

# INTERATOMIC POTENTIALS AND MACHINE LEARNING

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# But first: what are interatomic potentials

*We can't solve everything with quantum mechanics*

**Main Issue:** Steep computational costs

Large scaling with electron count ( $N$ ) ->  
Only small systems are possible

Abbrev.	Runtime
CISDTQ	$O(N^{10})$
CC	$O(N^7)$
CISD	$O(N^6)$
MP2	$O(N^5)$
QMC	$O(N^3) - O(N^4)$
HF	$O(N^3) - O(N^4)$
DFT	$O(N^3)$
TB	$O(N^3)$
MM	$O(N^2)$

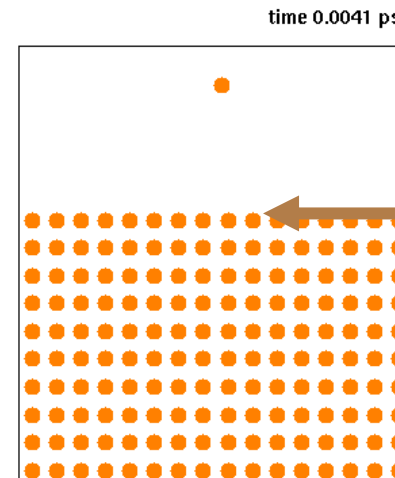
Table: [Rupp. IJQC. \(2015\)](#)

**Observation:** Do not *need* electrons for...

- Molecular dynamics
- Gibbs sampling
- ...

**Benefit:** Cheap and linear scaling

**Key need:** Approximate models of forces



Only **energies** and **forces** needed  
for simulating molecular dynamics

# Wide range of approaches

Physics-Motivated

Lennard-Jones

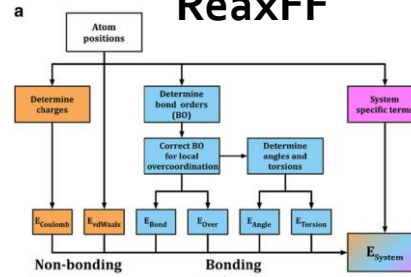
$$E(r) = 4\epsilon \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^6 \right]$$

Finnis-Sinclair

$$E(r) = -\sqrt{\rho} + V(r)$$

“Only include terms I understand”

ReaxFF



Machine Learned

Neural Network Potentials

“Good predictions imply good physics”

# A grounding: Semi-empirical potentials

## Lennard-Jones Potentials ([1924](#))

Pauli repulsion:  $\frac{1}{r^{12}}$

$$V(r) = 4\epsilon \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^6 \right]$$

Dispersive forces:  $\frac{1}{r^6}$

Original Formulation  
Mostly physics

Newer version: [Wang et al. \(2019\)](#)

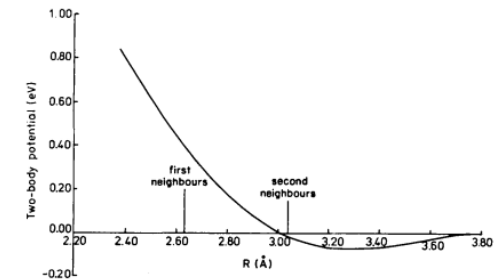
$$V(r) = \epsilon \alpha \left( \left( \frac{\sigma}{r} \right)^{2\mu} - 1 \right) \left( \left( \frac{r_c}{r} \right)^{2\mu} - 1 \right)^{2\nu}$$

Newer Incarnations  
Deviating slightly

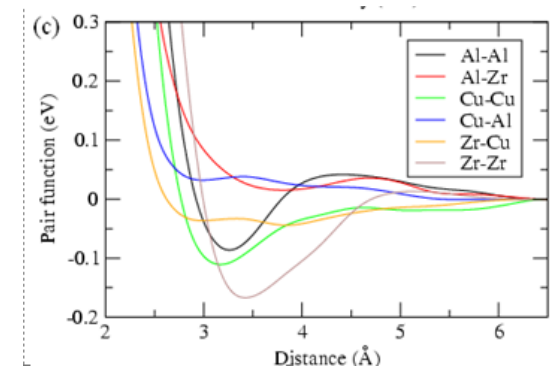
## Finnis-Sinclair/EAM ([1983](#))

$$E(r) = -\sqrt{\rho} + V(r)$$

“[pair potential] is purely repulsive”



Newer uses: [Cheng et al. PRL \(2009\)](#)



# Semi-empirical potentials can be quite complex

**MMFF94:** [Halgren 1994](#)

**ReaxFF:** [van Duin \(2001\)](#)

**MEAM:** [Baskes \(~1987\)](#)

The MMFF94 energy expression can be written as:

$$E_{\text{MMFF}} = \sum E_{B_{ij}} + \sum E_{A_{ijk}} + \sum E_{BA_{ijk}} + \sum E_{\text{OOP}_{ijk;l}} + \sum E_{T_{ijkl}} + \sum E_{\text{vdW}_{ij}} + \sum E_{Q_{ij}} \quad (1)$$

$$E_{\text{vdW}_{ij}} = \varepsilon_{ij} \left( \frac{1.07 R_{ij}^*}{R_{ij} + 0.07 R_{ij}^*} \right)^7 \left( \frac{1.12 R_{ij}^*}{R_{ij} + 0.12 R_{ij}^*} - 2 \right) \quad (8)$$

This form is used in conjunction with an expression that relates the minimum-energy separation  $R_{ij}^*$  to the atomic polarizability  $\alpha_i$  [eq. (9)], with specially formulated combination rules [eqs. (10) and (11)], and with a Slater–Kirkwood expression for the well depth  $\varepsilon_{ij}$  [eq. (12)]:

$$R_{ij}^* = A_i \alpha_i^{1/4} \quad (9)$$

$$R_{ij}^* = 0.5(R_{ii}^* + R_{jj}^*)(1 + 0.2(1 - \exp(-12\gamma_{ij}^2))) \quad (10)$$

$$\gamma_{ij} = (R_{ii}^* - R_{jj}^*) / (R_{ii}^* + R_{jj}^*) \quad (11)$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij} = \frac{181.16 G_i G_j \alpha_i \alpha_j}{(\alpha_i / N_i)^{1/2} + (\alpha_j / N_j)^{1/2}} \frac{1}{R_{ij}^{*6}} \quad (12)$$

Based on same many-body equation as Finnis-Sinclair

$$E_i = F(\rho_{ij}) + \sum_j \phi_{ij}$$

... but with angular terms to fit

$$(\rho^{(3)})^2 = \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} \left[ \sum_i \rho^{\alpha(3)}(r^i) \frac{r_{\alpha}^i r_{\beta}^i r_{\gamma}^i}{r^{i3}} \right]^2$$

