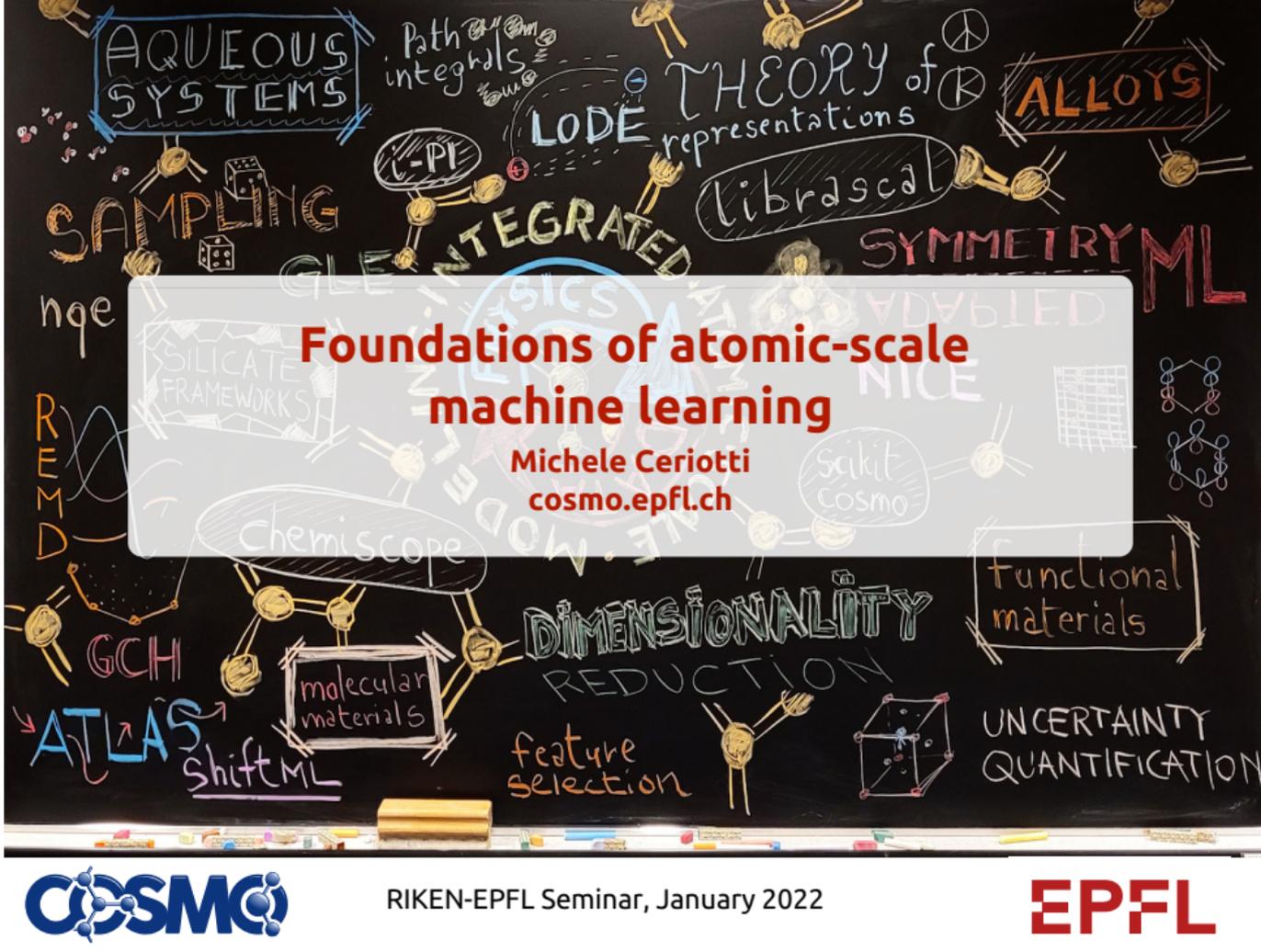


# Foundations of atomic-scale machine learning

Michele Ceriotti  
[cosmo.epfl.ch](http://cosmo.epfl.ch)



# **Predictive materials modeling with atomic-scale simulations**

# Simple models, complex physics

- Simple models, with minimal number of parameters fitted by comparison with experimental quantities
- Aim: capture the essence of atomic-scale interactions, and understand emergent phenomena (phase transitions, equations of state...)

$$V(\{\mathbf{r}\}) \sim \underbrace{\sum_{ij} \frac{z_i z_j}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|}}_{\text{electrostatics}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\text{bonds}} k_i (\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j)^2}_{\text{bonded terms}} - \underbrace{\sum_{ij} \frac{A_{ij}}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|^6}}_{\text{dispersion}} + \dots$$

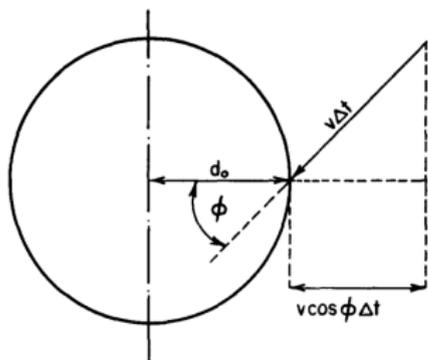
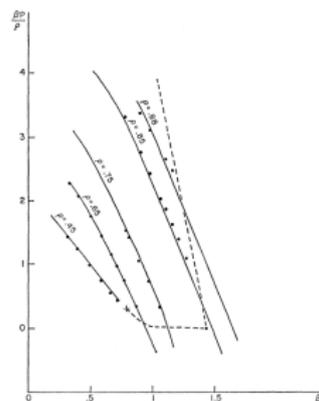
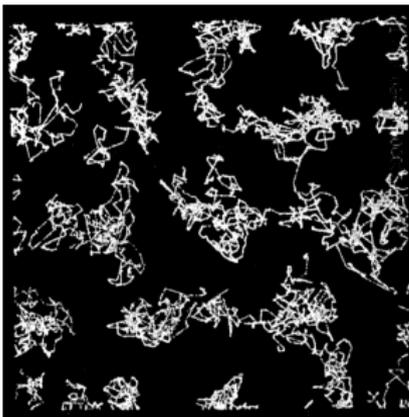


FIG. 1. Collisions of rigid spheres.



Metropolis et al., JCP (1953); Alder & Wainwright, JCP (1959); Verlet, Phys. Rev. (1969)

# First-principles calculations

- Practical approaches to evaluate the electronic structure
- Quantitatively accurate simulations, without fit to experiments
- High computational effort

$$\left\{ -\frac{1}{2}\nabla^2 + \varphi(\mathbf{r}) + \mu_0(\mathbf{r}) \right\} \psi_i(\mathbf{r}) - \int \frac{n_1(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} \psi_i(\mathbf{r}') d\mathbf{r}' = \epsilon_i \psi_i(\mathbf{r}), \quad (2.22)$$

where

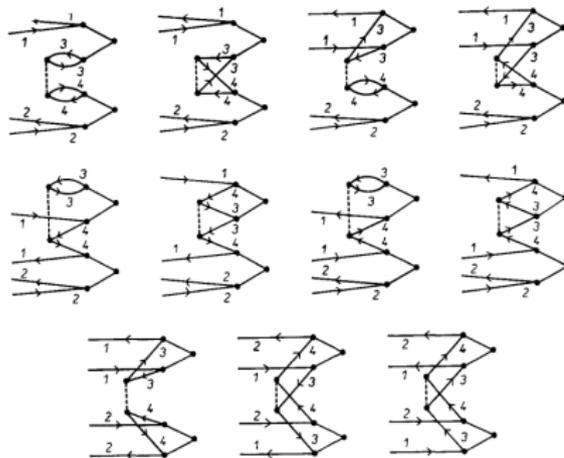
$$\mu_0 = d(n\epsilon_0)/dn, \quad (2.23)$$

$$n_1(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \sum_{j=1}^N \psi_j(\mathbf{r}) \psi_j^*(\mathbf{r}'), \quad (2.24)$$

$$\mu \ddot{\psi}_i(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\delta E / \delta \psi_i^*(\mathbf{r}, t) + \sum_k \Lambda_{ik} \psi_k(\mathbf{r}, t), \quad (5a)$$

$$M_I \ddot{R}_I = -\nabla_{R_I} E, \quad (5b)$$

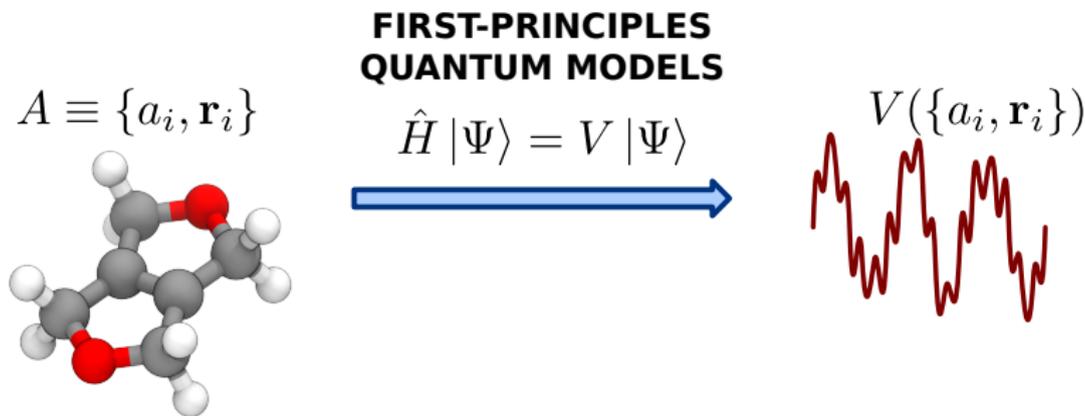
$$\mu_\nu \ddot{\alpha}_\nu = -(\partial E / \partial \alpha_\nu), \quad (5c)$$



Kohn & Sham, Phys. Rev. (1965); Cížek, JCP (1966); Car & Parrinello, PRL (1985)

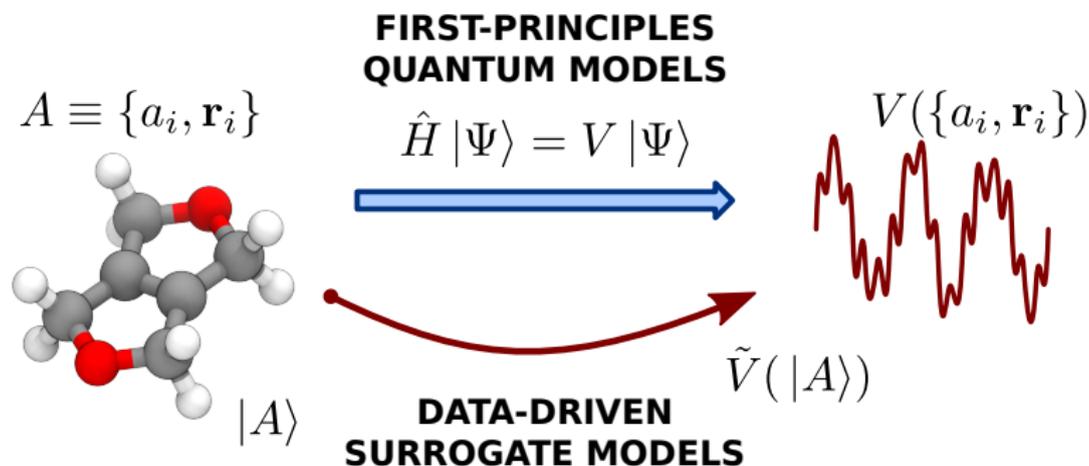
# Surrogate models for quantum chemistry

- Electronic-structure calculations predict accurately molecular properties
- Machine-learning models provide inexpensive approximations
- There is more to life than energy and forces!



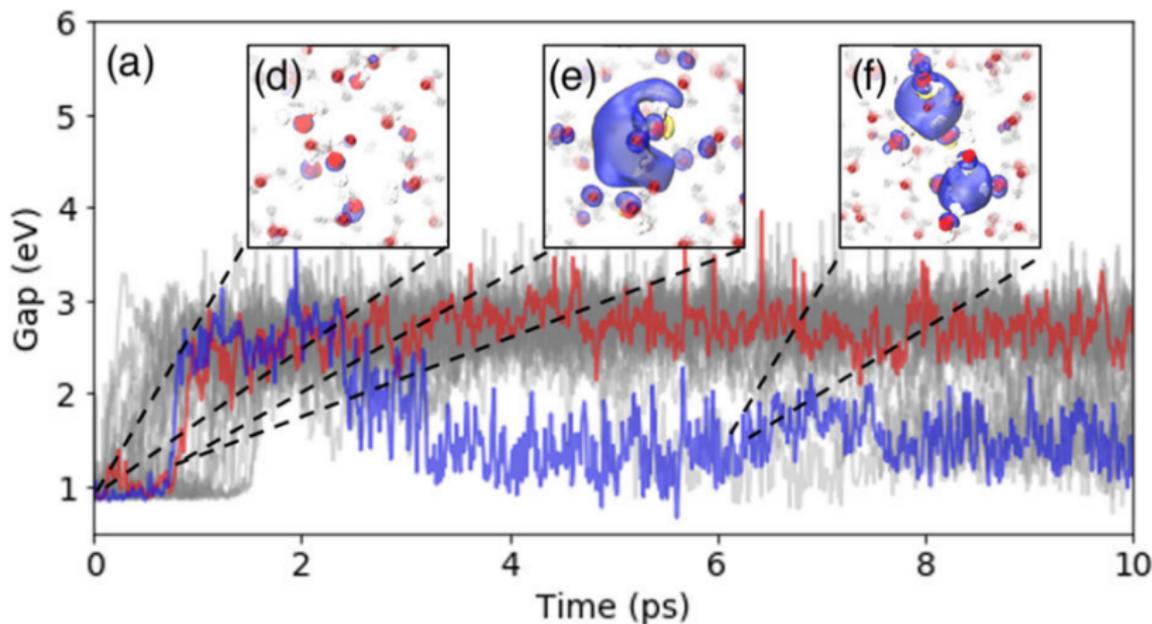
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# Surrogate models for quantum chemistry

