

# Accurate implementation of DeepMD-v2 potential calculation in HALMD for single species, extension to multi-species and Automatic-Differentiation-Based Force Computation

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- Classical potentials are efficient but inaccurate , while *ab initio* methods are accurate but computationally expensive [5, 6].
- Machine-learned potentials (e.g., DeepMD) achieve near-DFT accuracy at classical MD cost [1, 8].
- Current DeepMD–HALMD integration is inaccurate and limited to single-species systems [4].

# Objectives and Scope

- Extend the DeepMD integration in HALMD beyond the single-species implementation of Cruz to full *multi-species DeepMD-v2* inference [4].
- Implement the missing core components of the DeepMD-v2 pipeline:
  - periodic coordinate handling, ghost atoms, and multi-type neighbor lists,
  - species-dependent filter and descriptor networks,
  - normalization, scaling, smooth cutoffs, and force calculations.
- [8, 9].
- Focus on the **inference stage** (energy and force evaluation) for multi-component materials using the DeepPot-SE descriptor;
- Model training and alternative descriptors are outside the scope.

# HALMD: High-Accuracy Large-Scale MD Engine

- HALMD is a high-performance, open-source MD framework for large-scale simulations, optimized for numerical accuracy and GPU acceleration [3].
- Atomic motion follows Newton's equations of motion:

$$m_i \frac{d^2 \mathbf{r}_i}{dt^2} = -\nabla_i U(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N),$$

- Traditionally uses efficient interatomic potentials, but are limited for complex chemistry [5, 2].
- This thesis extends HALMD with multi-species DeepMD-v2 force fields, enabling near *ab initio* accuracy at classical MD cost [8, 9].

# Neural Network Potentials and Deep Potential MD(DeepMD)-v2

- **Neural Network Potentials** learn interatomic interactions from *ab initio* data, achieving near-DFT accuracy at classical MD cost [1, 7].
- Energy is written as a sum of atomic contributions:

$$E = \sum_i E_i(\mathcal{R}_i), \quad (1)$$

ensuring locality and linear scaling [1].

- **DeepMD-v2**: modern NNP with smooth, symmetry-preserving descriptors, explicit multi-species support, and efficient GPU execution [8, 9].
- Species-specific embedding and fitting networks predict energies; forces follow from

$$\mathbf{F}_i = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}. \quad (2)$$

# Overview of Implementation

- DeepMD-v2 is integrated into HALMD through a modular, end-to-end inference pipeline.
- Model parameters are extracted from `frozen_model.pb` and `input.json` and converted into a compact HDF5 format for efficient loading.
- HALMD reconstructs local atomic environments using the exact DeepMD-v2 convention:
  - periodic coordinate wrapping,
  - ghost-cell extension,
  - species-ordered neighbor selection.
- From the reconstructed environment, HALMD computes descriptors and evaluates species-specific neural networks to obtain atomic energies and forces.

