# Multi-component kernel notes

Jonathan Vandermause

(Dated: October 1, 2018)

### I. COMPUTING A COVARIANT N-BODY KERNEL

## II. SOAP IS A THREE-BODY KERNEL

Consider the multi-component SOAP kernel defined in Ref. [1],

$$k(\rho_1, \rho_2) = \int d\hat{R} \left( \int d\vec{r} \sum_{\alpha \alpha'} \kappa_{\alpha \alpha'} \rho_1^{\alpha}(\vec{r}) \rho_2^{\alpha'}(\hat{R}\vec{r}) \right)^2. \tag{1}$$

Recalling that

$$\rho_1^{\alpha}(\vec{r}) = \sum_{i \in \rho_1^{\alpha}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\vec{x}_i - \vec{r})^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \tag{2}$$

and performing the integral gives

$$\int d\vec{r} \sum_{\alpha\alpha'} \kappa_{\alpha\alpha'} \rho_1^{\alpha}(\vec{r}) \rho_2^{\alpha'}(\hat{R}\vec{r}) = \sum_{\alpha\alpha'} \sum_{i \in \rho_1^{\alpha}} \sum_{j \in \rho_2^{\alpha'}} \kappa_{\alpha\alpha'} \pi^{3/2} \sigma^3 \exp\left(-\frac{(\vec{x}_i - \hat{R}\vec{x}_j)}{4\sigma^2}\right).$$
(3)

The full kernel may therefore be written as

$$k(\rho_1, \rho_2) = \pi^3 \sigma^6 \sum_{\alpha \alpha' \beta \beta'} \kappa_{\alpha \alpha'} \kappa_{\beta \beta'} \sum_{\substack{i \in \rho_1^{\alpha} \\ j \in \rho_2^{\alpha'} \\ l \in \rho_2^{\beta'}}} \int d\hat{R} \exp\left(-\frac{(\vec{x}_i - \hat{R}\vec{x}_j)^2}{4\sigma^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{(\vec{x}_k - \hat{R}\vec{x}_l)^2}{4\sigma^2}\right).$$

$$(4)$$

This kernel captures angular information between at most two atoms in the environment. It is therefore not expected to be more accurate than Glielmo's three-body kernel [2], which directly compares pairs and triplets of distances without performing an integral over SO(3).

Normalizing the kernel and raising to a positive power may allow the model to capture many-body interactions, but the same procedure can be applied to the two- and three-body kernels of Ref. [2].

# III. COMPUTING THE POWER SPECTRUM

We wish to efficiently compute the power spectrum

$$p_{n\nu l} = \sqrt{\frac{8\pi^2}{2l+1}} \sum_{m} c_{nlm} c_{\nu lm}^*, \tag{5}$$

where  $c_{nlm}$  are expansion coefficients determined by

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_{nlm} c_{nlm} g_{nl}(r) Y_{lm}(\hat{r}). \tag{6}$$

 $\rho(\vec{r})$  is the atomic neighbor density

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_{i} \exp(-\alpha |\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i|^2) \tag{7}$$

and  $g_{nl}(r)$  are an orthonormal set of radial basis functions

$$\int dr r^2 g_{nl}(r) g_{n'l}(r) = \delta_{nn'}.$$
 (8)

Note that we allow the radial basis set to depend on l.

From [3], we have the following exact formula for  $\rho(\vec{r})$ :

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_{ilm} c_{lm}^i(r) Y_{lm}(\hat{r}) \tag{9}$$

where

$$c_{lm}^{i}(r) = 4\pi \exp(-\alpha(r^{2} + r_{i}^{2}))i_{l}(2\alpha r r_{i})Y_{lm}^{*}(\hat{r}_{i}).$$
(10)

Here  $i_l(x)$  is the modified spherical Bessel function of the first kind and is related to the modified Bessel function of the first kind  $I_l(x)$  according to

$$i_l(x) = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2x}} I_{l+1/2}(x).$$
 (11)

