

Insights on the robustness, sensitivity and expressivity of simple many-body potentials: application to α -Zr

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May 2022



Atomic-scale modelling

DFT (*Density Functional Theory*)

- Approx. solution of Schrödinger equation
- Precision
- Limited to small-sized simulation boxes
- **High computational cost**

Potentials

- ML and classical interatomic potentials
- Less accurate
- Efficient predictions of energy and forces
- **Computationally affordable methods**

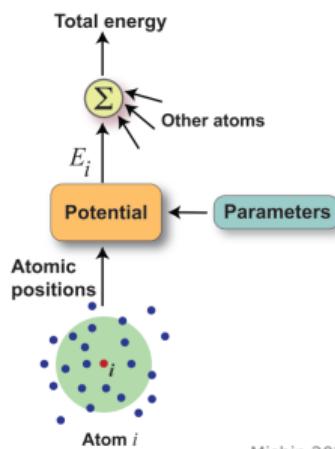
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Mishin 2021

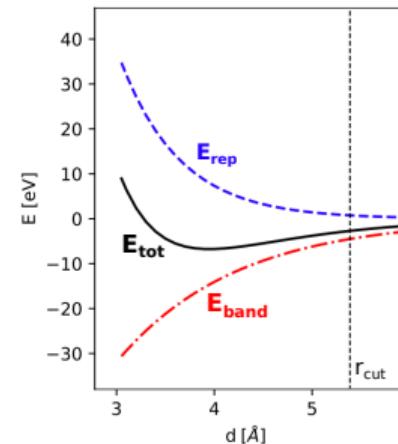
Classical interatomic potentials

- EAM, MEAM...
- Based on a **physical understanding** of interatomic bonding in the material
- Reasonable transferability
- Less flexible than ML potentials (Mishin 2021)
- **Computationnally light**

Second Moment Approximation (SMA) potential (close to EAM - Finnis Sinclair potential)

$$E_i^{tot} = -\xi \sqrt{\sum_{j \neq i}^{r_{cut}} e^{-2q(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_0} - 1)} + A \sum_{j \neq i}^{r_{cut}} e^{-p(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_0} - 1)}}$$

- Non-linear many-body potential, used for metals (Finnis & Sinclair 1984)
- **4 parameters** $\theta = \{p, q, A, \xi\}$
- Cutoff radius $r_{cut} \rightarrow$ range
- Identification of parameters $\theta \rightarrow$ crucial (but challenging)

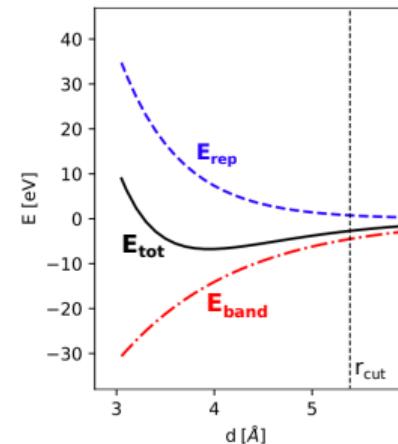


Effect of parameters on computed properties ?

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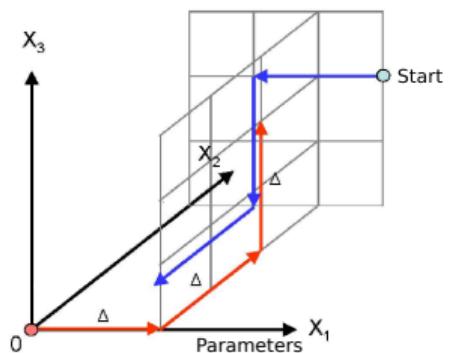
Material context: zirconium

- Nuclear fuel cladding material (Zircaloy)
- Irradiation \Rightarrow Vacancy and SIAs defects
- Defect diffusion & clustering related to irradiation growth

