

# Uncertainty Quantification and Active Learning in Atomistic Computations

H a b i b N . N a j m

S a n d i a N a t i o n a l L a b o r a t o r i e s , L i v e r m o r e , C A

E r r o r C o n t r o l i n f i r s t - p r i n c i p l e s m o d e l l i n g

C E C A M - H Q - E P F L , L a u s a n n e , S w i t z e r l a n d

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# Acknowledgement

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- DOE Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) Scientific Advanced Computing (SciDAC) program
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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Case Study: Binary Alloys
- 3 Case Study: Hydrocarbon Molecules
- 4 Case Study: Refractory Alloys
- 5 Conclusions

# Scope

- Focus: potential energy surface (PES) / inter-atomic surrogate constructions
  - PES/IAP surrogate representation and model structure
  - PES/IAP surrogate parameter estimation/calibration with emphasis on errors and uncertainties
- Multiple motivations
  - Uncertainty quantification (UQ) and global sensitivity molecular dynamics (MD) computations
  - Minimizing errors in fitted PES for downstream use
    - e.g. exploration, reaction rate computation
- UQ importance is recognized in IAP-based atomistic
 

Frederik *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 2014; Angelika *J. Chem. Phys.* 2012; Dutt *J. Chem. Phys.* 2018; Longbott *J. Chem. Phys.* 2019; Patrone *Comp. Chem. Phys.* 2020; Vassiliadis *J. Chem. Phys.* 2021; Zhou and Foiles 2017; Chandra *J. Chem. Phys.* 2013.
- We ignore errors/uncertainties in quantum chemistry (QC) density functional theory (DFT) computations
 

FYI: Wang *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2021; Yang *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2021; Prasad *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2013; Klippenstein *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2011; Harcourt *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2011.

# Elements of a PES/IAP Surrogate Constr

- There are two key elements of any PES/IAP surrogate
  - A feature vector that summarizes system geometry
    - For example  $v(x; \theta) : \mathbb{R}^{3N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$
    - Where  $\theta$  is a parameter vector
  - A function that maps the feature vector to potential energy

$$E(x) \approx f(v(x; \theta); w)$$

where  $w$  is a parameter vector

- The functional forms of  $f$  and  $v$  are important modeling choices
- Constructions should natively satisfy
  - translational, rotational, and permutational invariances
  - Permutational invariance: swapping two same-type atoms does not alter the system potential energy

# Examples of PES/IAP constructions

- Embedded Atom Model (EAM) [Orow & Basile, 1984](#)

$$E_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq i} \phi_{\alpha\beta}(r_{ij}) + F_{\alpha} \left( \sum_{j \neq i} \rho_{\alpha\beta}(r_{ij}) \right)$$

- Symmetry Function descriptors [Kocher & Parrinello, 2007](#)

- Geometry descriptors used with Neural Networks
- Atomic Environment Vector (AEV) construction [Smith et al, 2017](#)

- Gaussian Approximation Potential (GAP) [Bernholdt, 2010](#)

- Geom. descriptor, neighbor density bispectrum,

- Coulomb matrix descriptor, geometry and nuclear [Rupp et al, 2012](#)

- Spectral Neighbor analysis potential (SNAP) [Thompson et al, 2015](#)

- Similar to GAP, but with linear regression

- Atomic Cluster Expansion (ACE) [Dani et al, 2015](#)

- Generalizes/subsumes many earlier constructions

- 3D Graph Convolutional Network (3D GCN) descriptors [Chen & Ho, 2019](#)

- Geometry representation in terms of molecular s

- Generalized deep metric learning with GNNs [Nag et al, 2019](#)

# Our PES surrogate requirements

- Translational and rotational invariance
  - Rely on internal coordinates:
    - Distances between pairs of atoms
    - Angles formed among sets of 3 atoms
- Descriptor size independent of number of molecules
  - An atom-centric feature vector construction
  - Represent local geometry around each atom
- Permutational invariance
  - Additive superposition of atomic contributions to
- Sufficient complexity to fit data from different atom systems in a range of geometric conformations
- Generalizability
  - Controlled approximation accuracy outside the t

# PES/IAP Surrogate Calibration

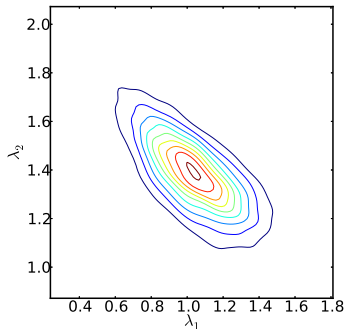
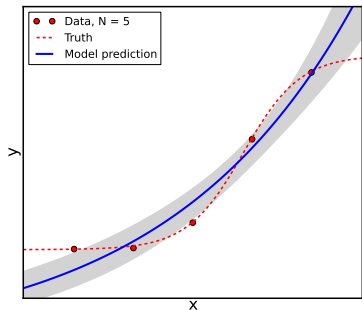
- Least squares regression, with some means of regularization
- dominant means of PES/IAP surrogate calibration
- Given large number of parameters, and limitations on data sizes, one expects some uncertainty in fitted model
- Bayesian methods provide robust means of estimating uncertainties, as well as model comparisons/selection
- In a computational setting, use Markov Chain Monte Carlo to sample from the Bayesian posterior
  - MCMC is feasible in high-dimensions when dealing with models that are linear in parameters
  - It has severe computational limitations in high-dimensional nonlinear models
  - A range of heuristic/approximate methods exist in this challenging setting



