

# Machine-learned embedded atom method

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Atomistic modeling plays a vital role in materials science. *ab initio* calculation or force-field based molecular dynamics simulation (MD) are effective ways to study, understand or predict chemical and physical properties of materials. *ab initio* approaches are generally much more precise but they are rarely used on large-scale metallic systems due to their extremely-high computation expenses. Physical model based empirical potential (force-field), such as the embedded-atom method (EAM), modified embedded-atom method (MEAM), bond-order potential (BoP), or angular-dependent potential (ADP), still plays the major role in long-time simulations and these empirical methods can achieve reasonable accuracy with much lower computation costs. Empirical potentials generally have very few learnable parameters and both microscopic observables (energy, forces, virial, etc.) and macroscopic observables (melting point, surface energy, etc.) can be used to tune these parameters. Finding optimal parameters of empirical potentials is always a challenging task. Global optimization (GO) approaches (Basin-Hopping, genetic algorithm, etc) are traditionally used to find the best possible parameters. However, the gradients of the losses with respect to model parameters are difficult or even impossible to calculate. Hence, GO optimizations are generally not that effective.

In the last decade, machine learning (ML) has become one of the hottest topics in many research areas. In the materials science, researchers have made great efforts on developing ML models to describe atomic interactions. Such ML models are considered as machine learning interaction potentials (MLIPs). Until now, hundreds of MLIPs have been proposed. Among them, the symmetry-function based atomistic neural network (ANN) model, published by Parinello and Behler in 2007, is still the most popular choice in modeling metallic interactions. The smooth overlap atomic positions descriptor based gaussian approximation potential (SOAP-GAP), developed by Bartók et al, can give extremely accurate prediction results, although it's a bit computationally expensive. Recently, Thompson and co-workers proposed another quantum-accurate MLIP named the spectral neighbor analysis potential (SNAP) and it has been proven working on a broad range of metals and alloys.

In many cases, MLIPs can easily outperform state-of-art empirical potentials. Compared with empirical potentials, MLIPs generally have orders of magnitudes more model parameters. The redundant parameter space greatly reduces the difficulty of fitting complicated potential energy surfaces. But, to effectively train a MLIP and

avoid overfitting, a large high-quality (versatile) training dataset is probably needed. However, MLIPs **can really** take advantages of "big data" for two reasons. First, MLIPs typically only have *basic* or *simple* arithmetic operations. Thus, MLIPs can be implemented within modern deep learning frameworks (TensorFlow, PyTorch, etc) so that the gradients of the total loss with respect to fitting parameters can be obtained with the backpropagation algorithm automatically and efficiently. Second, MLIPs are mostly vectorizable. Hence, GPUs can be utilized to significantly accelerate training and using of MLIPs.

However, MLIPs also have challenges. The large parameter space and lack of physical background makes the "big data" a necessity. The cost of dataset is non-negligible. Besides, even "big data" can only cover a small portion of real physical environments (temperature, external pressure, etc). Outside the training zone, the performances of MLIPs may not that stable. For long-time molecular dynamics (MD) simulations of large-scale ( $10^5$  or more) systems, computation efficiency also becomes a major concern. Recent benchmark tests suggest that MLIPs are still too expensive. At present, most MLIPs are used to examine small to medium ( $10^3$  to  $10^4$ ) systems.

In this work, instead of designing new atomic descriptors, we chose a new route to develop MLIP: combining machine learning with empirical potentials. We successfully implemented EAM and its variant ADP within TensorFlow so that machine learning approaches can be used directly to tune EAM and ADP potentials. Our results suggest ML-EAM or ML-ADP can be as precise as the SNAP machine learning method.

This paper is organized as follows. Section II describes the theoretical background of this work, including the formalism of the embedded atom method and algorithms and details of the machine learned EAM. Section III summarizes the training results and the optimal parameters. Applications of the new potentials are discussed in Section IV.

