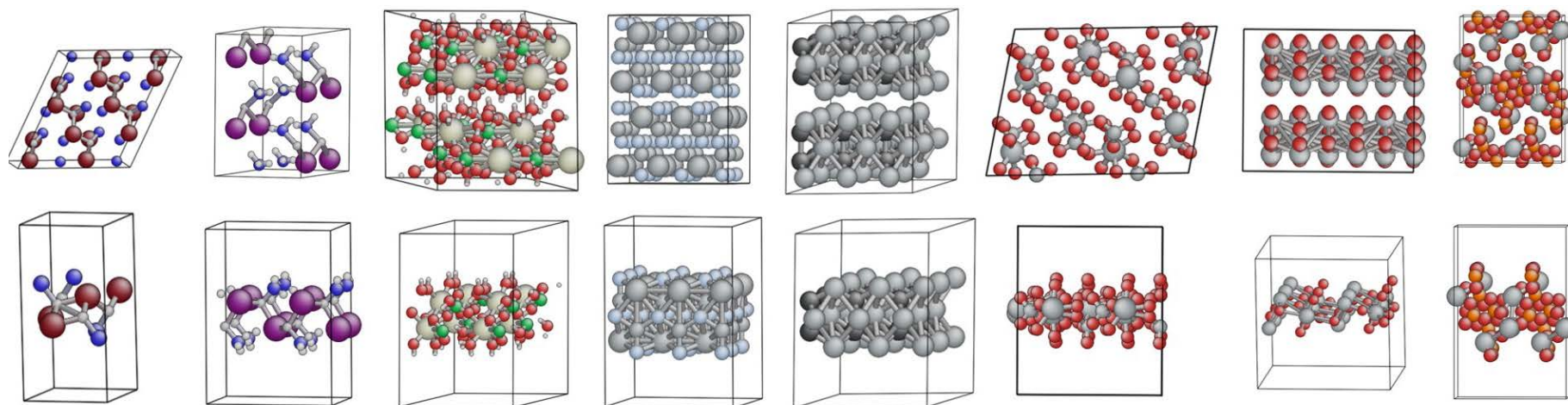


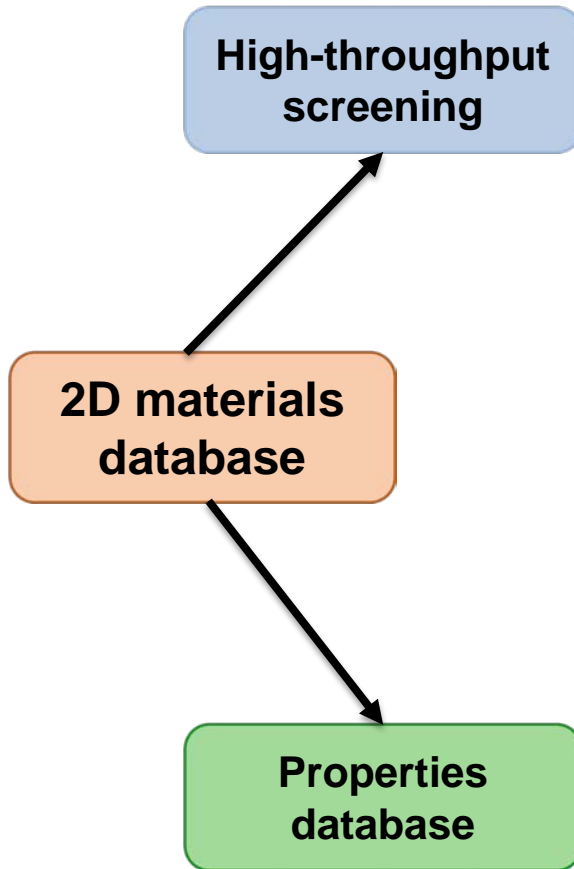
# Two-dimensional materials from high-throughput computational exfoliation of experimentally known compounds



Nicolas Mounet, Marco Gibertini, Philippe Schwaller, Davide Campi, Andrius Merkys, Antimo Marrazzo, Thibault Sohier, Ivano Eligio Castelli, Andrea Cepellotti, Giovanni Pizzi, Nicola Marzari

Theory and Simulation of Materials (THEOS), and National Centre for Computational Design and Discovery of Novel Materials (MARVEL), EPFL

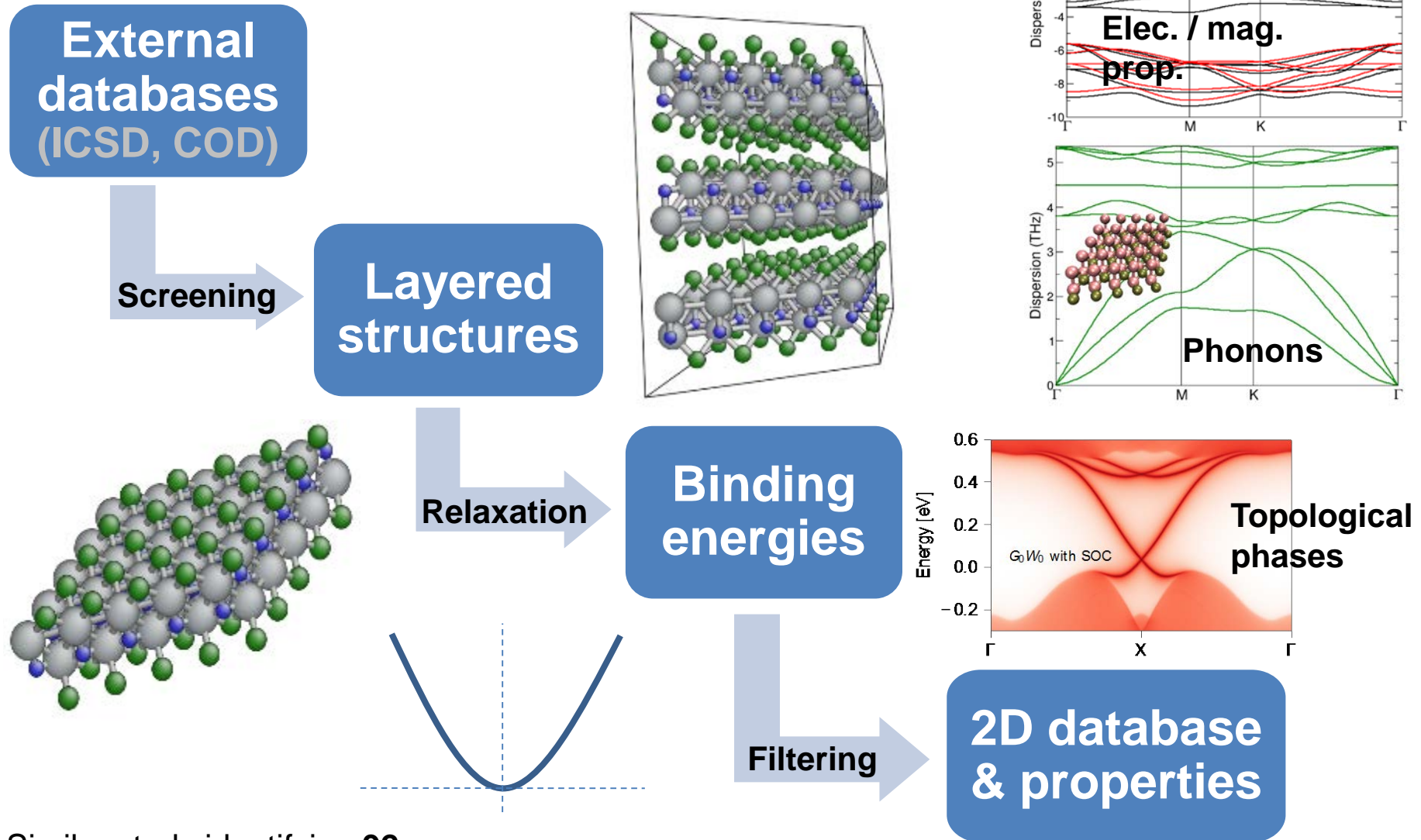
# Motivation



- **High-mobility** materials
- Good **ionic conductors**
- **2D catalysts**
- **Topological insulators**
- **Piezoelectric /ferroelectric** materials
- **Superconductors**
- Materials for **spintronics**
- **Porous** membranes

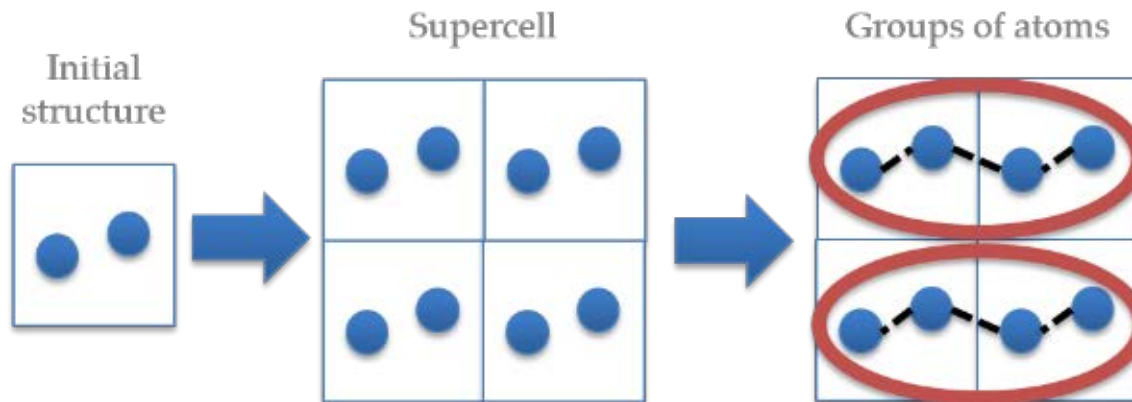
- **Thermomechanical** properties
- Mechanical / dynamical / chemical **stability**
- **Electronic / magnetic** properties