Let  $\phi_{nl}(r)$  be a set of functions and let

$$g_{nl}(r) = \sum_{n'} U_{nn'} \phi_{n'}(r) \tag{12}$$

be an orthonormal basis constructed out of  $\phi_n(r)$ . Then

$$c_{nlm} = \sum_{in'} 4\pi Y_{lm}^*(\hat{r}_i) U_{nn'} I_{n'l}(r_i)$$
(13)

where

$$I_{n'l} \equiv \int_0^\infty dr r^2 \exp(-\alpha (r^2 + r_i^2)) i_l(2\alpha r r_i) \phi_{n'l}(r).$$
 (14)

The integral identity [4]

$$\int_0^\infty t^{\nu+1} I_{\nu}(bt) \exp(-p^2 t^2) dt = \frac{b^{\nu}}{(2p^2)^{\nu+1}} \exp\left(\frac{b^2}{4p^2}\right)$$
 (15)

suggests that we choose the functions

$$\phi_{nl}(r) = r^l \exp\left(-\beta_n r^2\right),\tag{16}$$

which gives

$$I_{nl}(r_i) = \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\alpha r_i}} \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha \beta_n r_i^2}{\alpha + \beta_n}\right) \frac{(\alpha r_i)^{l+1/2}}{(\alpha + \beta_n)^{l+3/2}}.$$
 (17)

Defining

$$a_{nl}(r_i) \equiv \sum_{n'} U_{nn'} I_{n'l}(r_i), \tag{18}$$

we may write the expansion coefficients  $c_{nlm}$  as

$$c_{nlm} = \sum_{i} 4\pi a_{nl}(r_i) Y_{lm}^*(\hat{r}_i).$$
 (19)

The power spectrum then takes the form

$$p_{n\nu l} = \frac{32\pi^3 \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2l+1}} \sum_{mii'} a_{nl}(r_i) a_{\nu l}(r_{i'}) Y_{lm}^*(\hat{r}_i) Y_{lm}(\hat{r}_{i'})$$

$$= \frac{32\pi^3 \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{2l+1}} \sum_{ii'} a_{nl}(r_i) a_{\nu l}(r_{i'}) \left( \sum_{m} Y_{lm}^*(\hat{r}_i) Y_{lm}(\hat{r}_{i'}) \right).$$
(20)

By the addition theorem

$$\sum_{m} Y_{lm}(\hat{x}) Y_{lm}^*(\hat{y}) = \frac{2l+1}{4\pi} P_l(\hat{x} \cdot \hat{y}), \tag{21}$$

where  $P_l$  is the Legendre polynomial of degree l, the expression for the power spectrum becomes

$$p_{n\nu l} = 8\pi^2 \sqrt{4l + 2} \sum_{ii'} a_{nl}(r_i) a_{\nu l}(r_{i'}) P_l(\hat{r}_i \cdot \hat{r}_{i'})$$
(22)

# IV. COMPUTING THE DERIVATIVE OF THE POWER SPECTRUM

To predict forces, the derivative of the power spectrum with respect to the Cartesian coordinates of the central atom is needed. Let  $\xi_{ki}$  denote the  $k^{\text{th}}$  Cartesian component of atom i and  $\xi_{k0}$  denote the  $k^{\text{th}}$  Cartesian component of the central atom. The derivative of the power spectrum is given by

$$\frac{\partial p_{n\nu l}}{\partial \xi_{k0}} = 8\pi^2 \sqrt{4l + 2} \sum_{ii'} \left( \frac{\partial a_{nl}(r_i)}{\partial r_i} \frac{\partial r_i}{\partial \xi_{k0}} a_{\nu l}(r_{i'}) P_l(\hat{r}_i \cdot \hat{r}_{i'}) + a_{nl}(r_i) \frac{\partial a_{\nu l}(r_{i'})}{\partial r_{i'}} \frac{\partial r_{i'}}{\partial \xi_{k0}} P_l(\hat{r}_i \cdot \hat{r}_{i'}) + a_{nl}(r_i) a_{\nu l}(r_{i'}) \frac{\partial P_l(\hat{r}_i \cdot \hat{r}_{i'})}{\partial (\hat{r}_i \cdot \hat{r}_{i'})} \frac{\partial (\hat{r}_i \cdot \hat{r}_{i'})}{\partial \xi_{k0}} \right)$$
(23)