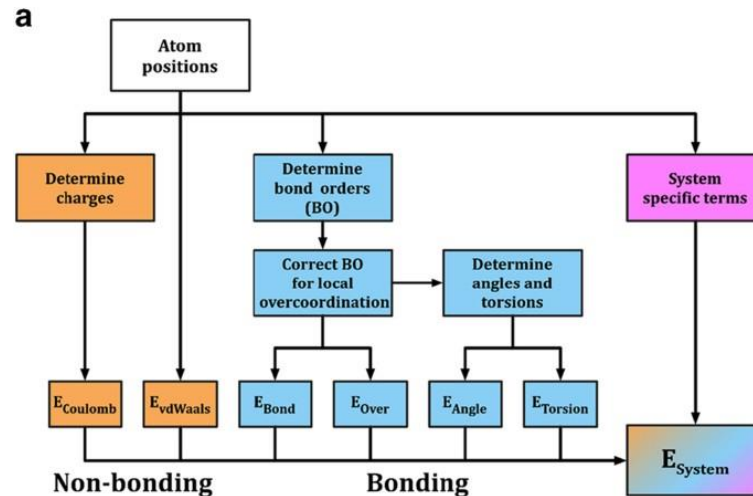
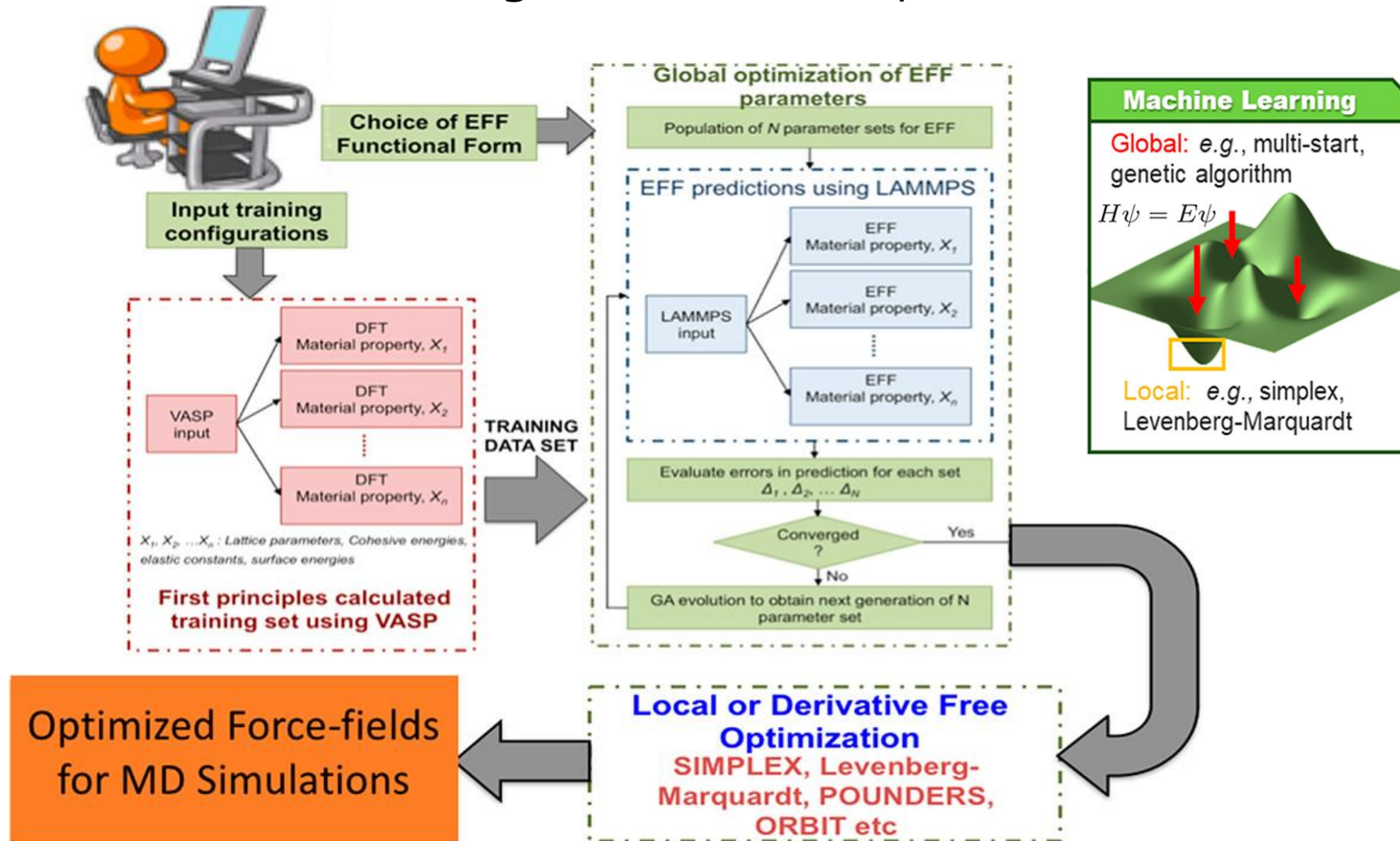


Figure: [Senftle \(2016\)](#)

# Fitting semi-empirical potential

## Secret Ingredient: Global optimization



# A reflection about empiricism from 1983

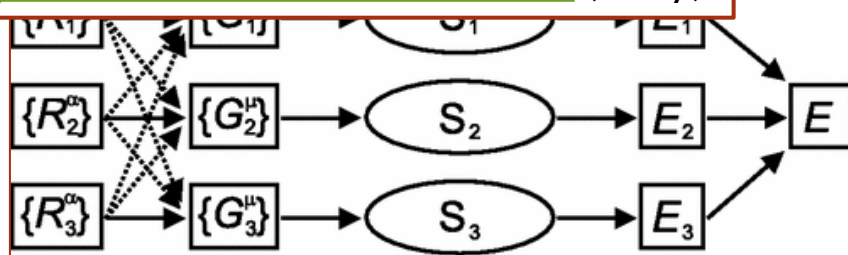
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*"Since the present approach is empirical [...]; the consequences of the form of the model which we now derive, and the fitting to experimental data which follow, do not depend on the physical interpretation"*

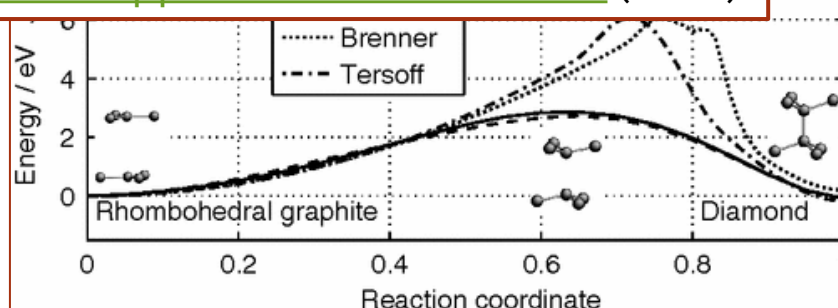
– M.W. Finnis and J.E. Sinclair (1983)