# Aim: computational exfoliation of novel 2D materials from known 3D structures



Similar study identifying **92** two-dimensional compounds, by **S. Lebègue et al., PRX (2013)**

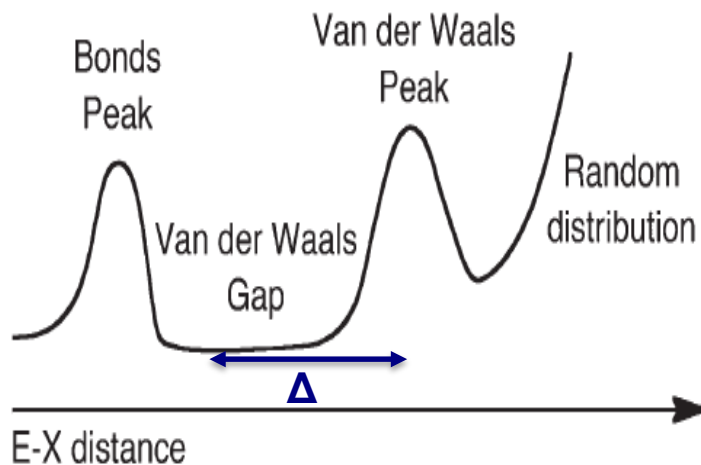
# Low dimensionality screening



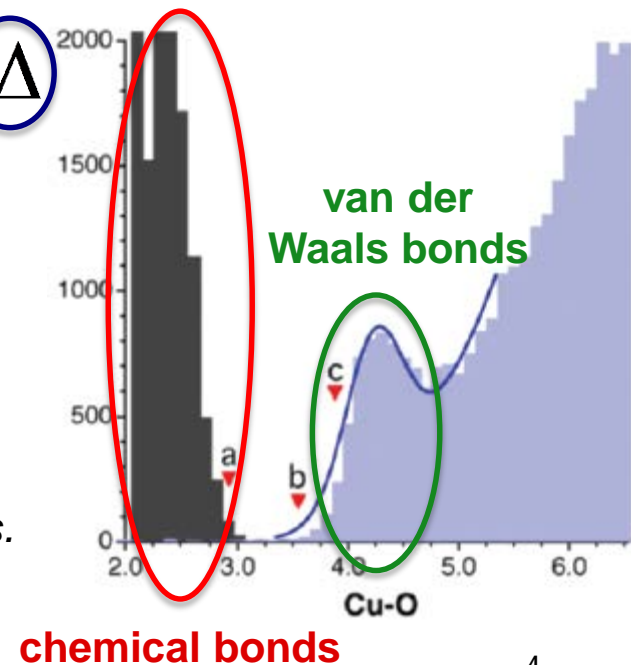
We **group** together **chemically bonded** atoms, defined as those separated by **distance**  $d_{i,j}$  such that

$$d_{i,j} < r_i^{vdW} + r_j^{vdW} - \Delta$$

van der Waals radii  
of atoms  $i, j$

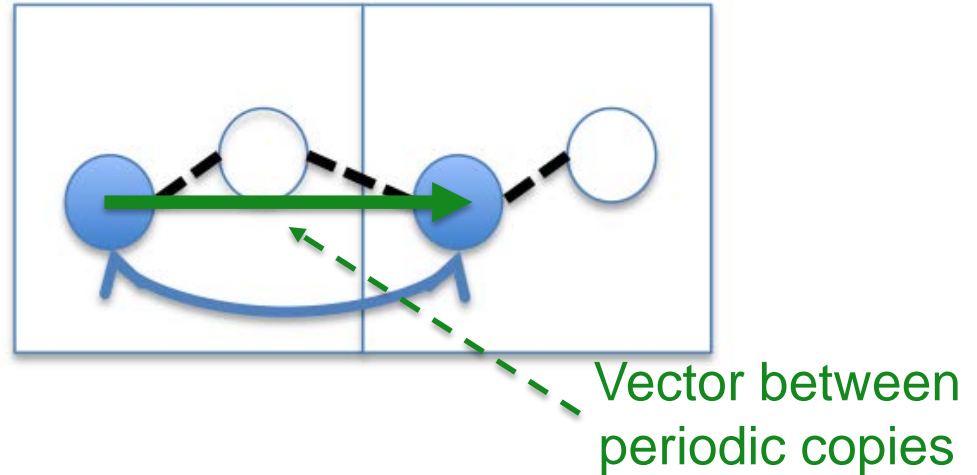


*S. Alvarez, Dalton Trans.*  
42, 8617–8636 (2013)

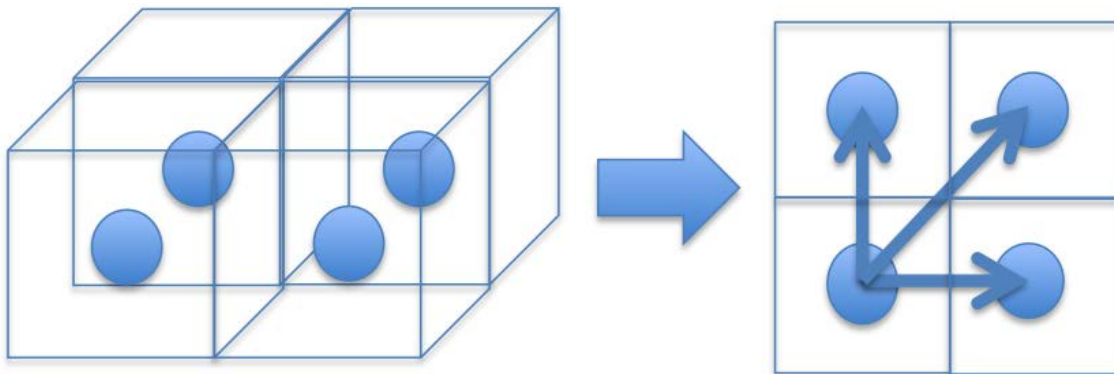


# 2D, or not 2D?

Connected periodic copies  
of a given atom:



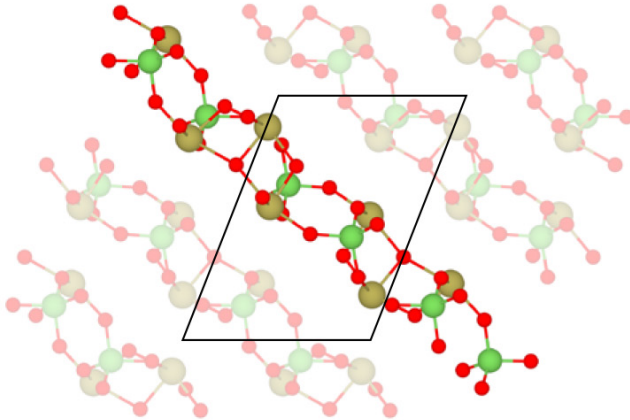
From the full supercell, get all the vectors connecting periodic copies:



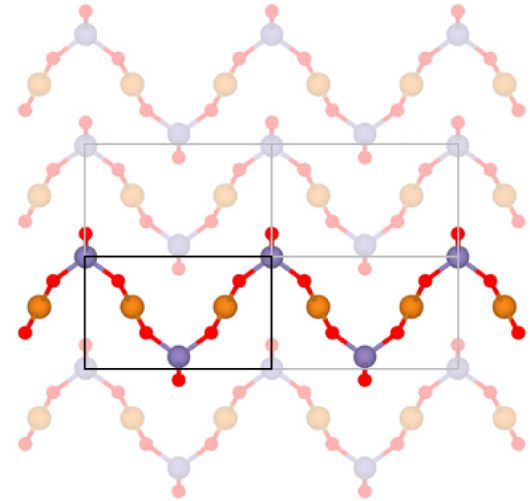
→ the **rank** of the ensemble of vectors found from periodic copies of the atom, gives the dimensionality of the group.