# Dealing with Model Error in UQ

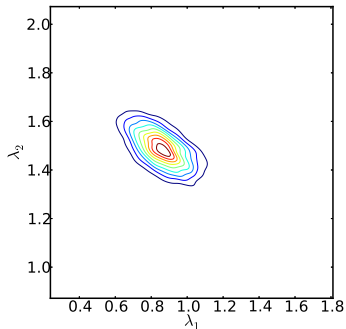
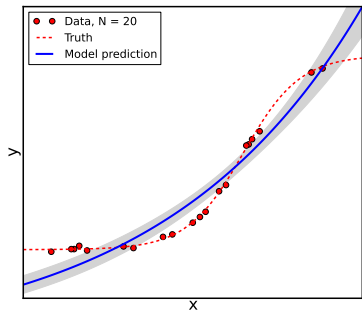
- All models are wrong in principle
- Models of physical systems rely on
  - Presumed theoretical framework
  - Mathematical formulation
- Practical models of complex physical systems rely on
  - Simplifying assumptions
  - Numerical discretization of governing equations
  - Computational software & hardware
- model error is frequently non-negligible
- Estimating model error is useful for
  - model comparison & validation
  - model improvement & scientific discovery
  - reliable computational predictions

# Challenges with Model Calibration due to



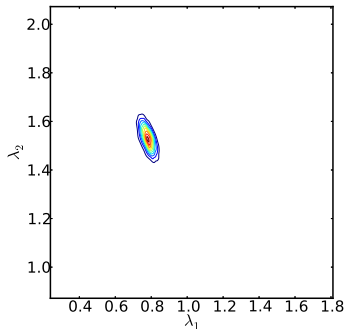
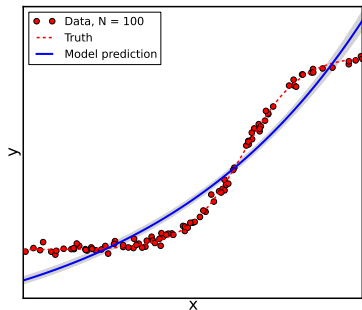
- Conventional parameter estimation  $y_{\text{data}} = f(x; \theta) + \epsilon_d$
- Additional data results in reduced parameteric poster
- One gets more confident about predictions with the
- Predictive uncertainty in calibrated model has no uti
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# Statistical modeling of model error

## Error framework:

Measurements:  $y_{\text{data}} = y_{\text{truth}} + \epsilon_d$

Model predictions:  $y_{\text{truth}} = y_{\text{model}} + \epsilon_m$

Thus:  $y_{\text{data}} = y_{\text{model}} + \epsilon_m + \epsilon_d$

## Error modeling – example

Model:  $y_{\text{model}} = f(x, \lambda)$

Data Error:  $\epsilon_d \sim \mathbf{N}(0, \sigma^2)$

Model Error:  $\epsilon_m \sim \mathbf{GP}(\mu(x), C(x, x'))$

## Model calibration:

Estimate model parameters along with the  $\epsilon_m, \epsilon_d$

# Challenges – Physical Models

- Arbitrary choice of statistical model (e.g. GP) spatial structure does not take the physical model into account
  - Potential violation of implicit constraints in physics
  - e.g. incompressible flow
- Difficulty in disambiguation of model & data error
- Calibration of model error on measured observable quality of other model predictions

# Model Error Embedding

- Embed model error in specific submodel phenomenon Berliner 2003
  - a modified transport or constitutive law
  - a modified formulation for a material property Sargsyan 2019; Hakim 2018; Haddad 2018; Sargsyan 2015
- Pros:
  - Allows placement of model error term in location modeling assumptions and approximations are made
    - as a correction or high-order term
    - as a possible alternate phenomenology
  - explore if it can explain discrepancy on observables
  - naturally preserves model structure and associated physics
- Cons:
  - complex likelihood or general non-linear  $f(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{x})$

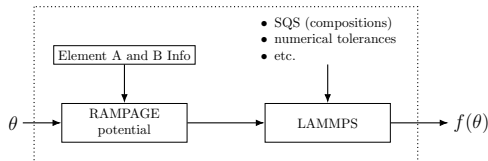
# Case Study: Bayesian Calibration of IAPs

## Work with:

- Arun Hegde and Cosmin Safta (Sandia Nat. Labs.)
- Elan Weiss and Wolfgang Windl (Ohio State U.)

## Goals:

- Focus on Embedded Atom Model (EAM) potential for
  - (Au,Cu)
- Bayesian calibration of EAM potential with DFT data
- Forward propagation of IAP uncertainty in MD simulation using LAMMPS





# EAM potential

- RAMPAGE/EAM potentials for binary alloys (Ward 2004)
- Two elements (types)

Given an atom of type  $\alpha \in \{A, B\}$ , and a neighbor of type  $\beta \in \{A, B\}$ , we have

$$E_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \neq i} V_{\alpha, \beta}(r_{ij}) + F_{\alpha} \left( \sum_{j \neq i} \rho_{\alpha, \beta}(\rho_{ij}) \right)$$

$$\rho_{BA}(r) = r^6 (\exp(-S_A r) + 2^9 \exp(-2S_A r))$$

$$\rho_{AB}(r) = r^6 (\exp(-S_B r) + 2^9 \exp(-2S_B r))$$

$$V_{AB}(r) = D (\exp(-2\alpha(r - r_{eq})) - 2 \exp(-\alpha(r - r_{eq})))$$

with parameters  $(r_{eq}, D, \alpha, S_A, S_B)$ .

# Calibration problem setup

- Predictive model:  $y_i = f_i(x; \theta)$  where

$x \in \{\text{discrete set of compositions}\}$

$Q_i \in \{\text{lattice constants, } C_{11}, C_{12}, C_{44}, \text{bulk modulus, mixing enthalpy}\}$

$\theta = (r_{eq}, D, \alpha, S_A, S_B)$

- Data model:

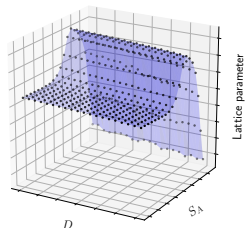
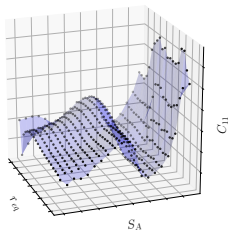
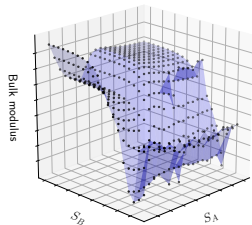
$$y_i(x) = f_i(x; \theta) + \epsilon_i(x)$$

$$\epsilon_i(x) \sim \begin{cases} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 f_i(x; \theta)^2 + \tau^2) & \text{for } Q_i = \text{mixing enthalpy} \\ \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 f_i(x; \theta)^2) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- 102 calibration targets: 6  $Q$ ols at each of 17 compositions
- DFT data generated for each target quantity
- We use uniform priors  $\mathcal{D}(r_{eq}, D, \alpha, S_A, S_B, \ln \sigma, \ln \tau)$