## II. METHOD

### A. Theory

In the original EAM formalism, the total energy,  $E^{total}$ , is the sum of atomic energies:

$$\begin{aligned} E^{total} &= \sum_i^N E_i \\ &= \sum_i^N F_a(\rho_i) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^N \sum_{j \neq i}^{r_{ij} < r_c} \phi_{ab}(r_{ij}) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $r_c$  is the cutoff radius,  $a$  and  $b$  represents species of atoms  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $\phi_{ab}(r_{ij})$  is energy of the pairwise interaction between  $i$  and  $j$ ,  $F_a(\rho_i)$  is the embedding energy and  $\rho_i$  is the local electron density of atom  $i$ .  $\rho_i$  can be calculated with the following equation:

$$\rho_i = \sum_j^{r_{ij} < r_c} \rho_b(r_{ij}) \quad (2)$$

where  $\rho_b$  is the electron density function of specie  $b$ . In the Finnis-Sinclair model, the electron density has a slightly modified form:

$$\rho_i^{FS} = \sum_j^{r_{ij} < r_c} \rho_{ab}(r_{ij}) \quad (3)$$

$F$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\phi$  can be either parameterized functions or cubic splines.

The original EAM formalism does not include angular-dependent interactions. To fix this problem, Baskes modified the original EAM and got MEAM (modified embedded-atom method), Lenosky proposed an alternative spline-based interpretation of MEAM while Mishin developed the angular-dependent potential (ADP). The ADP formalism introduces three additional terms to the total energy:

$$\begin{aligned} E^{total} &= E^{EAM} \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_{\alpha} (\mu_i^{\alpha})^2 \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_{\alpha} \sum_{\beta} (\lambda_i^{\alpha\beta})^2 \\ &- \frac{1}{6} \sum_i \nu_i^2 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

These terms represent non-central bonding contributions and they can be computed with the following equations:

$$\mu_i^{\alpha} = \sum_{j \neq i} \mu_{ab}(r_{ij}) r_{ij}^{\alpha} \quad (5)$$

$$\lambda_i^{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{j \neq i} \omega_{ab}(r_{ij}) r_{ij}^{\alpha} r_{ij}^{\beta} \quad (6)$$

$$\nu_i = \sum_{\alpha} \lambda_i^{\alpha\alpha} \quad (7)$$

where  $\mu_{ab}(r)$  and  $\omega_{ab}(r)$  can be viewed as measures of the strengths of dipole and quadrupole interactions.

### B. Transformation

To integrate EAM/ADP with machine learning, the original total energy expression (Equation 1) must be transformed to a vectorizable form. Without loss of generality, we take the binary alloy, AB, to demonstrate how to do the transformation.

Suppose the cutoff radius  $r_c$  is fixed, the energy of atom  $i$  of specie  $A$  can be calculated with the following expanded equation:

$$\begin{aligned} E_i^A &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq i}^{N_i^{AA}} \phi_{AA}(r_{ij}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq i}^{N_i^{AB}} \phi_{AB}(r_{ij}) \\ &+ F_A \left( \sum_{j \neq i}^{N_i^{AA}} \rho_A(r_{ij}) + \sum_{j \neq i}^{N_i^{AB}} \rho_B(r_{ij}) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where  $N_i^{AA}$  represents the number of A-type neighbors of atom  $i$  and  $N_i^{AB}$  represents the number of B-type neighbors. For atom  $j$  of specie  $B$ , we can also write a similar form.

$$\begin{aligned} E_j^B &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j}^{N_j^{BB}} \phi_{BB}(r_{ij}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j}^{N_j^{BA}} \phi_{AB}(r_{ij}) \\ &+ F_B \left( \sum_{j \neq i}^{N_j^{BB}} \rho_B(r_{ij}) + \sum_{j \neq i}^{N_j^{BA}} \rho_A(r_{ij}) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

When  $r_c$  is fixed,  $N_i^{AA}$ ,  $N_i^{AB}$ ,  $N_j^{BB}$  and  $N_j^{BA}$  are all constants and  $N_i^{nl}$  is the maximum of these numbers. Finally, we can pre-determine the maximum neighbor list size  $N^{nl}$ :

$$N^{nl} = \max(N_i^{nl}) \quad (10)$$

$N^{nl}$  is also a constant in the training phase because both the training dataset and  $r_c$  are fixed.

