 207.2	83 Bi 208.98	84 Po (209)	85 At (210)	86 Rn (222)	87 Fr (223)	88 Ra (226)	89-103 Ac (227)	104 Rf (261)	105 Db (262)	106 Sg (263)	107 Bh (264)	108 Hs (265)	109 Mt (266)	110 Ds (267)	111 Rg (268)	112 Cn (269)	113 Nh (270)	114 Fl (271)	115 Mc (272)	116 Lv (273)	117 Ts (274)	118 Og (276)
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*Industrial impacts of materials modeling are still in an early stage*

/TRI/Citrine (NIST/DOE/DOD/NSF/public/private)

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Materials  
Modeling  
Range

[2000s]

1	2											18	19	20
1 H 1.0079												36 Kr 83.80	37 Rb 85.468	38 Sr 87.62
3 Li 6.941	4 Be 9.0122											54 Xe 131.29	55 Cs 132.91	56 Ba 137.32
11 Na 22.990	12 Mg 24.305											82 Pb 207.2	83 Bi 208.98	84 Po [209]
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55 Cs 132.91	56 Ba 137.32	57 La 138.905	58 Ce 140.12	59 Pr 140.908	60 Nd 144.24	61 Pm [145]	62 Sm 150.36	63 Eu 151.964	64 Gd 157.25	65 Tb 158.925	66 Dy 162.50	72 Hf 178.49	73 Ta 180.948	74 W 183.84
87 Fr [223]	88 Ra [226]	89-103 Ac	89 La 138.905	90 Ce 140.12	91 Pr 140.908	92 Nd 144.24	93 Pm [145]	94 Sm 150.36	95 Eu 151.964	96 Gd 157.25	97 Tb 158.925	98 Dy 162.50	99 Ho 164.930	100 Er 167.259
89 Ac [227]	90 Th 232.038	91 Pa 231.036	92 U 238.029	93 Np [237]	94 Pu [244]	95 Am [243]	96 Cm [247]	97 Bk [247]	98 Cf [251]	99 Es [252]	100 Fm [257]	106 Lr [260]	107 Rf [261]	108 Db [262]

*Focus of  
this talk*

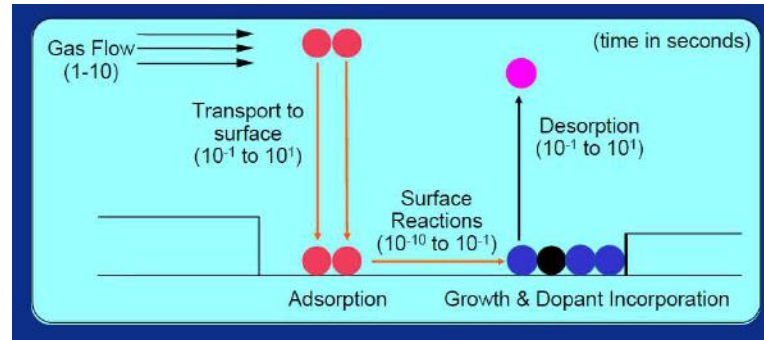
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# Materials Modeling *in Reality*

- Materials translators are effectively consultants
  - Significant customer learning curve/training required (*risk*)
- Efficacy/impacts limited by accessible distance/time scales and accuracy (*translation risk: over-promised*)