# DeepMD–HALMD Energy Evaluation Pipeline

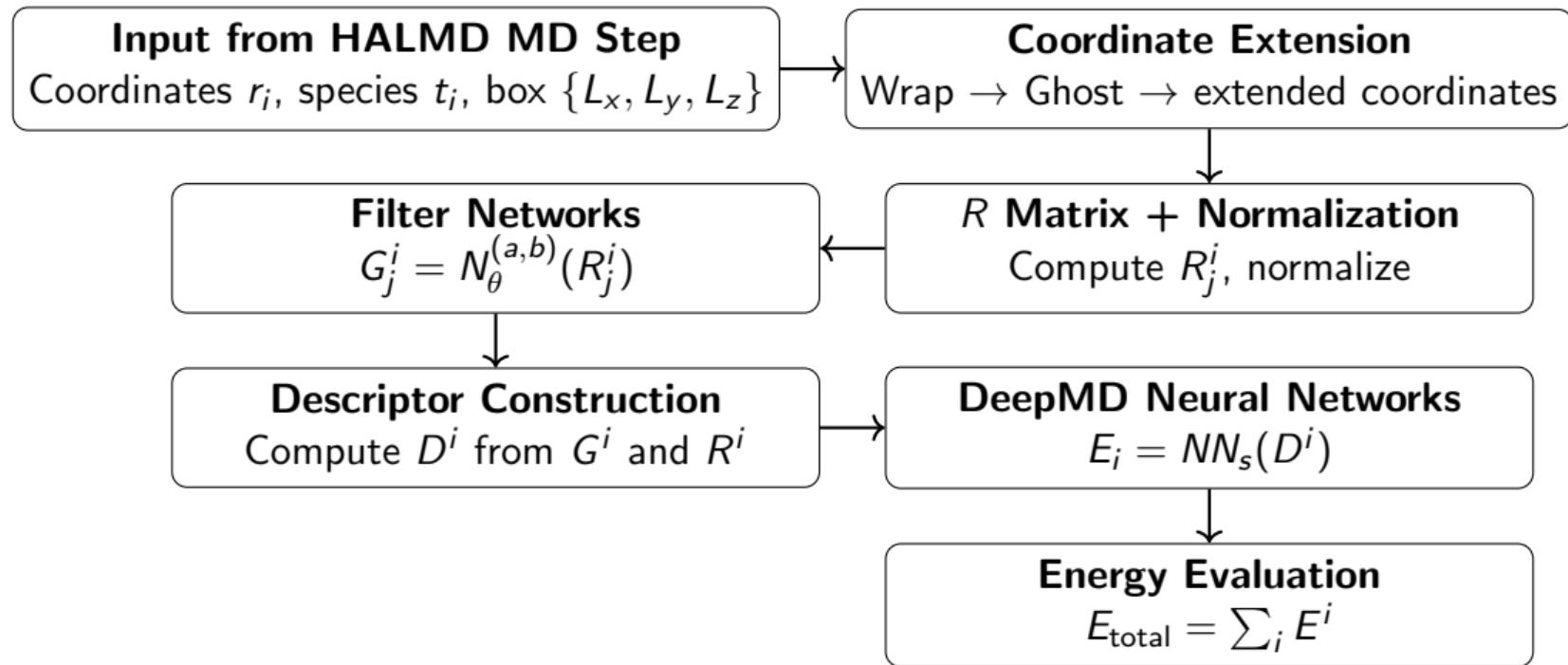


Figure: DeepMD–HALMD energy evaluation pipeline implemented in this thesis.

# Model Parameter Extraction

- DeepMD-v2 models are stored as `frozen_model.pb` with hyperparameters in `input.json` [8, 9].
- All parameters are extracted from the TensorFlow graph and converted into a compact HDF5 format for efficient inference in HALMD.
- The extracted model contains:
  - descriptor attributes (cutoffs, normalization, species mapping),
  - species-dependent embedding (filter) networks,
  - species-dependent fitting networks,
  - final outputs: energies, forces, and virials.
- The hierarchical HDF5 model enables full multi-species DeepMD-v2 inference in HALMD, without TensorFlow, extending earlier single-species implementations [4].

# Coordinate System Extension

- **Problem:** HALMD's native neighbor handling uses the *minimum-image convention*, sufficient for classical MD, but incompatible with DeepMD's descriptor construction [3, 8, 9].
- **DeepMD Requirement:** Descriptors are computed from *absolute atomic coordinates* inside the primary cell, requiring explicit:
  - coordinate wrapping,
  - ghost-cell periodic expansion,
  - species-aware neighbor organization,
  - descriptor normalization.
- **Implemented Solution:** A new DeePMD-style environment constructor that exactly reproduces the DeepMD-v2 preprocessing pipeline, replacing HALMD's original environment construction [4].
- **Impact:** Enables correct descriptor evaluation and full compatibility with multi-species DeepMD-v2 models.