# Model Surrogates

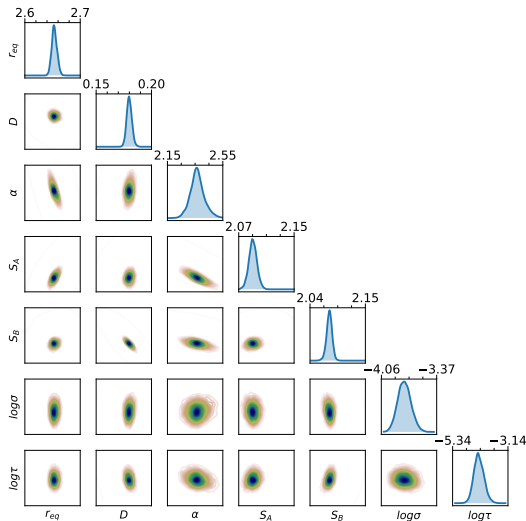
- LAMMPS expense necessitates use of surrogates for
- Model outputs exhibit complex behavior, and patho



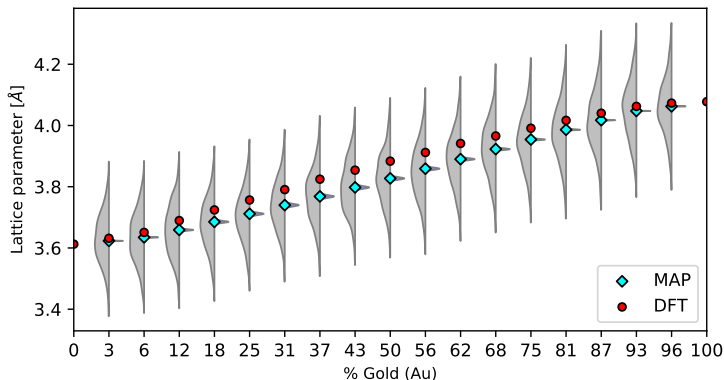
- We build Gaussian process surrogates for each of the
  - superior accuracy relative to Legendre polynomial
- Using randomly sampled train/test data, we adaptively refine the surrogate hypercube to ensure
  - target surrogate accuracy
  - surrogate hypercube contains posterior samples

# Posterior on model parameters

- Marginal 1D posteriors are nearly Gaussian
- Posterior parameter uncertainties are with COV  $\leq 10\%$
- Marginal 2D posteriors reveal pairwise correlations on variables



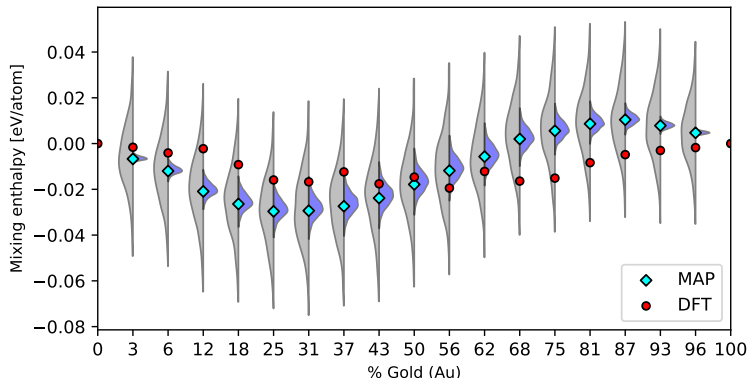
# Posterior on model parameters



Push-forward posterior (PFP, right) and Posterior predictive (PP, left)

- Significant model errors observed with various com
- PFP width small w.r.t. discrepancy between MAP pre
- PP does encompass these discrepancies on average

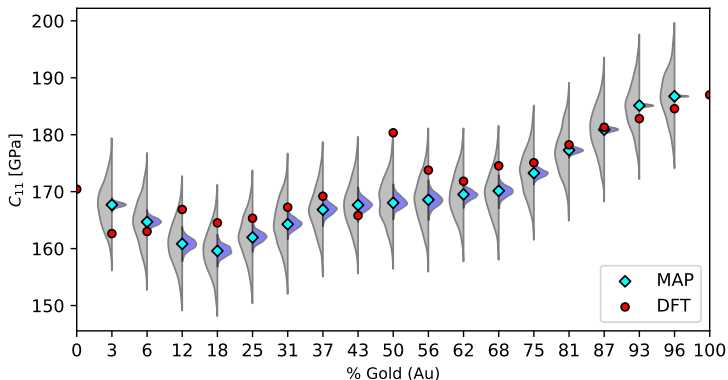
# Posterior on model parameters



Push-forward posterior (PFP, right) and Posterior predictive (PP, left)

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- PP does encompass these discrepancies on average