# Abandoning model forms: Approaches for ML potentials

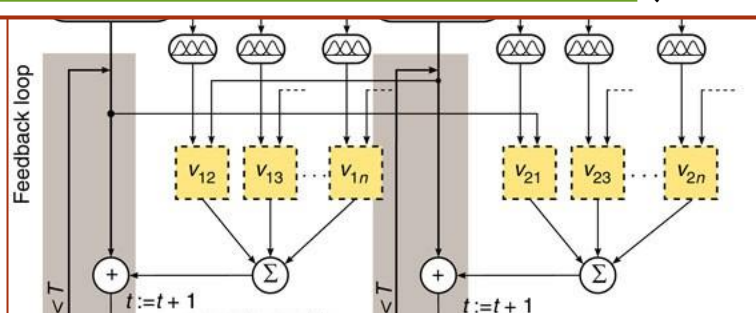
## High-dimensional NN Potentials (2007)



## Gaussian Approximation Potentials (2010)



## Deep Tensor Neural Networks / MPNNs (2016)



## Spectral Neighbor Analysis Potentials (2014)

```
for i in atoms() {  
   $\mathbf{u}_i = \text{Calc\_U}(i)$   
   $\mathbf{Z}_i = \text{Calc\_Z}(i, \mathbf{u}_i)$   
  for j in neighbors(i) {  
     $\nabla_j \mathbf{u}_i = \text{Calc\_dUdR}(i, j, \mathbf{u}_i)$   
     $\nabla_j \mathbf{B}^i = \text{Calc\_dBdR}(i, j, \mathbf{u}_i, \mathbf{Z}_i, \nabla_j \mathbf{u}_i)$   
     $\mathbf{F}_{ij} = -\beta \cdot \nabla_j \mathbf{B}^i$   
     $\mathbf{F}_i += -\mathbf{F}_{ij}; \mathbf{F}_j += \mathbf{F}_{ij}$   
  }  
}
```

## Moment Tensor Potentials (2015)

Vol. 14, No. 3, pp. 1153-1173

Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

**MOMENT TENSOR POTENTIALS: A CLASS OF  
SYSTEMATICALLY IMPROVABLE INTERATOMIC POTENTIALS\***

ALEXANDER V. SHAPEEV†

And many other works:

[ANI-1 \(2017\)](#), [AGNI \(2015\)](#), [MAISE \(2009\)](#),  
[Sparse Interatomic Potentials \(2014\)](#), [MBTR \(2017\)](#),  
[Genetic Programming \(2020\)](#),  
and many I am likely missing...



# Watch for how many body effects are captured

Two-body interactions ( $r_{ij}$ ) are easy to compute, but pair-potentials are inaccurate

## Importance of bond angles

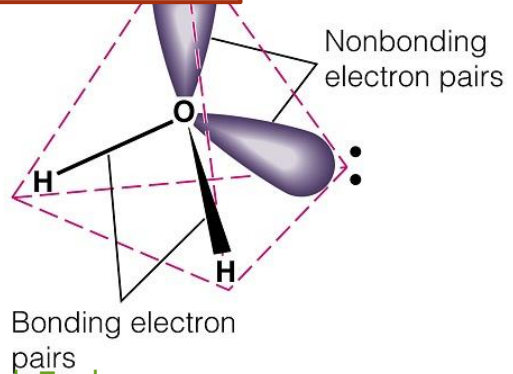


Figure: [Stack Exchange](#)

## Non-linearity of energy vs coordination

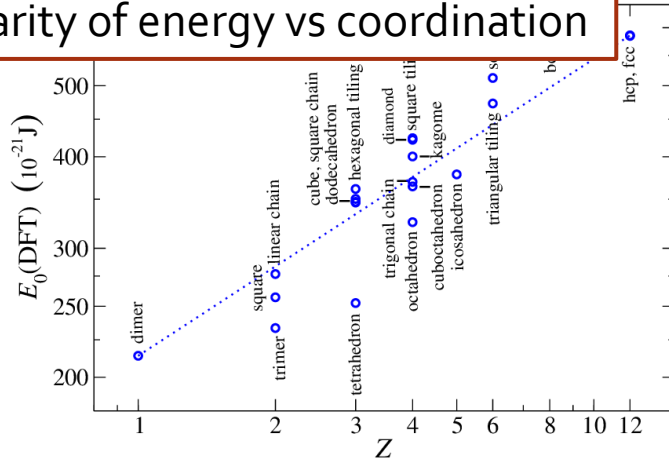


Figure: [Jalkanen and Muser. \(2015\)](#)

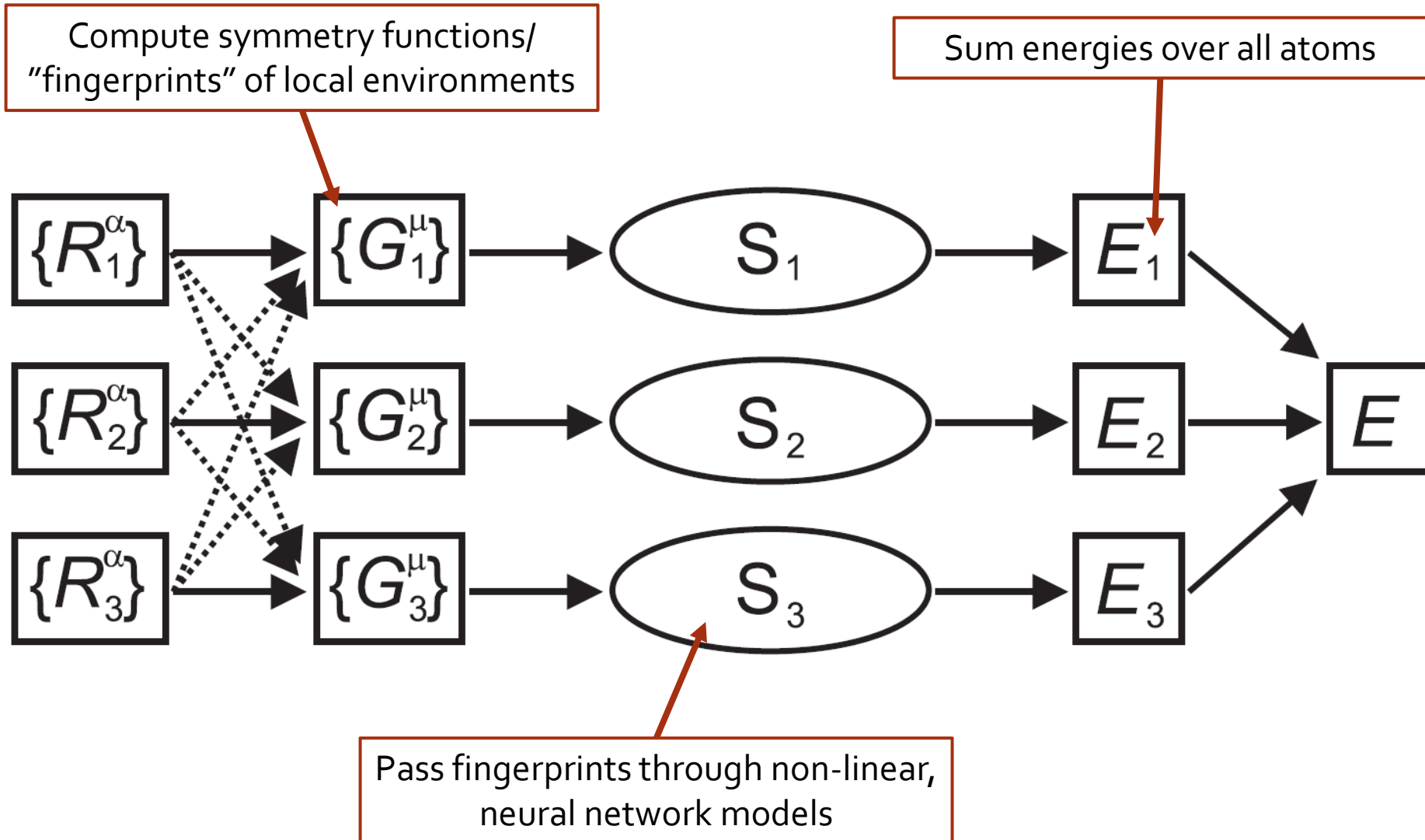
**Simple example:** Non-linear functions over sums of pairs