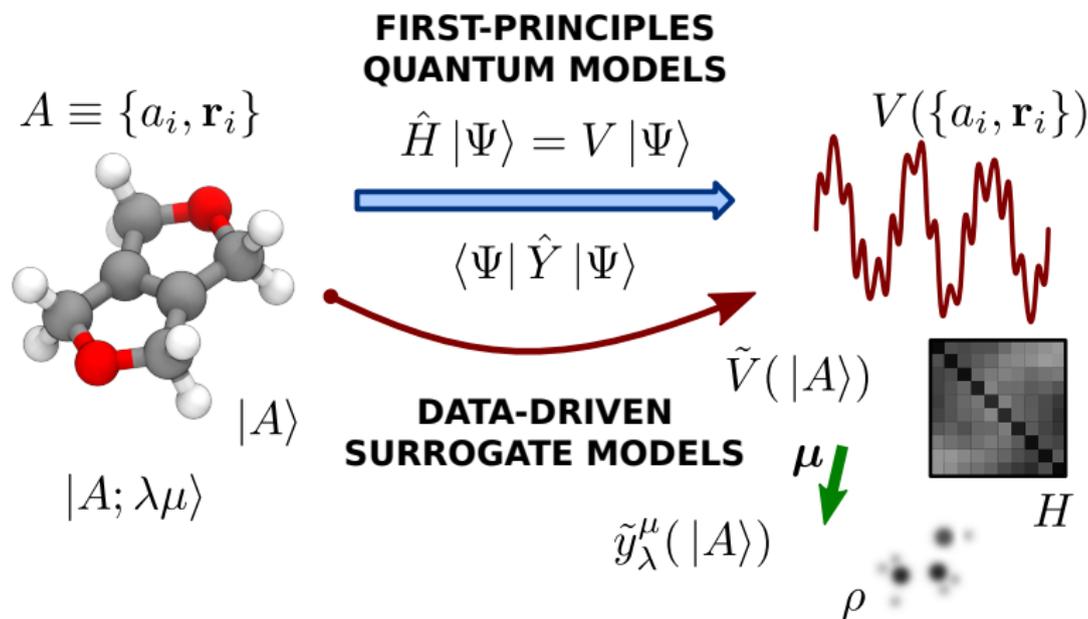
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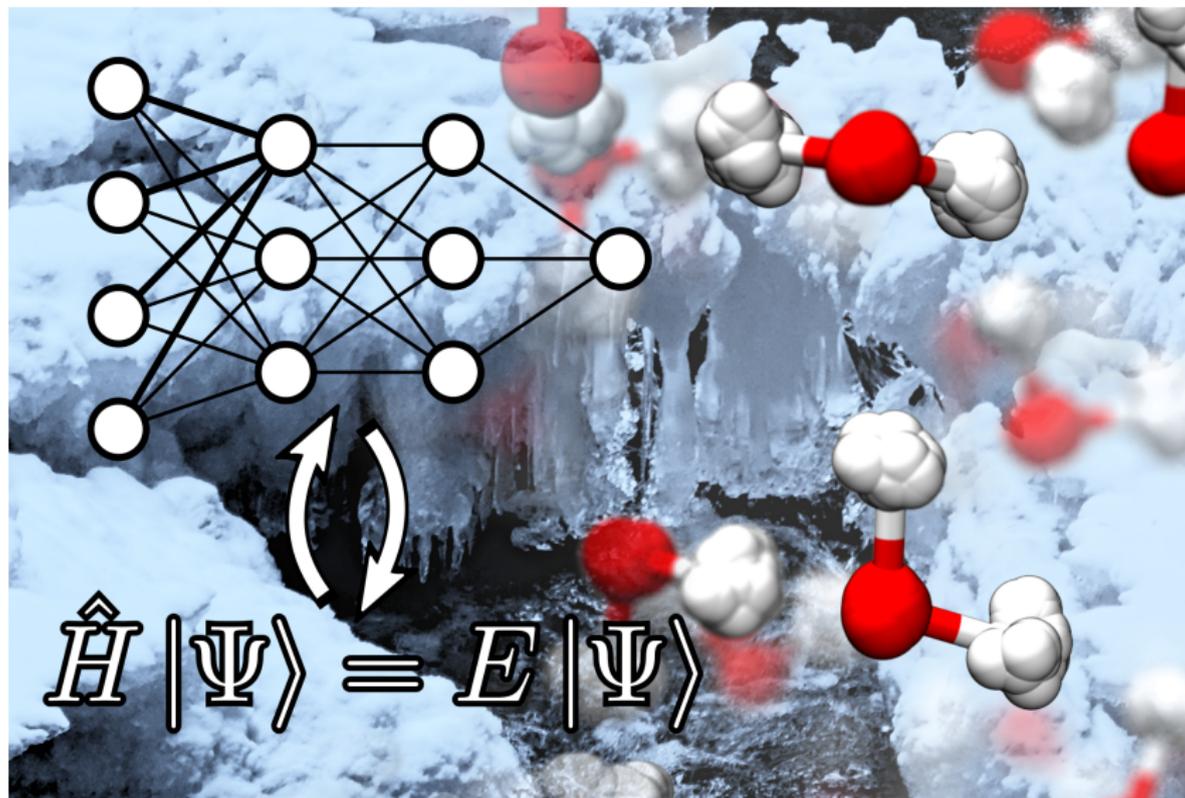
Lan et al., Nat. Comm. (2021)

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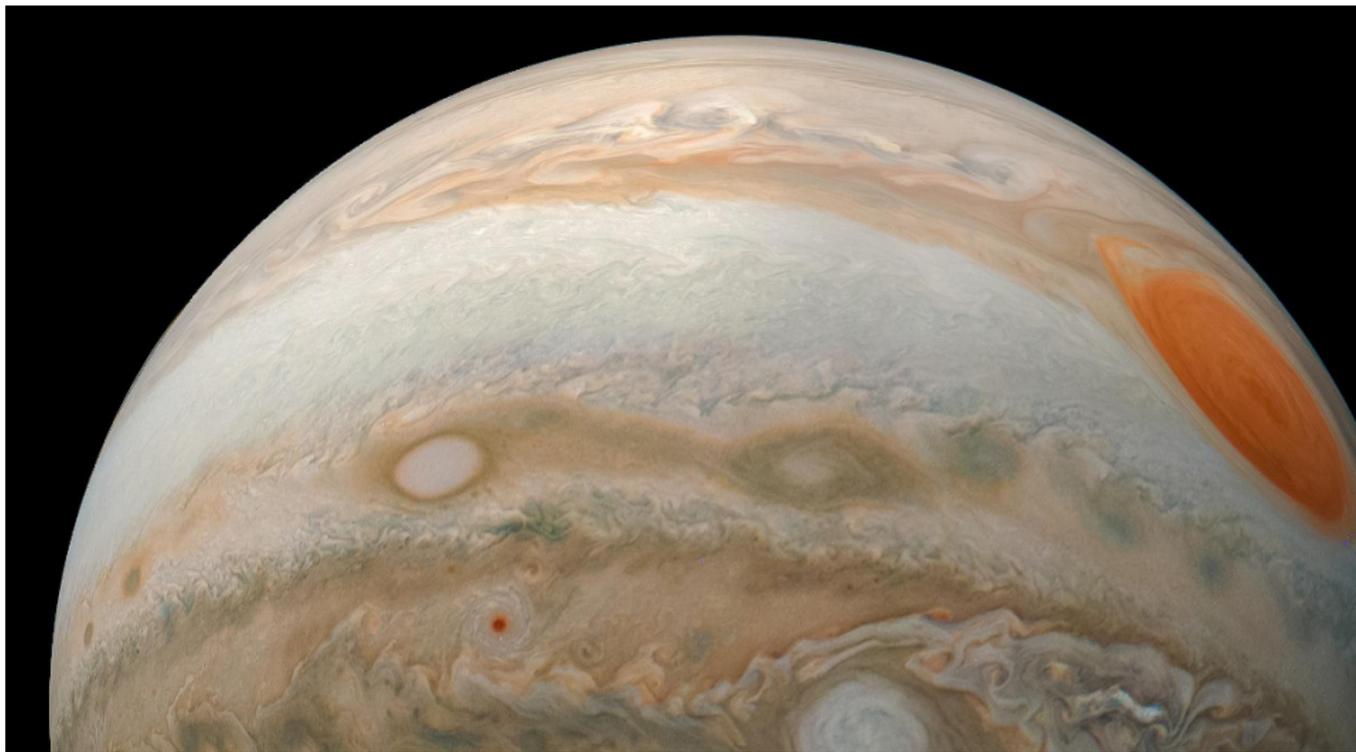


# Atomistic machine learning & the glossy press



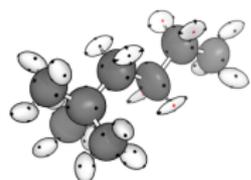
Cheng, Engel, Behler, Dellago, **MC**, PNAS (2019)

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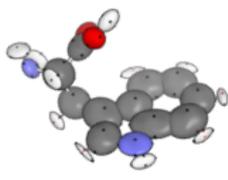


Cheng, Mazzola, Pickard, **MC**, Nature (2020)

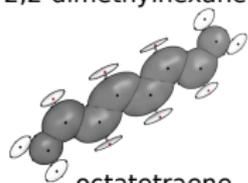
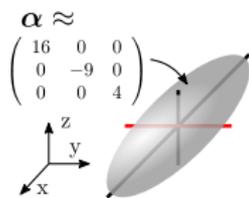
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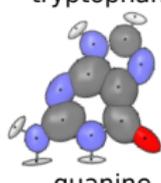
2,2-dimethylhexane



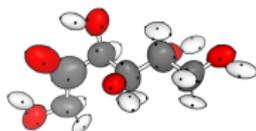
tryptophan



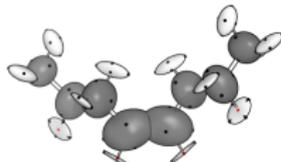
octatetraene



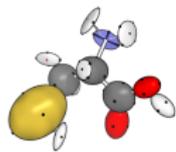
guanine



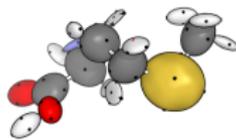
fructose



cis-4-octene



cysteine



methionine

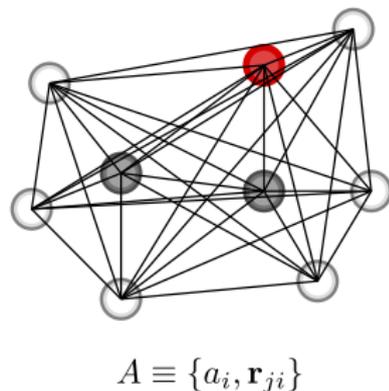
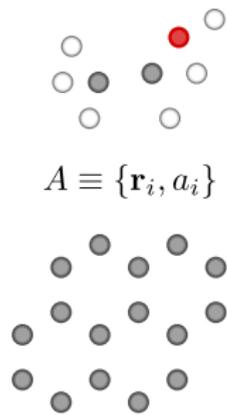
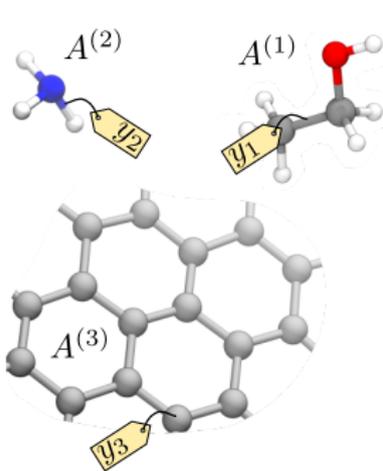
| Method   | RMSE  |
|----------|-------|
| CCSD/ML  | 0.304 |
| CCSD/DFT | 0.573 |



V. Deringer et al., Nature (2021)

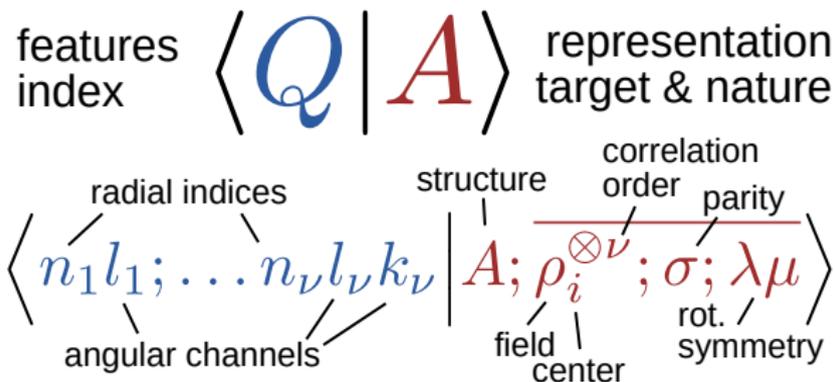
# Molecules as atom clouds

- Can we develop a rigorous theory of representations for atomic-scale ML?
- From a mathematical perspective, molecules and materials are treated as point clouds, decorated by the chemical nature of the atoms
- An alternative view is that each molecule is a fully-connected graph, with atoms as nodes and *separating vectors* as edges



# **A unified theory of ML representations**

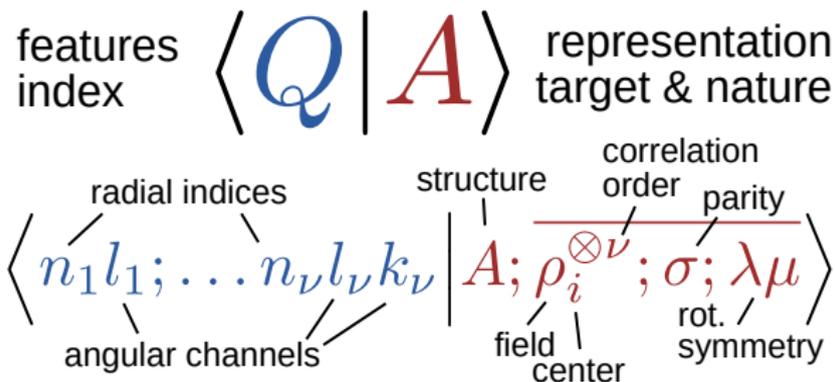
# A Dirac notation for ML



- A representation maps a structure  $A$  (or one environment  $A_i$ ) to a vector discretized by a feature index  $Q$
- Bra-ket notation  $\langle Q | A; \text{rep.} \rangle$  indicates in an abstract way this mapping, leaving plenty of room to express the details of a representation
- Dirac-like notation reflects naturally a change of basis, the construction of a kernel, or a linear model

$$\langle Y | A \rangle = \int dQ \langle Y | Q \rangle \langle Q | A \rangle$$

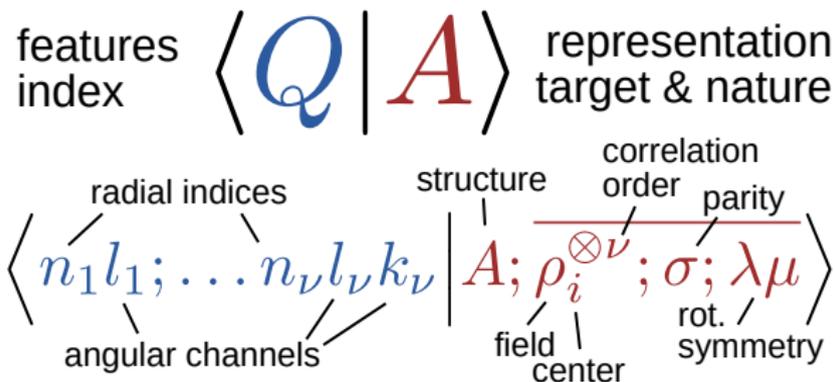
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$$k(A, A') = \langle A | A' \rangle \approx \int dQ \langle A | Q \rangle \langle Q | A' \rangle$$