We now show how each of the derivatives appearing in this expression can be efficiently evaluated. First, note that

$$a'_{nl}(r_i) \equiv \frac{\partial a_{nl}}{\partial r_i} = \sum_{n'} U_{nn'} I'_{n'l}(r_i), \tag{24}$$

where

$$I'_{nl}(r_i) \equiv \frac{\partial I_{nl}}{\partial r_i} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\alpha}{4} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha r_i}\right)^{3/2} \frac{(\alpha r_i)^{l+1/2}}{(\alpha + \beta_n)^{l+5/2}} (-2r_i^2 \alpha \beta_n + l(\alpha + \beta_n)). \tag{25}$$

Next, note that

$$\frac{\partial r_i}{\partial \xi_{k0}} = -\frac{\xi_{ki}}{r_i},\tag{26}$$

assuming the central atom is fixed at the origin. The derivative of the Legendre polynomial may be efficiently evaluated using the identity

$$\frac{dP_n(x)}{dx} = \frac{n}{x^2 - 1} (xP_n(x) - P_{n-1}(x)). \tag{27}$$

Finally, it is easy to show that

$$\frac{\partial(\hat{r}_i \cdot \hat{r}_j)}{\partial \xi_0} = \frac{-(\xi_{ki} + \xi_{kj})r_i r_j + (\hat{r}_i \cdot \hat{r}_j)(r_j^2 \xi_{ki} + r_i^2 \xi_{kj})}{r_i^2 r_j^2},\tag{28}$$

again assuming that the central atom is fixed at the origin.

### V. COMPUTING THE DERIVATIVE OF THE SOAP KERNEL

The full SOAP kernel is the dot product of normalized power spectra raised to a positive power. In our approach, the covariance between local energies  $\epsilon_i$  is modelled by the SOAP kernel,

$$\langle \epsilon_i \epsilon_j \rangle = K(\hat{p}_i, \hat{p}_j) = (\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{p}_j)^{\xi},$$
 (29)

where  $\hat{p}_i$  denotes the normalized power spectrum of environment *i*. To model forces, the covariance of the partial derivatives of the local energies is needed:

$$\left\langle \frac{\partial \epsilon_{i}}{\partial \xi_{ik}}, \frac{\partial \epsilon_{j}}{\partial \xi_{jl}} \right\rangle = \frac{\partial^{2} \langle \epsilon_{i} \epsilon_{j} \rangle}{\partial \xi_{ik} \partial \xi_{jl}} 
= \frac{\partial^{2} K(\hat{p}_{i}, \hat{p}_{j})}{\partial \xi_{ik} \partial \xi_{jl}} 
= \sum_{\alpha \beta} \frac{\partial p_{i\alpha}}{\partial \xi_{ik}} \frac{\partial^{2} K(\hat{p}_{i}, \hat{p}_{j})}{\partial p_{i\alpha} \partial p_{j\beta}} \frac{\partial p_{j\beta}}{\partial \xi_{jl}},$$
(30)

where  $p_{i\alpha}$  is component  $\alpha$  of the normalized power spectrum  $\hat{p}_i$ . The derivatives of the power spectra with respect to Cartesian components may be evaluated using the expressions from Section 2. The remaining term is

$$\frac{\partial^2 K(\hat{p}_i, \hat{p}_j)}{\partial p_{i\alpha} \partial p_{j\beta}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{i\alpha}} \left( \xi(\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{p}_j)^{\xi - 1} p_{i\beta} \right) 
= \xi(\xi - 1) (\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{p}_j)^{\xi - 2} p_{j\alpha} p_{i\beta} + \xi(\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{p}_j)^{\xi - 1} \delta_{\alpha\beta} 
= \xi(\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{p}_j)^{\xi - 2} \left( (\xi - 1) p_{j\alpha} p_{i\beta} + (\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{p}_j) \delta_{\alpha\beta} \right).$$
(31)