**Example:** Finnis-Sinclair potentials

$$E_i = \sqrt{\sum_j \rho(r_{ij})} + \sum_j \phi(r_{ij})$$

Accounts for coordination, but not angles

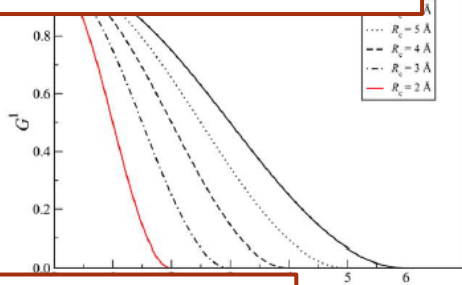
# Neural Network Potentials: High Dimensional



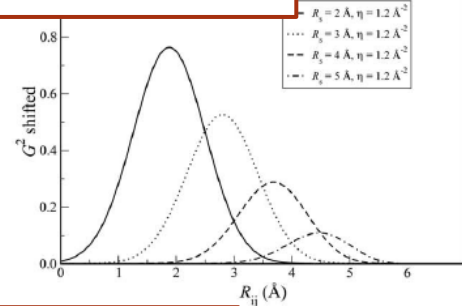
# High Dimensional NNs: Subtle Details

## Symmetry Functions

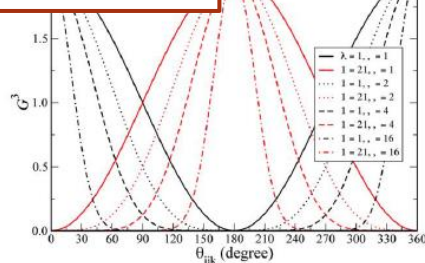
Coordination number



Bond distances

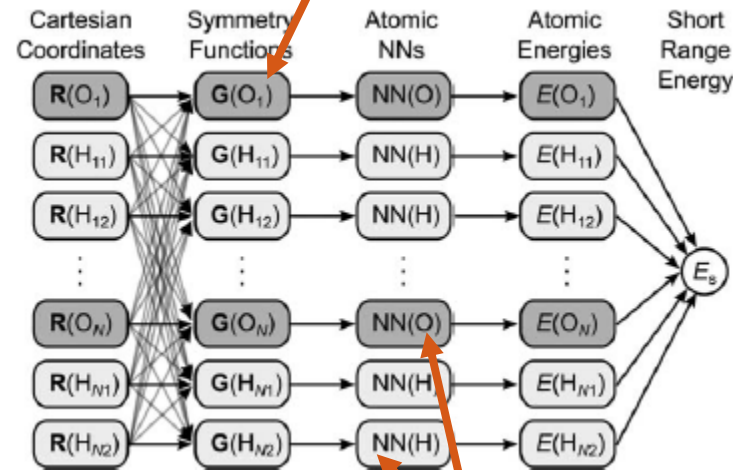


Bond angles



## >1 Element in System

Different symmetry function for each atom type



Separate NN per element

## Long-range Interactions

**Problem:** Electrostatic repulsion acts over long distance, but symmetry functions are local

**Solution:** Add in repulsion as a separate term, learn “short-range” energies

Learn with NN

$$E = E_{short} + E_{elec}$$

Explicitly model

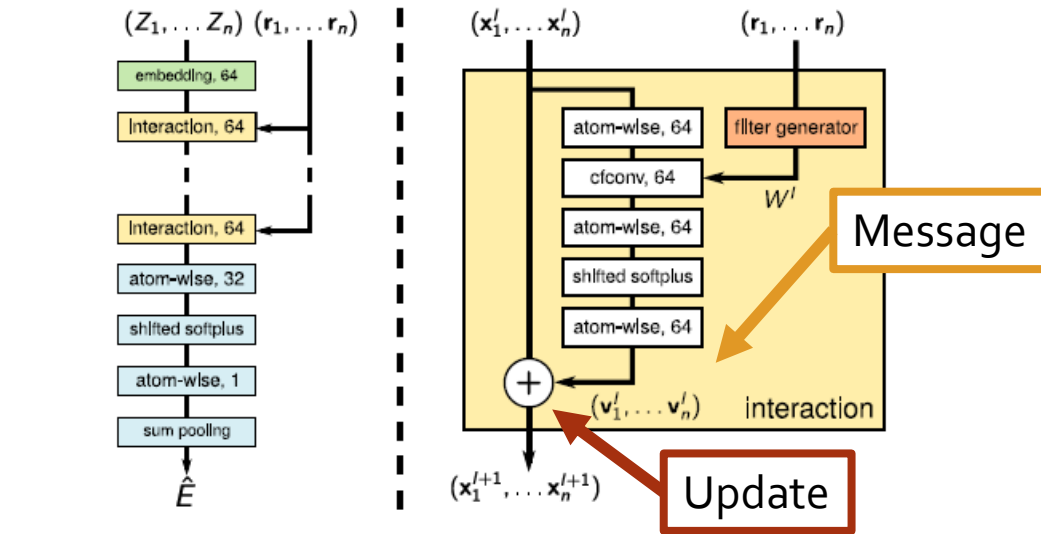
Figures from [Behler IJQC \(2015\)](#)

Other approaches to HDNN: [ANI-1 \(2017\)](#), [MAISE \(2017\)](#), [Artrith and Urban \(2016\)](#)

# Neural Network Potentials: Message-Passing

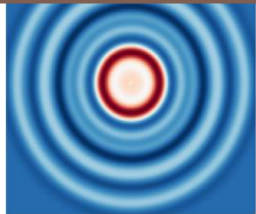
**Subtle question:** How do we account for angles if we only deal with pairwise interaction?