Next, assume  $H(x)$  represents the heaviside step function:

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x > 0 \\ 0 & x \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

then the pairwise term can be transformed to:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j \neq i}^{N_i^{AA}} \phi_{AA}(r_{ij}) &= \sum_{j \neq i}^{N_i^{AA}} \phi_{AA}(r_{ij}) \cdot 1 + \sum_{j \neq i}^{N^{nl} - N_i^{AA}} \phi_{AA}(0) \cdot 0 \\ &= \phi_{AA}(\vec{r}_i^{AA})^T H(\vec{r}_i^{AA}) \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where  $\vec{r}_i^{AA}$  is a  $N^{nl}$ -length column vector whose last  $N^{nl} - N_i^{AA}$  elements are zeros.

We can write Equation 9 in an equivalent expression:

$$E_i^A = \frac{1}{2} (\phi_{AA}(\vec{r}_i^{AA})^T H(\vec{r}_i^{AA}) + \phi_{AB}(\vec{r}_i^{AB})^T H(\vec{r}_i^{AB})) + F_A (\rho_{AA}(\vec{r}_i^{AA})^T H(\vec{r}_i^{AA}) + \rho_{AB}(\vec{r}_i^{AB})^T H(\vec{r}_i^{AB})) \quad (13)$$

Here  $\vec{r}_i^{AB}$  is also a  $N^{\text{nl}}$ -length vector. For atom  $j$  of specie  $B$ , we can also derive its energy  $E_j^B$ :

$$E_j^B = \frac{1}{2} (\phi_{BB}(\vec{r}_j^{BB})^T H(\vec{r}_j^{BB}) + \phi_{BA}(\vec{r}_j^{BA})^T H(\vec{r}_j^{BA})) + F_A (\rho_{BB}(\vec{r}_j^{BB})^T H(\vec{r}_j^{BB}) + \rho_{BA}(\vec{r}_j^{BA})^T H(\vec{r}_j^{BA})) \quad (14)$$

Since  $\vec{r}_i^{AA}$ ,  $\vec{r}_i^{AB}$ ,  $\vec{r}_i^{BB}$  and  $\vec{r}_i^{BA}$  all have the same length ( $N^{\text{nl}}$ ), we can use a (redundant) matrix,  $\mathbf{g}_i$ , to describe all neighbors of atom  $i$ :

$$\mathbf{g}_i = [\vec{r}_i^{AA} \quad \vec{r}_i^{AB} \quad \vec{r}_i^{BB} \quad \vec{r}_i^{BA}] \quad (15)$$

$\mathbf{g}_i$  is a  $N^{\text{nl}} \times 4$  matrix. If the specie of atom  $i$  is A, only the first two columns have non-zero values. Similarly, the last two columns will have non-zeros values if atom  $i$  is a B-type atom. In fact,  $\mathbf{g}_i$  can be viewed as the EAM descriptors for atom  $i$ . Hence, each structure can be expressed with a 3D matrix,  $\mathbf{G}$ , of shape  $N \times N^{\text{nl}} \times 4$ .

During the training phase, the maximum appearances of element A and B in any structure ( $N_A^{\text{max}}$  and  $N_B^{\text{max}}$ ) are also constants. Thus, any  $\mathbf{G}$  can be expanded to a  $(N_A^{\text{max}} + N_B^{\text{max}}) \times N^{\text{nl}} \times 4$  matrix  $\mathbf{G}'$  by zero-padding. In summary, arbitrary structure in the training dataset can be converted to a fixed-shape descriptor matrix  $\mathbf{G}'$ .