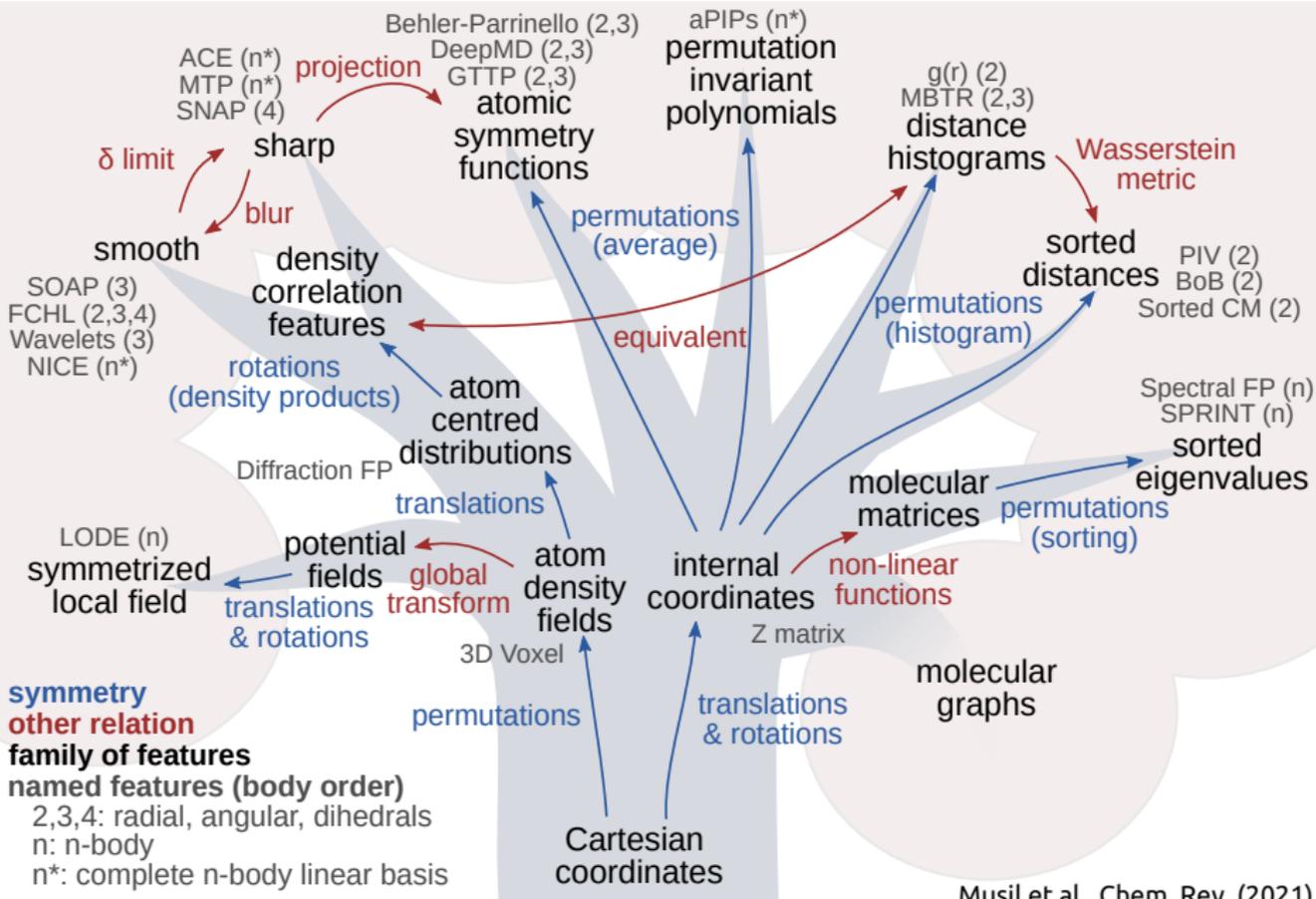
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$$E(A) = \langle E | A \rangle \approx \int dQ \langle E | Q \rangle \langle Q | A \rangle$$

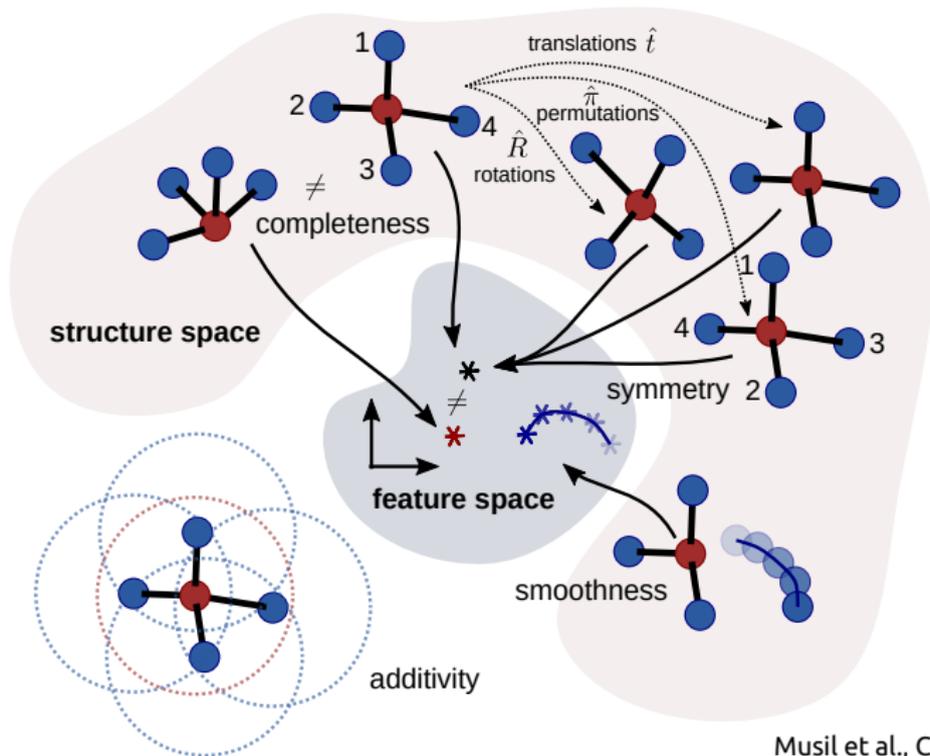
# A phylogenetic tree of ML representations



Musil et al., Chem. Rev. (2021)

# What do we want from a representation?

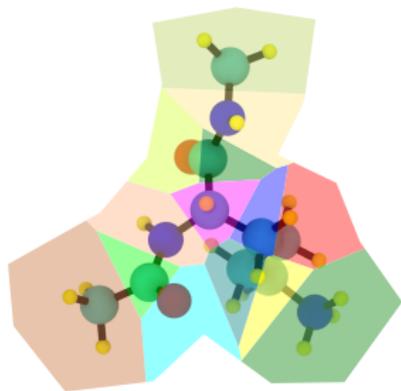
- Structure representations should: 1. be complete (injective); 2. reflect basic physical symmetries; 3. be smooth, regular; 4. exploit additivity
- Cartesian coordinates fulfill only 1 and 3



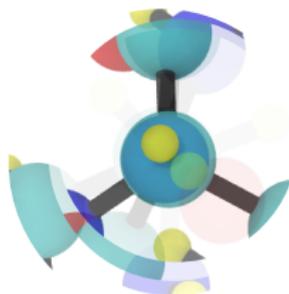
Musil et al., Chem. Rev. (2021)

# Additivity, and locality

- A representation of a structure in terms of a sum over atom-centered terms implies (for a linear model or an average kernel) an additive form of the property
- Additivity and locality lead to transferable models with a *divide and conquer* structure



$$V(A) = \sum_{i \in A} V(A_i)$$



$$|A\rangle = \sum_i |A_i\rangle$$
$$K(A, B) = \sum_{i,j} k(A_i, B_j)$$

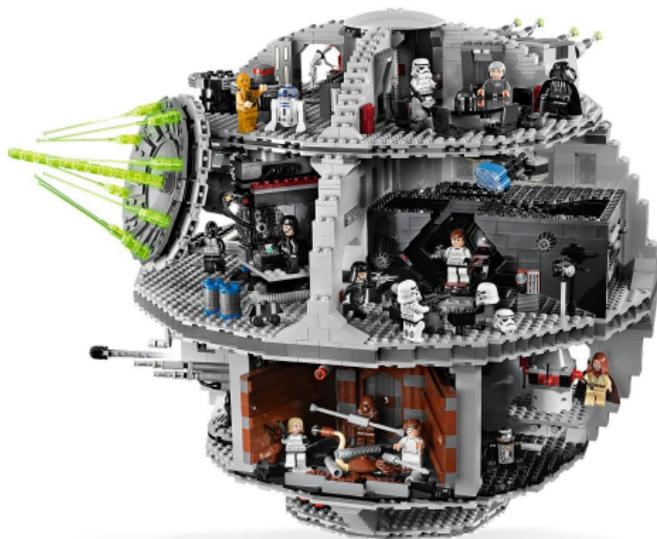
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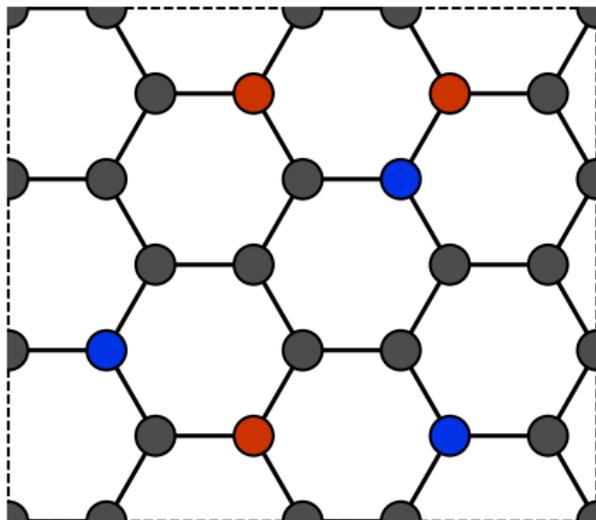
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# Symmetrized field construction

- Start from a non-symmetric representation (Cartesian coordinates)
- Define a decorated atom-density  $|\rho\rangle$  (permutation invariant)
- Translational average of a tensor product  $|\rho\rangle \otimes |\rho\rangle$  yields atom-centred (and  $\hat{t}$  invariant)  $|\rho_i\rangle$

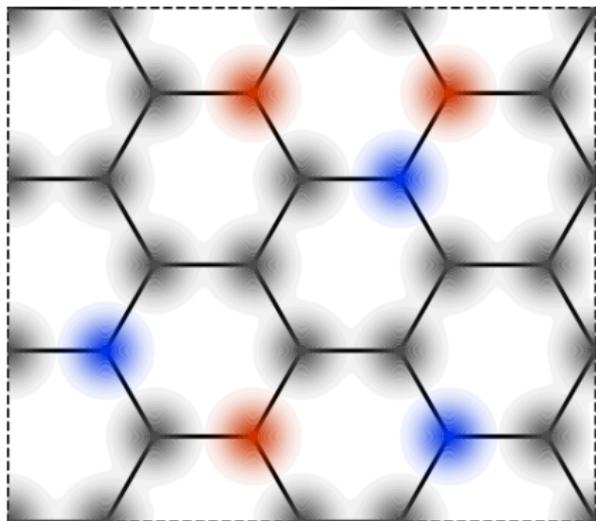


$$A \equiv$$

|     |      |      |      |
|-----|------|------|------|
| C   | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| C   | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |
| B   | 1.00 | 2.00 | 0.00 |
| ... | ...  | ...  | ...  |

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$$\langle a\mathbf{r}|\rho\rangle = \sum_i g(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i)\delta_{aa_i}$$

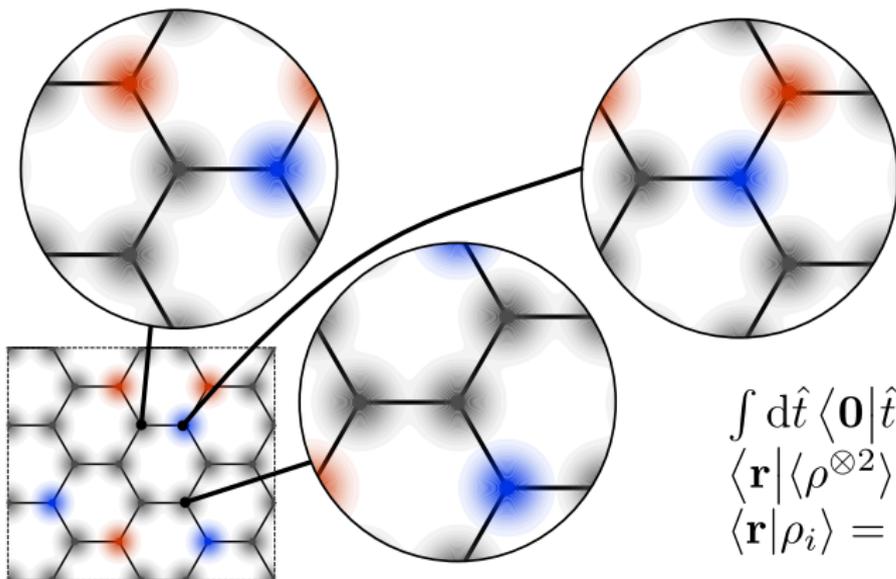
$|\mathbf{C}\rangle$  ■

$|\mathbf{N}\rangle$  ■

$|\mathbf{B}\rangle$  ■

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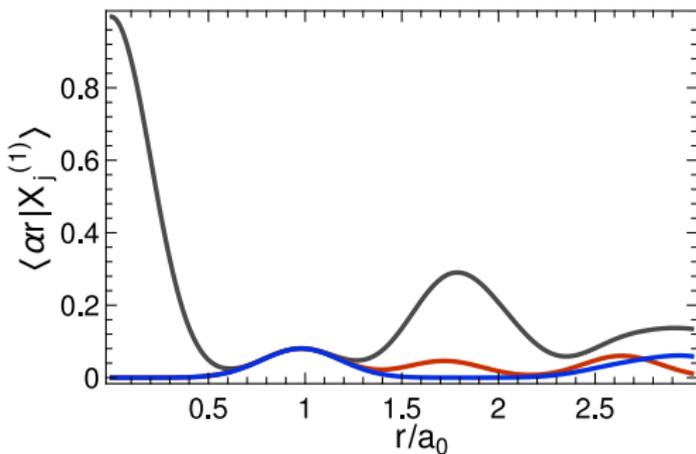
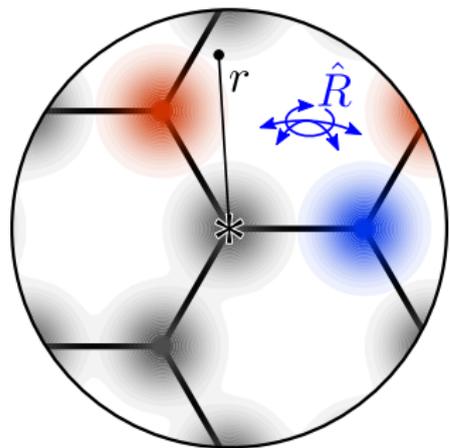


$$\begin{aligned} \int d\hat{t} \langle \mathbf{0} | \hat{t} | \rho \rangle \langle \mathbf{r} | \hat{t} | \rho \rangle &= \\ \langle \mathbf{r} | \langle \rho^{\otimes 2} \rangle_{\hat{t}} \rangle &= \sum_i \langle \mathbf{r} | \rho_i \rangle \\ \langle \mathbf{r} | \rho_i \rangle &= \sum_j g(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{ij}) \end{aligned}$$