# A few complex examples

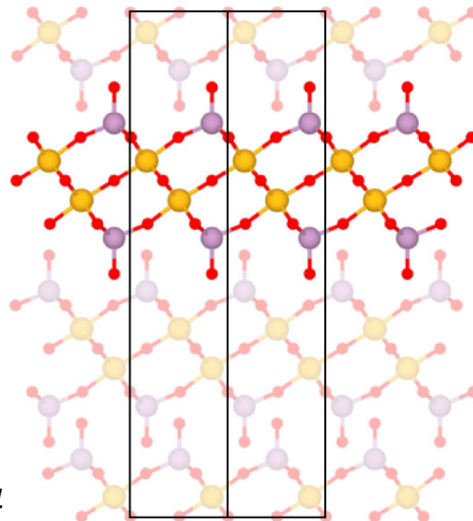
a



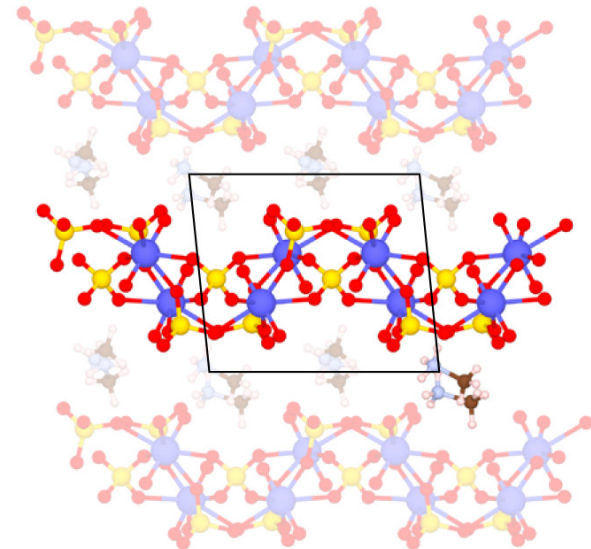
b



c

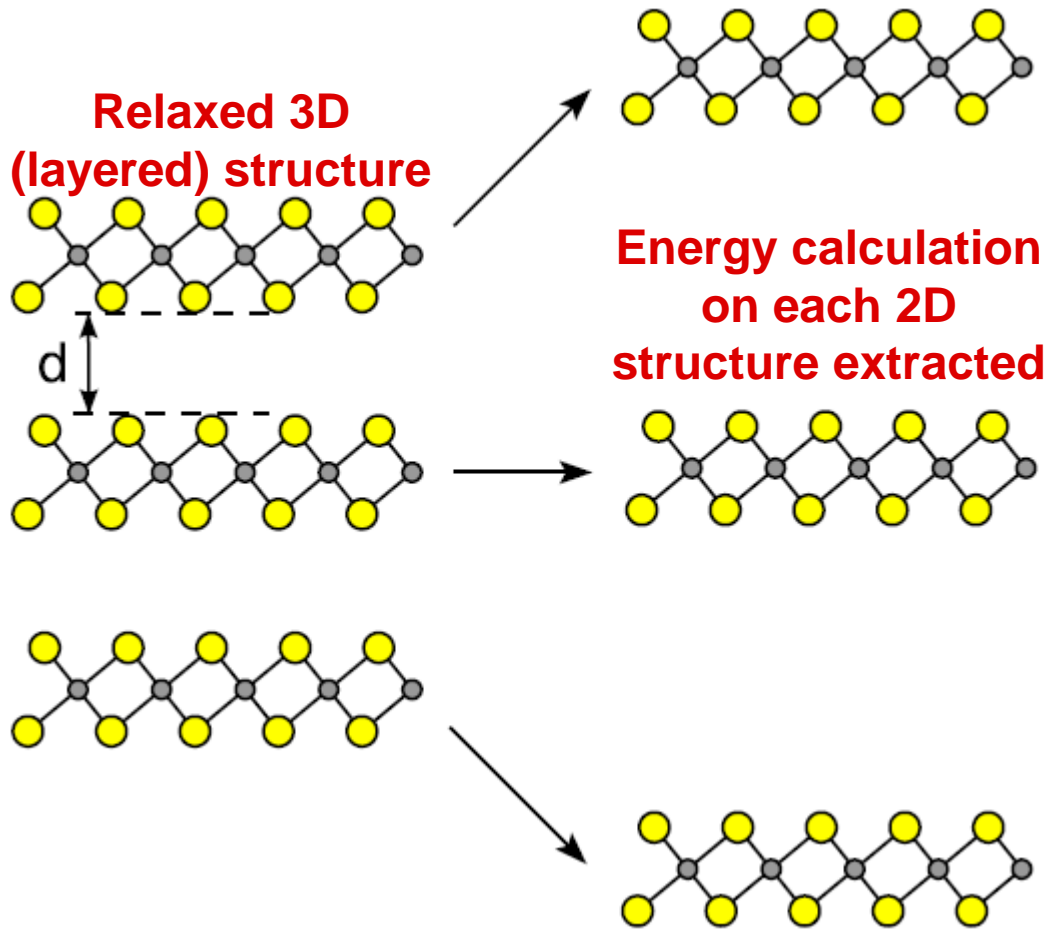


d



NM et al, *arXiv:1611.05234*  
(2016), *Nature Nanotech.*,  
in press (2018).

# Binding energy computation



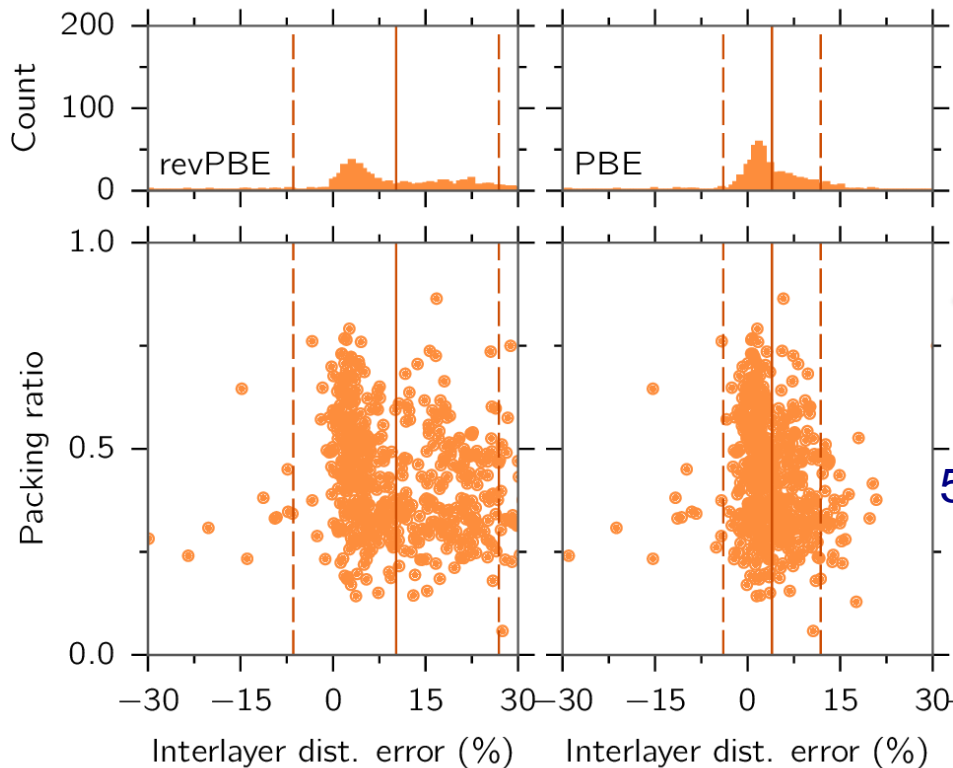
**Pseudopotentials: SSSP** library (*I. E. Castelli et al.*, <http://materialscloud.org>), **most accurate pseudo library** so far, w.r.t. all-electron calculations [http://molmod.ugent.be/delta\\_codesdft](http://molmod.ugent.be/delta_codesdft).

Following up a study on **72** layered materials by *T. Björkman et al.*, *PRL* 108, 235502 (2012)

Computations handled by **Quantum ESPRESSO** using **PBE** and **vdW** functionals:

- **DF2 with C09 exchange** - *K. Lee et al.*, *PRB* 82, 081101 (2010); *V. R. Cooper*, *PRB* 81, 161104 (2010),
- **rVV10** - *O. A. Vydrov and T. Van Voorhis*, *JCP* 133, 244103 (2010); *R. Sabatini et al.*, *PRB* 87, 041108 (2013).