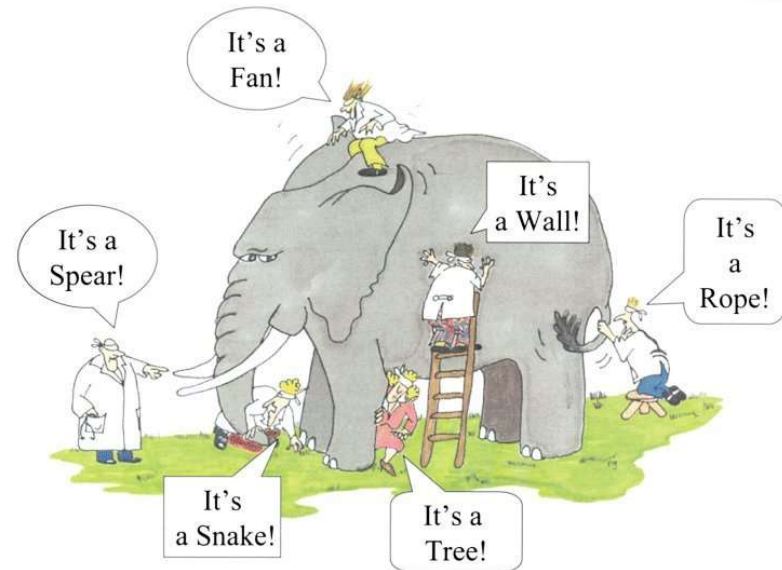
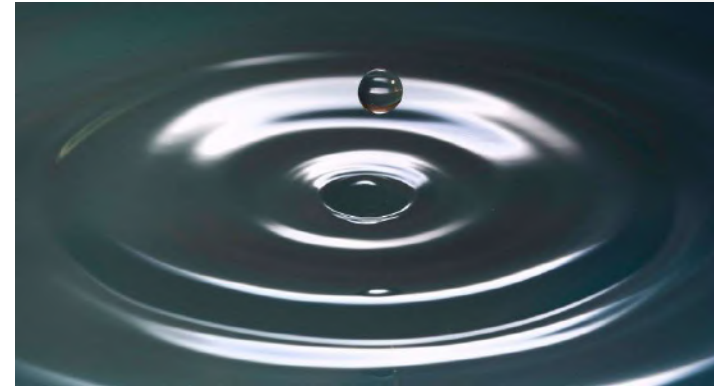
Ex: Range of time and length scales required for Atomic Layer Deposition modeling



- No silver bullet:
  - Totality of modeling + recommendations + integration with experimentalists is critical
- Impacts to-date lag more mature CFD, FEA, & EDA
  - Hypothesis: Due to failures in both materials modeling translators practice and software

# Materials Modeling in Practice: *A Diversion*

- Is it a “particle” or a “wave”?
  - Neither – reality more complicated
  - “Particle” and “wave” - simplified models (sweep under-the-rug the complexity of reality)
- Translators/scientists often mistake their models for reality
  - Recommendation: spend more time living in reality than the world of your models



# In Practice: Shift From Discovery to Design

- 2 types of typical problems:

- Screening:

- *Input:* Materials (A to W) + Properties (X, Y, & Z)
    - *Output:* Sub-set of materials (A, H, & J) With properties (X, Y, & Z)

- Optimization:

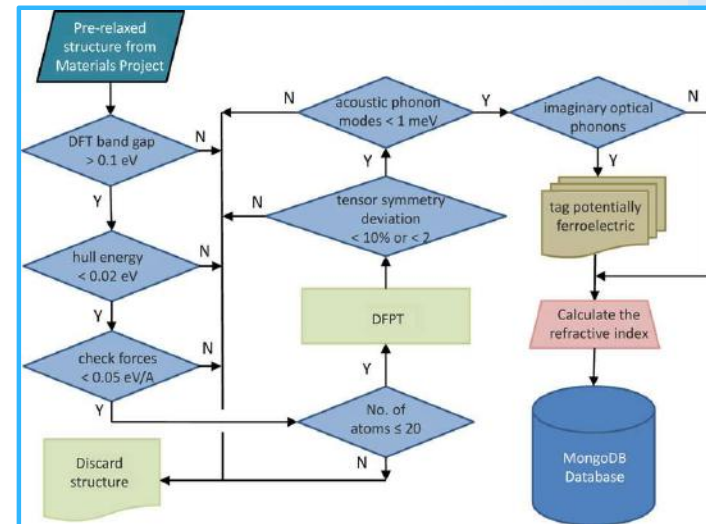
- *Input:* Material ( $A_0$ ) & Properties ( $X_0$  &  $Y_0$ ) With targets ( $X_1$  &  $Y_1$ )
    - *Output:* Alternate material (B) or re-design ( $A_1$ ) With properties ( $X_1$  &  $Y_1$ )

- “Discovered” 1000’s of materials in my career

- Unable or predict, procure, produce, or productize

- Recommend focusing more efforts on the design of:

- Slides, experiments, and integration strategy



[Nature \(Pearson & Prinz\)](#)

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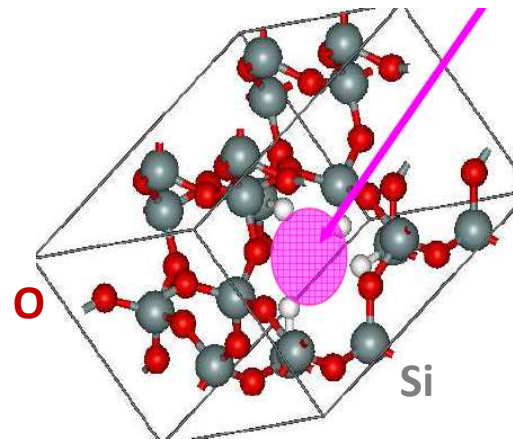
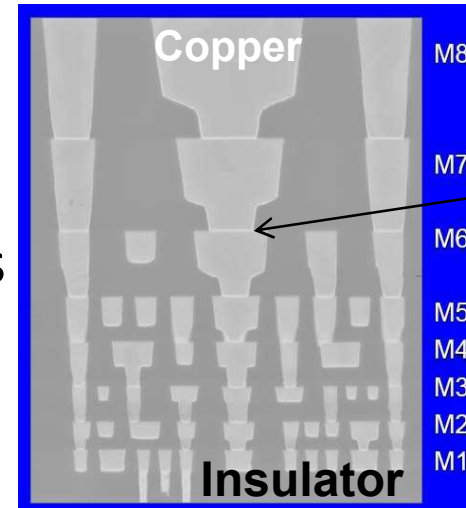
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# In Practice: Integration Challenges - Examples

- Semiconductor chips contain numerous material interfaces:
  - Intel's 45nm manufacturing process integrates 9 functional layers
    - Each layer requires 2-5 processing steps and 4 or more materials
- Design of new materials must take into account BOTH:
  - Target material properties (structure-property relationships)
  - Chemistry, mechanical, and thermal interactions with neighboring materials



Location of pore in  $\beta$ -SiO<sub>2</sub> w/ H-termination



# In Practice: Materials Design 2.0 Principles

- Experimentalists have a very hard job
  - Your role: formulate, bounce, and test ideas
  - Your value: reduce experimental iteration (\$billion fabrication plants use \$million tools)
    - Even identifying why something *didn't* work has value
- Selection criteria variety is critical (co-optimize property vectors)
- Combine as much data as possible (modeling, literature research, characterization data, etc.)
  - Collaboration with disparate background teams critical
- Hierarchical models: study at multiple levels of accuracy and scale if possible
  - Just because you have a hammer, everything isn't a nail

# In Practice: Materials Design 2.0 Vision

1. Define problem –
  - Engage with experimentalists
2. Determine property vectors to model
  - Include defects and variations
3. Set expectations
4. Decide on modeling workflow/approach (*all-of-the-above?*)
5. “Support/team-up” not “replace” experimentalists
6. Kick-start/accelerate R&D
  - Demonstrate value

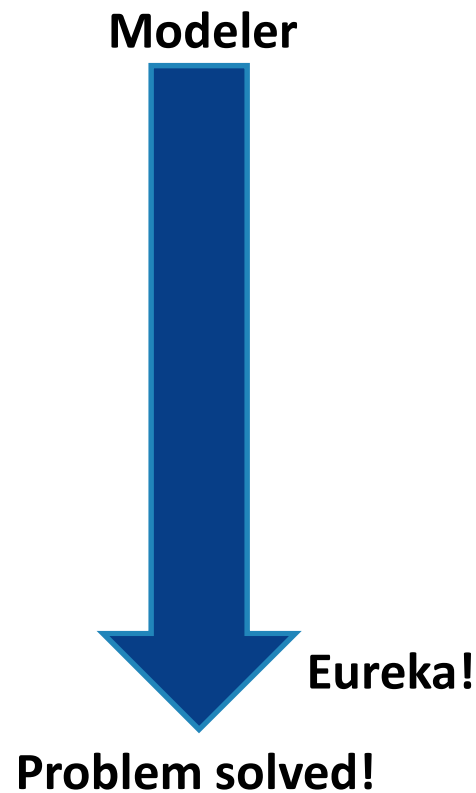
# In Practice: Translating Models Into Reality