**Solution:** Message passing

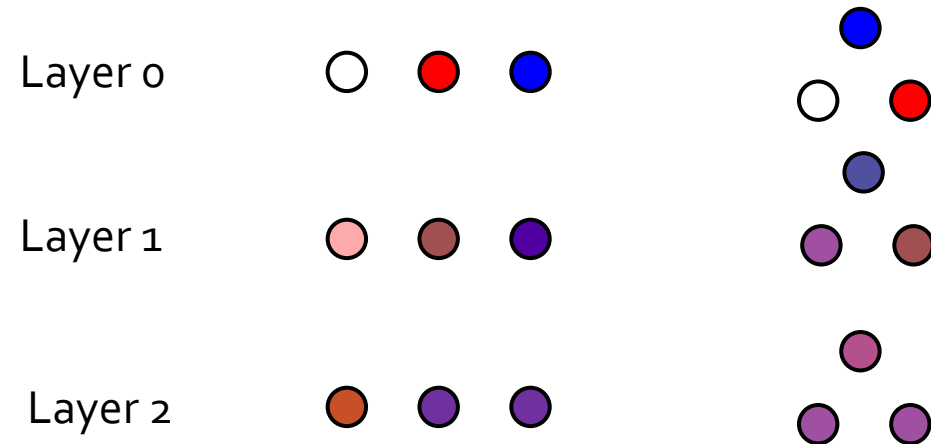


$$\text{cfconv}(x_i) = \sum_j^{n_{\text{atoms}}} x_j \circ W(r_j - r_i)$$

Continuous Filter



Ref: [Schütt et al. JCP, \(2018\)](#)



Changes in bond angles are communicated on subsequent passes because they yield different environments

# Gaussian Approximation Potentials: Two Key Innovations

## Sparse Gaussian Process Potentials

*Simple Concept:* Kernel methods to express energy of a system

$$E(\mathbf{b}) = \sum_n \alpha_n G(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b}_n)$$

$\mathbf{b}$ : Basis sets that describe local environment

$\mathbf{b}_n$ : ... that describe reference environments

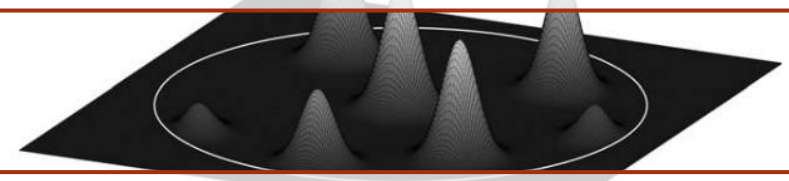
$G$ : Kernel function

$\alpha_n$ : Coefficients for reference environment

## Local Environment-Based Descriptors

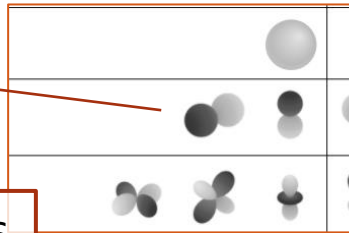
Easy Idea, Unfamiliar Mathematics

Step 1: Describe environments as neighbor densities



Step 2: Decompose into many-body spherical harmonics

$$\begin{aligned} p_i(\mathbf{R}) &= \sum_j f_c(r_{ij}) \exp\left(-\frac{|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{R}_{ij}|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\ &= \sum_{nlm} c_{nlm} g_n(R) Y_{lm}(\mathbf{R}) \end{aligned}$$



Step 3: Sum over direction-dependent terms

$$b_{n_1 n_2 l} = \sum_{m=l}^l c_{n_1 l m}^* c_{n_2 l m}$$

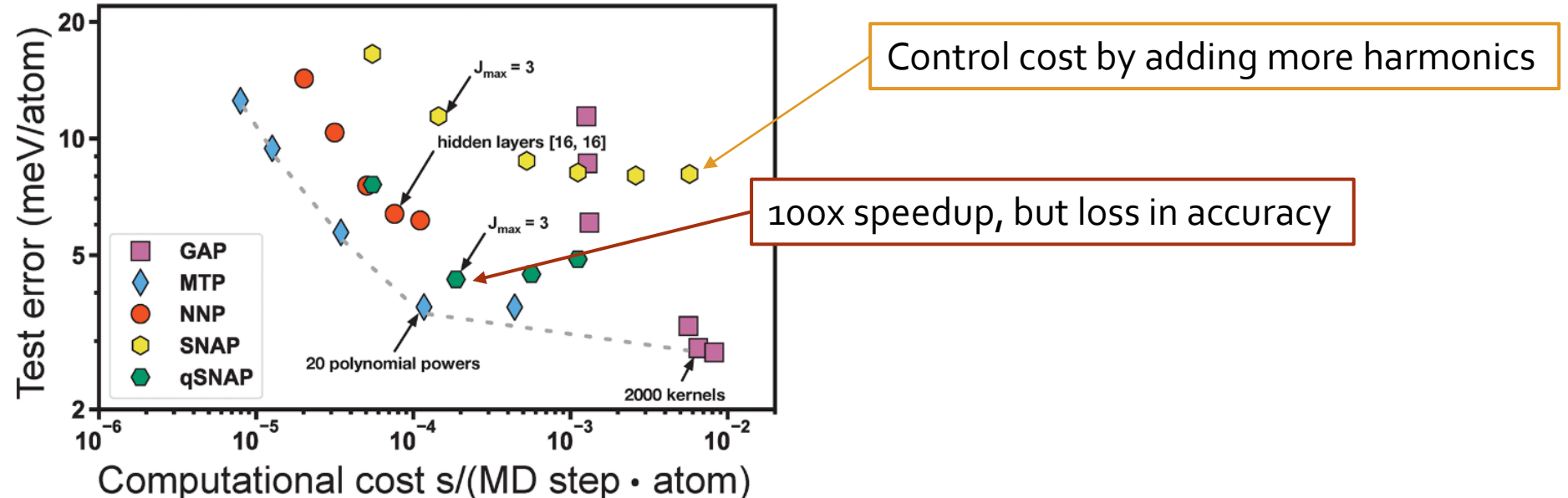
# Linear-regression-based potentials

**Problem with GAP:** Execution time scales with number of reference points

**Alternative Solution:** Use linear or polynomial regression

**Key method:** Spectral Neighbor Analysis Potentials (SNAP)

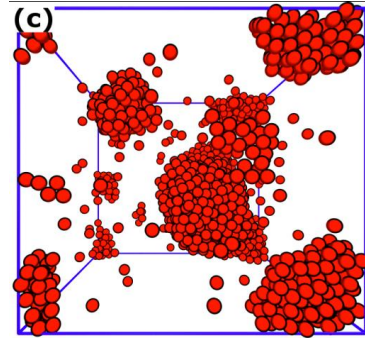
- Similar features (4D instead of 3D harmonics), but faster computation



Reference: [Zuo et al. JPCA \(2020\)](#) <- Highly recommended read!