For the ADP formalism, the corresponding transformation is almost the same except that  $\mathbf{g}_i^{\text{adp}}$  should also include the XYZ components of  $\vec{r}_i$ .

### C. Functions

In this work, we use the EAM potential published by Zhou, Johnson and Wadley (Zjw04) as an example to validate our machine learning approach. Zjw04 is a quite popular EAM potential. In the Zjw04 potential, the electron density function has the following form:

$$\rho_b(r) = \frac{f_e \exp[-\beta(r/r_e - 1)]}{1 + (r/r_e - \lambda)^{20}} \quad (16)$$

where  $r_e$  is a constant equal to equilibrium spacing between nearest neighbors,  $f_e$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\lambda$  are adjustable parameters. The pairwise potential between the same species can be computed with:

$$\phi_{aa}(r) = \frac{A \exp[-\alpha(r/r_e - 1)]}{1 + (r/r_e - \kappa)^{20}} - \frac{B \exp[-\beta(r/r_e - 1)]}{1 + (r/r_e - \lambda)^{20}} \quad (17)$$

where  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\kappa$  are also trainable parameters,  $\beta$  and  $\kappa$  are used in Equation 16 already. For the pairwise

interaction between two atoms of different species, Zhou et al proposed an interpolation form:

$$\phi_{ab}(r) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\rho_b(r)}{\rho_a(r)} \phi_{aa}(r) + \frac{\rho_a(r)}{\rho_b(r)} \phi_{bb}(r) \right) \quad (18)$$

The embedding function has a more complicated form as it requires to fit a much wider range of electron density values:

$$F(\rho) = \begin{cases} \sum_{i=0}^3 F_{ni} \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_n} - 1 \right)^i & \rho < \rho_n \\ \sum_{i=0}^3 F_i \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_e} - 1 \right)^i & \rho_n \leq \rho < \rho_0 \\ F_e \left[ 1 - \eta \ln \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_s} \right) \right] \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_s} \right)^\eta & \rho \geq \rho_0 \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

where  $F_{ni}$ ,  $F_i$ ,  $\rho_e$ ,  $\rho_s$ ,  $\eta$  and  $F_e$  are trainable parameters,  $\rho_n = 0.85\rho_e$  and  $\rho_0 = 1.15\rho_e$ . For each metal, there are 15 adjustable parameters. The original embedding potential is a stepwise function. Thus, the minimization requires some tricks to ensure its continuity. To make it simpler, we slightly modified Equation 19:

$$F(\rho) = c_1 \cdot \sum_{i=0}^3 F_{ni} \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_n} - 1 \right)^i + c_2 \cdot \sum_{i=0}^3 F_i \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_e} - 1 \right)^i + c_3 \cdot F_e \left[ 1 - \eta \ln \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_s} \right) \right] \left( \frac{\rho}{\rho_s} \right)^\eta \quad (20)$$

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-2(\rho_n - \rho)}} \quad (21)$$

$$c_3 = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-2(\rho - \rho_0)}} \quad (22)$$

$$c_2 = 1 - c_1 - c_3 \quad (23)$$

$\omega_1$  and  $\omega_3$  are just damping factors calculated by the sigmoid functions (Equations 21 and 22).

The dipole ( $\mu_{ab}$ ) and quadrupole ( $\lambda_{ab}$ ) functions have the same form (developed by Mishin):

$$\mu_{ab}(r) = [d_1^{ab} \exp(-d_2^{ab}r) + d_3^{ab}] \psi \left( \frac{r - r_0}{r_h} \right) \quad (24)$$

$$\omega_{ab}(r) = [q_1^{ab} \exp(-q_2^{ab}r) + q_3^{ab}] \psi \left( \frac{r - r_0}{r_h} \right) \quad (25)$$

where  $d_i$ ,  $q_i$ ,  $r_0$  and  $r_h$  are trainable parameters and  $\psi(x)$  is a damping function:

$$\psi(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \geq 0 \\ \frac{x^4}{1+x^4} & x < 0 \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