Objectives

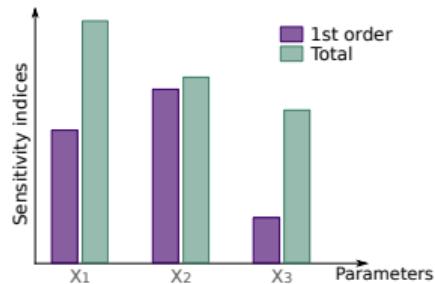
Robustness

- Model screening



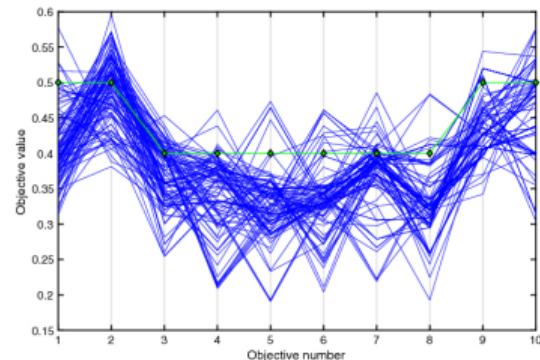
Sensitivity

- Variance-based sensitivity indices



Expressivity

- Multi-objective optimization



Used SMA potentials

$$E_i^{tot} = -\xi \sqrt{\sum_{j \neq i}^{r_{cut}} e^{-2q(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_0}-1)} + A \sum_{j \neq i}^{r_{cut}} e^{-p(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_0}-1)}}$$

- Parameters: $\theta = \{p, q, A, \xi\}$
- Range: r_{cut}

Dufresne potential (2015)

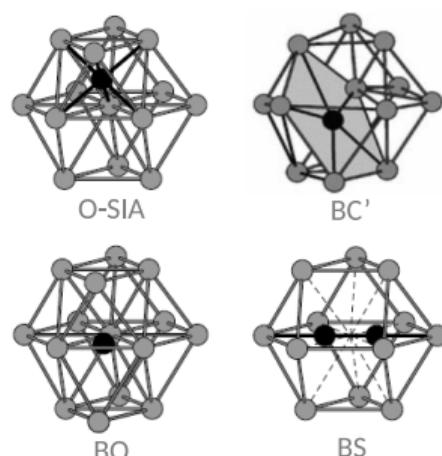
- **Short range:** between $2^{nd} - 3^{rd}$ neighbours
- Fitted on bulk properties of *fcc* Zr at 0K
- $\theta_D = \{7.376, 2.492, 0.269, 2.693\}$
- **SIA**s defects and stacking faults not well described

Willaime potential (1991)

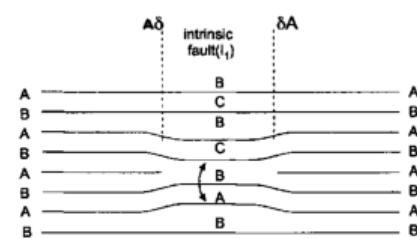
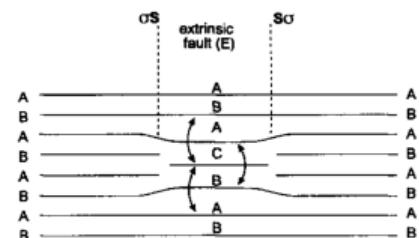
- **Medium range:** between $6^{th} - 7^{th}$ neighbours
- Fitted on bulk properties of *hcp* Zr at 0K
- $\theta_W = \{9.3, 2.1, 0.179, 2.201\}$
- **SIA**s defects and stacking faults not well described

Quantities of interest (QOIs)

- Structure: a , $\frac{c}{a}$, E_c
- Elastic properties: C_{ij}
- Formation energy of point defects: *Vacancy*, *SIAs*
- Stacking faults energies: γ_{SF} (prismatic + basal)



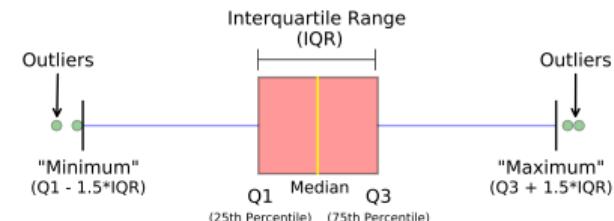
SIAs defects, Vérité et al., Phys. Rev. B, 87 (2013)



Stacking faults in hcp lattice, Hull & Bacon (2001)