# A universal feature construction

- Rotationally-averaged representations are essentially the same  $n$ -body correlations that are used in statistical theories of liquids
- Linear models built on  $|\overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}}; g \rightarrow \delta\rangle$  yield  $(\nu + 1)$ -body potential expansion

$$V(A_i) = \sum_{ij} V^{(2)}(r_{ij}) + \sum_{ij} V^{(3)}(r_{ij}, r_{jk}, \omega_{ijk}) \dots$$

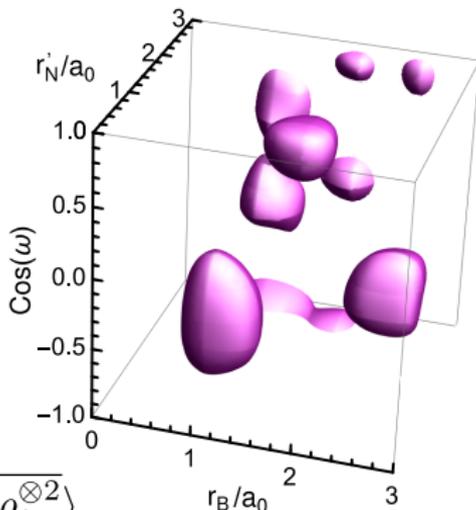
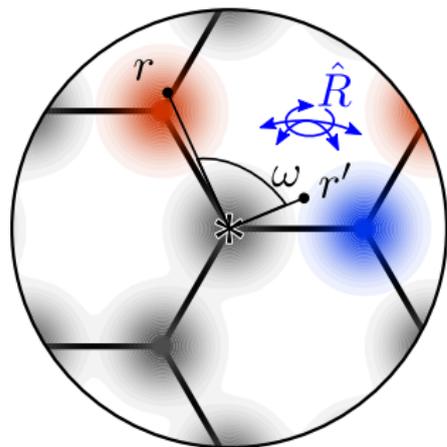


$$\langle ar | \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 1}} \rangle = \int d\hat{R} \langle ar \hat{\mathbf{r}} | \hat{R} | \rho_i \rangle$$

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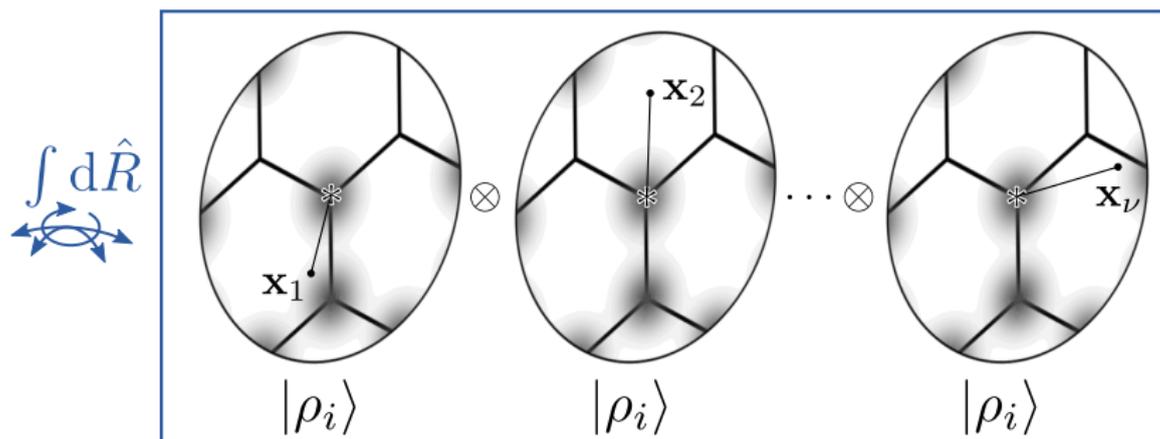


$$\begin{aligned} & \langle a_1 r_1; a_2 r_2; \omega | \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 2}} \rangle \\ &= \int d\hat{R} \langle a_1 r_1 \hat{\mathbf{r}} | \hat{R} | \rho_i \rangle \langle a_2 r_2 \hat{\mathbf{r}}'(\omega) | \hat{R} | \rho_i \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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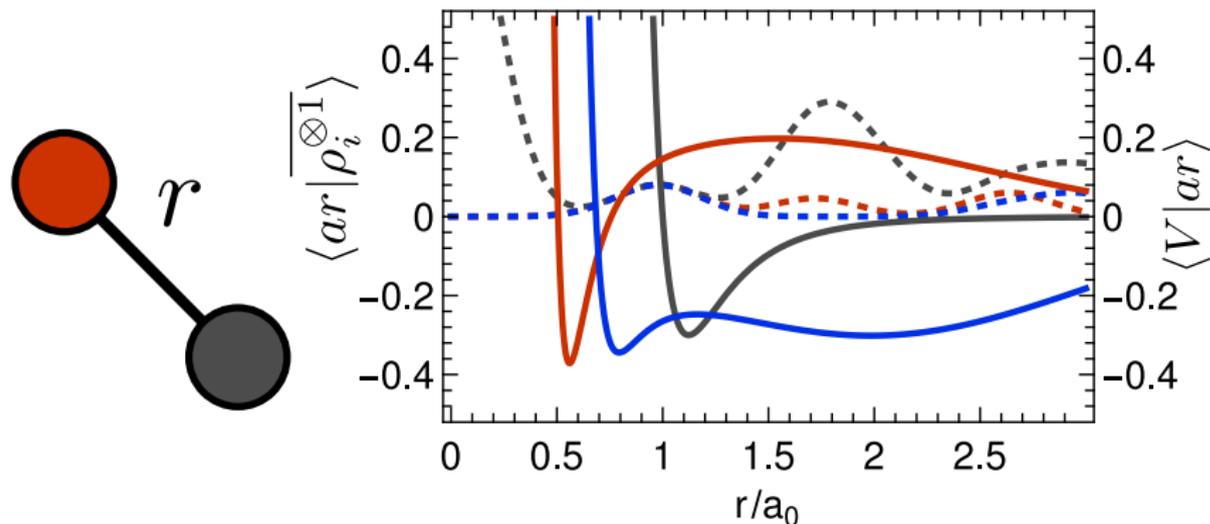
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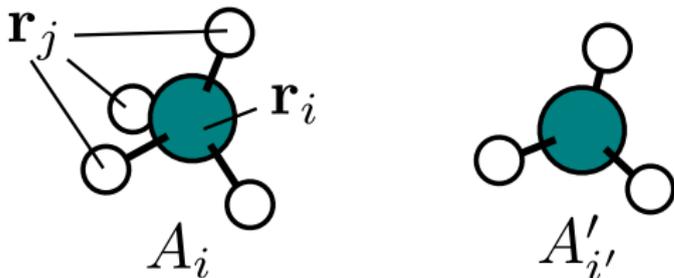
$$V(A_i) = \int dr \langle V | ar \rangle \langle ar | \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 1}} \rangle \approx \sum_j V_a(r_{ij})$$

Willatt, Musil, **MC**, JCP (2019); Drautz, PRB (2019); Glielmo, Zeni, De Vita, PRB (2018)

# **Smooth overlap of atomic positions: a worked example**

# Two-neighbors descriptors

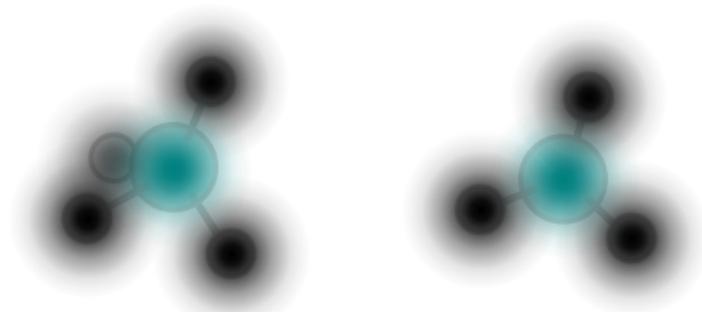
- Construction of a three-body ( $\nu = 2$ ) invariant atomic descriptor
  - 1 Define relative position of neighbors (*translation-invariant*)
  - 2 Positions are transformed in a neighbor density (*permutation invariant*)
  - 3 Symmetrize over rotations a tensor product of the neighbor densities
  - 4 This is equivalent to a function of two distances and one angle
  - 5  $g \rightarrow \delta$  limit  $\Rightarrow$  list of 2-neighbors tuples  $(r_{ji}, r_{j'i'}, \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{ji} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j'i'})$
  - 6 Linear model  $\Rightarrow$  3-body potential!



$$\{\mathbf{r}_{j'i'} = \mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i\} \leftrightarrow A_i$$

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$$\langle a\mathbf{x} | \rho_i \rangle = \sum_{j \in A_i} \delta_{aa_j} \langle \mathbf{x} | \mathbf{r}_{ji}; g \rangle$$
$$\langle \mathbf{x} | \mathbf{r}_{ji}; g \rangle \equiv g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{r}_{ji})$$

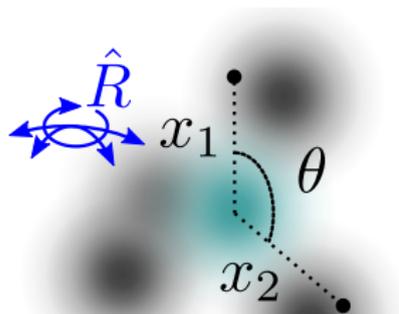
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$$\langle \mathbf{x}; \mathbf{x}' | A; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 2}} \rangle = \int d\hat{R} \langle \mathbf{x} | \hat{R}A; \rho_i \rangle \langle \mathbf{x}' | \hat{R}A; \rho_i \rangle$$

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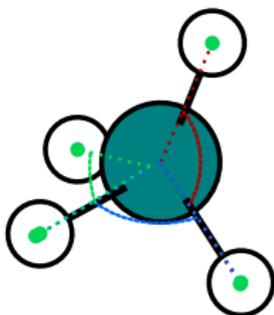


$$\begin{aligned} \langle x_1; x_2; \theta | A; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 2}} \rangle = \\ \int d\hat{R} \langle x_1 \hat{R} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_z | A; \rho_i \rangle \\ \langle x_2 \hat{R} (\hat{\mathbf{e}}_z \cos \theta + \hat{\mathbf{e}}_x \sin \theta) | A; \rho_i \rangle \end{aligned}$$

# Two-neighbors descriptors

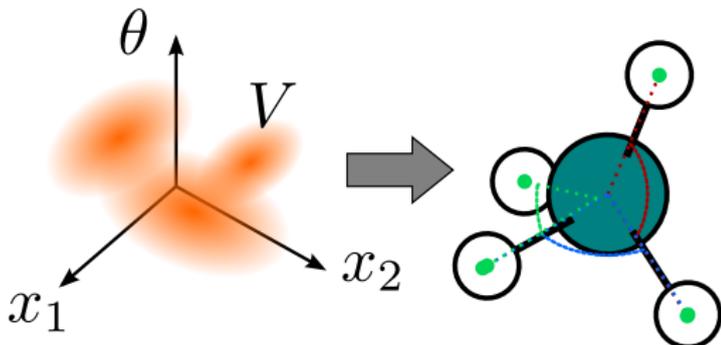
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  - 5  $g \rightarrow \delta$  limit  $\Rightarrow$  list of 2-neighbors tuples  $(r_{j_1 i}, r_{j_2 i}, \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j_1 i} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j_2 i})$
  - 6 Linear model  $\Rightarrow$  3-body potential!

$$\langle x_1; x_2; \theta | A; \overline{\delta_i^{\otimes 2}} \rangle = \sum_{j_1 j_2} \delta(x_1 - r_{j_1 i}) \delta(x_2 - r_{j_2 i}) \delta(\cos \theta - \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j_1 i} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j_2 i})$$



# Two-neighbors descriptors

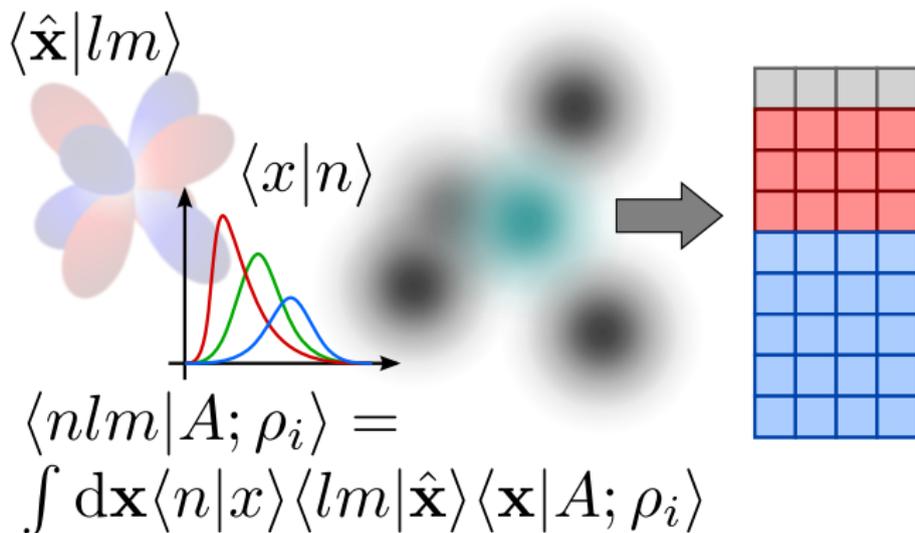
- Construction of a three-body ( $\nu = 2$ ) invariant atomic descriptor
  - 1 Define relative position of neighbors (*translation-invariant*)
  - 2 Positions are transformed in a neighbor density (*permutation invariant*)
  - 3 Symmetrize over rotations a tensor product of the neighbor densities
  - 4 This is equivalent to a function of two distances and one angle
  - 5  $g \rightarrow \delta$  limit  $\Rightarrow$  list of 2-neighbors tuples  $(r_{j_1i}, r_{j_2i}, \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j_1i} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j_2i})$
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$$\int \langle V | x_1; x_2; \theta \rangle \langle x_1; x_2; \theta | A; \overline{\delta_i^{\otimes 2}} \rangle = \sum_{j_1 j_2} V(r_{j_1 i}, r_{j_2 i}, \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j_1 i} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{j_2 i})$$