### D. Physical constraints

Physical constraints are quite common in fitting traditional empirical potentials. Physical constraints are

typically static (cohesive energy, elastic constants, etc) collected from experiments and they can be very effective when training data is limited. For example, the cohesive energy, bulk modulus, vacancy formation energy and other constraints were used to develop the original Zjw04 potential. Mishin et al adopted the Rose universal equation of state to ensure the performances of his ADP potentials in the high pressure region. However, such constraints are really rare in developing MILPs. One possible explanation may be these constraints are generally derived properties and implementing them in the loss function are technically difficult.

In this work, we successfully integrated two constraints into the total loss: the Rose equation of state constraint and the elastic tensor constraint. These two losses will be discussed later. The details of their implementations will be described in another paper.

The Rose constraint incorporates the universal equation of state (Rose et al) into the total loss function. The Mishin-modified equation

$$E(x) = E_0 \left[ 1 + \alpha x + \beta \alpha^3 x^3 \frac{2x+3}{(x-1)^2} \right] e^{-\alpha x} \quad (27)$$

is used because the original form tends to underestimate energies under high pressures. In Equation 27,  $E_0$  is the energy of the equilibrium structure,  $x = a/a_0 - 1$  is the relative isotropic scaling factor ( $a$  is the lattice constant),  $\beta$  is a chosen parameter and

$$\alpha = \sqrt{-\frac{9V_0 B}{E_0}} \quad (28)$$

where  $V_0$  is the equilibrium volume and  $B$  is the bulk modulus. The adoption of the Rose constraint guarantees the exact predictions of bulk modulus and the energy-volume curve. The loss of the Rose EOS constraint  $\mathbf{L}^{\text{Rose}}$  is measured as the 2-norm of the energy differences between  $E(x)^{\text{Rose}}$  and their corresponding predicted  $E(x)$ :

$$\mathbf{L}^{\text{Rose}} = \sum_i \text{RMSE}(E_i(x), E_i(x)^{\text{Rose}}) \quad (29)$$

In this work, for each included crystal, we use the same choices of  $x$ :  $x_t = x_0 + \Delta x \cdot t$ ,  $x_0 = -0.1$ ,  $N_t^{\text{max}} = 20$ ,  $\Delta x = 0.01$ .  $\beta$  is fixed to 0.005.

Elastic tensor is also a popular constraint for tuning empirical potentials but rarely used directly in optimizing MILPs. Shyue Ping Ong used this constraint in the outer loop (the global optimization based property-matching step) to find optimal parameters of SNAP potentials.

In this work, we successfully find a way to use elastic tensor directly as a constraint. Given an equilibrium crystal structure, its elastic constant  $c_{ijkl}$  can be derived from  $E^{\text{total}}$  directly:

$$V \cdot \epsilon = -\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{R} + \left( \frac{\partial E^{\text{total}}}{\partial \mathbf{h}} \right)^T \mathbf{h} \quad (30)$$

$$c_{ijkl}|_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0, \mathbf{F} \rightarrow 0} = \frac{1}{V} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \epsilon_{ij}}{\partial \mathbf{h}} \right)^T \mathbf{h} \right]_{kl} \quad (31)$$

where  $V$  is the volume,  $\epsilon$  is the  $3 \times 3$  virial stress tensor,  $\mathbf{h}$  is the *row-major*  $3 \times 3$  lattice tensor,  $\mathbf{F}$  and  $\mathbf{R}$  are  $N \times 3$  matrices representing the total forces and atomic positions.