# How reliable are the functionals?

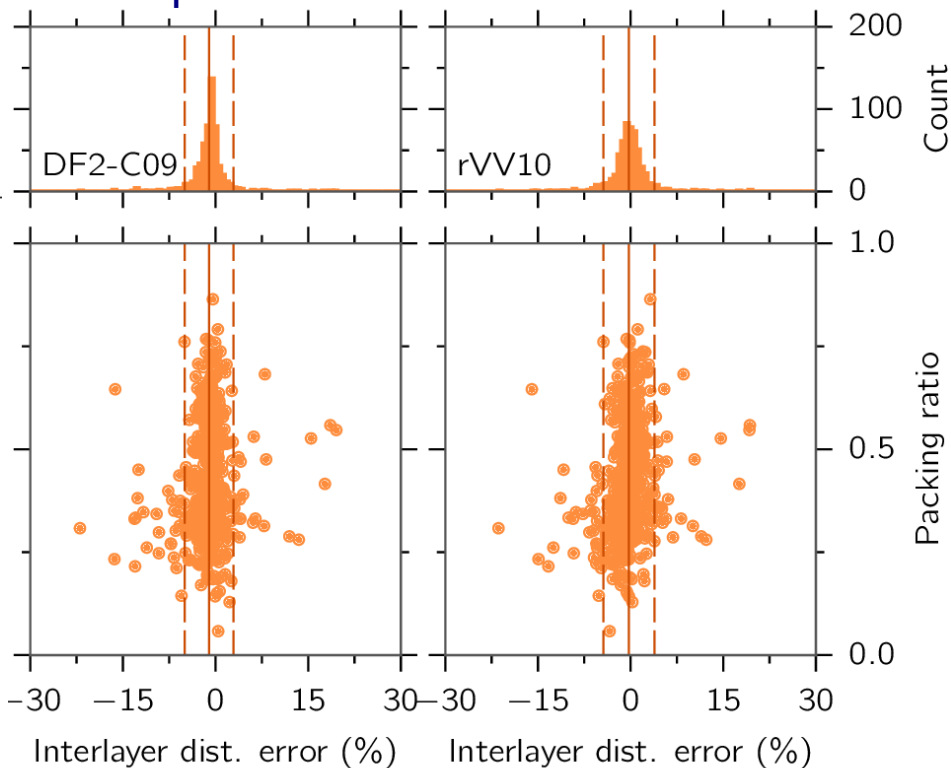


Relative change in out-of-plane lattice parameter w.r.t. experimental structure

← non-vdW functionals

→ Large average error, large spread

573 samples



vdW functionals →

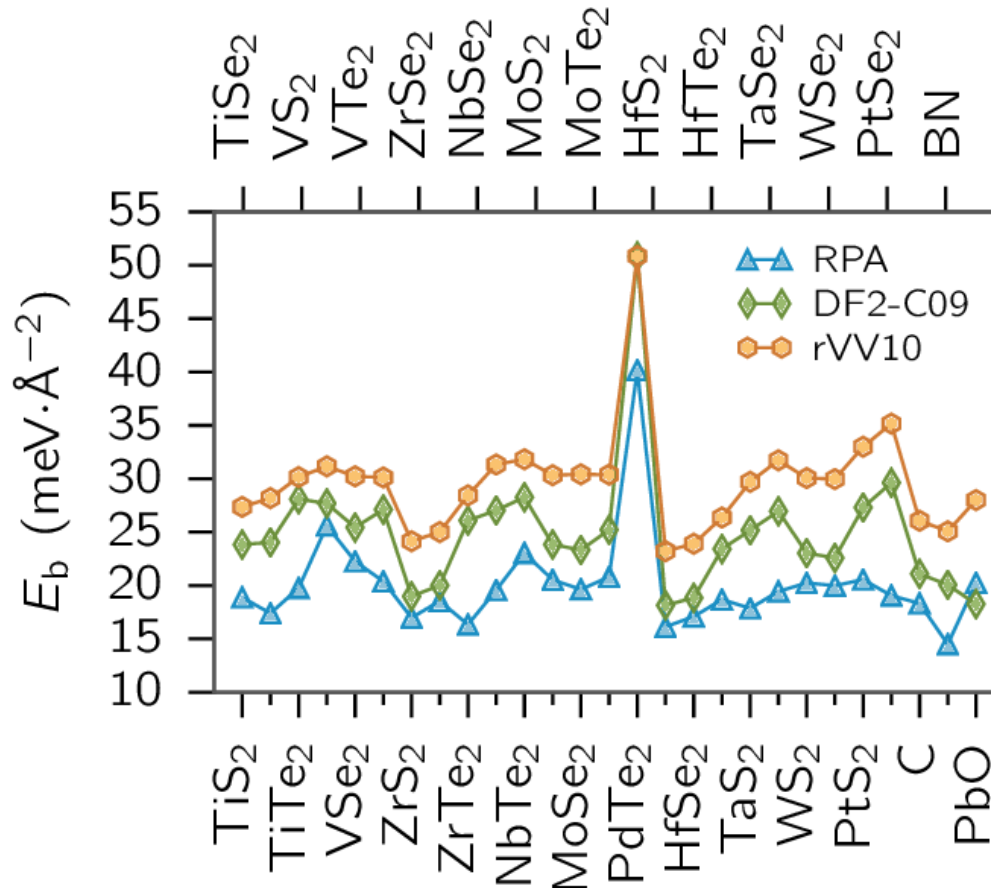
→ Small average error (-1% for DF2-C09, -0.3% for rVV10)

→ Small MAPE (1.5% for both)



# How reliable are the functionals?

Binding energies: RPA vs. DF2-C09 and rVV10

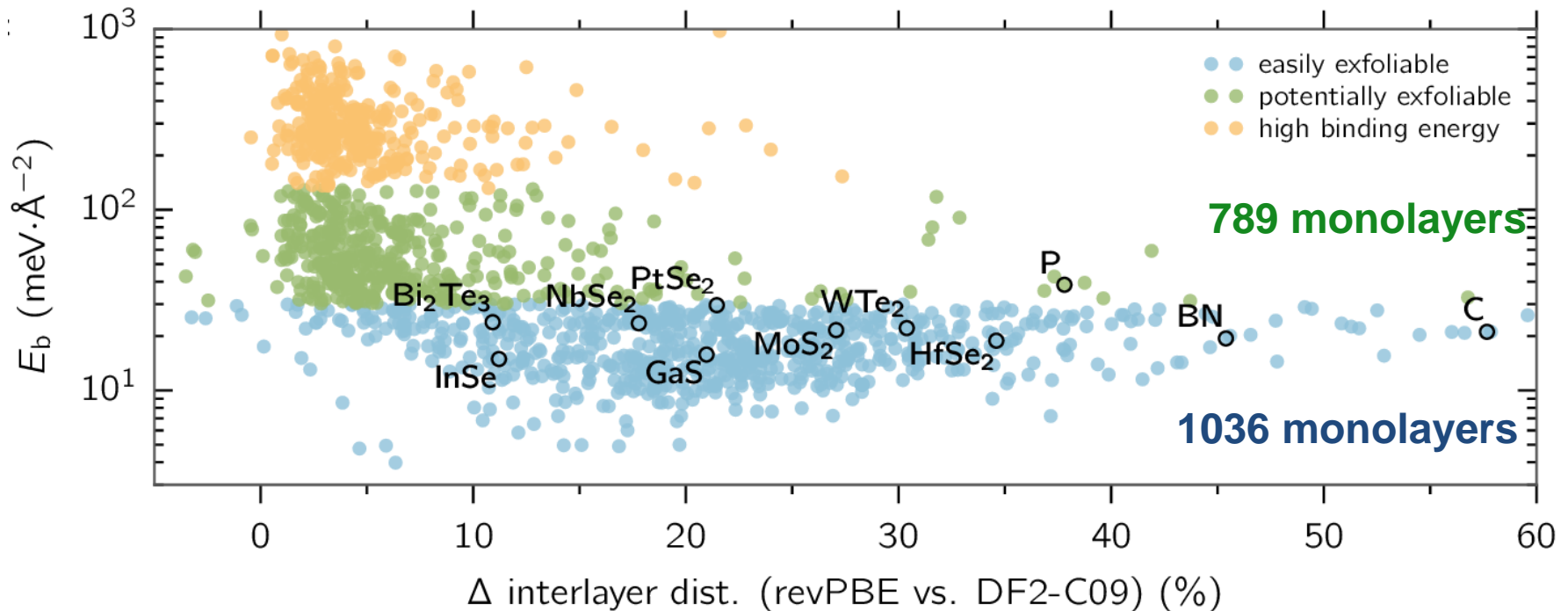


RPA calculations from  
*T. Björkman et al., PRL*  
*108, 235502 (2012)*

- Overall good agreement (in particular for the variation from compound to compound)
- Both vdW functionals slightly overbind (rVV10 more than DF2-C09)

# Refining the screening of layered materials

Binding energy  $E_b$  vs difference in interlayer distance when computed with / without vdW functionals:



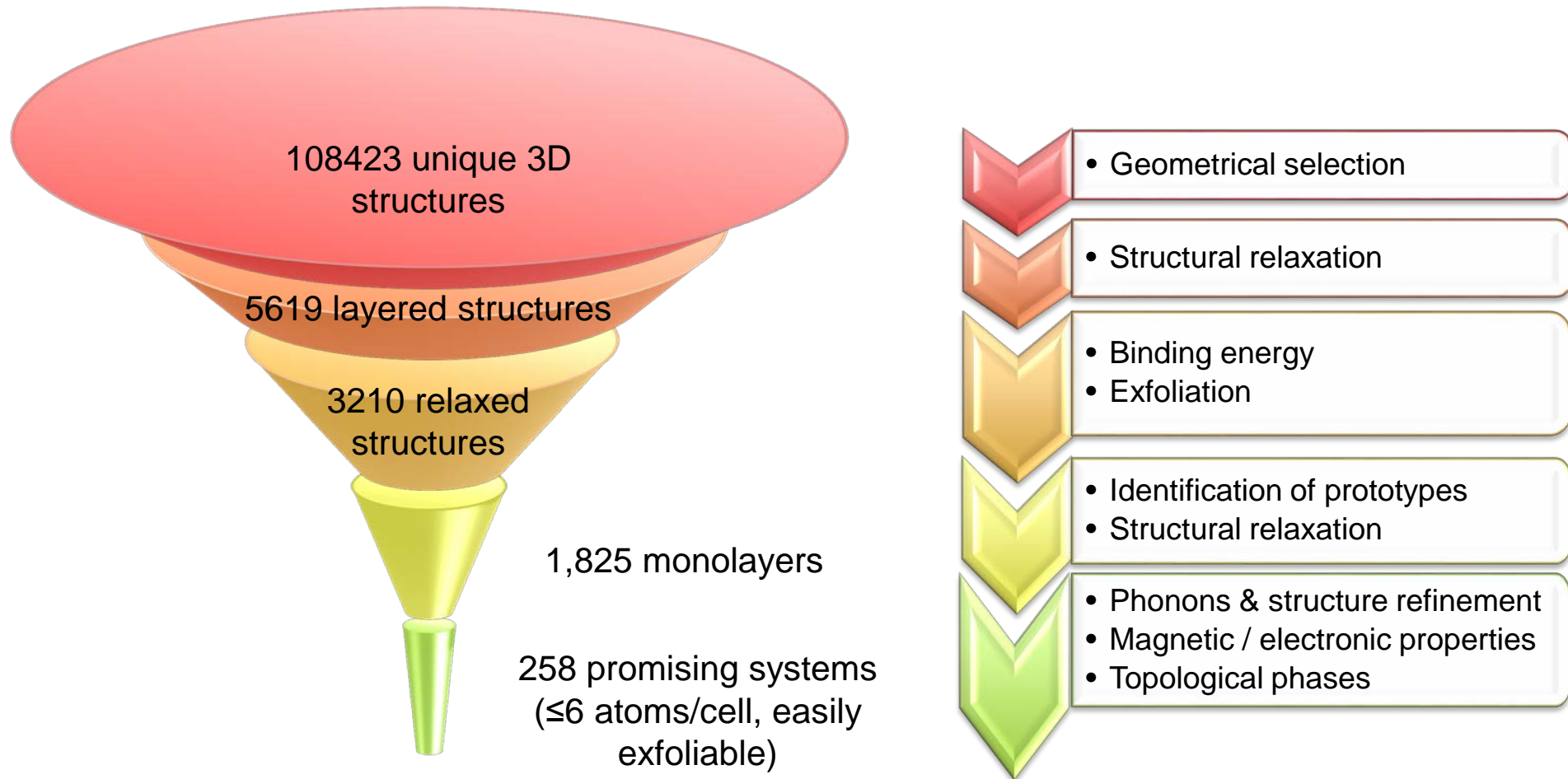
Three groups:

- $E_b < 30$  meV/Å<sup>2</sup> (DF2-C09) or  $E_b < 35$  meV/Å<sup>2</sup> (rVV10) → **2D, easily exfoliable**
- $E_b > 130$  meV/Å<sup>2</sup> → **not 2D** (discarded)
- In-between → **2D, potentially exfoliable**

NM et al, arXiv:1611.05234 (2016),  
Nature Nanotech., in press (2018).