Notice that if  $\xi = 1$ , the double sum collapses into a single sum. Raising the SOAP kernel to a power  $\xi > 1$  therefore comes at a significant computational cost. In [5], it is claimed that the role of  $\xi$  is to sharpen the selectivity of the similarity measure. However, it seems that the hyperparameter  $\alpha$  plays the exact same role. To see this, notice that in the limit of infinite  $\alpha$ , the atomic density becomes a sum of Dirac delta functions, and the covariance is nonzero only if the atomic environments are identical. In the limit  $\alpha \to 0$ , the atomic density becomes a constant, and all atomic densities are treated the same (up to a constant). Tuning  $\alpha$  properly may make the  $\xi$  hyperparameter unnecessary.

## VI. REVIEW OF THE SINGLE-COMPONENT SOAP KERNEL

In the SOAP scheme, an atomic environment is represented by an atomic neighbor density function  $\rho(\vec{r})$ , where

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_{i} \exp\left(-\alpha |\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i|^2\right), \tag{32}$$

 $\alpha$  is a hyperparameter, and  $\vec{r_i}$  is the position of atom i in the environment of the central atom. The single-component SOAP kernel between two atomic neighbor densities  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$  is defined by Eq. (36) of [3] as:

$$K(\rho, \rho') = \left(\frac{k(\rho, \rho')}{\sqrt{k(\rho, \rho)k(\rho', \rho')}}\right)^{\xi}, \tag{33}$$

where  $k(\rho, \rho')$  is a rotationally invariant symmetry kernel given by

$$k(\rho, \rho') = \int d\hat{R} \left| \int \rho(\vec{r}) \rho'(\hat{R}\vec{r}) d\vec{r} \right|^n, \tag{34}$$

and  $\hat{R}$  is a 3-D rotation. The outer integral is over all rotations and ensures that the kernel is rotationally symmetric.

In Section IV(B) of [3], it is shown that  $k(\rho, \rho')$  is equal to the dot product of the "rotational power spectra" of densities  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$ , which is efficient to compute. I will review this derivation here, since a similar argument can be applied to multi-component systems.

Letting  $g_n(r)$  be an orthonormal set of radial basis functions, so that

$$\int dr r^2 g_n(r) g_{n'}(r) = \delta_{nn'}, \tag{35}$$

an atomic neighbor density  $\rho(\vec{r})$  may be expanded into spherical harmonics as

$$\rho(\vec{r}) = \sum_{nlm} c_{nlm} g_n(r) Y_{lm}(\vec{r}). \tag{36}$$

We first compute that

$$S(\rho, \hat{R}\rho') \equiv \int d\vec{r} \rho(\vec{r}) \rho'(\hat{R}\vec{r})$$

$$= \int d\vec{r} \left( \sum_{nlm} c_{nlm}^* g_n(r) Y_{lm}^*(\hat{r}) \right) \left( \sum_{n'l'm'} c_{n'l'm'}' g_{n'}(r) Y_{l'm'}(\hat{R}\vec{r}) \right)$$

$$= \sum_{nlmn'l'm'} c_{nlm}^* c_{n'l'm'}' \int dr r^2 g_n(r) g_{n'}(r) \int d\hat{r} Y_{lm}^*(\hat{r}) Y_{l'm'}(\hat{R}\vec{r})$$

$$= \sum_{nlm'l'm'} c_{nlm}^* c_{nl'm'}' \int d\hat{r} Y_{lm}^*(\hat{r}) Y_{l'm'}(\hat{R}\vec{r}).$$
(37)

Note that

$$Y_{l'm'}(\vec{R}\hat{r}) = \langle \vec{r} | \hat{R}^{\dagger} | Y_{l'm'} \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{m''} \langle \vec{r} | Y_{l'm''} \rangle \langle Y_{l'm''} | \hat{R}^{\dagger} | Y_{l'm'} \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{m''} \langle \vec{r} | Y_{l'm''} \rangle \langle Y_{l'm'} | \hat{R} | Y_{l'm''} \rangle^*$$

$$= \sum_{m''} Y_{l'm''}(\hat{r}) D^*(\hat{R})^{l'}_{m'm''},$$
(38)