In this work, the loss  $\mathbf{L}^{\text{elastic}}$  contributed by the elastic tensor is also measured by the RMSE between  $c_{ijkl}$  and  $c_{ijkl}^{\text{dft}}$ :

$$\mathbf{L}^{\text{elastic}} = \sum_i c_i \cdot \text{RMSE}_i + |\epsilon| + |\mathbf{F}| \quad (32)$$

$$c_i = \text{ReLU}(\text{MAE}_i - \tau) \quad (33)$$

$$\text{ReLU}(x) = \begin{cases} x & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases} \quad (34)$$

where  $\sum_i$  loops through all included crystals,  $\text{MAE}$  is the mean absolute error and  $\tau$  is a pre-selected gate parameter. When  $\text{MAE}$  is below  $\tau$ ,  $\mathbf{L}^{\text{elastic}}$  will not contribute to the total loss. In this work,  $\tau$  is set to 2 GPa.

## E. Implementation

The implementation of the machine learned embedded atom method and the physical constraints are beyond the scope of this work. The details will be discussed in another paper. Here, we will give a brief description.

Both ML-EAM and ML-ADP are implemented within Google's TensorFlow. The virtual-atom approach (VAP) is adopted so that we can construct a computation graph from atomic positions to total energy directly. Thus, atomic forces (Equation 35) and virial stress (Equation 30) can be derived by the AutoGrad module of TensorFlow and calculated automatically and efficiently.

$$\mathbf{F} = -\frac{\partial E^{\text{total}}}{\partial \mathbf{R}} \quad (35)$$

This direct computation graph also plays a key role in computing analytical elastic tensor (Equation 31) and the Rose loss (Equation 27).

To find optimal parameters of the functions in section II C, the overall loss function shall be defined. Just like other machine learning tasks, the mini-batch stochastic gradient descent algorithm is used to minimize the loss function. Equation 36 demonstrates the loss function used in this work:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Loss} = & \sqrt{\frac{1}{N_b} \sum_{i=1}^{N_b} (E_i - E_i^{\text{dft}})^2} \\ & + \chi_f \sqrt{\frac{1}{3 \sum_i^{N_b} N_i} \sum_i^{N_b} \sum_j^{N_i} \sum_{\alpha} (f_{ij\alpha} - f_{ij\alpha}^{\text{dft}})^2} \\ & + \chi_s \sqrt{\frac{1}{6 N_b} \sum_i^{N_b} \sum_j^6 (\epsilon_j^{\text{voigt}} - \epsilon_j^{\text{voigt,dft}})^2} \\ & + \mathbf{L}^{\text{Rose}} + \mathbf{L}^{\text{elastic}} \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

where  $N_b$  is the batch size and  $N_i$  is the number of atoms in structure  $i$ .  $\chi_f$  and  $\chi_s$  are overall weights of force and virial stress contributions. The superscript 'voigt' means that virial stress tensors should be converted to Voigt form. The Adam optimizer is used to minimize Equation 36. In most cases, we use 0.01 as the initial learning rate and the batch size ranges from 20 to 50. Since there are very few adjustable parameters, the optimization typically needs very few epochs to converge. When the optimization is finished, the corresponding LAMMPS setfl potential file will be exported.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The publicly available Ni-Mo dataset is used to demonstrate our ML-EAM approach. This dataset is built by Shyue Ping Ong and co-workers. It contains 3973 unique Ni-Mo solids, including 373 elemental Ni and 284 elemental Mo. DFT calculations were done by VASP at the

PBE level with projector augmented-wave approach.

Table I shows the optimization results. All these minimization tasks include energy, force and stress terms in their total losses. The  $\chi_f$  in Equation 36 is set to 10 and  $\chi_s$  is fixed to 80. In this paper, the superscript tag 'old' denotes the original ZJW04, 'res' means restricted optimization and 'unres' means unrestricted optimization. Here 'unrestricted' indicates the parameter  $r_e$  will be treated as a common adjustable variable.

Table II demonstrates the prediction errors of the machine learned EAM models and reference models.