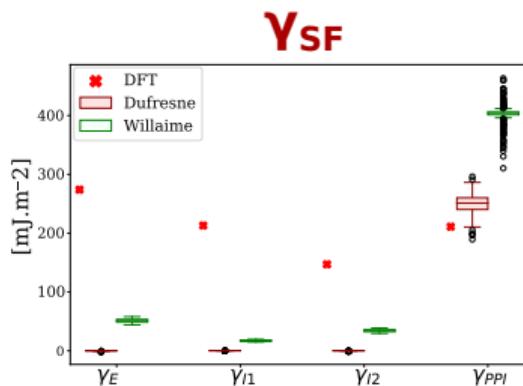
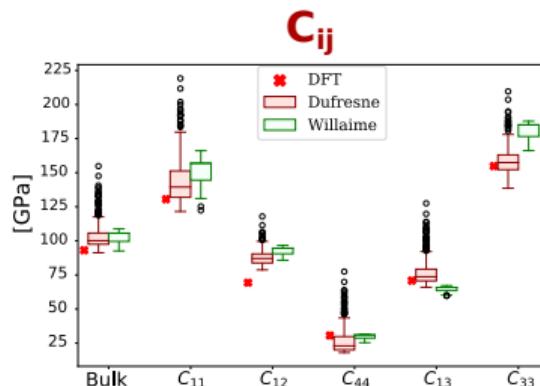
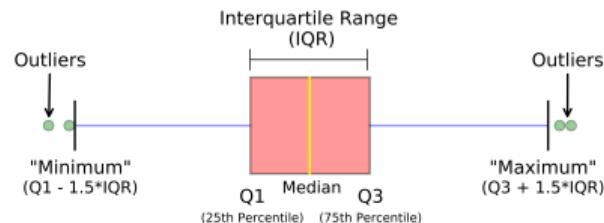
Screening

- 2.5% variation around the fitted parameters sets θ_D and θ_W
- Uniform distributions (assumption)
- Nominal r_{cut}



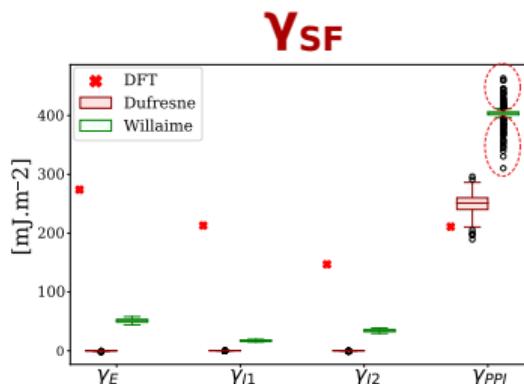
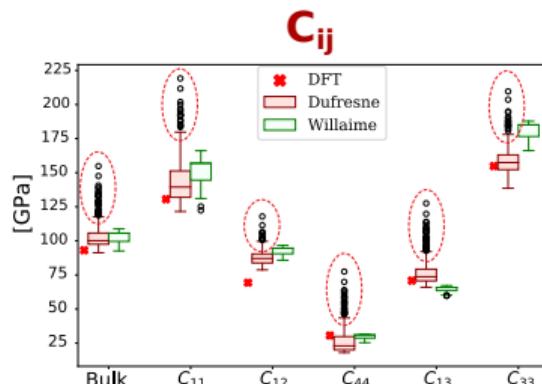
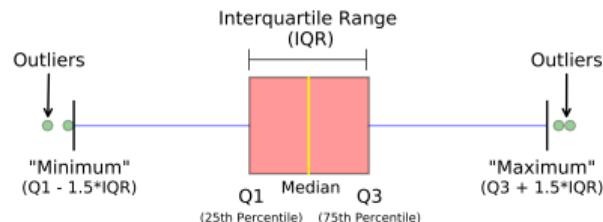
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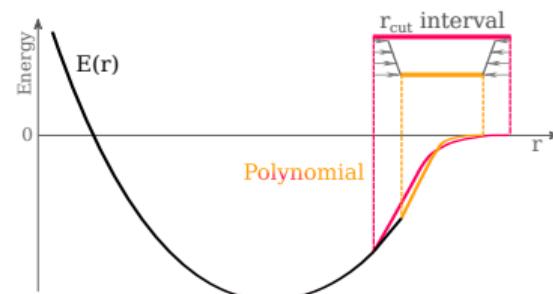
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- Outliers, asymmetry... especially on C_{ij}
- Strong effect on small range potential
- Role of the cutoff? i.e. role of strong gradient zones?

