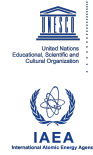




The Abdus Salam  
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**Combining High-throughput and Spacegroup Techniques  
to Understand the Microscopic Behaviour of Materials**

**Giovanni PIZZI**

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

Abstract:

Even if ferroelectric materials like  $\text{BaTiO}_3$  or  $\text{KNbO}_3$  have been used for decades in a broad range of technological applications, there is still significant debate in the literature concerning their microscopic behavior. For instance, many perovskite materials display a high-temperature cubic phase with zero net polarization, but its microscopic nature is though still unclear, with some materials displaying a very complex energy landscape with multiple local minima. In order to investigate and clarify the microscopic nature of oxide perovskites, we perform a study on a set of about 50 representative  $\text{ABO}_3$  systems. We use spacegroup techniques to systematically analyze all possible local displacement patterns that are compatible with a net paraelectric phase, but can provide local non-zero ferroelectric moments. The energetics and the stability of these patterns is then assessed by combining the spacegroup analysis with DFT calculations in a high-throughput fashion, using AiiDA. I will show how we have been able to describe the different classes of microscopic models underlying the perovskite systems using this combined technique. I will

also discuss additional examples from my research, where similar approaches can be adopted for the prediction of the properties of other material systems.