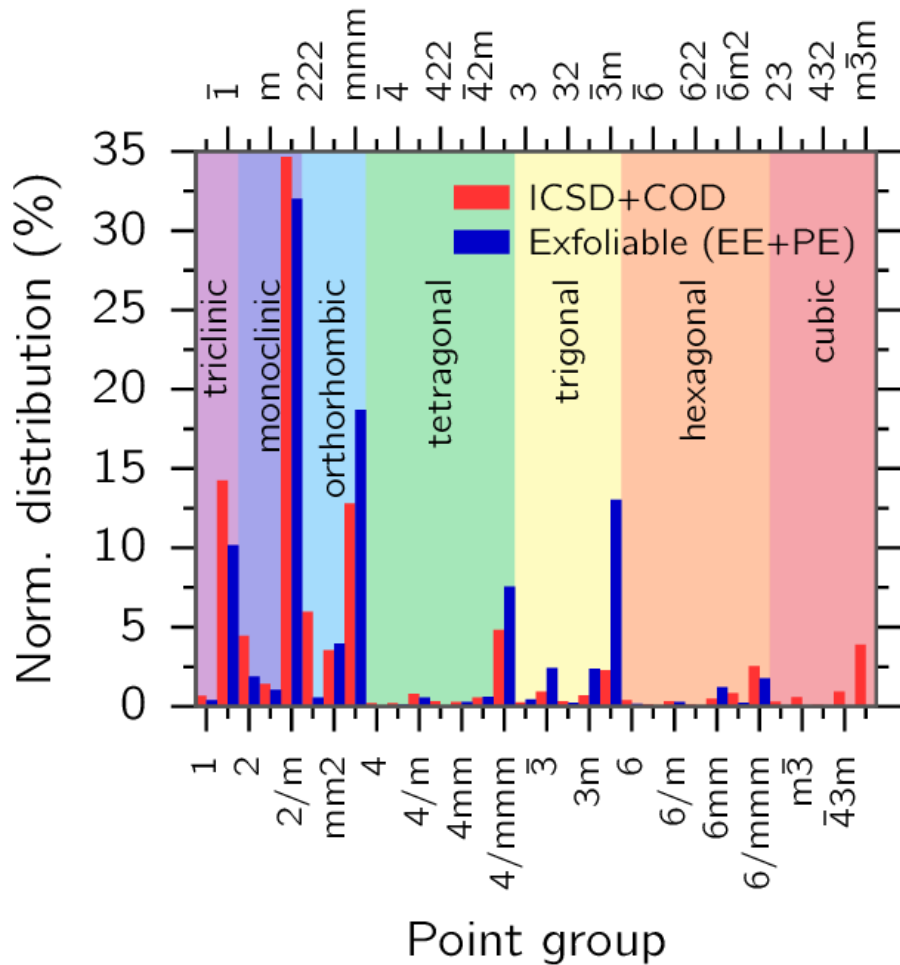
# Building the 2D database

Starting from the ICSD ([www.fiz-karlsruhe.com/icsd.html](http://www.fiz-karlsruhe.com/icsd.html)) and COD ([www.crystallography.net](http://www.crystallography.net)) databases:



# Layered materials statistics

- Distribution of point groups of layered materials, vs. ICSD+COD:



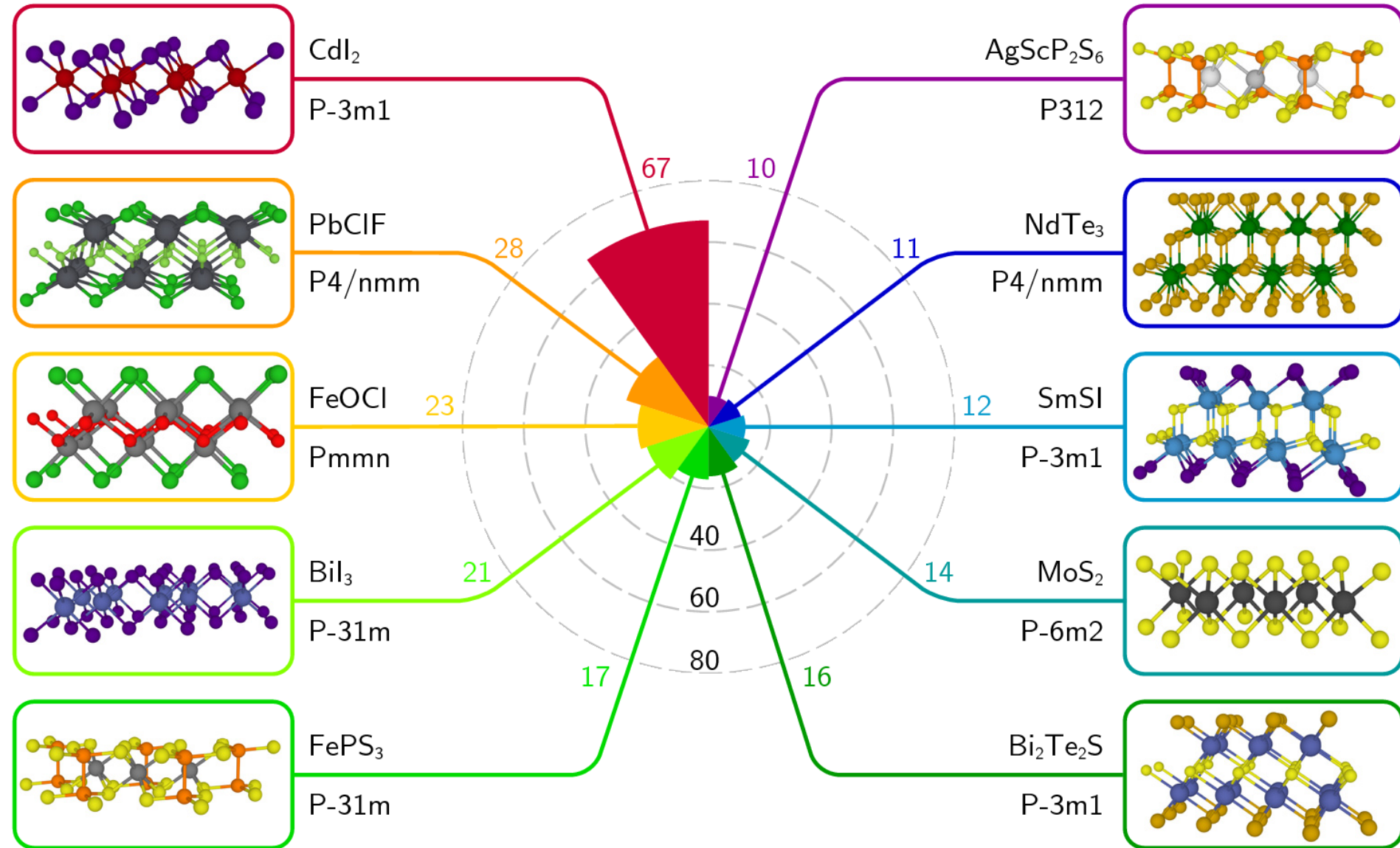
$2/m$   
 $6m2$   
 $mmm$   
 $3m$   
 $4/mmm$   
 $mm2$

NM et al, arXiv:1611.05234 (2016),  
Nature Nanotech., in press (2018).