- One-shot models rarely succeed

**Experimentalist (problem definition =>  
modeling request) => HELP!**

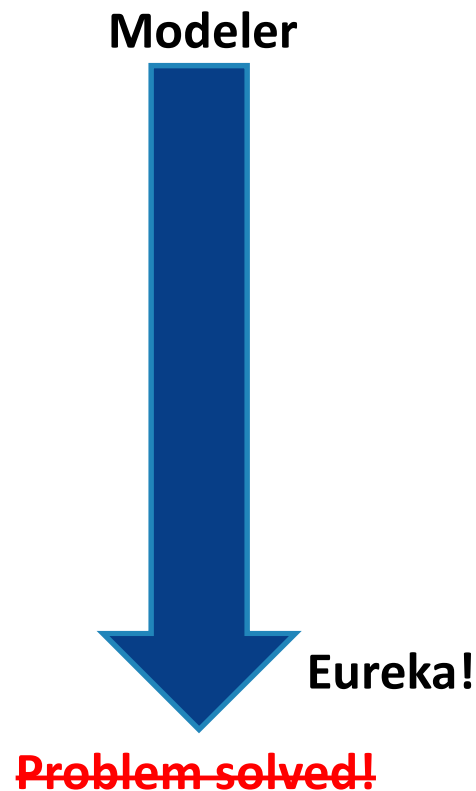
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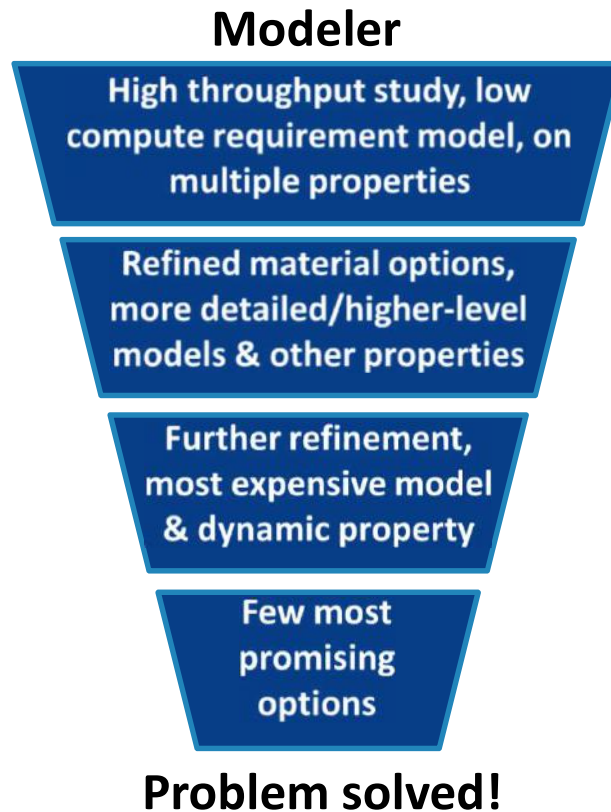
- One-shot models rarely succeed
  - Funnel approach to projects is ideal