where the Wigner function  $D(\hat{R})_{mm'}^l$  is defined as

$$D(\hat{R})_{mm'}^{l} = \langle Y_{lm} | \hat{R} | Y_{lm'} \rangle. \tag{39}$$

Plugging into Eq. (37) gives

$$S(\rho, \hat{R}\rho') = \sum_{nlml'm'm''} c_{nlm}^* c'_{nl'm'} D^*(\hat{R})_{m'm''}^{l'} \int d\hat{r} Y_{lm}^*(\hat{r}) Y_{l'm''}(\hat{r})$$

$$= \sum_{nlmm'} c_{nlm}^* c'_{nlm'} D^*(\hat{R})_{m'm}^{l}.$$
(40)

The symmetry kernel  $k(\rho, \rho')$  with n=2 then takes the form

$$k(\rho, \rho') = \int d\hat{R} S(\rho, \hat{R}\rho') S^*(\rho, \hat{R}\rho')$$

$$= \sum_{nlmm'n'\lambda\mu\mu'} c_{nlm}^* c'_{nlm'} c_{n'\lambda\mu} (c'_{n'\lambda\mu'})^* \int d\hat{R} D^*(\hat{R})^l_{m'm} D(\hat{R})^{\lambda}_{\mu'\mu}$$

$$= \sum_{nlmm'n'} \frac{8\pi^2}{2l+1} c^*_{nlm} c'_{nlm'} c_{n'lm} (c'_{n'lm'})^*$$

$$= \sum_{nn'l} \frac{8\pi^2}{2l+1} \left( \sum_{m} c^*_{nlm} c_{n'lm} \right) \left( \sum_{m'} c'_{nlm'} (c'_{n'lm'})^* \right)$$

$$= \sum_{nn'l} \frac{8\pi^2}{2l+1} p_{n'nl} p'_{nn'l},$$
(41)

where  $p_{nn'l} \equiv \sum_{m} c_{nlm} c_{n'lm}^*$  is the rotational power spectrum. The power spectrum of a real function is real, so  $p_{n'nl} = p_{nn'l}$ , and  $k(\rho, \rho')$  may be expressed as the dot product of the power spectra  $\vec{p}$  and  $\vec{p'}$ :

$$k(\rho, \rho') = \vec{p} \cdot \vec{p'}. \tag{42}$$

The full SOAP kernel  $K(\rho, \rho')$  is the dot product of normalized power spectra raised to a positive power:

$$K(\rho, \rho') = \left(\frac{\vec{p}}{|\vec{p}|} \cdot \frac{\vec{p'}}{|\vec{p'}|}\right)^{\xi}.$$
 (43)

#### VII. REVIEW OF THE MULTI-COMPONENT SOAP KERNEL

We now review the multi-species version of the SOAP kernel proposed in [1]. Consider a two-component system. Let  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$  denote two atomic environments, with  $\rho_A$ ,  $\rho_B$  the atomic neighbor densities of atom types A and B in environment  $\rho$ , and  $\rho'_A$ ,  $\rho'_B$  the densities of A and B in environment  $\rho'$ . We define the MOP kernel between  $\rho$  and  $\rho'$  by direct analogy to the SOAP kernel:

$$K_{\text{MOP}}(\rho, \rho') = \left(\frac{k_{\text{MOP}}(\rho, \rho')}{\sqrt{k_{\text{MOP}}(\rho, \rho)k_{\text{MOP}}(\rho', \rho')}}\right)^{\xi}, \tag{44}$$

where  $k_{\text{MOP}}(\rho, \rho')$  is a rotationally invariant symmetry kernel given by

$$k_{\text{MOP}}(\rho, \rho') = \int d\hat{R} \left| \int \left( \rho_A(\vec{r}) \rho'_A(\hat{R}\vec{r}) + \rho_B(\vec{r}) \rho'_B(\hat{R}\vec{r}) \right) d\vec{r} \right|^2$$

$$= \int d\hat{R} \left| \int \rho_A(\vec{r}) \rho'_A(\hat{R}\vec{r}) d\vec{r} \right|^2 + \int d\hat{R} \left| \int \rho_B(\vec{r}) \rho'_B(\hat{R}\vec{r}) d\vec{r} \right|^2$$