- $-3$ ,  $3m$ ,  $-3m$  &  $6mm$  point groups are more frequent in layered structures
- $222$  is much less present; **cubic groups** obviously absent from layered materials

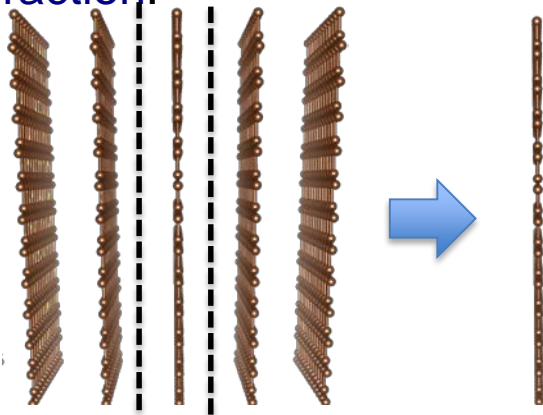
# 2D structural prototypes

Most common prototypes:



# Are these structures stable?

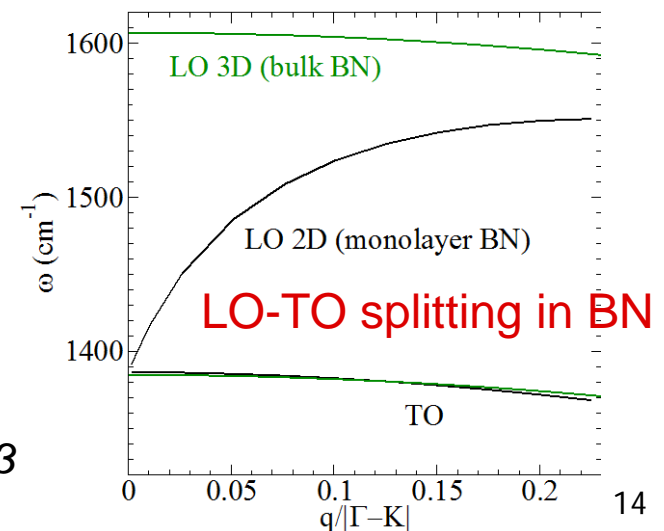
- We assess mechanical stability by computing **phonons**, using Density-Functional Perturbation Theory (DFPT) as implemented in the **Quantum ESPRESSO** code.
- For 2D monolayers, **3D periodic boundary conditions** may not work well: long-wavelength perturbations induce **long-ranged Coulomb interactions** → periodic images interact.
- We use a **2D version** of the DFT and DFPT code, with a **truncated Coulomb interaction**:



*T. Sohier, M. Calandra, F. Mauri,  
Phys. Rev. B 96, 075448 (2017)*

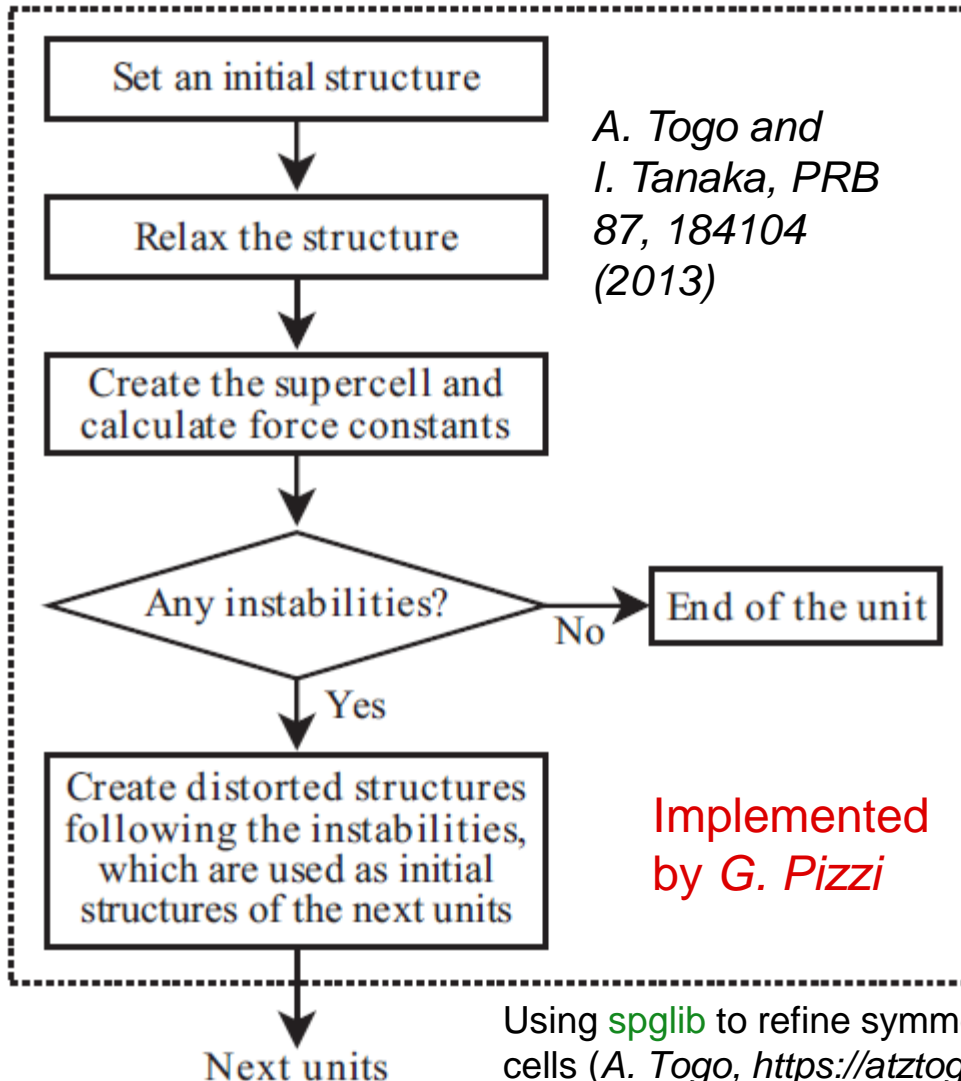
- This allows to compute properly the **LO-TO splitting** in 2D insulators:

*Sohier, Gibertini, Calandra,  
Mauri, Marzari, Nano Lett.,  
2017, 17 (6), pp 3758–3763*

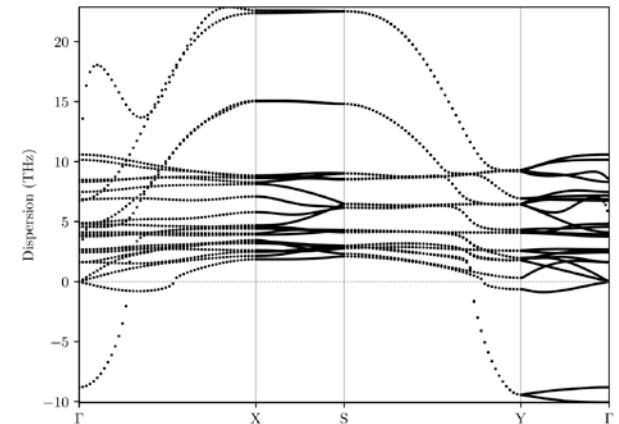


# Dealing with unstable structures

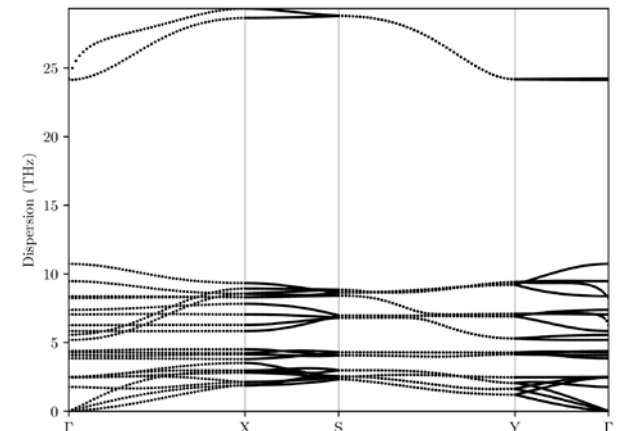
Computing phonons at  $\Gamma$ , we can check the unstable ones and “follow” them to get a stabilized structure:



Example of initial phonon dispersion:



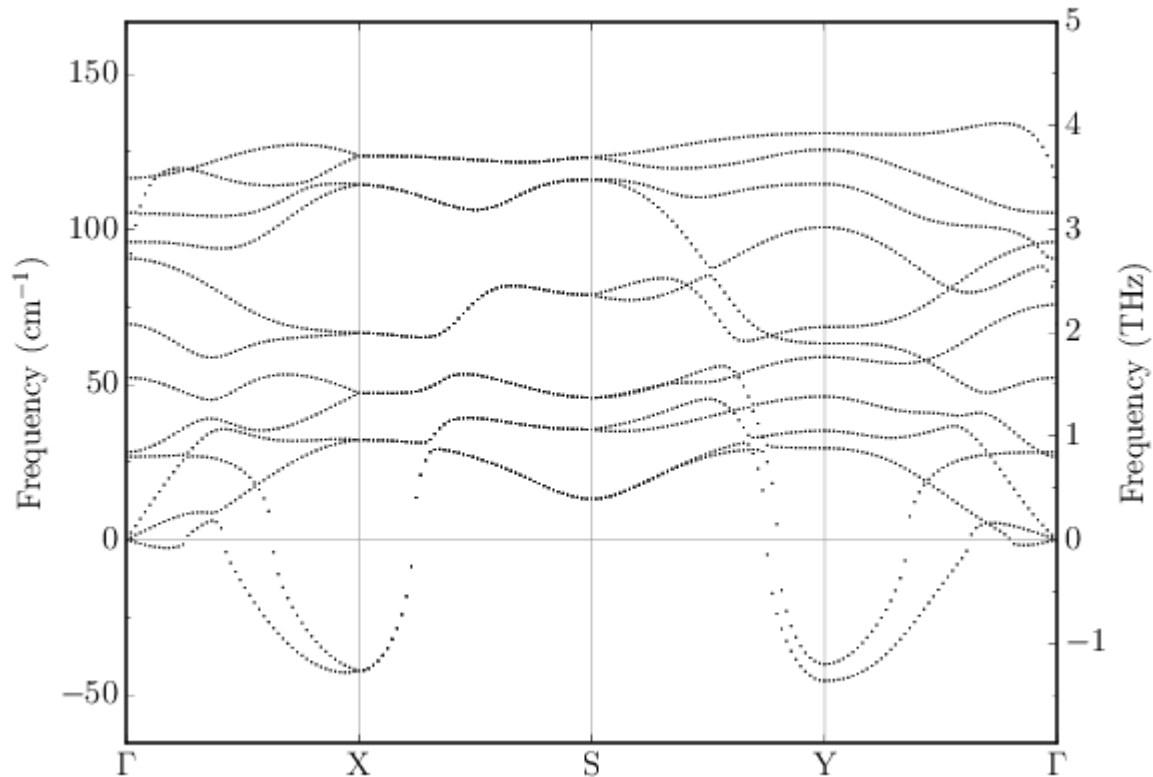
After stabilization:



Using `spglib` to refine symmetries and find primitive cells (A. Togo, <https://atztogo.github.io/spglib>)

# Phonon dispersions

Vibrational properties of 245 monolayers:



NM et al, arXiv:1611.05234 (2016), Nature Nanotech., in press (2018).