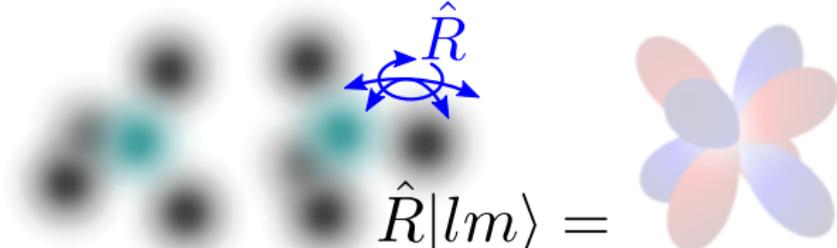
# Density trick in an $\langle nlm|$ basis

- The symmetrized correlations can be computed in closed form using a discrete basis
  - The neighbor density can be expanded on a basis of radial functions  $\langle x|n\rangle \equiv R_n(x)$  and spherical harmonics  $\langle \hat{\mathbf{x}}|lm\rangle \equiv Y_l^m(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$
  - Spherical harmonics transform linearly under rotations based on Wigner rotation matrices  $\mathbf{D}^l(\hat{R})$
  - Orthogonality of Wigner matrices yields the SOAP powerspectrum



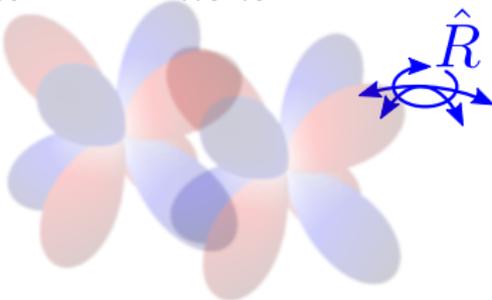
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$$\hat{R}|lm\rangle = \sum_{m'} D_{mm'}^l(\hat{R})|lm'\rangle$$
$$\langle nlm; n'l'm' | A; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 2}} \rangle = \int d\hat{R} \langle nlm | \hat{R}A; \rho_i \rangle \langle n'l'm' | \hat{R}A; \rho_i \rangle$$

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$$\int d\hat{R} \sum_{kk'} D_{mk}^l(\hat{R}) D_{m'k'}^{l'}(\hat{R}) \propto \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'} \delta_{kk'}$$


$$\langle nn'l | A; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 2}} \rangle = \sum_m \langle nlm | A; \rho_i \rangle \langle n'lm | A; \rho_i \rangle$$

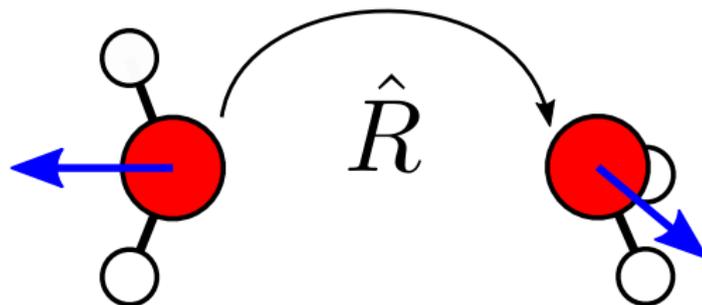
**There are more things in  
heaven and earth, Horatio, than  
those transforming like a scalar**

# Machine-learning for tensors

- What if we want to learn vectors or general tensors? We need features that are *equivariant* to the tensor under rotations.

$$d_\alpha(A_i) = \int dQ \langle d|Q \rangle \langle Q|A_i; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}; \alpha} \rangle$$

$$d_\alpha(\hat{R}A_i) = \int dQ \langle d|Q \rangle \langle Q|\hat{R}A_i; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}; \alpha} \rangle$$

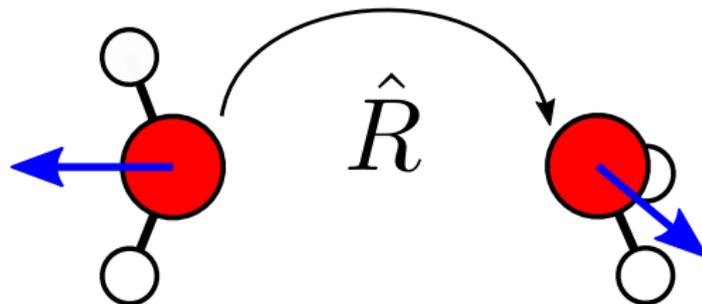


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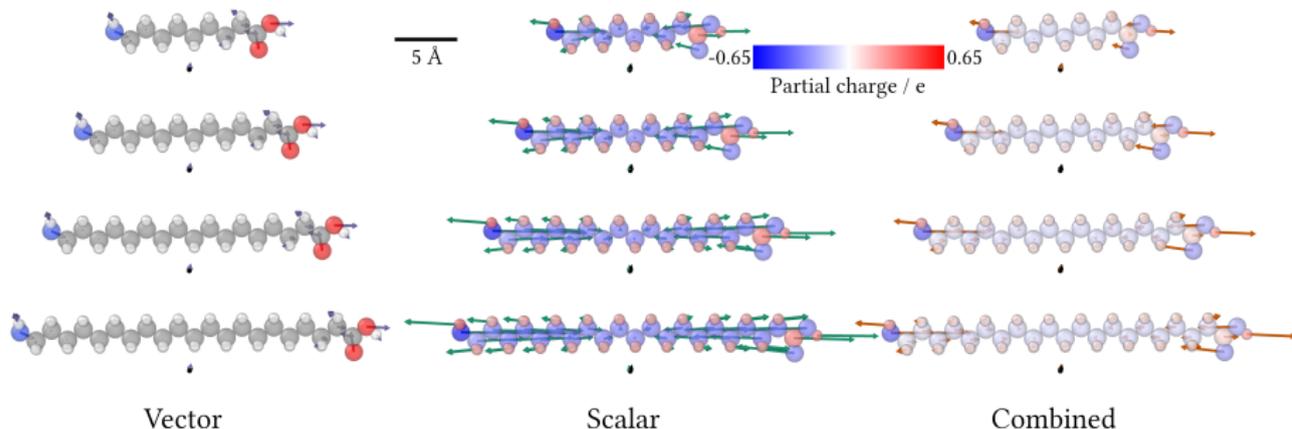


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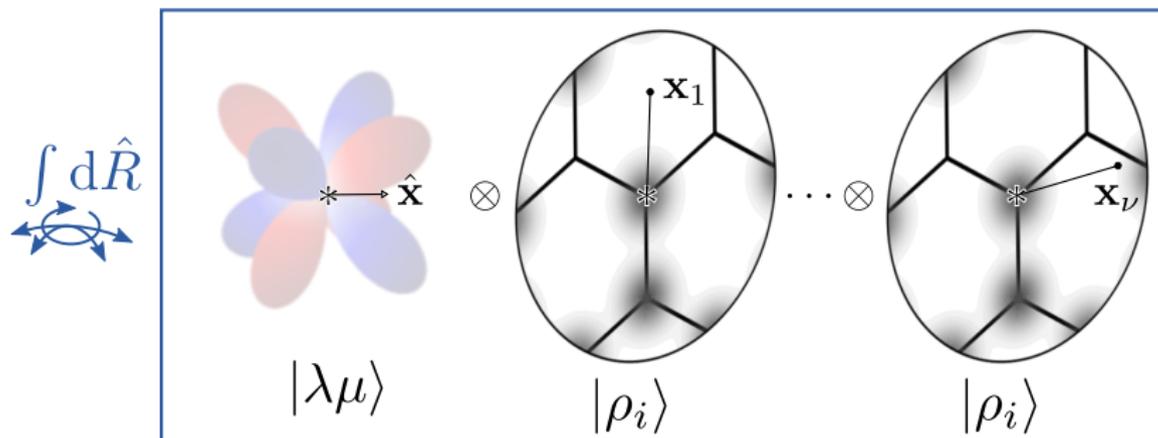
Veit, Wilkins, Yang, DiStasio, **MC**, JCP (2020)

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$$d_\alpha(A_i) = \int dQ \langle d|Q \rangle \langle Q|A_i; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}}; \alpha \rangle$$

$$y_\mu^\lambda(\hat{R}A_i) = \int dQ \langle d|Q \rangle \sum_{\mu'} D_{\mu\mu'}^\lambda(\hat{R}) \langle Q|A_i; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}}; \lambda\mu \rangle$$



Grisafi, Wilkins, Csányi, & MC, PRL (2018); Willatt, Musil, & MC, JCP (2019)

# A hierarchy of equivariant features

- Equivariant  $N$ -body features transform like angular momenta

$$\langle Q | \hat{R} \mathbf{A}; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}}; \lambda \mu \rangle \sim \sum_{\mu'} D_{\mu \mu'}^{\lambda}(R) \langle Q | \mathbf{A}; \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}}; \lambda \mu' \rangle$$

- Recursive construction based on sums of angular momenta and an expansion of the atom density

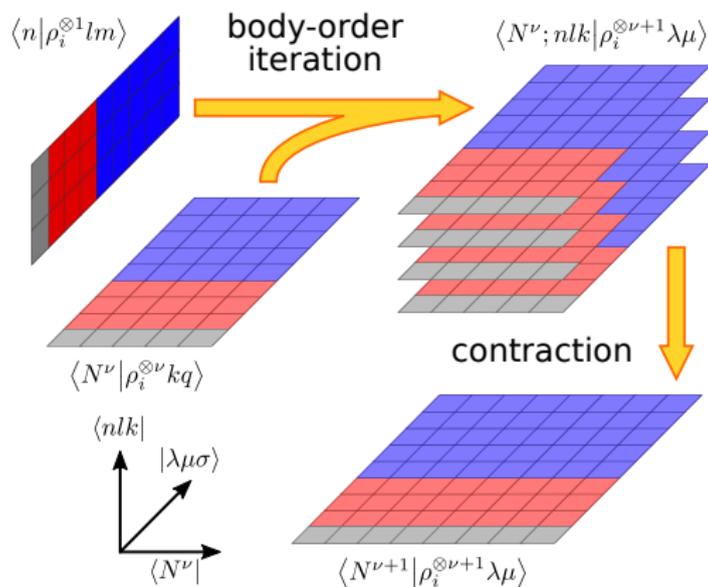
$$\langle n_1 | \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 1}}; \lambda \mu \rangle \equiv \langle n_1 \lambda (-\mu) | \rho_i \rangle$$

$$\langle \dots; n_\nu l_\nu k_\nu; n l k | \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes (\nu+1)}}; \lambda \mu \rangle = \sum_{qm} \langle n | \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes 1}}; l m \rangle \langle \dots; n_\nu l_\nu k_\nu | \overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}}; k q \rangle \langle l m; k q | \lambda \mu \rangle$$

- Can be used to compute efficiently *invariant* features  $|\overline{\rho_i^{\otimes \nu}}; 00\rangle$

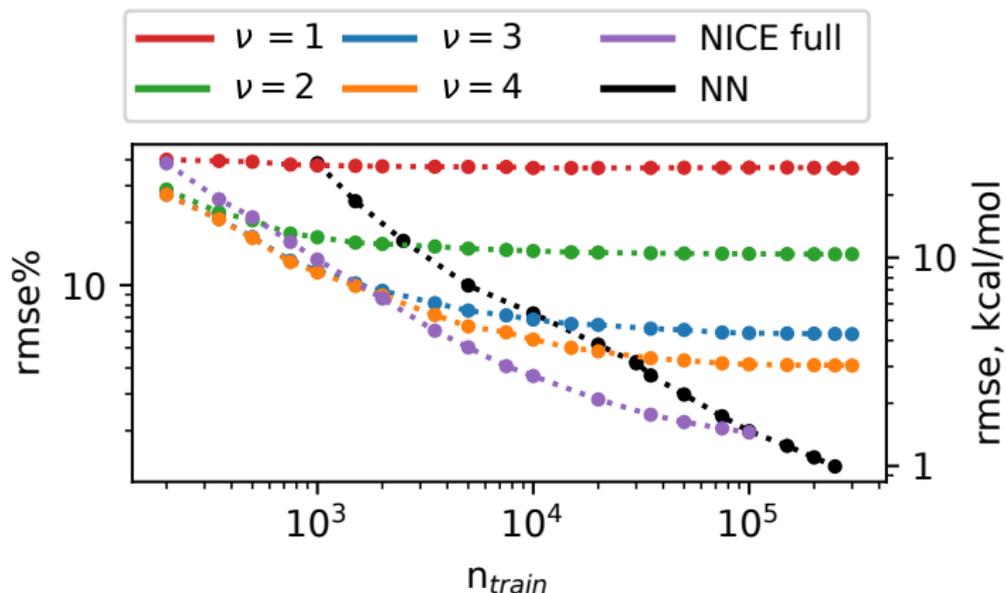
# NICE features for ML

- Problem: number of features grows exponentially with  $\nu$
- Solution:  $N$ -body iterative contraction of equivariants (NICE)
  - After each body order increase, the most relevant features are selected and used for the next iteration
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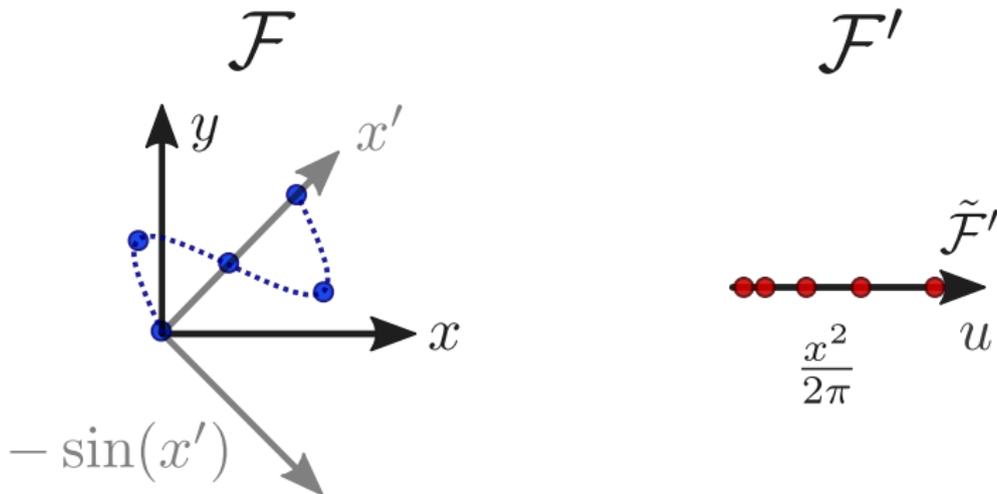
Nigam, Pozdnyakov, MC, JCP (2020); <https://github.com/cosmo-epfl/nice>