$$+ \int d\hat{R} \left( \int d\vec{r} \rho_A(\vec{r}) \rho'_A(\hat{R}\vec{r}) \right) \left( \int d\vec{r} \rho_B(\vec{r}) \rho'_B(\hat{R}\vec{r}) \right)^*$$

$$+ \int d\hat{R} \left( \int d\vec{r} \rho_A(\vec{r}) \rho'_A(\hat{R}\vec{r}) \right)^* \left( \int d\vec{r} \rho_B(\vec{r}) \rho'_B(\hat{R}\vec{r}) \right)$$

$$= k(\rho_A, \rho'_A) + k(\rho_B, \rho'_B) + k_{\text{cross}}(\rho, \rho') + k_{\text{cross}}^*(\rho, \rho'),$$

$$(45)$$

which is the sum of the SOAP kernels between the two density types plus a cross term  $k_{\text{cross}}$ , which we now analyze in detail.

From the derivation in part 1, we have that

$$\int d\vec{r} \rho_A(\vec{r}) \rho_A'(\hat{R}\hat{r}) = \sum_{nlmm'} (c_{nlm}^A)^* c_{nlm}^{'A} D^*(\hat{R})_{m'm}^l, \tag{46}$$

$$\int d\vec{r} \rho_B(\vec{r}) \rho_B'(\hat{R}\hat{r}) = \sum_{n'\lambda\mu\mu'} (c_{n'\lambda\mu}^B)^* c_{n'\lambda\mu}^{'B} D^*(\hat{R})_{\mu'\mu}^l, \tag{47}$$

and thus

$$k_{\text{cross}}(\rho, \rho') = \int d\hat{R} S(\rho_A, \hat{R} \rho'_A) S^*(\rho_B, \hat{R} \rho'_B)$$

$$= \sum_{nlmm'n'\lambda\mu\mu'} (c_{nlm}^A)^* c_{nlm'}^{'A} c_{n'\lambda\mu}^B (c_{n'\lambda\mu'}^{'B})^* \int d\hat{R} D^*(\hat{R})_{m'm}^l D(\hat{R})_{\mu'\mu}^{\lambda}$$

$$= \sum_{nlmm'n'} \frac{8\pi^2}{2l+1} (c_{nlm}^A)^* c_{nlm'}^{'A} c_{n'lm}^B (c_{n'lm'}^{'B})^*$$

$$= \sum_{nn'l} \frac{8\pi^2}{2l+1} \left( \sum_m (c_{nlm}^A)^* c_{n'lm}^B \right) \left( \sum_m c_{nlm'}^{'A} (c_{n'lm'}^{'B})^* \right)$$

$$= \vec{p}_{AB} \cdot \vec{p}_{AB}^I,$$
(48)

which is the dot product of the cross power spectra of the two environments. The symmetric MOP kernel  $k_{\text{MOP}}(\rho, \rho')$  before normalization therefore takes the form

$$k_{\text{MOP}}(\rho, \rho') = \vec{p}_A \cdot \vec{p}_A' + \vec{p}_B \cdot \vec{p}_B' + 2\vec{p}_{AB} \cdot \vec{p}_{AB}'. \tag{49}$$

Notice that if one of the densities vanishes, e.g.  $\vec{\rho}_A = 0$ , the MOP kernel reduces to the SOAP kernel. MOP may therefore be viewed as a generalization of SOAP that is suitable

for multicomponent systems.

- S. De, A. P. Bartók, G. Csányi, and M. Ceriotti, Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics 18, 13754 (2016).
- [2] A. Glielmo, C. Zeni, and A. De Vita, Physical Review B 97, 184307 (2018).
- [3] A. P. Bartók, R. Kondor, and G. Csányi, Physical Review B 87, 184115 (2013).
- [4] Digital Library of Mathematical Functions: https://dlmf.nist.gov/10.43.
- [5] W. J. Szlachta, A. P. Bartók, and G. Csányi, Physical Review B 90, 104108 (2014).