## Automation

## Data

## Environment

## Sharing

Automation  
Remote management  
High-throughput

Database  
Provenance  
Storage

Research environment  
Scientific workflows  
Data analytics

Social  
Sharing  
Standards



<http://www.aiida.net>

(MIT BSD, jointly developed with Robert Bosch)

G. Pizzi et al., *Comp. Mat. Sci.* 111, 218 (2016)



**A factory**



**A library**

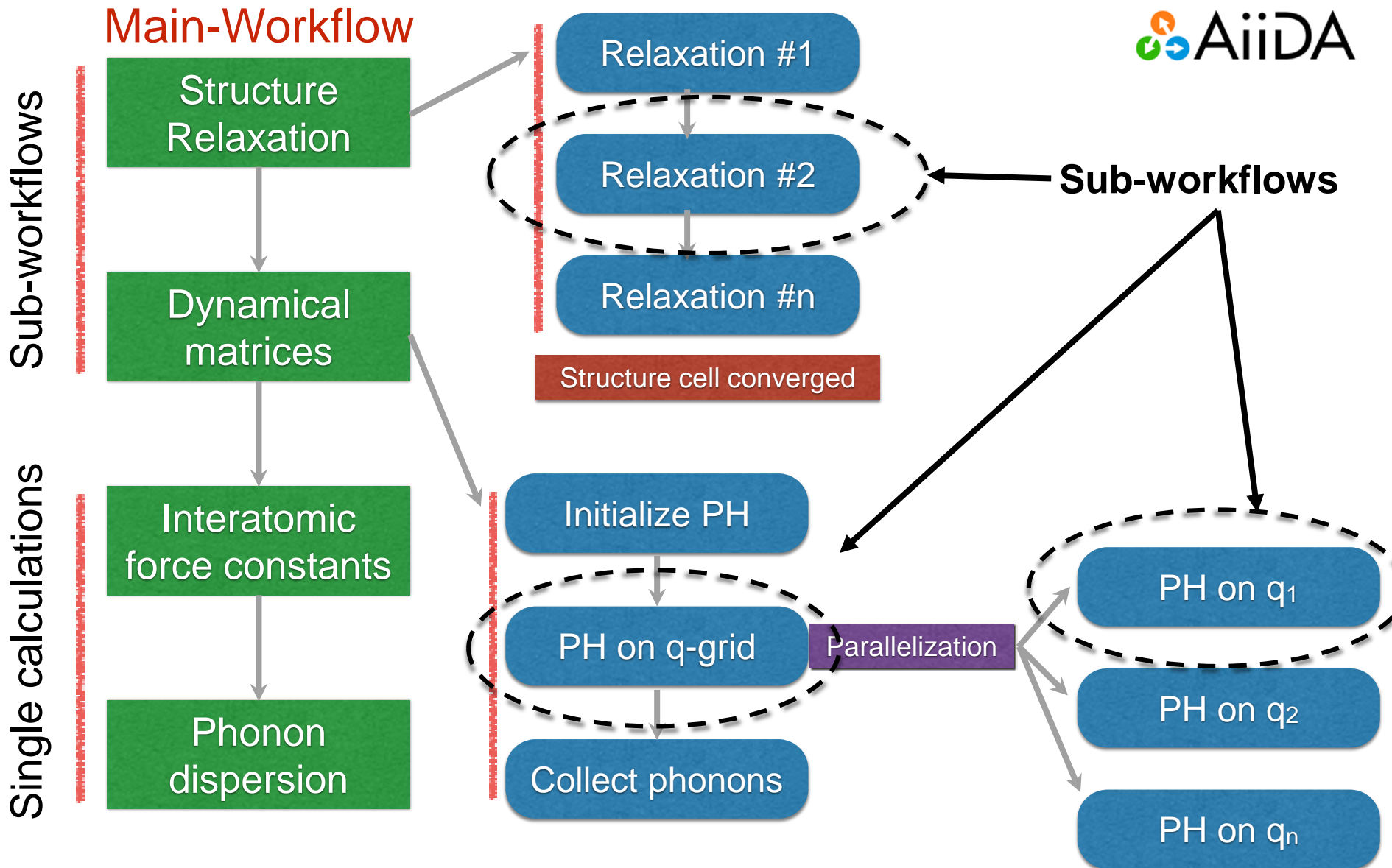


**A scholar**



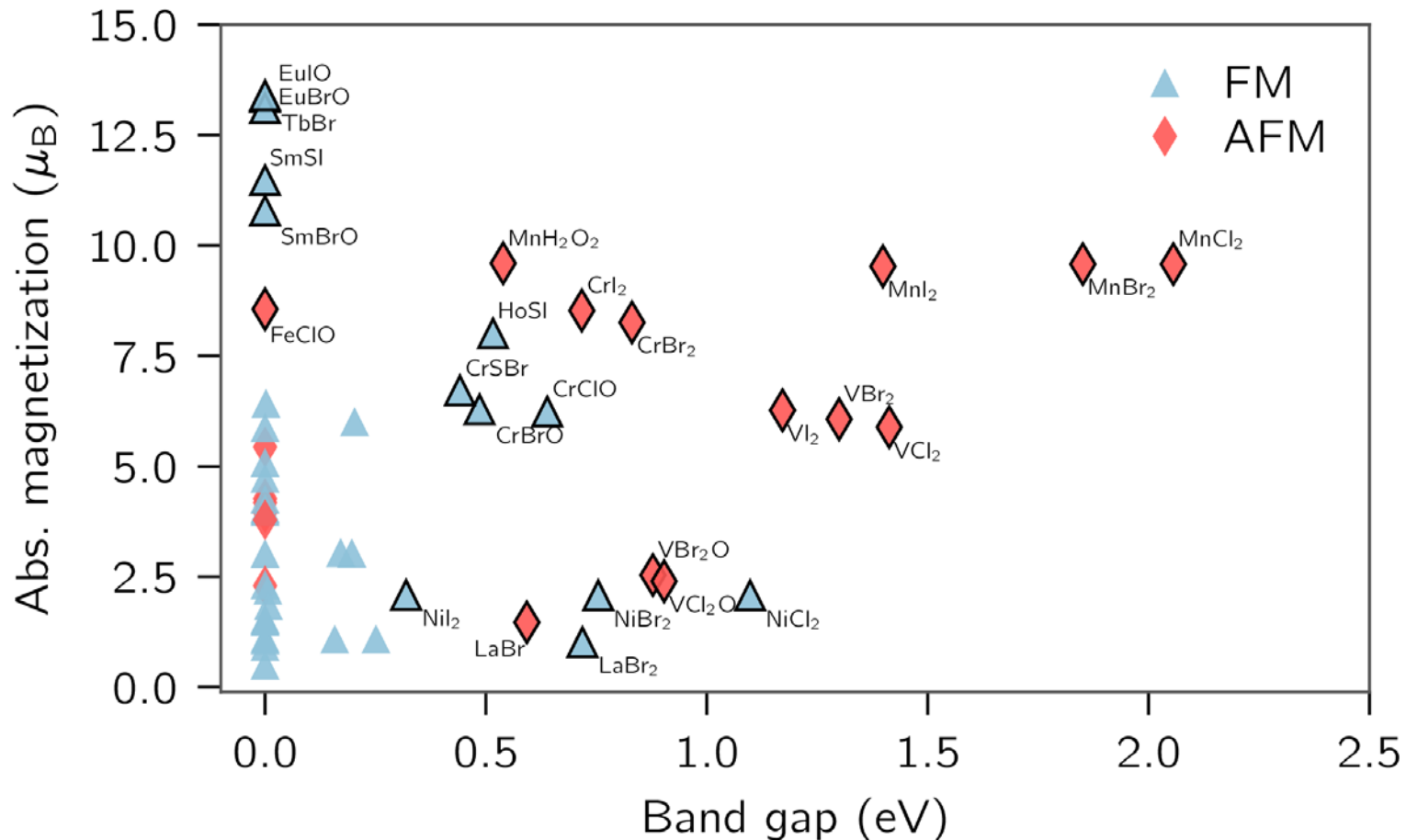
**A community**

# An AiiDA workflow: phonon dispersions



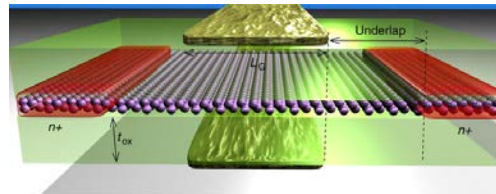
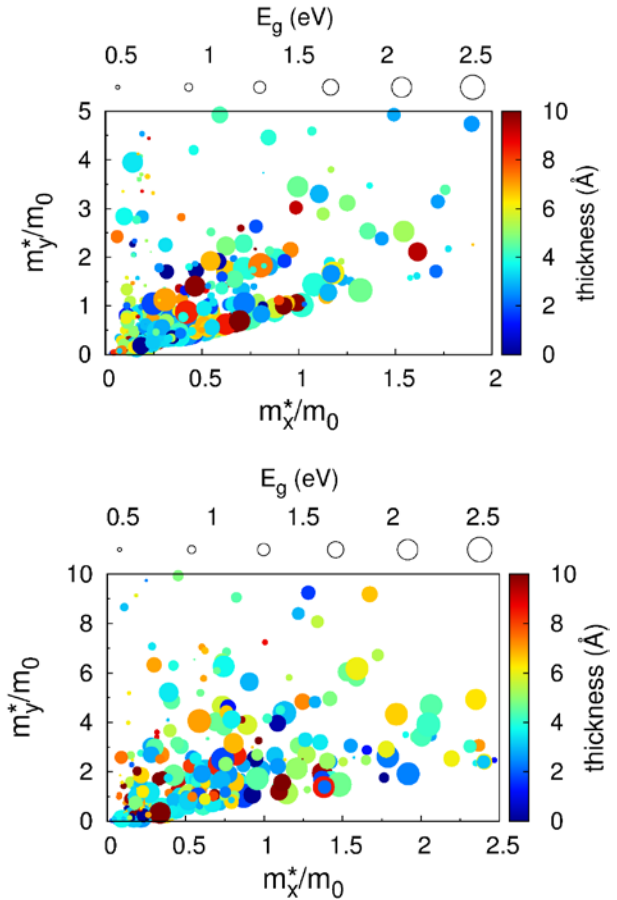
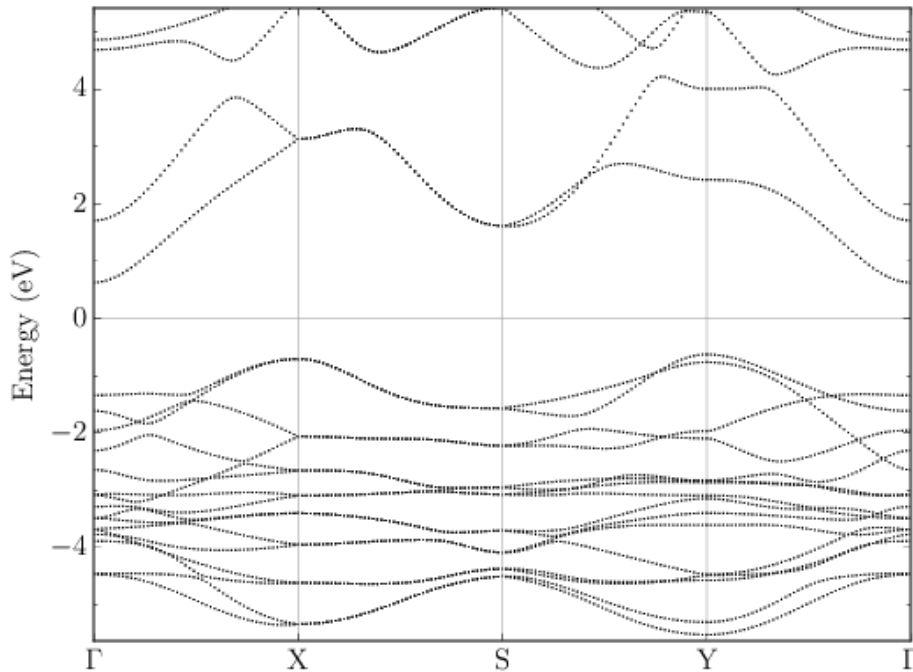
# Magnetic / electronic properties

- **Magnetic ground state** found after exploration of possible ferro- and antiferromagnetic configurations (DFT-PBE level), using supercells.
- Mapping **band-gaps** and **magnetic** properties for the **258** most promising monolayers:



# Optimal 2D materials for electronic applications

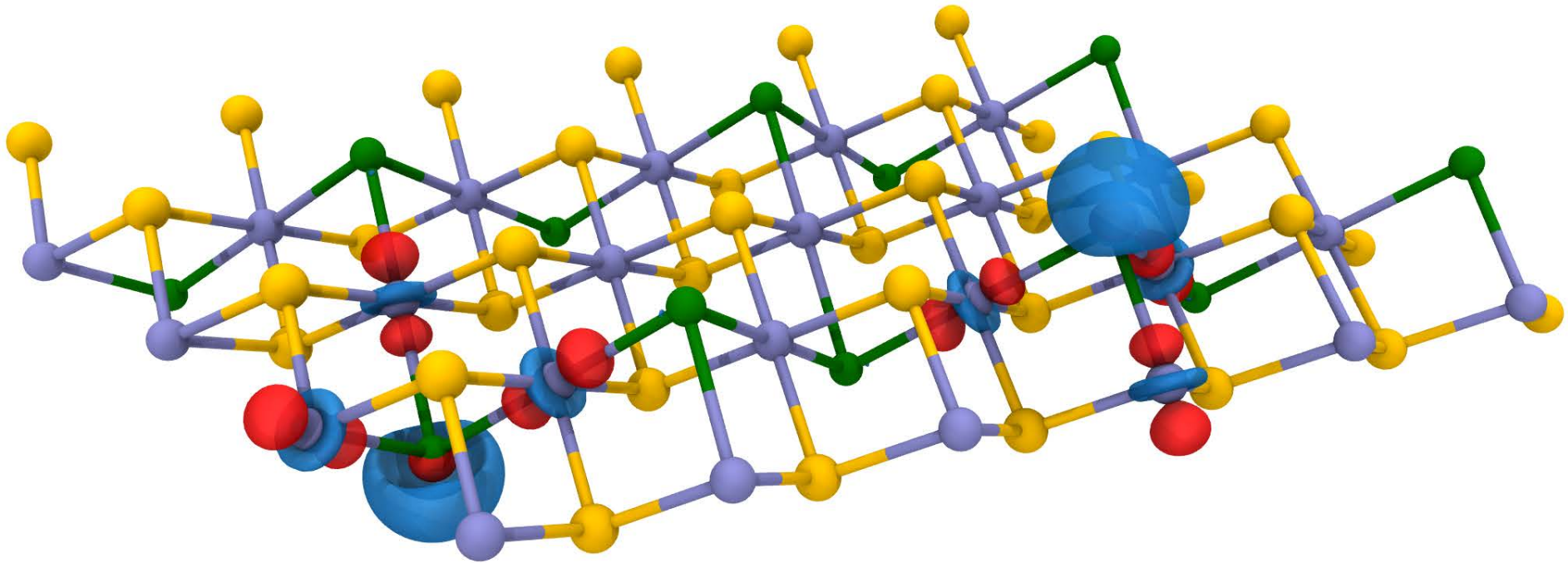
- Computing electronic band structures → band gap & effective masses (at the DFT-PBE level)



*D. Campi*, in preparation

# Search for topological insulators

- Novel 2D topological insulators candidates found, the optimal being **Jacutingaite** ( $\text{Pt}_2\text{HgSe}_3$  - 3D bulk form discovered in 2008, in Brazil)
  - see Antimo Marrazzo's poster, "*Prediction of a large-gap and switchable Kane-Mele quantum spin Hall insulator*"