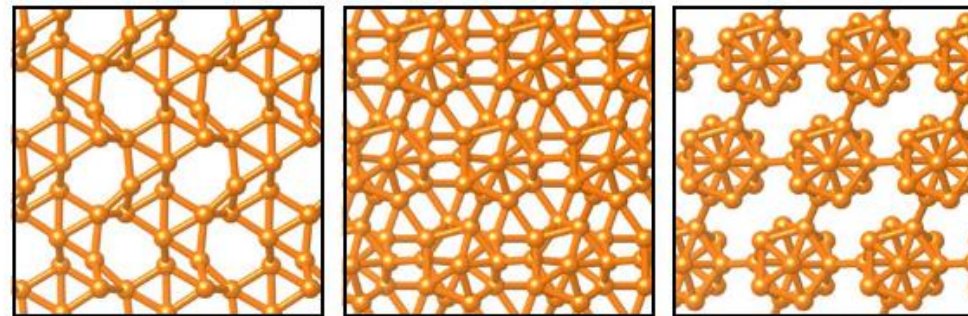
# Fitting Techniques: Forced Sampling

**Problem:** Potentials have “blind spots”



Example: Potential trained on solids does incorrect things in liquids.  
Ref: [Ward et al. ArXiv \(2012\)](#)

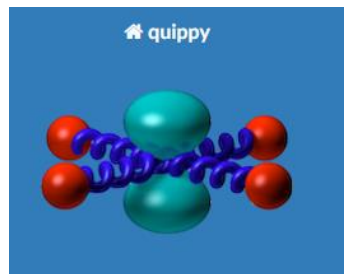
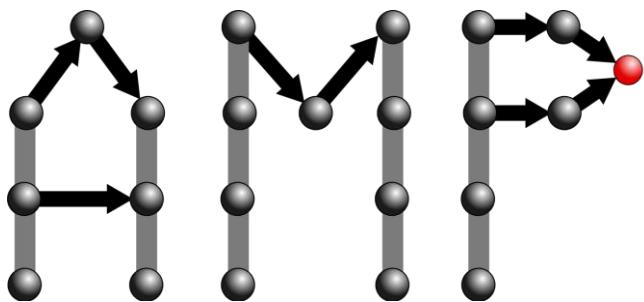
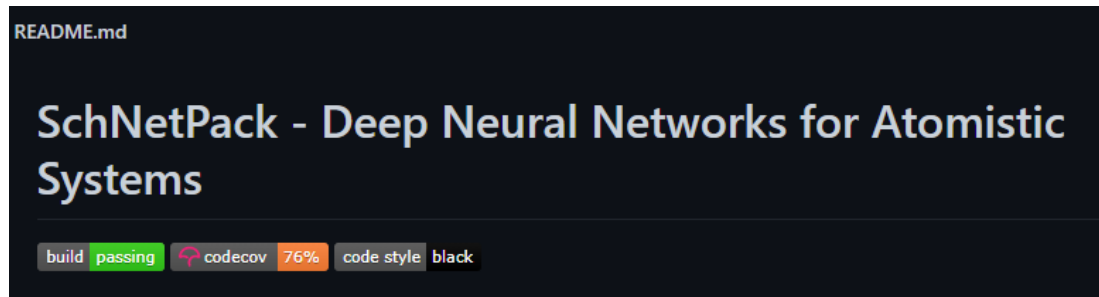
**Solution:** Run dynamics to find them, use to get new training data