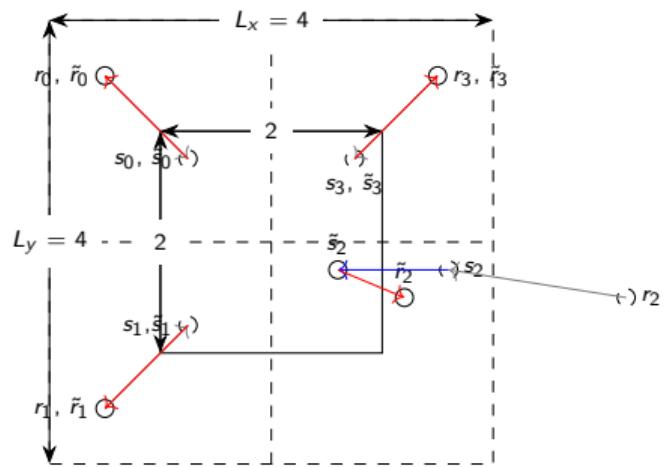
# Explicit Coordinate Wrapping

- DeepMD requires all atoms to be mapped into the primary cell using fractional coordinates:

$$\mathbf{s}_i = \mathbf{r}_i \mathbf{H}^{-1}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{s}}_i = \mathbf{s}_i - \lfloor \mathbf{s}_i \rfloor, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_i = \tilde{\mathbf{s}}_i \mathbf{H}. \quad (3)$$

- This procedure is mandatory for general (non-orthorhombic) simulation cells and matches DeepMD's internal pipeline [8].

# Explicit Coordinate Wrapping visualization



**Figure:** Explicit coordinate wrapping illustrated in stages: real coordinates  $r_i$ , fractional coordinates  $s_i = \mathbf{r}_i \mathbf{H}^{-1}$ , and wrapped fractional coordinates  $\tilde{s}_i$ .

- **Problem:** HALMD's neighbor list applies the minimum-image convention, which is sufficient for classical MD but does *not* provide the full periodic environment required by DeepMD descriptors [3, 8, 9].
- **DeepMD Requirement:** Every atom must retain a complete neighborhood within the cutoff radius  $r_c$ , including neighbors across periodic boundaries.
- **Implemented Solution:** Full **ghost-cell tiling** — explicit replication of the simulation cell in all spatial directions before neighbor construction.
- **Impact:** Ensures descriptor correctness and identical environments for atoms near boundaries and in the interior, enabling full DeepMD-v2 compatibility.

# Ghost-Cell Construction

- Periodic images are generated from wrapped coordinates:

$$\mathbf{r}_i^{(s)} = \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_i + s_x L_x \mathbf{e}_x + s_y L_y \mathbf{e}_y + s_z L_z \mathbf{e}_z, \quad s_\alpha \in [-n_{\text{buff},\alpha}, n_{\text{buff},\alpha}] \quad (4)$$

- Buffer size ensures full cutoff coverage:

$$n_{\text{buff},\alpha} = \left\lceil \frac{r_c}{L_\alpha} \right\rceil$$

- For cubic cells with  $n_{\text{buff}} = 1$ :  $3^3 = 27$  replicated cells.

# Ghost-Cell construction visualization

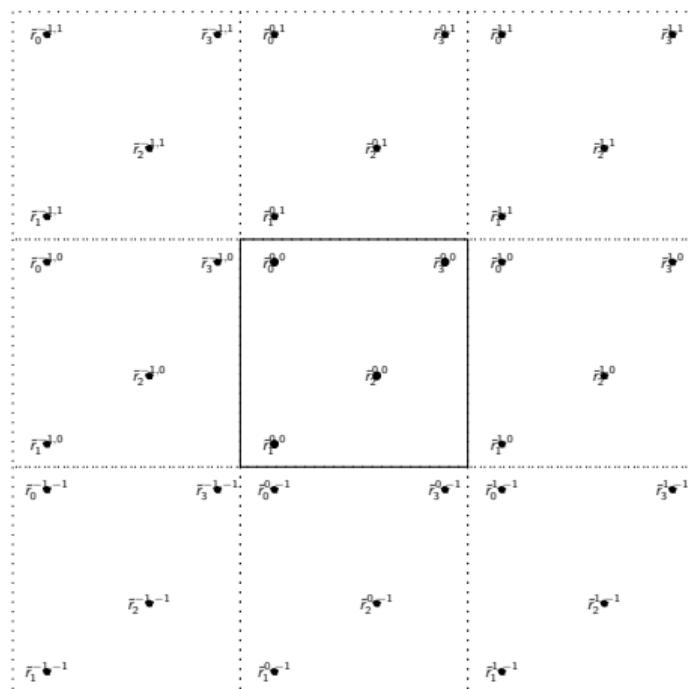


Figure: Periodic replication of the computational cell.