# Comparing representations

# Measuring feature spaces

- General problem: how do we compare information content of different choices of features? How to compare metrics and kernels?
- Feature space Reconstruction Error (**FRE**) measures the linearly-embeddable mutual information. Locally-linear and kernelized extensions also available

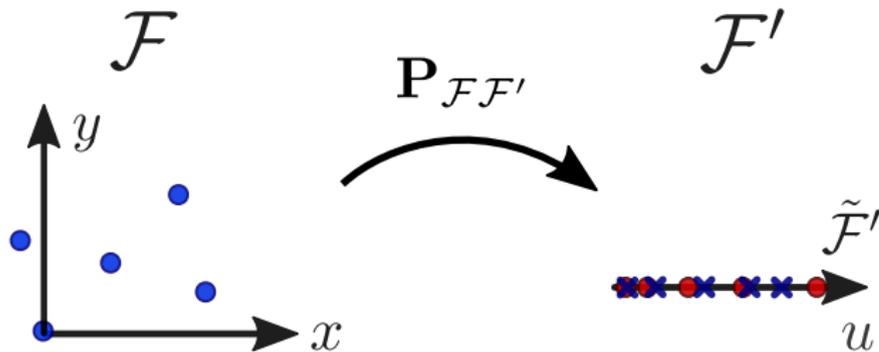
$$\text{GFRE}(\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}') = \min_{\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{\mathcal{F}} \times n_{\mathcal{F}'}}} \|\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{F}'} - \mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{F}}\mathbf{P}\|$$



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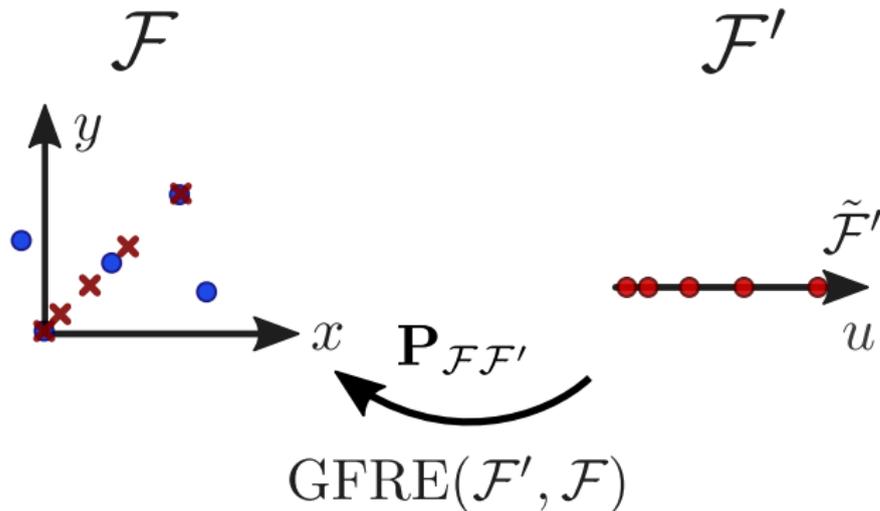


$$\text{GFRE}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}')$$

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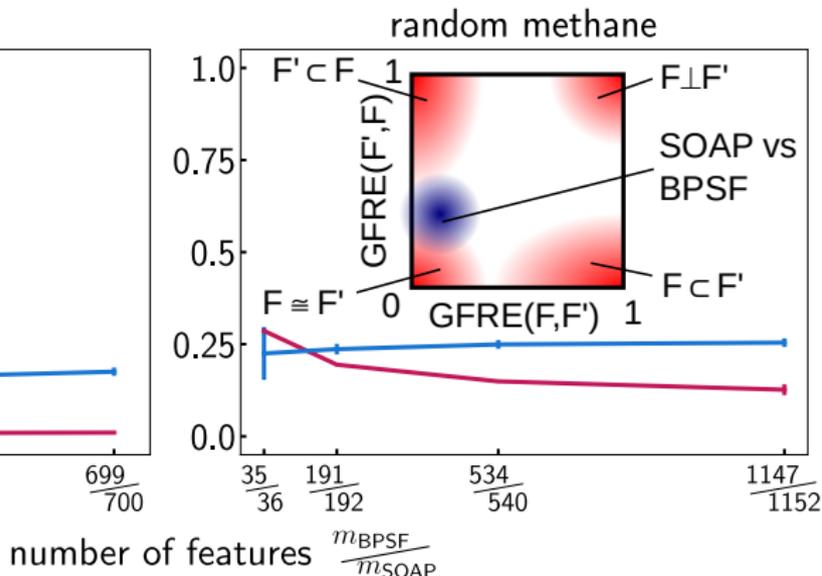
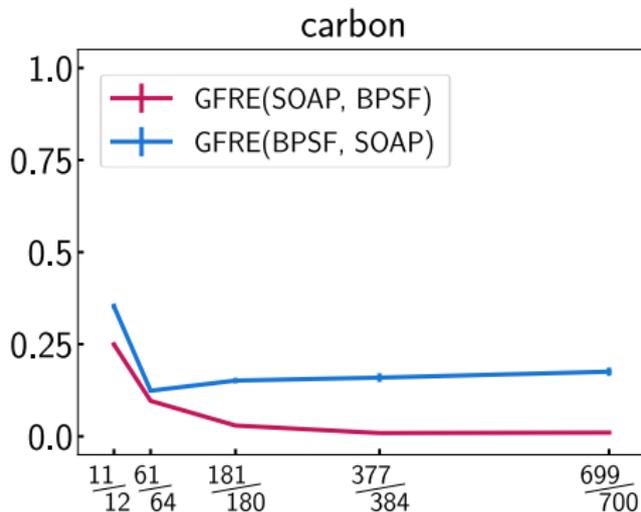
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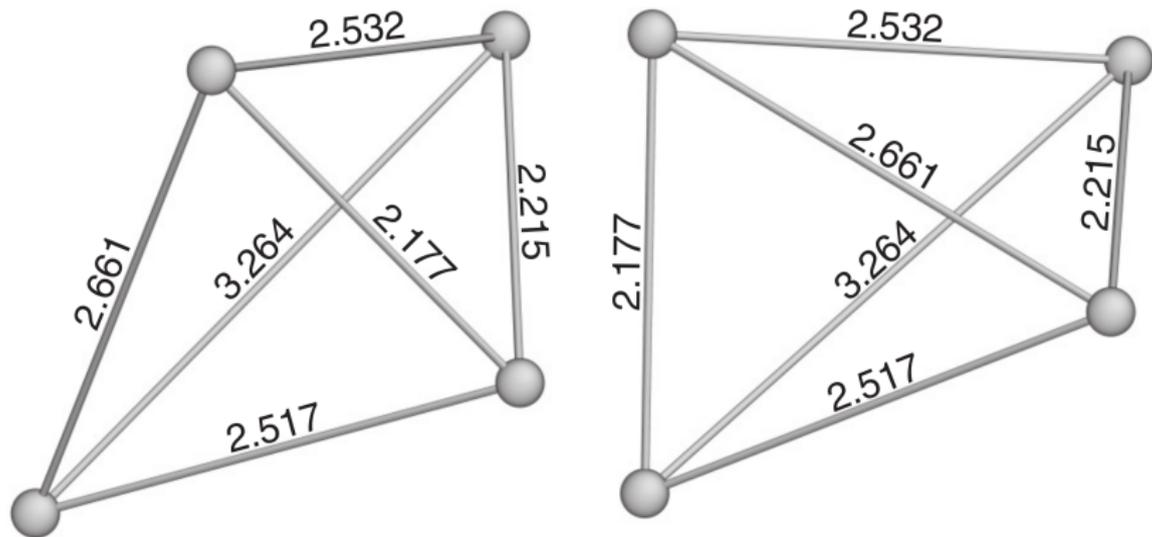
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# Are these representations complete?

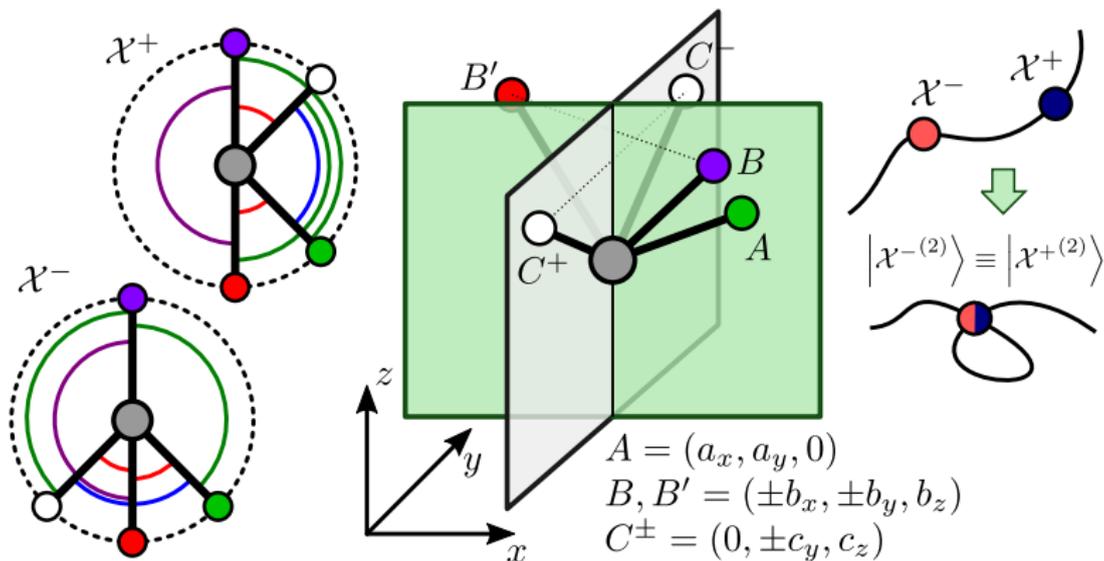
- It is well-known that 2-body correlations are ambiguous: one can build tetrahedra with same pair distances that are different
- Surprise: neither are 3 (and 4!!) body feature! Problem gets important as model accuracy is increased



Boutin, Kemper, Ann. Adv. Math. (2004); Figure from Bartók, Kondor, Csányi, PRB (2013)

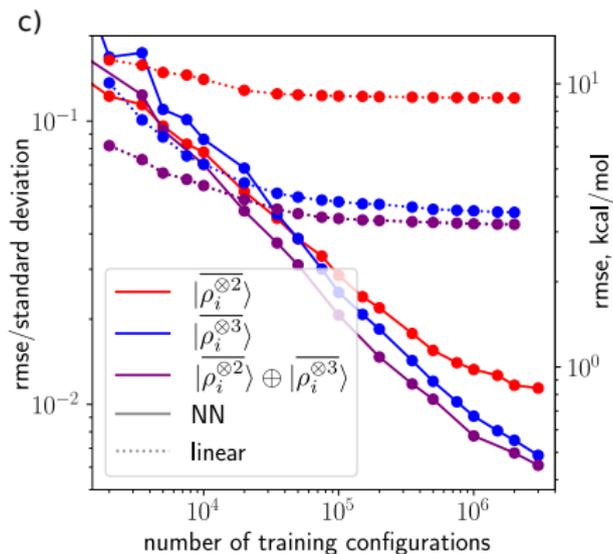
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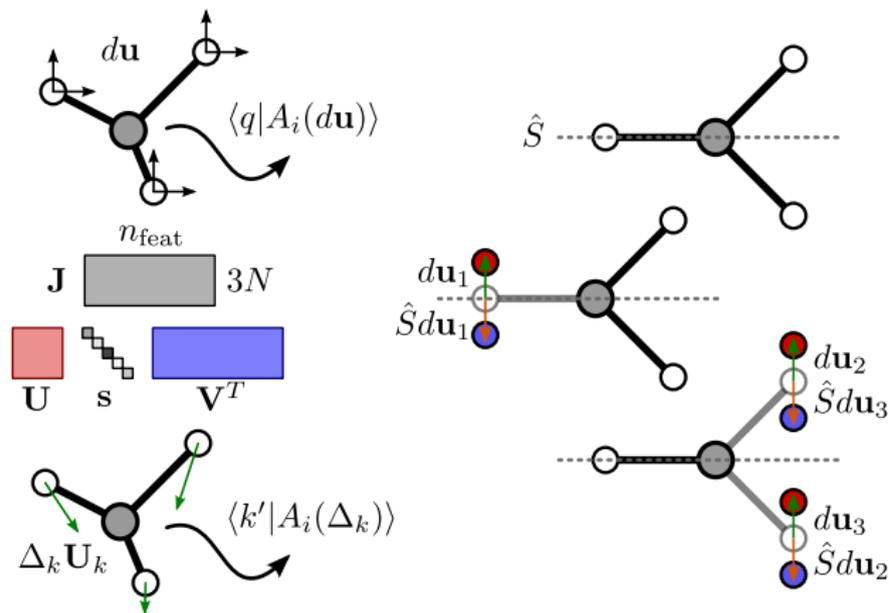
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Pozdniakov, Willatt, Bartók, Ortner, Csányi, **MC PRL** (2020)