progress of GAP-RSS iterations

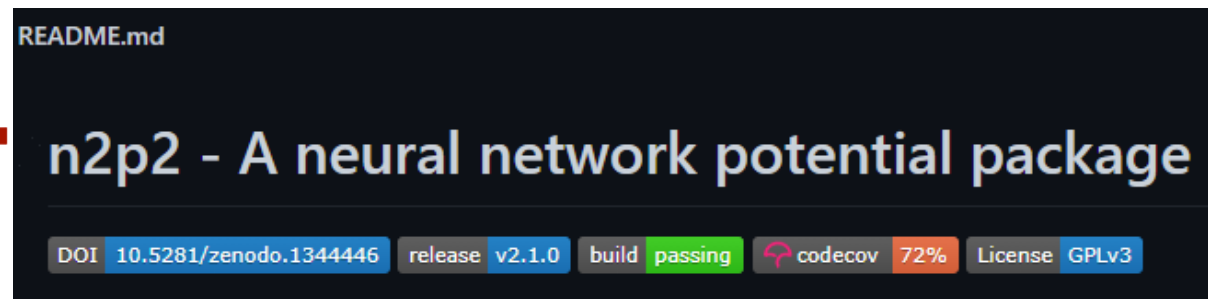


# Codes becoming widely available



$$\hat{H}(\vec{R})|\Psi\rangle = E|\Psi\rangle$$

TORCHANI

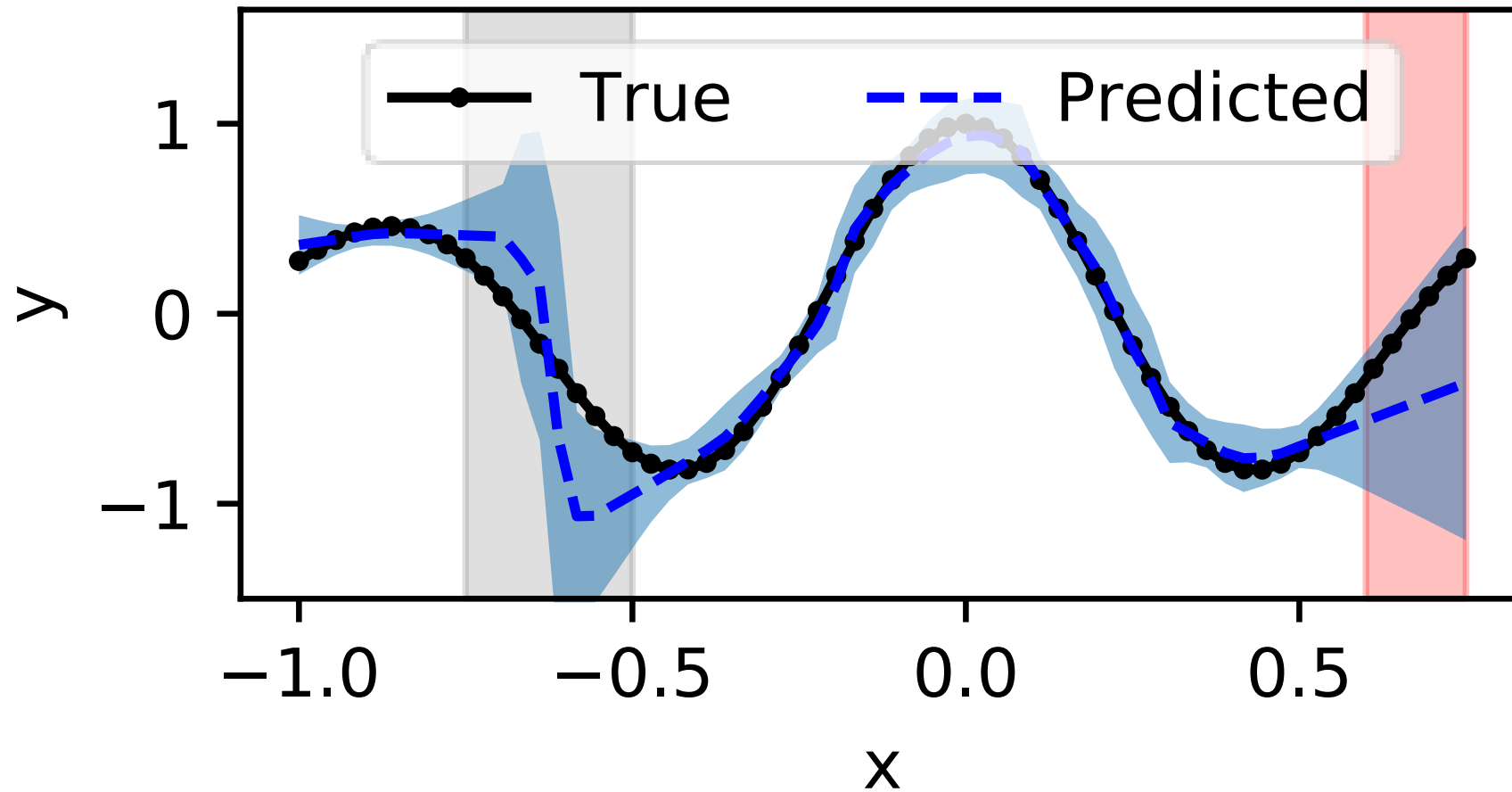




# SIDE LESSON: DOMAIN OF APPLICABILITY

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# It is hard to tell when a prediction is “untrustworthy”



# Many routes to assessing uncertainty

## Disagreement between ensembles

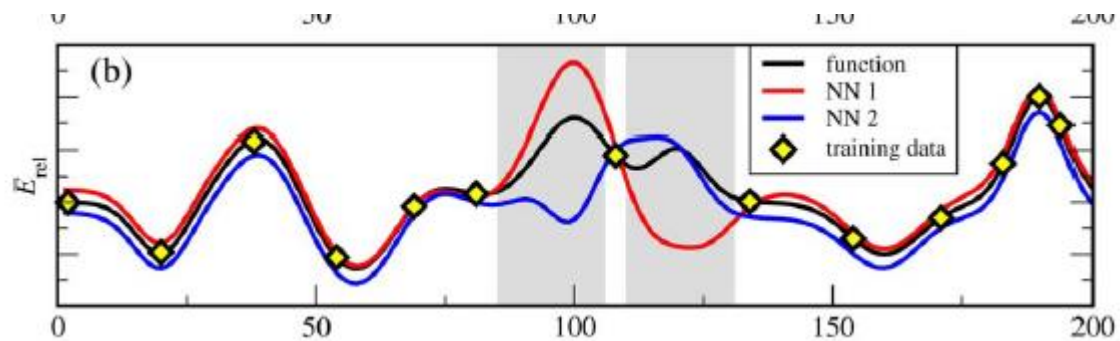


Figure: [Behler. IJQC. \(2015\)](#)

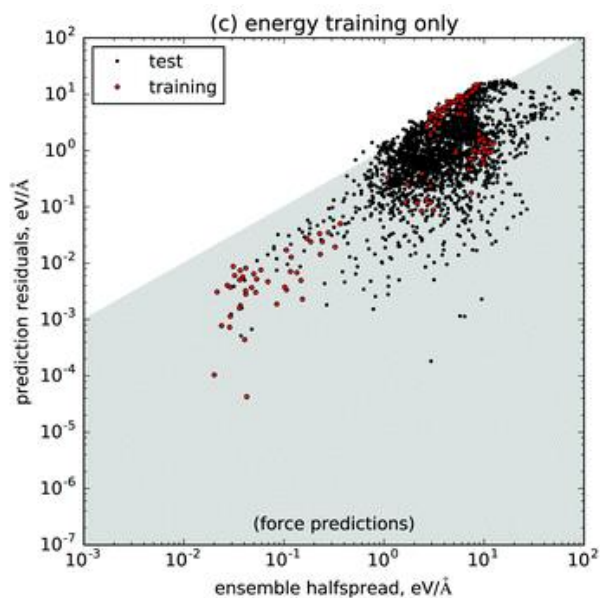


Figure: [Peterson et al. PCCP. \(2017\)](#)

## Distance from training points

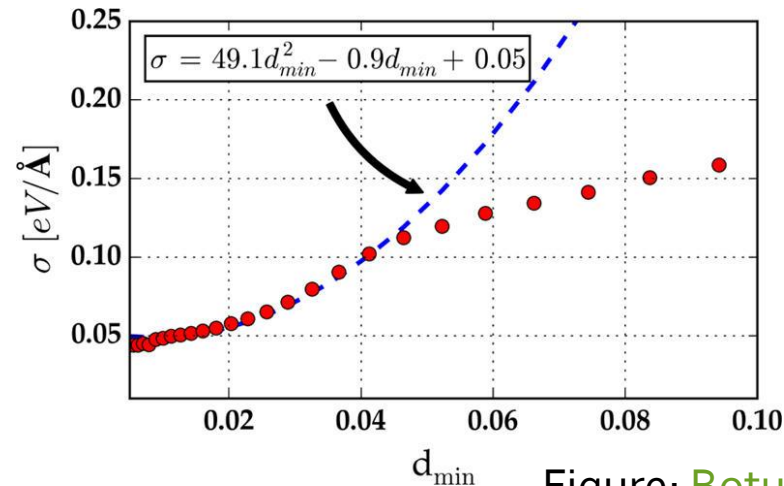


Figure: [Botu et al. JPCC \(2017\)](#)