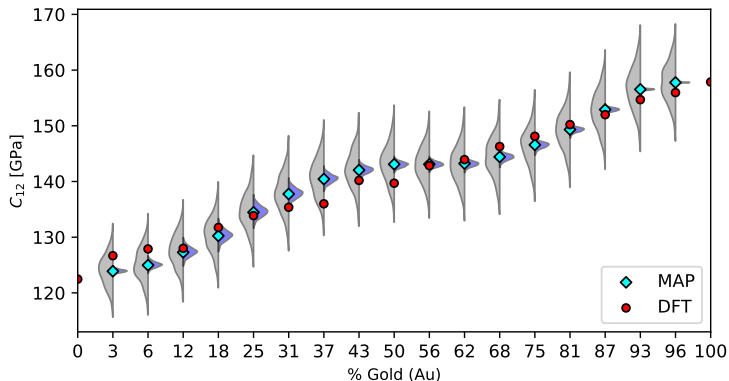
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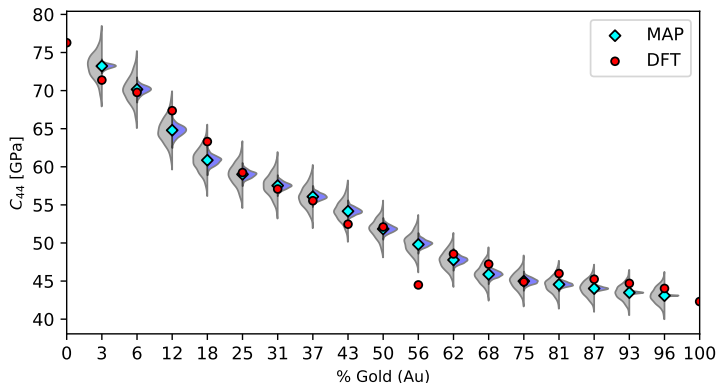


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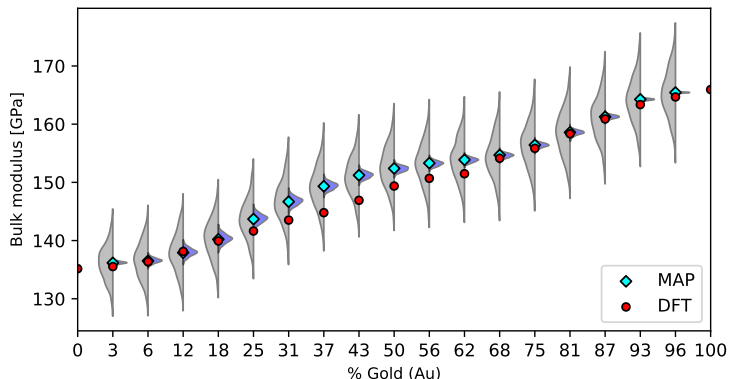
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# Conclusions – Binary Alloy Study

- As may be expected, the simplicity of the EAM potential leads to significant discrepancies in the MAP model predictions
- These discrepancies are captured on average by the predictive (PP) across all Qols/compositions
- At the same time, the PP uncertainty is much larger than the observed discrepancy
- Improvements to this simple additive model-error model using Qol-specific GP corrections (ala Kennedy & O'Hara) can reduce this mismatch
- Further improvements, using embedded model errors, will also improve the PP on other Qols, e.g. forces
- Data curation as well as improved automated convergence would help reduce data pathologies, improve surrogate model, and enhance overall fidelity of the Bayesian calibration

# Case Study: PES for Hydrocarbon Molec

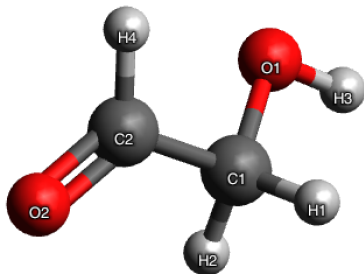
## Work with:

Yoona Yang<sup>1</sup>, Carlos M<sup>1</sup>, Judith Zád<sup>1</sup> and Michael Eldred<sup>2</sup>  
 Sandia National Laboratories  
 Livermore<sup>1</sup>, & Albuquerque<sup>2</sup>, NM

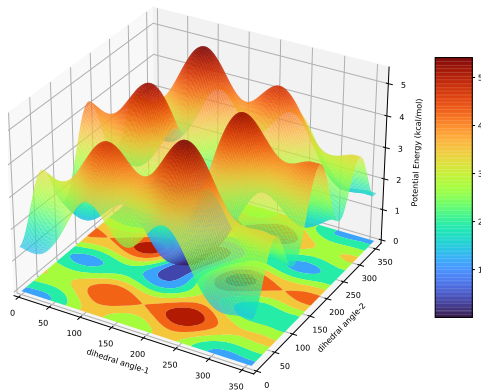
## Goals:

- Focus on neural network (NN) PES with feature vector Behler & Parrinello symmetry functions
- Atomic environment vector (AEV) construction
- Active learning using Query by Committee (QBC)
- Force training
- Multifidelity training

# PES for Glycolaldehyde



Molecular structure

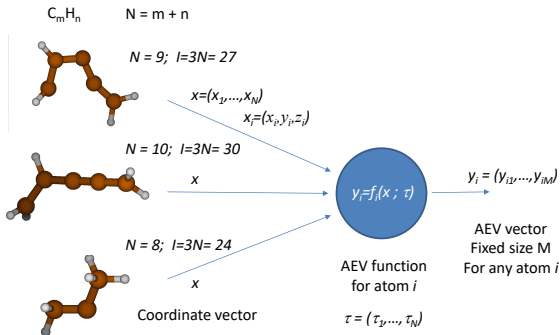


PES of glycolaldehyde with variation in the angles (O2-C2-C1-O1, C2-C1-O1-H3)

# Symmetry Function AEV construction

The neighborhood geometry around each atom is represented by a fixed length atomic environment vector (AEV) descriptor

- AEV length is independent of the number of atoms
- It's defined by specifying:
  - The set of allowed atomic types, e.g.
  - The specified symmetry functions

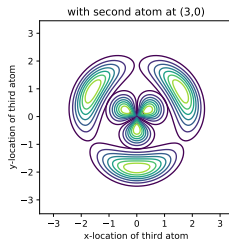
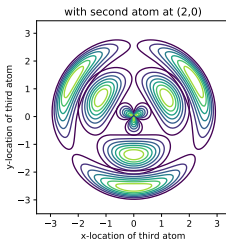
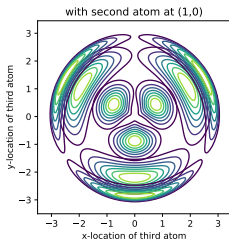
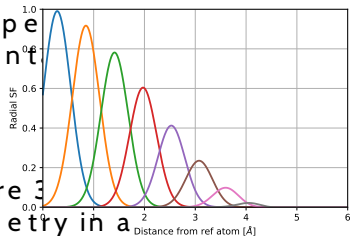