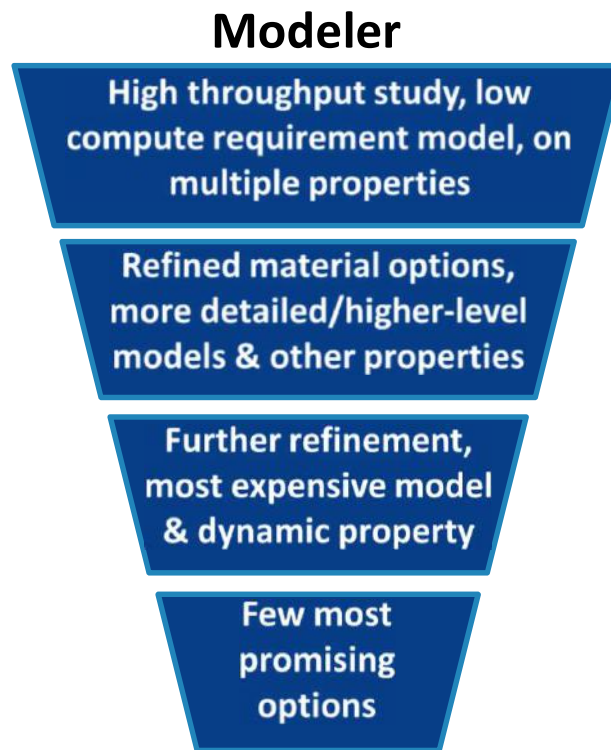
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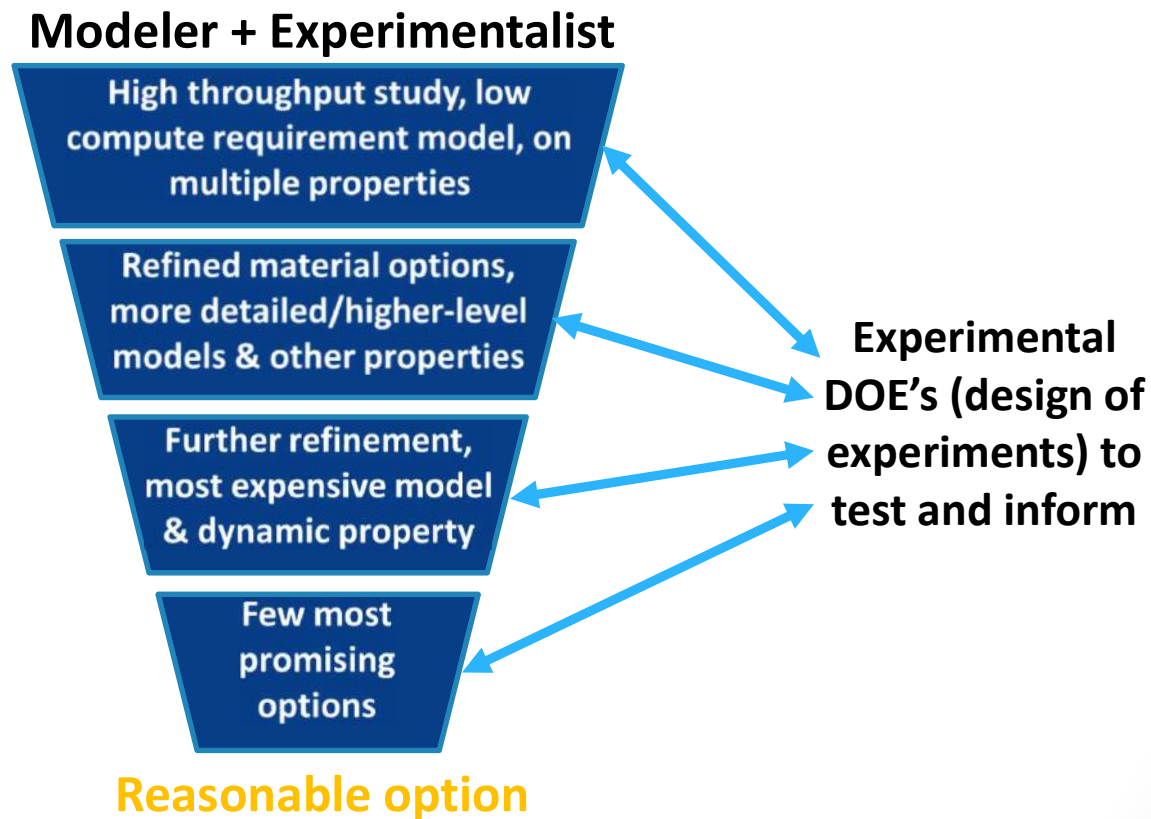
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**Problem solved!**