### IV. DISCUSSIONS

### V. CONCLUSIONS

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

|           | Ni <sup>old</sup> | Ni         | Ni <sup>alloy</sup> | Mo <sup>old</sup> | Mo | Mo <sup>alloy</sup> |
|-----------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| $r_e$     | 2.488746          | 2.124480   |                     | 2.728100          |    |                     |
| $f_e$     | 2.007018          | 2.633256   |                     | 2.723710          |    |                     |
| $\rho_e$  | 27.562015         | 27.233315  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $\rho_s$  | 27.930410         | 26.392414  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $\alpha$  | 8.383453          | 8.452753   |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $\beta$   | 4.471175          | 3.285651   |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $A$       | 0.429046          | 0.9802988  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $B$       | 0.633531          | 0.8919016  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $\kappa$  | 0.443599          | 0.5685785  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $\lambda$ | 0.820658          | 1.1653832  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_{n0}$  | -2.693513         | -3.4354472 |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_{n1}$  | -0.076445         | 0.3544341  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_{n2}$  | 0.241442          | -2.5563858 |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_{n3}$  | -2.375626         | -7.1984844 |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_0$     | -2.70             | -3.236908  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_1$     | 0                 | 1.4576268  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_2$     | 0.265390          | 2.1785288  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_3$     | -0.152856         | -1.642411  |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $\eta$    | 0.469000          | 4.305329   |                     |                   |    |                     |
| $F_e$     | -2.699486         | -3.6163342 |                     |                   |    |                     |

TABLE I. The original (labeled as 'old'), elemental and alloy parameters.

|                   | Model    | Mo   | Ni <sub>4</sub> Mo | Ni <sub>3</sub> Mo | Ni <sub>Mo</sub> | Mo <sub>Ni</sub> | Ni   | Overall |
|-------------------|----------|------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------|---------|
| Energy (meV/atom) | SNAP     | 16.2 | 4.0                | 5.2                | 22.7             | 33.9             | 7.9  | 22.5    |
|                   | EAM      | 58.9 | 211.2              | 255.6              | 46.5             | 147.6            | 10.6 | 117.2   |
|                   | ML-EAM   | 45.0 | 10.6               | 7.1                | 39.0             | 29.8             | 10.4 | 27.4    |
|                   | NN (esf) | 30.0 | 6.1                | 9.0                | 16.6             | 26.2             | 7.8  | 19.1    |
| Force (eV/Å)      | SNAP     | 0.29 | 0.14               | 0.16               | 0.13             | 0.55             | 0.11 | 0.23    |
|                   | EAM      | 0.31 | 0.20               | 0.19               | 0.21             | 0.57             | 0.06 | 0.26    |
|                   | ML-EAM   | 0.31 | 0.17               | 0.15               | 0.23             | 0.18             | 0.09 | 0.17    |
|                   | NN (esf) | 0.36 | 0.10               | 0.11               | 0.08             | 0.16             | 0.06 | 0.12    |

TABLE II. Comparison of the MAEs in predicted energies (meV/atom) and forces (eV/Å) relative to DFT.