## “Extrapolation Index”

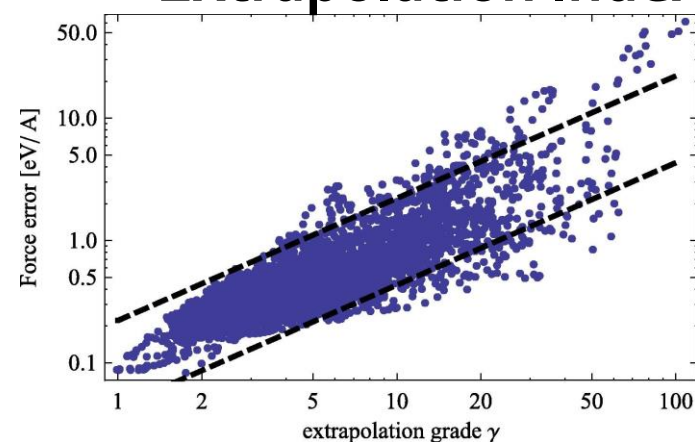
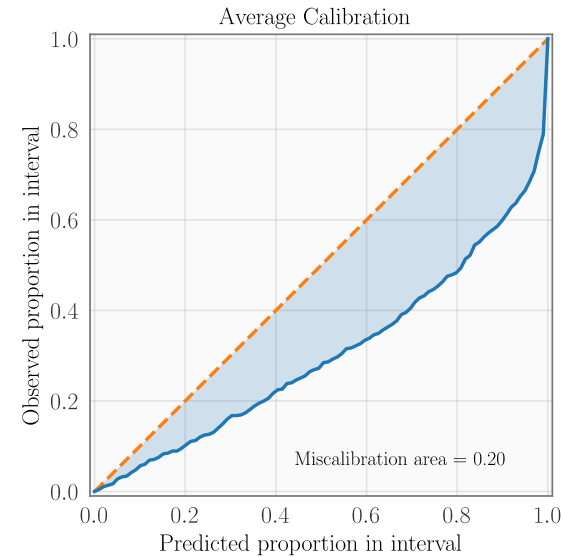
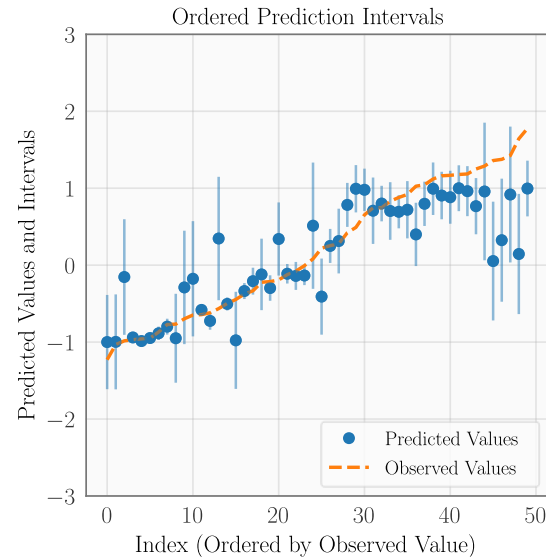
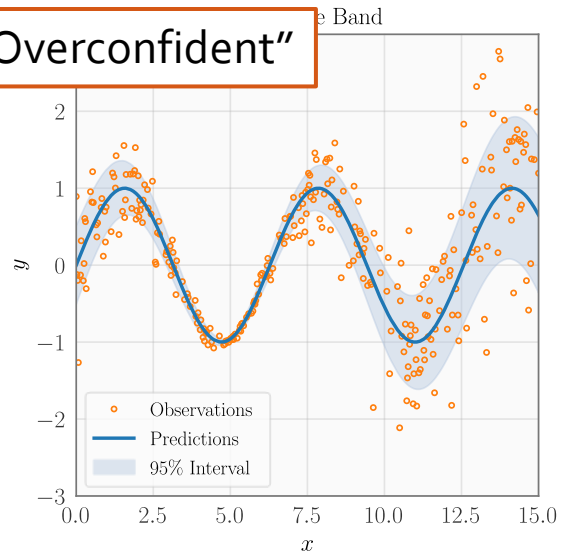


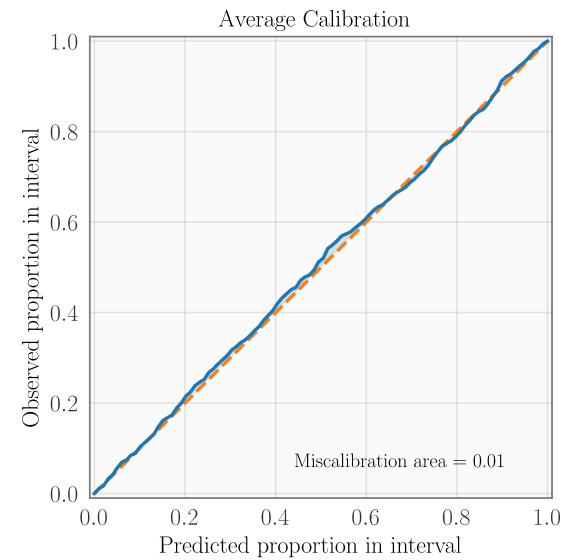
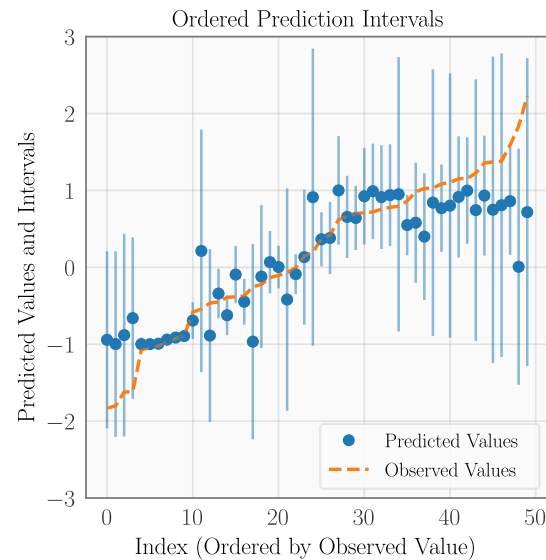
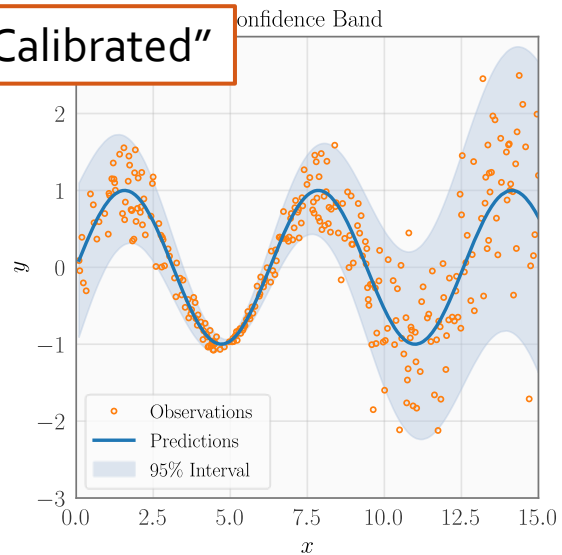
Figure: [Podryabinkin and Shapeev. CMS \(2017\)](#)

# You can measure uncertainty metric quality

“Overconfident”



“Calibrated”



# Take-away points

## ML vs “Semi-empirical”

### “Semi-empirical”

- Fixed model form
- Parameters fit using global optimization

### “ML Potentials”

- Learned model form
- Parameters fit using supervised learning

## Types of ML Potentials

### Neural Networks:

- High-dimensional
- Message passing

### Kernel Learning

- GAP
- AGNI

### Polynomial Regression

- SNAP
- Moment-tensor potentials

## Domain of Applicability

### Many things to consider:

- Distance to training set
- Model uncertainty
- Would it update model?