# Construction of the Configuration Matrix $R$ I

- **Inputs:** wrapped central coordinate  $\tilde{\mathbf{r}}_i$  and ghost-cell neighbour images  $\mathbf{r}_j^{(s)}$ .

- **Relative displacement:**

$$\mathbf{r}_{ij} = \mathbf{r}_j^{(s)} - \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_i, \quad r_{ij} = \|\mathbf{r}_{ij}\|. \quad (5)$$

- **Smooth cutoff (DeepMD):**

$$s(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{r}, & r < r_s, \\ \frac{1}{r} \left[ x^3(-6x^2 + 15x - 10) + 1 \right], & r_s \leq r < r_c, \\ 0, & r \geq r_c, \end{cases} \quad x = \frac{r - r_s}{r_c - r_s}. \quad (6)$$

- **Neighbour feature row (4 components):**

$$(R^i)_j = \left[ s(r_{ij}), s(r_{ij}) \frac{x_{ij}}{r_{ij}}, s(r_{ij}) \frac{y_{ij}}{r_{ij}}, s(r_{ij}) \frac{z_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right]. \quad (7)$$

# Construction of the Configuration Matrix $R$ II

- Species-fixed layout via `sel`:

$$N_c^{(b)} = \text{max neighbour slots for species } b, \quad \text{sel} = [N_c^{(1)}, \dots, N_c^{(B)}], \quad (8)$$

$$N_c^{(\text{total})} = \sum_{b=1}^B N_c^{(b)}, \quad R^i \in \mathbb{R}^{N_c^{(\text{total})} \times 4}. \quad (9)$$

Neighbours are grouped by species and truncated/zero-padded to match `sel`.

- Normalization (training statistics):

$$\hat{R}_{k\alpha}^i = \frac{R_{k\alpha}^i - t_{\text{avg},\alpha}}{t_{\text{std},\alpha}}, \quad \hat{s}_{ij} = \hat{R}_{j,0}^i \text{ (input to embedding net)}. \quad (10)$$

# Construction of the Embedding Matrix $G$ I

- The DeepPot-SE descriptor maps each normalized inverse distance

$$\hat{s}_{ij} = \hat{R}_{j,0}^i \quad (11)$$

to a learned embedding vector using a species-pair-specific filter network.

- For each central–neighbor species pair  $(a, b)$ , DeepMD-v2 defines a dedicated neural network

$$N_{\theta}^{(a,b)} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^M, \quad (12)$$

producing the embedding row

$$G_{j,:}^i = N_{\theta}^{(a,b(j))}(\hat{s}_{ij}). \quad (13)$$

- All embedding rows are stacked to form

$$G^i \in \mathbb{R}^{N_c^{(\text{total})} \times M}, \quad N_c^{(\text{total})} = \sum_b N_c^{(b)}. \quad (14)$$

# Construction of the Embedding Matrix $G$ II

- Different neighbor species use different filter networks, enabling chemically accurate multi-species modeling.
- HALMD stores the full network family as

$$\text{networks}[a][b] \equiv N_{\theta}^{(a,b)}, \quad (15)$$

and selects the correct one at runtime for each neighbor.

# Descriptor Computation I

- The DeepPot-SE descriptor combines geometric information  $\hat{R}^i$  and learned embeddings  $G^i$  to form the final descriptor  $D^i$  used to predict atomic energy.
- After neighbor construction, the normalized geometric matrix is

$$\hat{R}^i \in \mathbb{R}^{N_c^{(\text{total})} \times 4}, \quad (16)$$

containing inverse distances and angular components.