# Symmetry and sensitivity

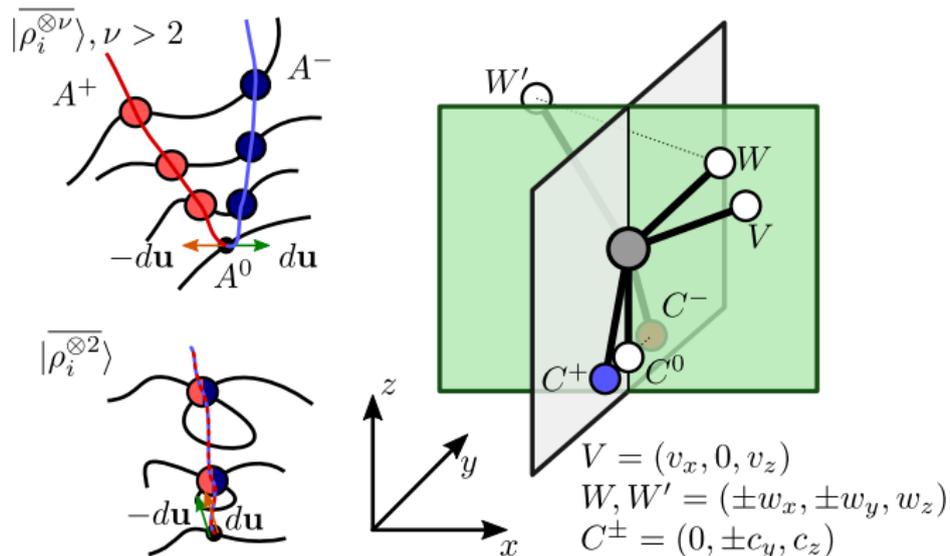
- *Local* characterization of features based on the SVD of the Jacobian
- Symmetric features must have low-rank  $\mathbf{J}$  environments, connected with discrete symmetries
- Interesting twist: degenerate manifolds crossing  $\rightarrow$  *spurious* singularities



Parsaeifard et al., MLST (2021); Pozdnyakov et al., Open Research Europe (2021)

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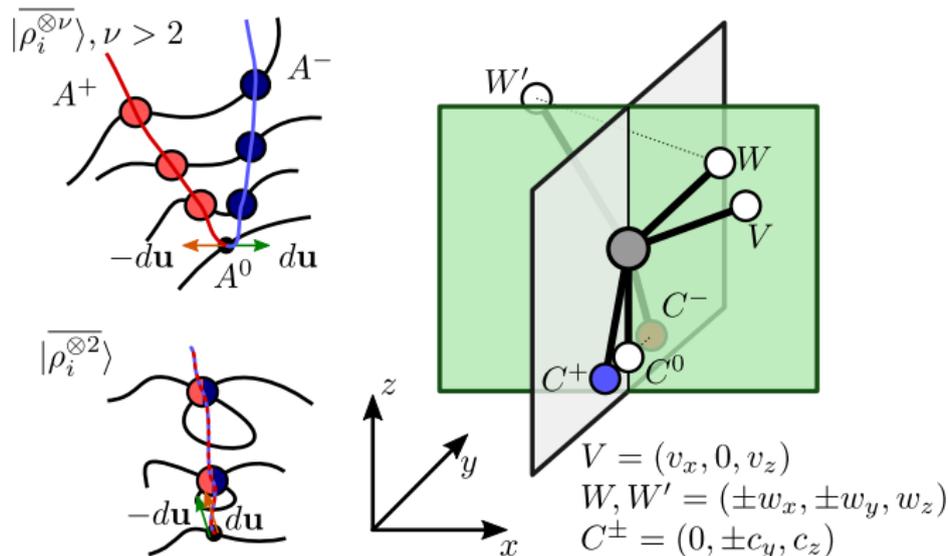
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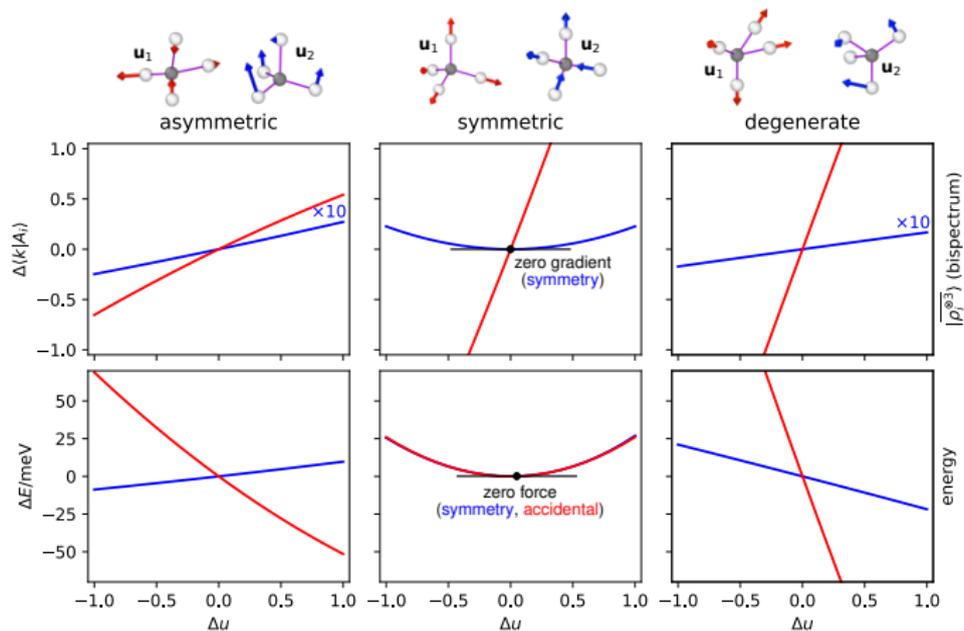
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Parsaeifard et al. Pozdnyakov et al., Open Research Europe (2021)

# Symmetry and models

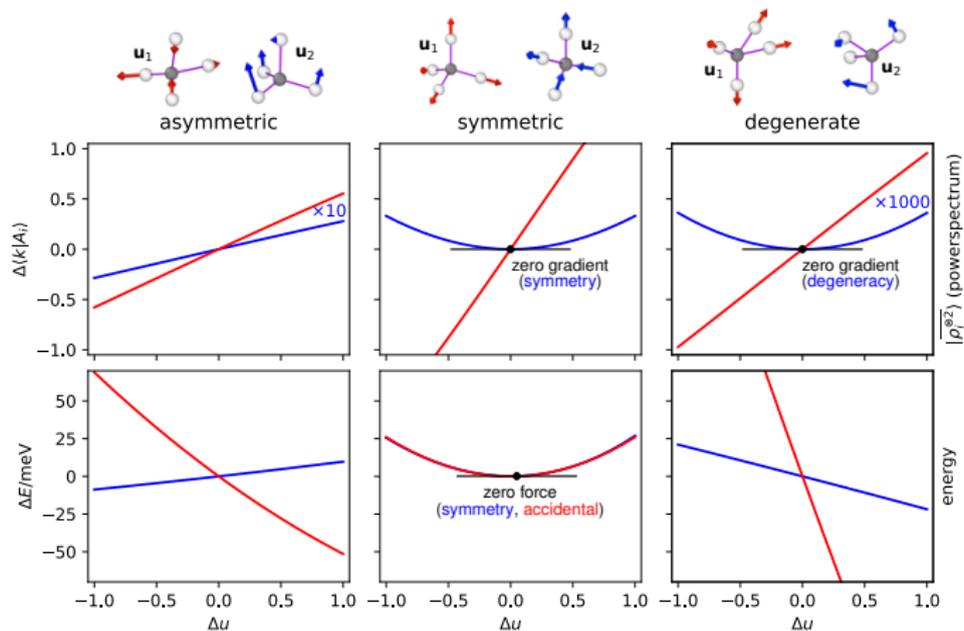
- Zeros in the Jacobian singular value spectrum enforce the correct extremal behavior for symmetric structures
- ... but for degenerate structures: artificial zero-force points!
- Deep consequences for equivariant models



Pozdnyakov et al., Open Research Europe (2021)

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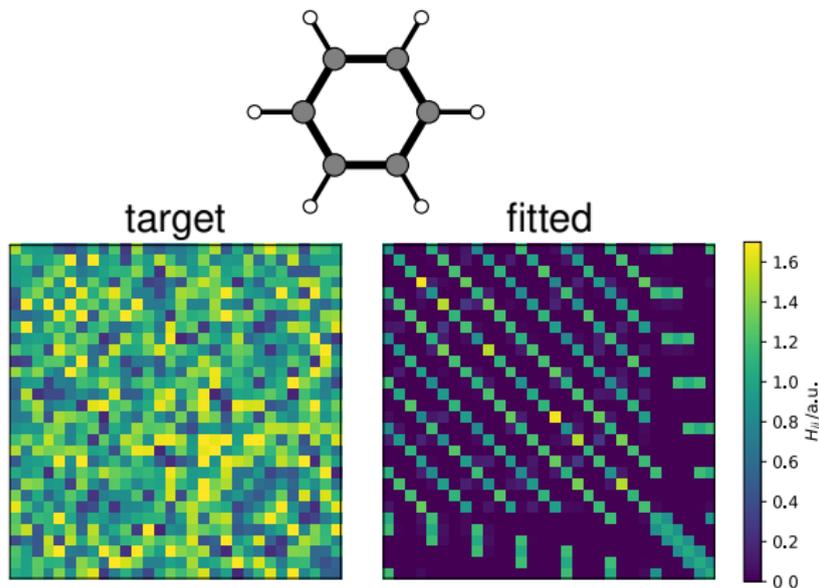
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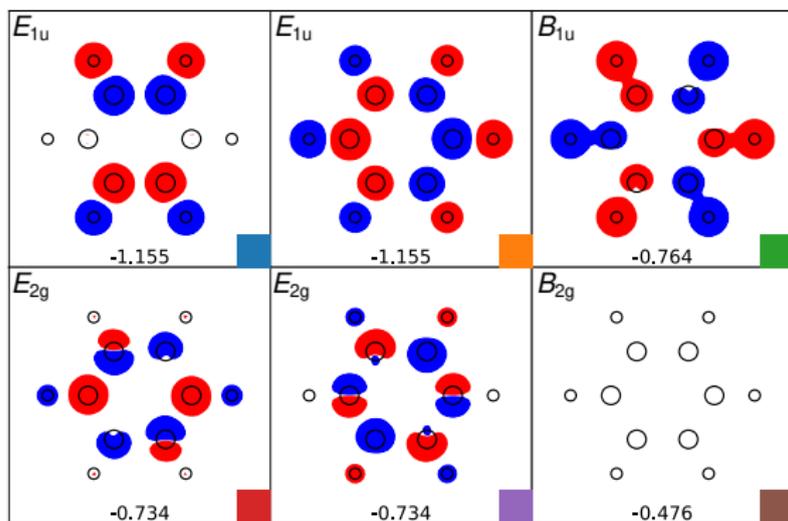
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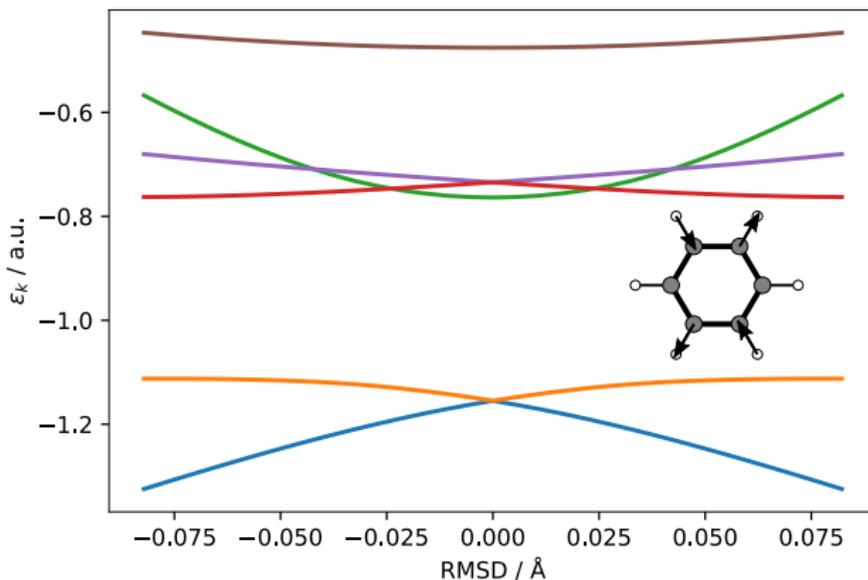
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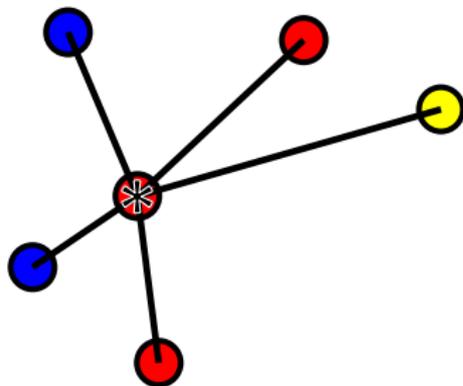
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**How about graph  
convolution schemes?**

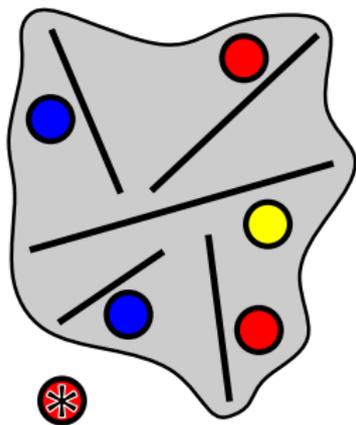
# Basic distance graph convolution

- Atoms are nodes in a fully-connected network. Edges are decorated by (functions of) interatomic distances  $r_{ij}$
- Each node is decorated by the nature of its neighbors and their distance  $h(A_i) = (a_i, \{(a_j, r_{ij})\})$
- The multiset of neighbors and edges is hashed, and used as a label to describe the nodes. The process can be iterated