A. Marrazzo, M. Gibertini, D. Campi, NM, N. Marzari, *arXiv:1712.03873* (2017)

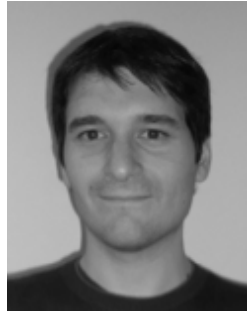
# 2D THANKS



**Marco Gibertini**



**Philippe Schwaller**



**Davide Campi**



**Andrius Merkys**



**Antimo Marrazzo**



**Thibault Sohier**



**Ivano E. Castelli**



**Andrea Cepellotti**

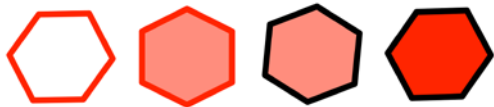


**Giovanni Pizzi**



**Nicola Marzari**

**MARVEL**



NATIONAL CENTRE OF COMPETENCE IN RESEARCH



**CSCS**

Centro Svizzero di Calcolo Scientifico  
Swiss National Supercomputing Centre



# Summary

- Around **5600 layered materials** were extracted from close to 480000 non unique, classified 3D structures.
- Among them, at least **1800 structures** exhibit weak interlayer bonding and **1000** of them are very good candidates for easy exfoliation.
- **2600 binding energies** were computed, all within the **AiiDA** platform (*G. Pizzi et al., Comp. Mat. Sci. 111, 218 - 2016*) which allows sharing, reproducibility, automatization, and efficient querying.
- **Phonons / magnetic / electronic / topological** properties were computed for **258** of them (easily exfoliable, small unit cell).
- All computed data with its provenance is available on Materials Cloud (<https://beta.materialscloud.org>), as well as under the doi <https://doi.org/10.24435/materialscloud:2017.0008/v1>

*NM, M. Gibertini, P. Schwaller, D. Campi, A. Merkys, A. Marrazzo, T. Sohier, I. E. Castelli, A. Cepellotti, G. Pizzi and N. Marzari, arXiv:1611.05234 (2016), Nature Nanotechnology, in press (2018).*