- Each row is embedded via a species-pair neural network:

$$G_{j:}^i = N_\theta^{(a,b(j))}(\hat{s}_{ij}), \quad G^i \in \mathbb{R}^{N_c^{(\text{total})} \times M}. \quad (17)$$

- The quadratic descriptor is then constructed as

$$D^i = \frac{1}{(N_c^{(\text{total})})^2} ((G^i)^T \hat{R}^i) ((\hat{R}^i)^T G^{i,\text{trunc}}). \quad (18)$$

## Descriptor Computation II

- Flattening  $D^i$  produces the final descriptor vector

$$\mathbf{D}^i \in \mathbb{R}^{MM'}, \quad (19)$$

which is passed to the fitting network to predict energy and forces.

# Potential Energy Evaluation I

- DeepMD expresses the total energy as a sum of atomic energies:

$$E_{\text{tot}} = \sum_{i=1}^N E^i. \quad (20)$$

- For each atom  $i$  of species  $s_i$ , the atomic energy is obtained from a **species-dependent fitting network**:

$$E^i = \text{NN}_{s_i}(\mathbf{D}^i) + b_{s_i}. \quad (21)$$

- DeepMD-v2 defines one fitting network per species; HALMD reconstructs all networks directly from the frozen TensorFlow graph.
- The descriptor vector  $\mathbf{D}^i$  is guaranteed to match the exact structure expected by each fitting network (ordering, dimension, normalization).
- The new HALMD implementation extends previous work from single-species to full **multi-species** DeepMD-v2 inference.

# Energy Agreement

- HALMD reproduces DeepMD energies to single-precision floating-point accuracy.
- Verified for:
  - Cu (Model A),
  - HEA,
  - Garnet,
  - Cu (Model B with different statistics).
- Agreement holds across:
  - increasing system sizes,
  - chemically complex multi-species systems,
  - different normalization statistics.
- Confirms correctness of:
  - descriptor construction,
  - embedding networks,
  - fitting networks,
  - energy bias terms.

# Energy Agreement Across All Models and Species

Model	Species	Atoms	DeepMD (eV)	HALMD (eV)	Match
Cu A	1	4	-6673.84	-6673.84	✓
	1	32	-53412.4	-53412.4	✓
	1	108	-180303	-180303	✓
	1	256	-427425	-427425	✓
Cu B	1	4	-7.7443	-7.7443	✓
	1	32	-89.4412	-89.4412	✓
	1	108	-335.96	-335.96	✓
	1	256	-836.414	-836.414	✓
HEA	5	16	-66.7551	-66.7551	✓
	5	128	-895.498	-895.498	✓
	5	432	-3490.86	-3490.86	✓
Garnet	5	161	-108445	-108445	✓

- Agreement holds for monoatomic and multi-species systems.
- Verified across different training statistics and descriptor normalizations.
- Confirms correctness of full DeepMD-v2 inference in HALMD.

# Overview

- In DeepMD, atomic forces are obtained from the energy by

$$\mathbf{F}_i = -\frac{\partial E_{\text{tot}}}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}. \quad (22)$$

- The total energy depends on atomic coordinates through multiple stages:

$$\mathbf{r} \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{R}} \rightarrow D \rightarrow E.$$

- Force evaluation therefore requires a structured application of the chain rule:

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial \mathbf{r}} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial D} \frac{\partial D}{\partial \hat{\mathcal{R}}} \frac{\partial \hat{\mathcal{R}}}{\partial \mathbf{r}}. \quad (23)$$

- HALMD reproduces the DeepMD-v2 derivative pipeline by combining:
  - automatic differentiation for all neural networks,
  - analytic derivatives for geometric and descriptor operations.
- This yields forces that match DeepMD-v2 outputs to floating-point precision.

# Automatic Differentiation (AD): How It Works

- **Automatic Differentiation (AD)** computes exact derivatives of a program by applying the chain rule to each elementary operation.
- Key insight: any computation can be decomposed into simple operations

+,  $\times$ ,  $\sin$ ,  $\cos$ , ...

and the chain rule is applied locally to each operation.