# Symmetry Functions capture local radial

- Radial SFs capture atom - type neighborhood indep of orient
  - Pair-wise interactions

$$y_{R,i}^{\tau} = \bigcup_{\rho, \eta} \sum_{j \in S_{\tau}, j \neq i} e^{-\eta(R_{ij}-\rho)^2} f_c(R_{ij})$$

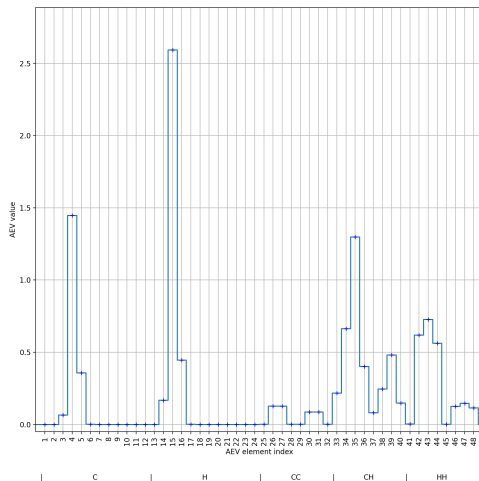
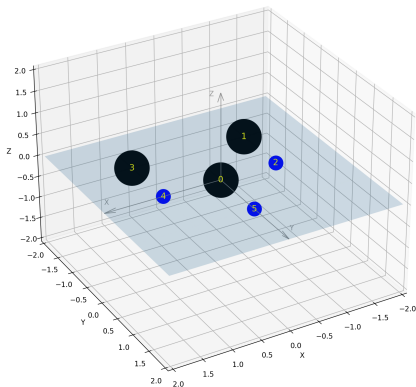
- Angular SFs similarly capture type-specific angular geometry in a plane, with radial weighting



e.g. for atom in a {C,H} system  $y_i = (y_{R,i}^C, y_{R,i}^H, y_{A,i}^{C,C}, y_{A,i}^{C,H}, y_{A,i}^{H,H}) \in \mathbb{R}^M$

# AEV illustration for one atom in a 6-atom

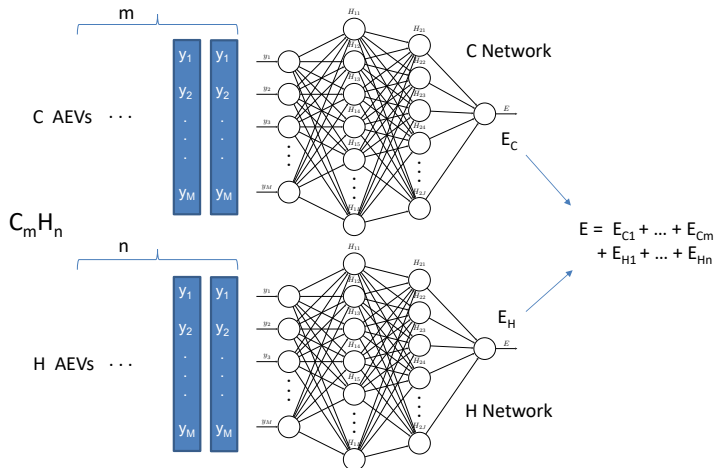
AEV Analysis



PLAY



# NN PES setup for a molecule in a {C,H} system



Potential energy is the sum of outputs of atomic-type-specific  
 One data point is a Cartesian-coordinate  
 Feed forward NN MLPs; Gaussian activation functions; using

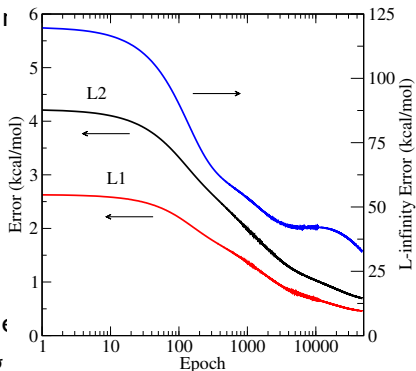
Construction from Shiozaki, 2017.

# Sample training for a molecular {C,H} data

62,829 samples of {C,H}

|          |       |
|----------|-------|
| $C_2H_6$ | 8469  |
| $C_3H_4$ | 7200  |
| $CH_4$   | 5400  |
| $C_3H_6$ | 20160 |
| $C_2H_4$ | 5760  |
| $C_3H_8$ | 12960 |
| $C_2H_2$ | 2880  |

- Data randomly shuffled
- Training: 80%, testing
- 256-long AEV



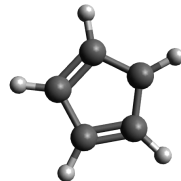
SGD Training Error Decay

- NN complexity: 3 hidden layers w (128,128,64) neur
- Activation: Gaussian

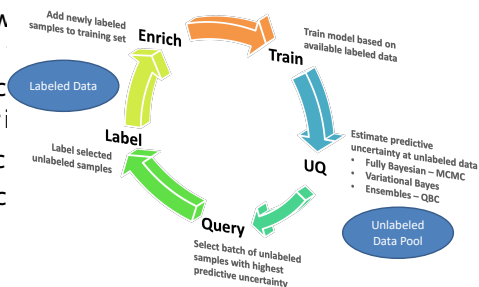
- Total no. of 2-NN parameters 
$$N_{\text{Hidden}} \times \sum_{\ell=1}^{L_{\text{Hidden}}} N_{\ell} (N_{\ell-1} + 1) = 115,328$$

# Learning the PES for C

- Above database: small changes around
- We focus on multiple basins & transitions
- Generate training data relying on:
  - PES exploration with [KinBot](https://github.com/zadorral)
  - Normal mode random sampling
  - Active learning using query by QCBM
  - DFT computations using [Q-Chem](http://www.q-chem.com)