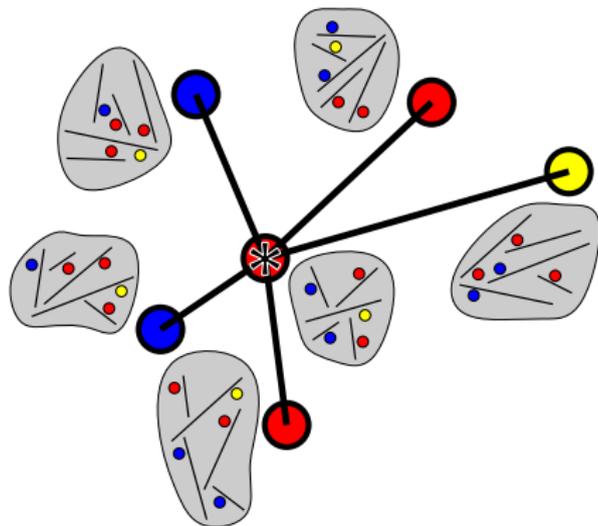
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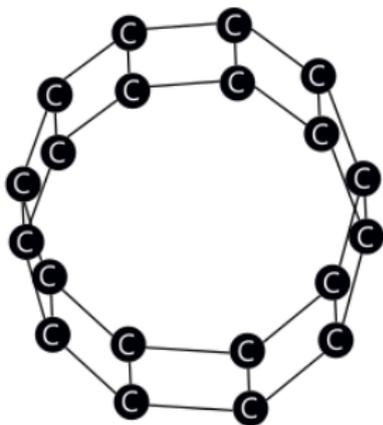
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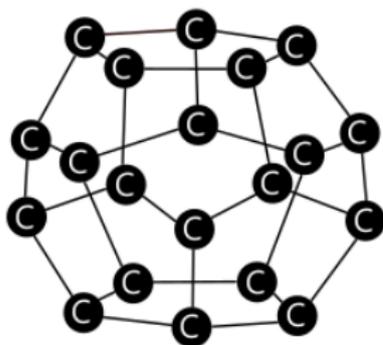


# Graph convolution, pros and cons

- Bad news: there are known discrete graphs that cannot be distinguished by this procedure (W-L test)
- Good news: things seem to be fine for molecular graphs (*fully-connected*, distance-decorated 3D point clouds); GC resolves all known counterexamples of atom-centered representations



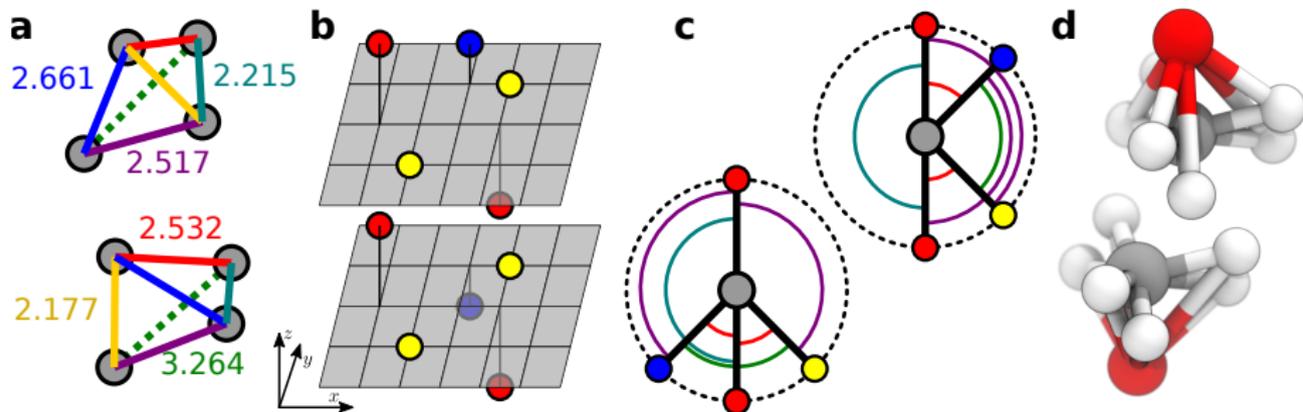
(a) Decaprismane.



(b) Dodecahedrane.

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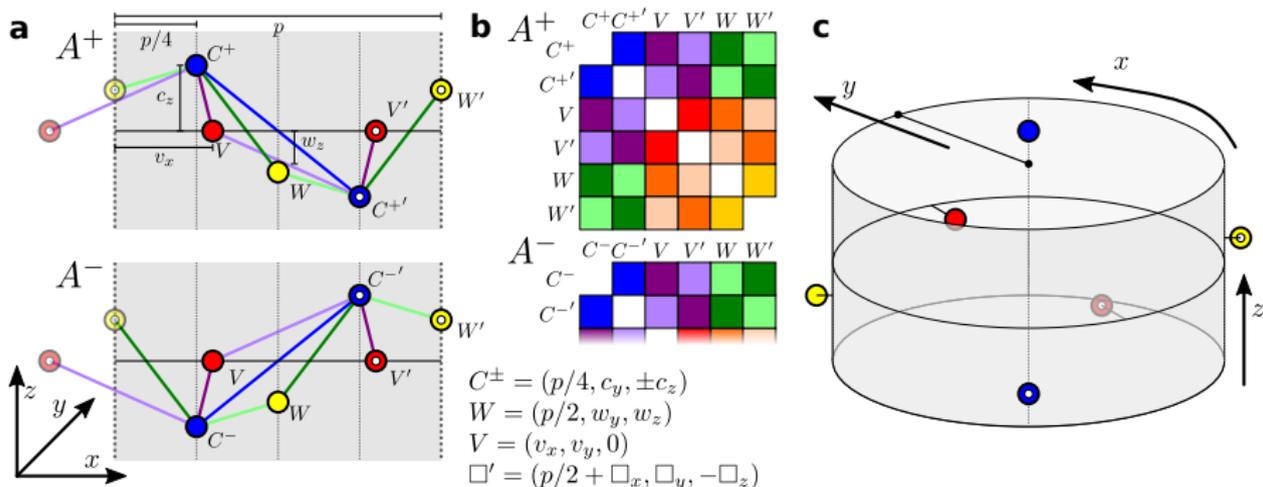
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Bartók et al. PRB (2013); Pozdnyakov et al. PRL (2020)

# A counterexample for distance-based CNN

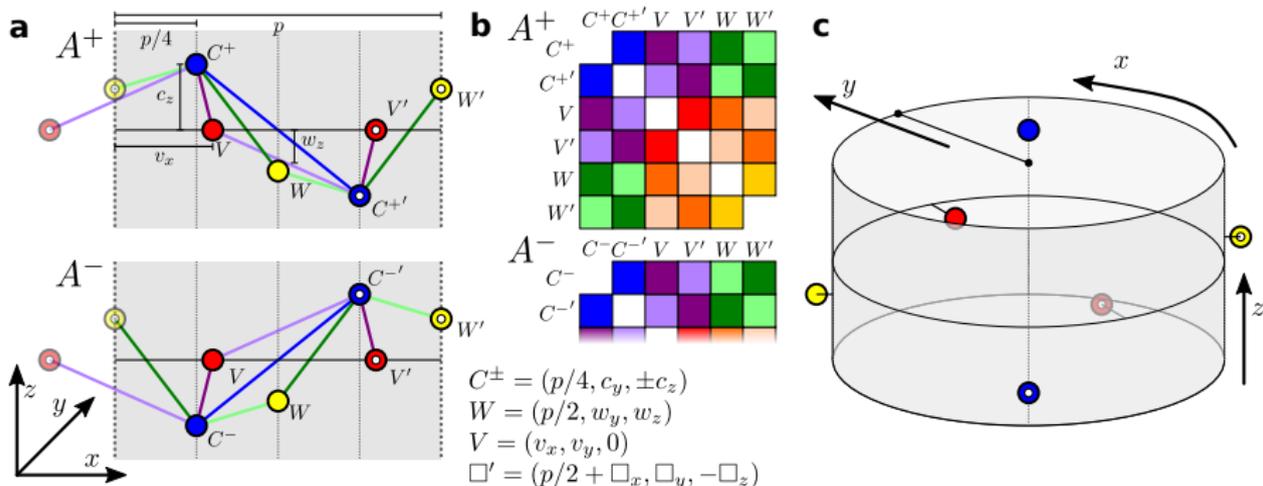
- A family of 3D point clouds with degenerate pairs for GCNN. Key idea: the distance matrix is identical, except for a swap
- Can be folded to give finite 3D structures
- Hard limit to the accuracy for plausible molecular geometries
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Pozdnyakov, MC, arXiv:2201.07136 (2022)

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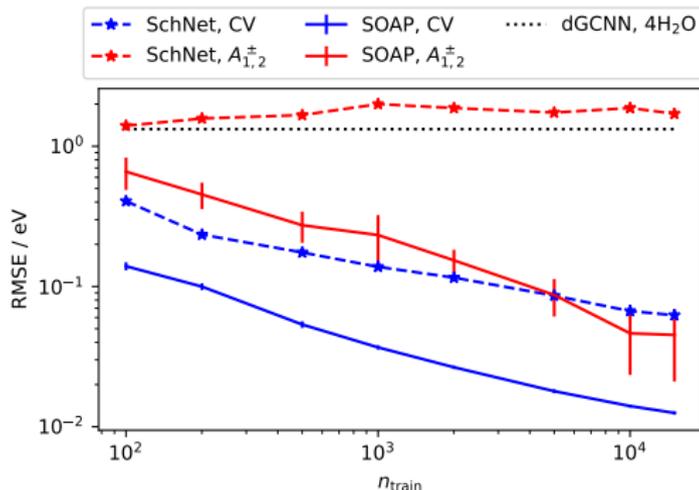
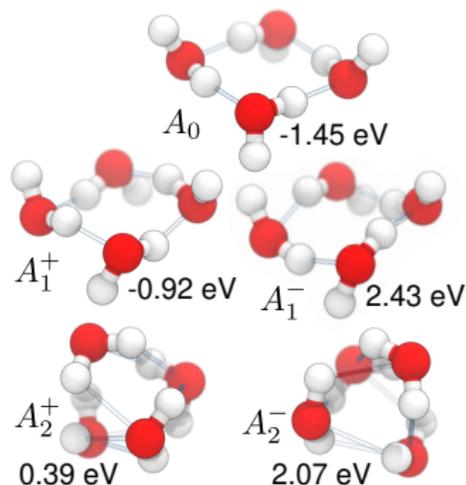
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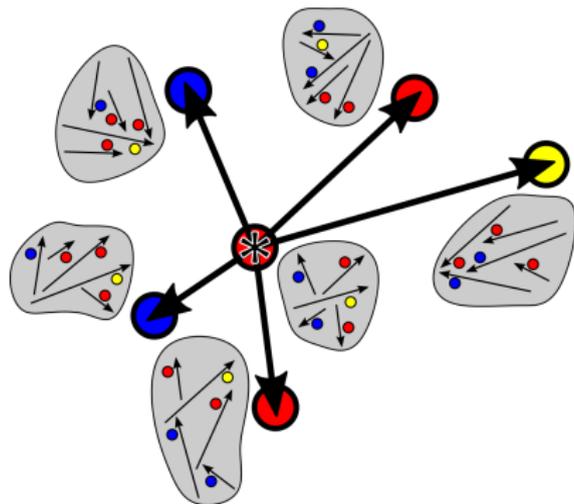
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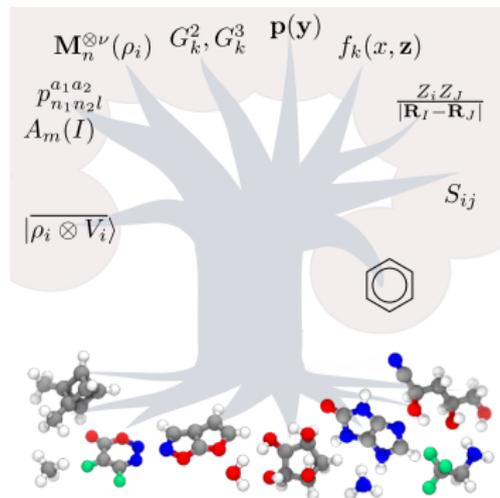
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# Outlook

# Towards a rigorous theory of atomistic ML

- Atomistic simulations have a long tradition of fitting potentials, giving a framework to understand the implication of representations and models to machine learn atomic-scale properties
- Locality, symmetry and equivariance are key elements to incorporate domain priors. *Non-locality: another interesting story!*
- A different perspective on descriptive power and transferability. *Relevant for general geometric ML?*
- A systematic theory of atom-centered representations. *Extend to message-passing architectures?*



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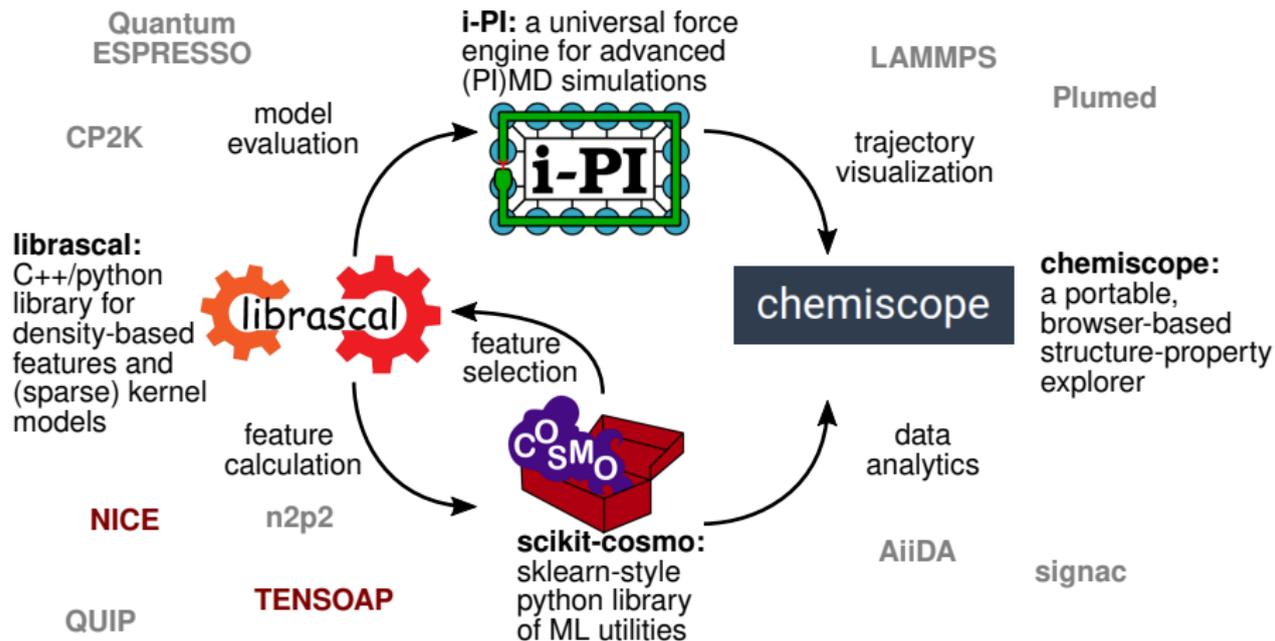


CCMX



# A software stack for atomistic machine learning

- Integrating ML and atomistic simulations: from representations to models to advanced MD
- Interoperability and data sharing with the rest of the ecosystem



<https://github.com/lab-cosmo/>



Slides → [tinyurl.com/riken-epfl-2022](https://tinyurl.com/riken-epfl-2022)  
 Review → Musil et al. ChemRev (2020)