- Example computation:

$$z = xy + \sin(x)$$

is evaluated as a sequence of primitives:

$$a = xy, \quad b = \sin(x), \quad z = a + b.$$

- AD differentiates this program automatically, without symbolic formulas and without numerical approximations.

- **Forward-mode AD**

- Propagates derivatives together with values.
- Each variable carries its derivative:

$$(x, \dot{x}), (y, \dot{y}), (a, \dot{a}), \dots$$

- One program run gives the derivative w.r.t. one input.
- Cost scales with number of inputs.

# Forward-Mode AD: Worked Example I

**Goal:** Compute the derivative of

$$z = x y + \sin(x)$$

with respect to  $x$ .

**Step 1: Decompose computation into primitives**

$$a = x y$$

$$b = \sin(x)$$

$$z = a + b$$

**Step 2: Attach derivatives to every variable**

$$(x, \dot{x}), (y, \dot{y}), (a, \dot{a}), (b, \dot{b}), (z, \dot{z})$$

# Forward-Mode AD: Worked Example II

Seed the input derivative:

$$\dot{x} = 1, \quad \dot{y} = 0.$$

## Step 3: Propagate derivatives using chain rule

$$a = xy, \quad \dot{a} = y \dot{x} + x \dot{y} = y$$

$$b = \sin(x), \quad \dot{b} = \cos(x) \dot{x} = \cos(x)$$

$$z = a + b, \quad \dot{z} = \dot{a} + \dot{b} = y + \cos(x)$$

**Result:**

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = y + \cos(x)}$$

## AD: Reverse-Mode

- First run computes all intermediate values.
- Second run propagates sensitivities backward.
- One run yields the full gradient of a scalar output.
- Cost scales with number of outputs.

This makes reverse-mode AD ideal for

$$E = f(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

which is exactly the structure of neural networks.

# Automatic Differentiation (AD) in HALMD

- DeepMD force evaluation requires derivatives through: geometry → embedding → descriptor → fitting network.
- **Analytic derivatives** are used for all geometric operations.
- **Automatic differentiation** is used for all neural networks.
- **Current HALMD implementation: Forward-mode AD**

- Used for embedding networks:

$$\hat{s}_{ij} \rightarrow G_j^i, \quad \frac{\partial G_j^i}{\partial \hat{s}_{ij}}.$$

- Used in fitting network to compute

$$\frac{\partial E_i}{\partial D_{i,\alpha}}.$$

- HALMD uses a **hybrid strategy**: analytic geometry + AD for neural networks.

# Derivatives of the Geometry Matrix $R$

- Forces require derivatives of each geometry row

$$\frac{\partial R_{j\alpha}^{(i)}}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}. \quad (24)$$

- Each row depends on the relative displacement

$$\mathbf{r}_{ij} = \mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i, \quad r_{ij} = \|\mathbf{r}_{ij}\|. \quad (25)$$

- Geometry features:

$$R_{j0}^{(i)} = s(r_{ij}), \quad R_{j\alpha}^{(i)} = s(r_{ij}) \frac{d_\alpha}{r_{ij}}. \quad (26)$$

- All derivatives follow directly from the multivariate chain rule.

# Derivative of the Embedding Matrix $G$

- Each embedding row is produced by a species-dependent network:

$$G_{j:}^{(i)} = N_{\theta}^{(a,b)}(\hat{s}_{ij}), \quad \hat{s}_{ij} = \hat{R}_{j0}^{(i)}. \quad (27)$$

- Therefore,  $G^{(i)}$  depends on geometry only through the single scalar  $\hat{s}_{ij}$ .
- Its derivative reduces to a one-dimensional neural-network derivative:

$$\frac{\partial G_{jp}^{(i)}}{\partial \hat{R}_{j0}^{(i)}} = \frac{d N_{\theta,p}^{(a,b)}}{d \hat{s}}(\hat{s}_{ij}), \quad p = 1, \dots, M. \quad (28)$$