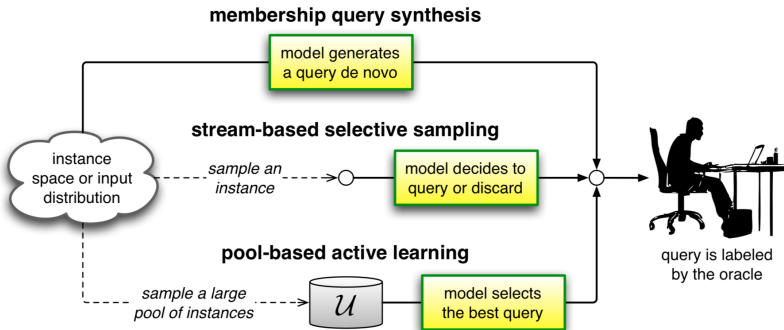
- Training with ADAM, w test-error is used to in
  - the learning rate schedule
  - the stopping criteria
- Target error below 1 kcal/mol
  - “chemical” accuracy



# Active Learning (AL)

- Goal: improve model fit by adding data where test error is high
- Since the truth away from training data is unknown, some *estimate* of the prediction error
- Uncertainty in the prediction from the fitted model surrogate for this error
- Ideally, the model can be fitted using Bayesian inference and push forward posterior uncertainty used as the error
- While this is generally feasible in low-dimensional models, it is unfeasible in deep NN (DNN) models
- A range of methods have been used to provide approximate estimates of predictive uncertainty in DNNs  
[Gawlikowski et al. arXiv: 2107.03342, 2021](https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.03342)
- We will focus here on ensemble methods employing randomized weight initialization and data subsetting

# Active Learning: selection of training configurations

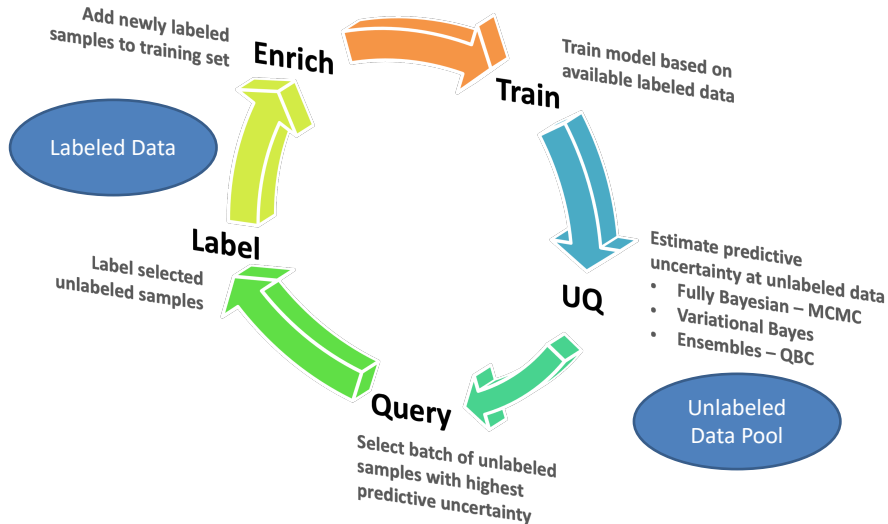


B. Settles, "Active learning literature survey", Computer Report 1648, University of Wisconsin-Madison,

# Query Strategies: almost all rely on some form of uncertainty

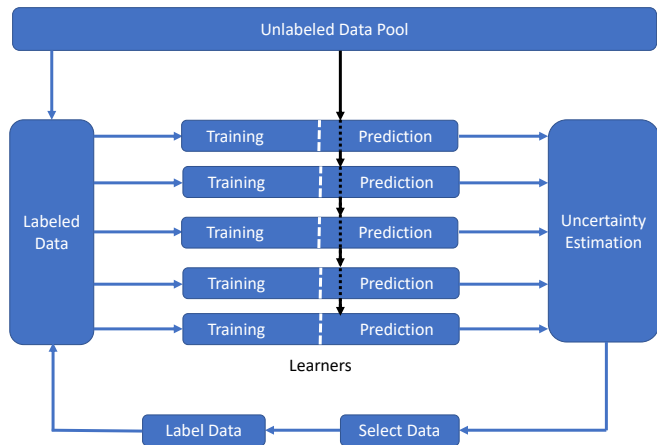
- **Uncertainty sampling** give learner queries the instance which it is least certain how to label.
- **Query-by-committee** committee of competing models, a query about which they most disagree. Need a measure of disagreement.
- **Expected model change** query would lead to greatest change, e.g. largest gradient length.
- **Variance Reduction and Fisher Information Maximization**: variance component of generalization error estimation (Information)
- **Estimated error reduction** estimate the expected future error would result if some new instance  $x$  is labeled and added to set, and then select the instance that minimizes that

# Pool Based UQ - Informed Active Learning



# Query By Committee (QBC)

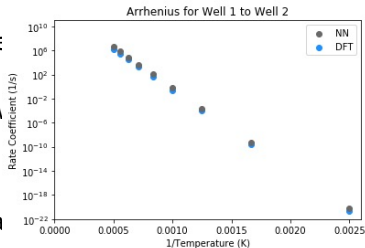
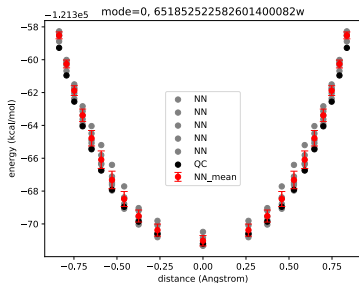
- Train  $M$  learners,  $N_1, \dots, N_M$
- Randomize initial weights and data subsetting among
- Use scatter of predictions as a surrogate for predictive
- Learner-average prediction provides a robust low-e





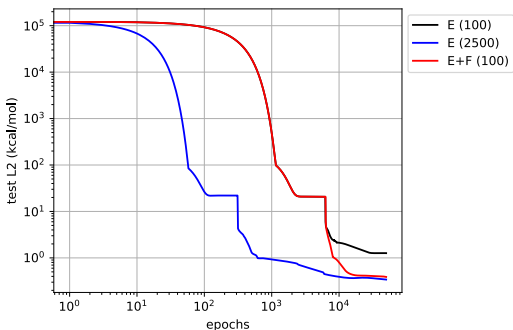
# Two-Basin System fitting

- Two-basins and the connected reaction path over the transition state
- Training using QBC active learning with 5 NNs  
~30K data points
- DFT test data is generated from normal mode random sampling
- Data is well captured by the prediction from 5 trained NNs
  - Tests data in basins, as well as transition state regions
- Reaction rates estimated using NN PES or DFT agree over a range of temperature