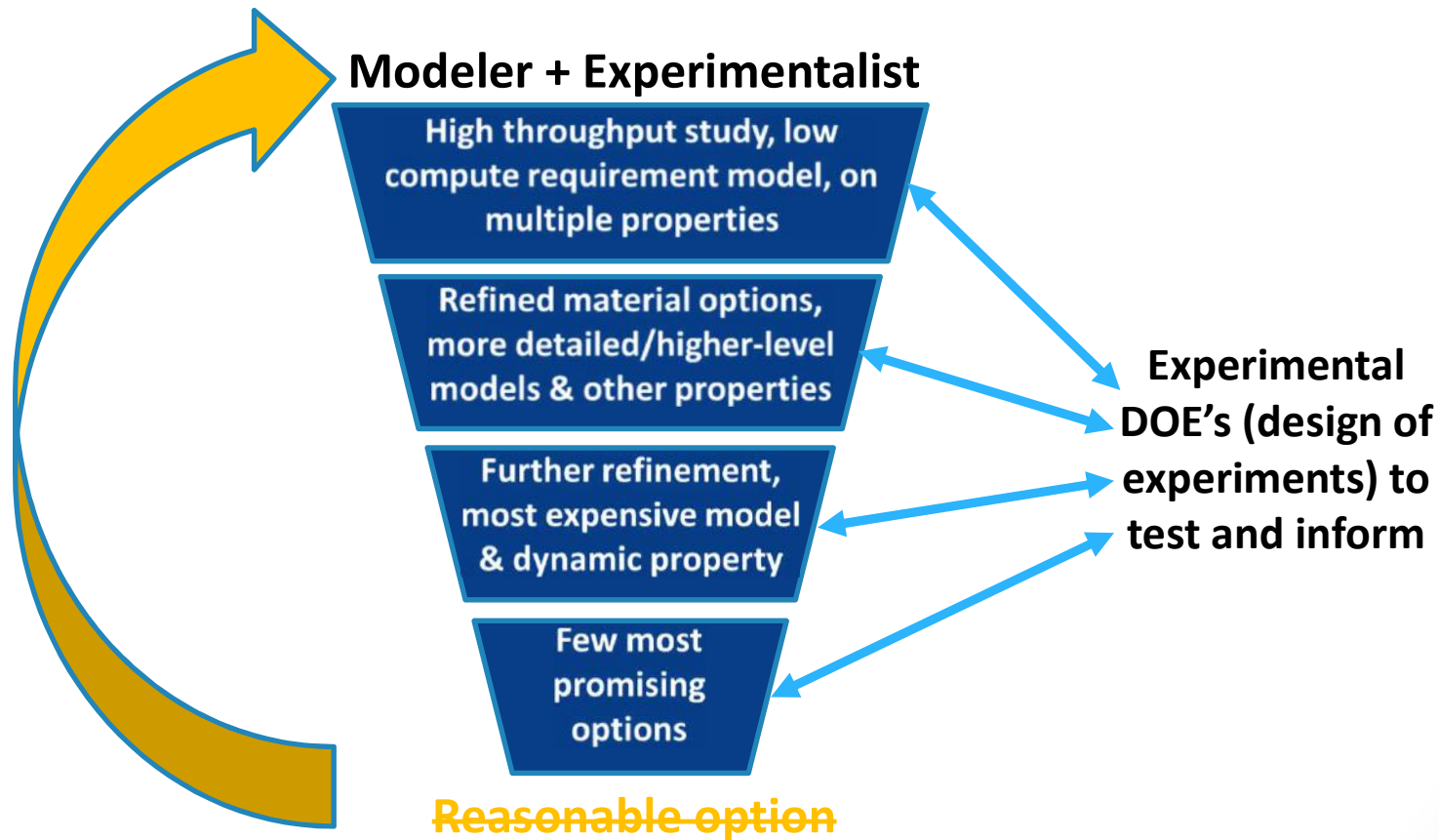
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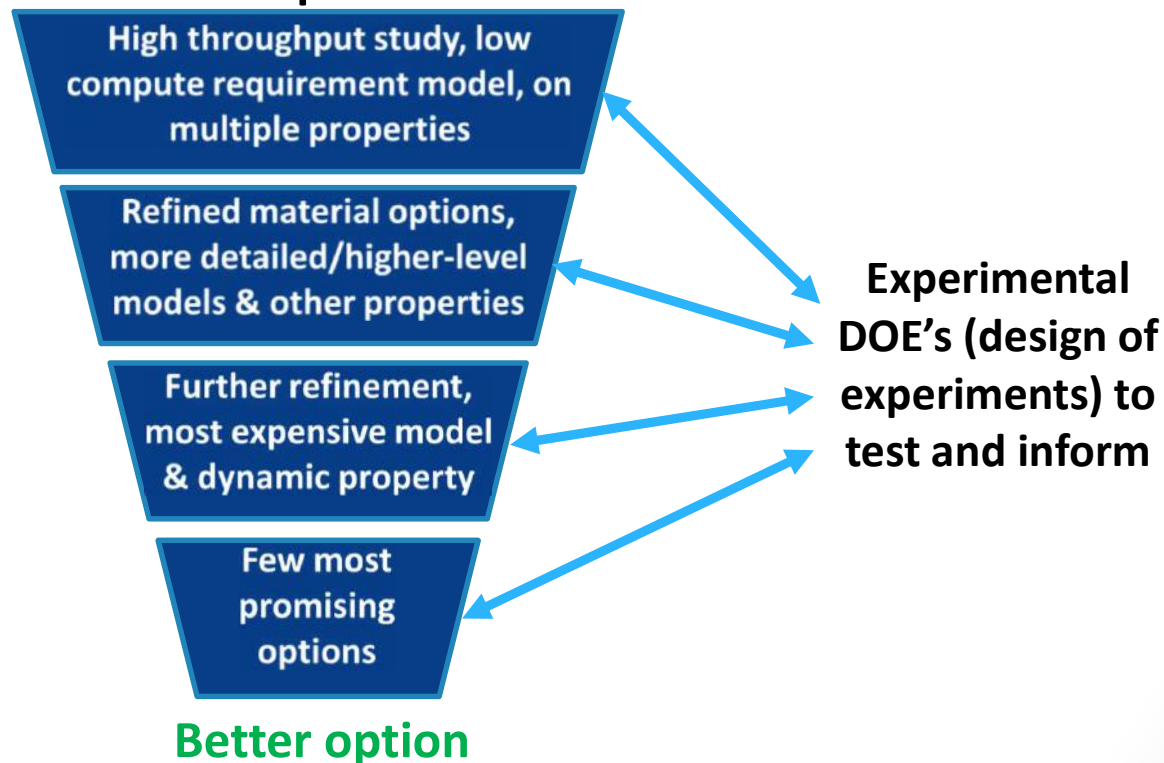
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## Informed Modeler + Experimentalist – Iteration N