- All other geometric components do **not** affect  $G$ :

$$\frac{\partial G_{jp}^{(i)}}{\partial \hat{R}_{j\alpha}^{(i)}} = 0, \quad \alpha \neq 0. \quad (29)$$

# Descriptor Structure and Construction

- For each atom  $i$ , the descriptor is built from:

$$\hat{R}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_c \times 4}, \quad G^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{N_c \times M}.$$

- Intermediate contraction:**

$$C^{(i)} = \frac{1}{N_c} (G^{(i)})^T \hat{R}^{(i)}, \quad C^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times 4}.$$

- Quadratic, permutation-invariant descriptor:**

$$D_{\text{ext}}^{(i)} = C^{(i)} (C^{(i)})^T \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M}.$$

- Truncated descriptor used by the fitting network:**

$$D^{(i)} = D_{\text{ext}}^{(i)}[:, 1 : M'] = C^{(i)} (C^{(i)})^T P \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M'}.$$

# Descriptor Derivative: Key Structure

- Descriptor depends on geometry via two paths:

$$\hat{R}^i \rightarrow C^i \rightarrow D^i, \quad \hat{R}^i \rightarrow G^i \rightarrow C^i \rightarrow D^i.$$

- Matrix chain rule:

$$\frac{\partial \text{vec}(D^i)}{\partial \text{vec}(\hat{R}^i)} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \text{vec}(D^i)}{\partial \text{vec}(G^i)} \frac{\partial \text{vec}(G^i)}{\partial s^i}}_{\text{embedding path}} \frac{\partial s^i}{\partial \text{vec}(\hat{R}^i)} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial \text{vec}(D^i)}{\partial \text{vec}(\hat{R}^i)}}_{\text{direct geometry path}}.$$

# Fitting Network Derivative

- Atomic energy:

$$E^i = \text{NN}_{s_i}(\text{vec}(D^i))$$

- Jacobian required for forces:

$$J^i = \frac{\partial E^i}{\partial D^i} = \frac{\partial E^i}{\partial \text{vec}(D^i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times M'}.$$

- Deep nonlinear mapping → **automatic differentiation (AD)**.

# Final Force Assembly

- Total force:

$$\mathbf{F}_i = - \sum_j \frac{\partial E^j}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}.$$

- Final factored force expression:

$$\mathbf{F}_i = - \sum_j J^j \left( \underbrace{\frac{\partial \text{vec}(D_j)}{\partial \text{vec}(G_j)} \frac{\partial \text{vec}(G_j)}{\partial s_j} \frac{\partial s_j}{\partial \text{vec}(\hat{R}_j)}}_{\text{via embedding } (\hat{R} \rightarrow s \rightarrow G \rightarrow D)} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial \text{vec}(D_j)}{\partial \text{vec}(\hat{R}_j)}}_{\text{direct geometry } (\hat{R} \rightarrow D)} \right) \frac{\partial \text{vec}(\hat{R}_j)}{\partial \mathbf{r}_i}$$

# Force Computation: Hybrid Structure

- Neural part:

$$\frac{\partial \text{vec}(D)}{\partial \text{vec}(G)}, \quad \frac{\partial \text{vec}(G)}{\partial s} \quad (\text{via AD})$$

- Analytic geometry:

$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial \text{vec}(\hat{R})}, \quad \frac{\partial \text{vec}(\hat{R})}{\partial \mathbf{r}}$$

- Fully explicit, stable and DeepMD-v2-equivalent force pipeline.

# Conclusion & Outlook

- First fully explicit *DeepMD-v2 implementation in HALMD* with multi-species descriptors, energies, and force derivatives.
- Verified energy agreement for monoatomic and complex multi-species systems enables *accurate large-scale ML-driven molecular dynamics* without framework overhead.
- This work enables:
  - faster ML-based simulations,
  - improved HPC scalability,
  - closer integration of ML and physics-based modeling.
- With completed forces and further optimisation, HALMD can become a *high-performance platform for next-generation materials simulation*.

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# Thank You!