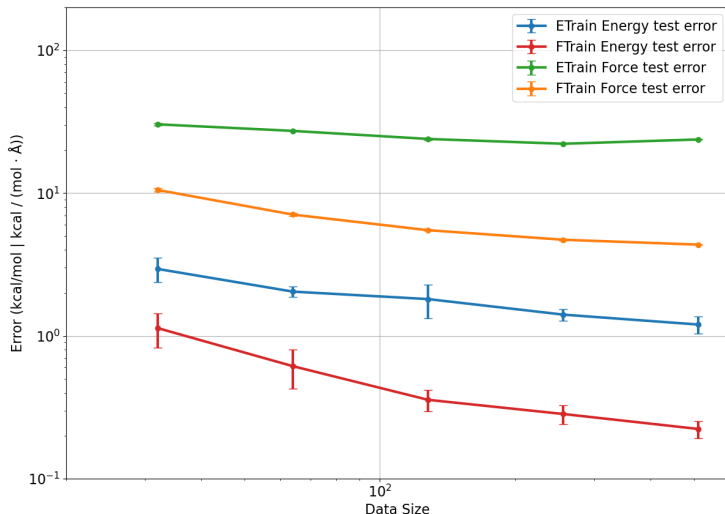
# Advantages of force training $\frac{H_5}{H_5}$ Hypobasmin

- DFT provides energy and forces  $\nabla E(x)$
- Force data adds significant information on the PES shape
- In principle should require less data needs for a given accuracy
- Training on both energy and forces is a significant advantage
  - Optimizer needs the NN & AEV Hessian
  - Used C++ & automatic differentiation
- We find a 25x reduction in data needs for the same test error



NN: (128,128,64) Gaussian

# Advantages of force training $\text{H}_5\text{Hysb}$



• ~10 x reduction in test error due to force training

# Closure

- Described AEV-NN models as potential energy surface atomic modeling
- The formulation of more expressive descriptors is an area of work
  - Graph CNNs coupled with internal coordinates as candidates going forward
- We demonstrated the accuracy of a trained NN PES computations on a subset of the potential energy landscape
  - Used UQ informed poolbased QBC active learning selection
- We see force training as providing significant savings in number of DFT/QC runs
  - Using force training does entail more data per structure, more costly training

# Case Study: Refractory Alloys

## Work with:

Logan Williams<sup>1</sup>, Khachik Sargsyan<sup>1</sup>  
 Mitchell Womack<sup>2</sup>, Mary Alice Cusack<sup>2</sup>, and Aidan Thompson<sup>2</sup>  
 Sandia National Laboratories  
 Livermore<sup>1</sup>, & Albuquerque<sup>2</sup>, NM

## Goals:

- UQ in MD simulations of refractory alloys
  - relevant in fusion reactor wall-materials design
- Bayesian calibration of SNAP potentials with DFT data
- Forward UQ in MD simulations
- Attribution of errors and uncertainties

# Spectral neighbor analysis potential (SNAP)

- Uses ~~is~~ spectral ~~an~~ fingerprints
  - hyperspherical harmonics
  - respects rotational, permutational, translational
  - incorporates energy, force, and stress data
  - tunable complexity/order

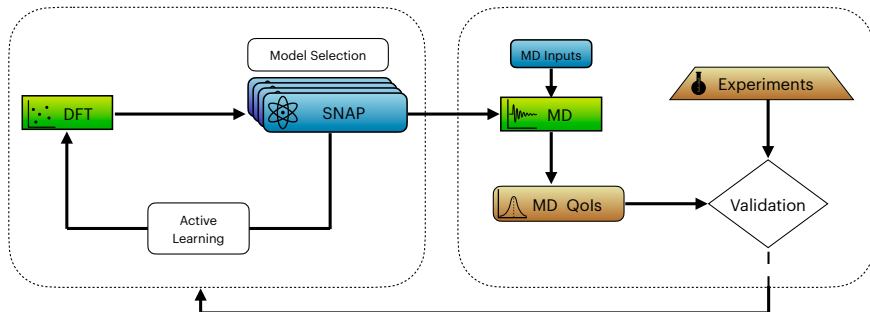
$$E(x) \approx \sum_k c_k B_k(x)$$

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- Uses linear regression
  - generalized to quadratic form as well
- We will target computations of alloys involving Zr, W
  - under a range of conditions
- Will use VASP for DFT computations & LAMMPS for

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# Utilization of UQ

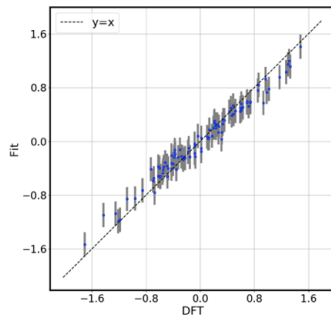
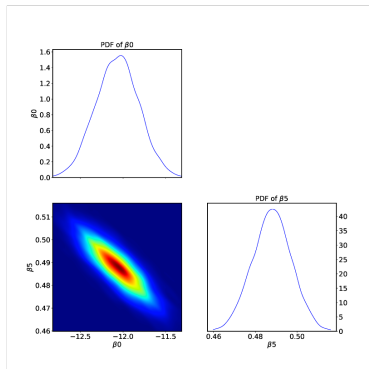


Bayesian Inference

Forward UQ

# Bayesian Estimation of SNAP IAP Param

- Demonstrated Bayesian inference of linear SNAP parameters with adaptive Markov chain Monte Carlo (AMCMC)
- Posterior density quantifies uncertainty in SNAP parameters
- Uncovered correlations among uncertain parameters