**Reality:** hit rate close ~10% is successful (*complications, too expensive, too risky, change in direction*)

# In Software: 5% Error Death Spiral

- Experimentalist don't trust modelers
  - Modelers don't feel appreciated by experimentalists
  - Usual strategy:
    - Validate and convince
    - Cajole, plead, beg ... ☹️
- Ph.D.'s trained to be THE world expert
  - Minimize error and maximize depth of insight
  - Develop new functionals/methods to increase accuracy
- Add so-so programming skills
- Recipe for **brilliant software** that is **terrible for productivity and ease of use**

# Emulate Software Success Stories

- Schrodinger (\$120M drug discovery contract - Sanofi)
  - Heavily parameterized tool for spatial docking of molecules
- Synopsys (\$2.8B USD):
  - Drift diffusion plus circuit design
- CFD/FEA Industry (Billions USD):
  - Dependable highly customizable models w/ reliable results
  - Accessible to Bachelor's & Master's level degrees
- All offer:
  - Dependability and reliability
  - Abstraction and implementation of acceptable usage defaults
  - Simplification and automation of workflows (+ accessibility)
- Software developers: focus more on the above and less on 100% accuracy
  - All-of-the-above rarely promise 95% accuracy



# Rebooting Materials Design & Discovery: Summary

- Full promise of materials modeling techniques not yet realized – largely a failure in translation that requires a *reboot* of translators behavior:
  - In practice
    - Tight engagement loops with experimentalists
    - Set expectations (*≥95% accuracy likely not possible*)
    - Shift from discovery to design
    - Consider integration with neighboring materials and processing (multiple properties, variations, and complications)
  - In software design
    - Focus on pragmatism with automation and increased engineering judgement

**Thanks for your attention!**  
**Any questions?**

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