|                    | DFT  | Ni-Mo | SNAP     | ML-EAM       | EAM          | Experiment |
|--------------------|------|-------|----------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Mo                 |      |       |          |              |              |            |
| $c_{11}$           | 472  | 475   | (0.6%)   | 477 (1.1%)   | 457 (-3.2%)  | 479        |
| $c_{12}$           | 158  | 163   | (3.2%)   | 166 (5.1%)   | 168 (6.3%)   | 165        |
| $c_{44}$           | 106  | 111   | (4.7%)   | 101 (-4.7%)  | 116 (9.4%)   | 108        |
| $B_{\text{VRH}}$   | 263  | 267   | (1.5%)   | 270 (2.7%)   | 264 (0.4%)   | 270        |
| $G_{\text{VRH}}$   | 124  | 127   | (2.4%)   | 127 (2.4%)   | 127 (2.4%)   | 125        |
| $\mu$              | 0.30 | 0.29  | (-3.3%)  | 0.31 (3.3%)  | 0.29 (-3.3%) | 0.30       |
| Ni                 |      |       |          |              |              |            |
| $c_{11}$           | 276  | 269   | (-2.5%)  | 268 (-2.9%)  | 248 (-10.1%) | 261        |
| $c_{12}$           | 159  | 150   | (-5.7%)  | 165 (3.8%)   | 147 (-7.5%)  | 151        |
| $c_{44}$           | 132  | 135   | (2.3%)   | 116 (-12.1%) | 125 (-5.3%)  | 132        |
| $B_{\text{VRH}}$   | 198  | 190   | (-4.0%)  | 200 (1.0%)   | 181 (-8.6%)  | 188        |
| $G_{\text{VRH}}$   | 95   | 97    | (2.1%)   | 84 (-11.6%)  | 87 (-8.4%)   | 479        |
| $\mu$              | 0.29 | 0.28  | (-3.4%)  | 0.31 (6.8%)  | 0.29 (0.0%)  | 0.29       |
| Ni <sub>3</sub> Mo |      |       |          |              |              |            |
| $c_{11}$           | 385  | 420   | (9.1%)   | 430 (11.7%)  | 195 (-49.4%) |            |
| $c_{12}$           | 166  | 197   | (18.7%)  | 187 (12.7%)  | 98 (-41.0%)  |            |
| $c_{13}$           | 145  | 162   | (11.7%)  | 180 (24.1%)  | 98 (-32.4%)  |            |
| $c_{23}$           | 131  | 145   | (10.7%)  | 210 (60.3%)  | 107 (-18.3%) |            |
| $c_{22}$           | 402  | 360   | (-10.4%) | 457 (13.7%)  | 98 (-75.6%)  |            |
| $c_{33}$           | 402  | 408   | (-1.5%)  | 412 (2.5%)   | 295 (-26.6%) |            |
| $c_{66}$           | 94   | 84    | (-10.5%) | 27 (-71.3%)  | 36 (-61.7%)  |            |
| $B_{\text{VRH}}$   | 230  | 243   | (5.7%)   | 280 (21.7%)  | 156 (-32.2%) |            |
| $G_{\text{VRH}}$   | 89   | 100   | (12.4%)  | 66 (-25.8%)  | 61 (-31.5%)  |            |
| $\mu$              | 0.33 | 0.32  | (-3.0%)  | 0.39 (18.2%) | 0.33 (0.0%)  |            |
| Ni <sub>4</sub> Mo |      |       |          |              |              |            |
| $c_{11}$           | 300  | 283   | (-5.7%)  | 278 (-7.3%)  | 172 (-42.7%) |            |
| $c_{12}$           | 186  | 179   | (-3.8%)  | 184 (-1.1%)  | 158 (-15.1%) |            |
| $c_{22}$           | 313  | 326   | (4.2%)   | 278 (-11.2%) | 158 (-49.5%) |            |
| $c_{23}$           | 166  | 164   | (-1.2%)  | 230 (38.6%)  | 80 (-51.8%)  |            |
| $c_{66}$           | 130  | 126   | (-3.1%)  | 87 (-33.1%)  | 125 (-3.8%)  |            |
| $B_{\text{VRH}}$   | 223  | 220   | (-1.3%)  | 233 (10.5%)  | 161 (-27.8%) |            |
| $G_{\text{VRH}}$   | 91   | 95    | (4.4%)   | 57 (37.4%)   | -156 (-162%) |            |
| $\mu$              | 0.33 | 0.31  | (-6.1%)  | 0.39 (18.2%) | 0.70 (112%)  |            |

TABLE III. Comparison of elastic constants ( $c_{ij}$ , GPa), Voigt-Reuss-Hill bulk modulus ( $B_{\text{VRH}}$ , GPa), Voigt-Reuss-Hill shear modulus ( $G_{\text{VRH}}$ , GPa) and homogeneous Poisson's ratio ( $\mu$ ) for fcc Ni, fcc Mo and binary alloys Ni<sub>3</sub>Mo and Ni<sub>4</sub>Mo.