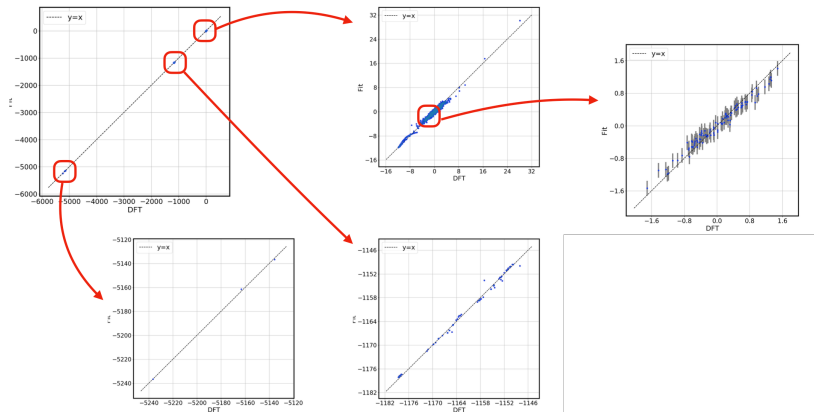


Marginal posterior PDFs on SNAP parameters, showing uncertainty and correlation

SNAP fit with posterior predictive uncertainty and DFT data



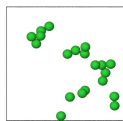
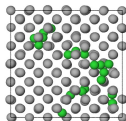
# Bayesian Estimation of SNAP IAP Param



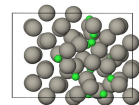
- Posterior predictive uncertainty spans discrepancy v under some, but not all, conditions
- Complex discrepancy landscape, and non-uniform
- Explore customized data weighting, and model error

# Training set selection is crucial

- Configurations chosen for training influence results
- Example: W - H (tungsten/hydrogen)

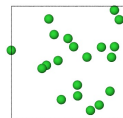
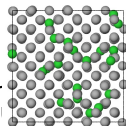


- Too initial IAPs resulted in hydrogen in bulk tungsten, which should not



- Mid Additional training data was generated and added to training set

- Both Including these specific configurations prevented unphysical hydrogen cl

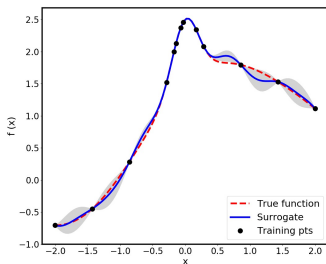


Tungsten: Grey, Hydrogen: Green

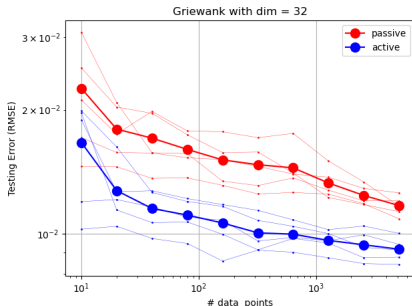
Results from Mary Alice Cusentino (SNL), u

# Active Learning – Progress

- Explored different means of estimation of predictive uncertainty
  - Full Bayesian solution – analytical & MCMC
  - Variational inference
  - Ensemble methods
  - Query by committee (QBC)
- Developed active learning capability using QBC
  - Train multiple learners w/ randomized data subsets & i
  - Estimate predictive uncertainty using scatter in learner
  - Use average prediction as best estimate

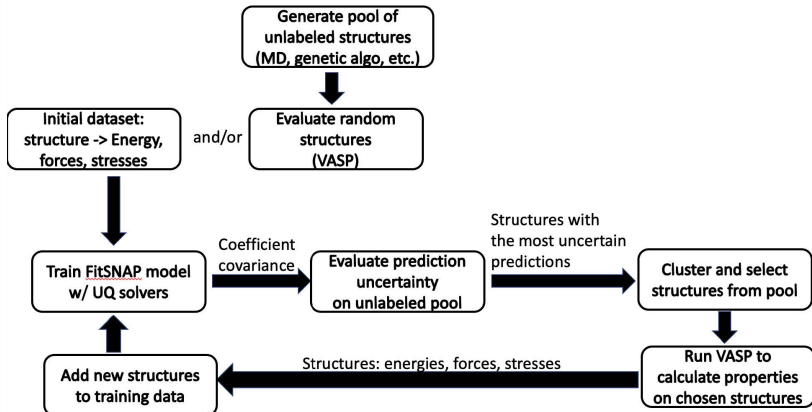


Predictive uncertainty is high in  
high error in fitted function



AL demonstration on NN learning of m  
problem in 32 dimensions

# Active Learning Implementation



# Preliminary Observations: AL in HEA: Ta

- Energy, force, and stress data included
- Pool includes:
  - Ab-initio MD (AIMD) at 300 and 3200K
  - Elastic, Volumetric, and Uniaxial strain data
  - Surface data with different orientations 100, 111,
- The starting training data had some highly decompressed Strain structures,
- The first set of structures chosen were all either Volumetric or Uniaxial Strain structures
  - Almost all Volumetric and Uniaxial strain structures the entire time were for compressed structures
- After this, the AL algorithm chooses almost exclusively from a high-temperature (3200 K) AIMD set

# Refractory Alloys Closure

- Outlined results with Bayesian estimation of SNAP coefficients with DFT data
- Results highlight the need for model error representation
  - More about this in Thursday talk by Khachik Sargs
- We are working with pool based UQ-informed AL re Bayesian posterior uncertainty in SNAP coefficients
- Preliminary results with AL on high entropy alloy are confidence in the performance of the construction
- We will include model error uncertainty accounting

# Conclusions and Comments

- Discussed three case studies with different PES/IAP
  - Embedded atom model
  - NN+Atomic environment vector built on symmetries
  - Spectral neighbor analysis potential
- Outlined utility of UQ and active learning
- Parametric IAPs and pre-designed feature vectors with a degree of model error that needs to be accounted for
  - Graph CNNs, operating directly on internal coordinates, an interesting path forward in molecular systems
- UQ will play an important role in error attribution in model selection
- Forward UQ in MD will necessitate the use of multifidelity methods