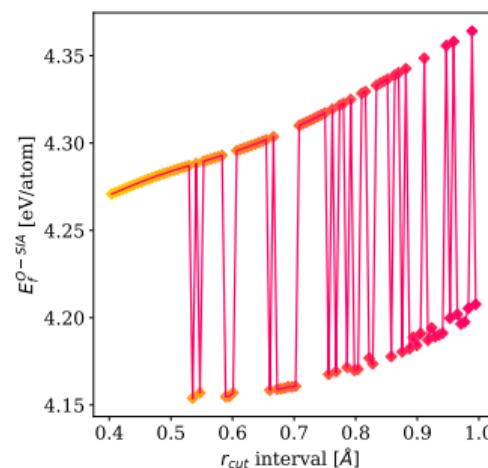
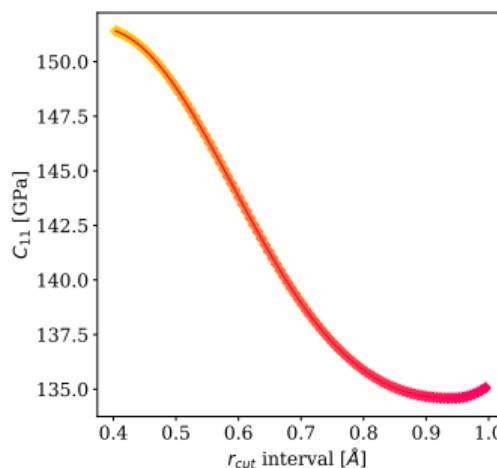
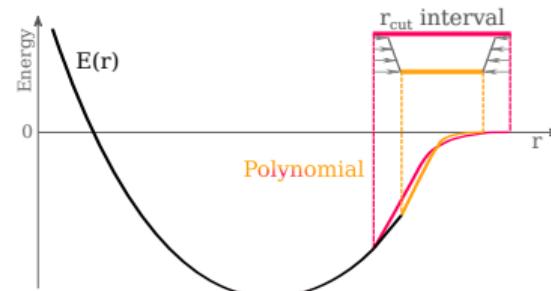
Effect of the cutoff handling

- 30% variation inside the **cutoff interval** $r_{cut} = [r_{cut}^i, r_{cut}^e]$



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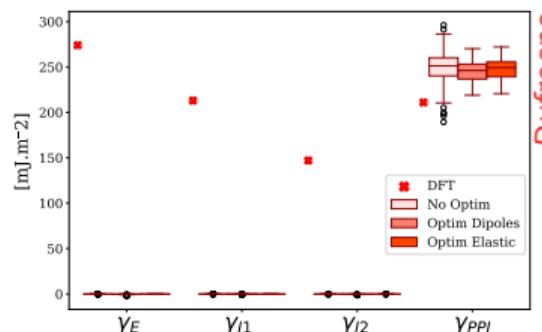
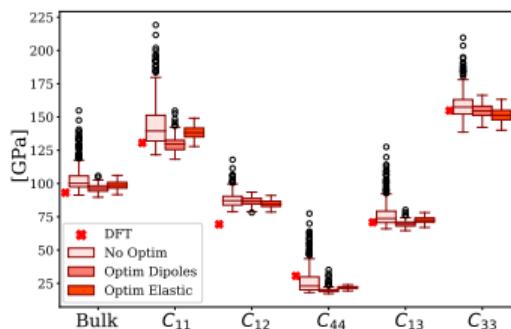
- 30% variation inside the **cutoff interval** $r_{cut} = [r_{cut}^i, r_{cut}^e]$
- Strong effect on properties
- Complex mapping r_{cut} interval / properties
- Need to find the "good" r_{cut} interval for each random parameters set



Reduction of the artefacts

Optimization of the cutoff interval

- $\forall \theta_i \rightarrow r_{cut}$ interval $|(C_{ij}, E_f, \gamma)$ are stable
- C_{ij} or P_{ij} based strategy (*Optim Elastic* or *Optim Dipoles*)

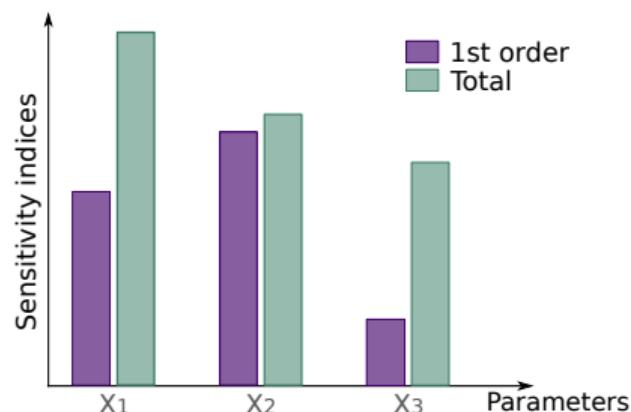


- Reduction of artefacts \Rightarrow improved robustness
- Need to take care of the r_{cut} interval for:
 - implementing a potential into MD codes and get correct values
 - sensitivity analysis \Rightarrow **avoid non-physical values** (cf. Dhaliwal et al. 2019)

Variance-based sensitivity analysis

Sobol's method Sobol, Math. Model. Comput. Exp. , 407 (1993)

- **First order indices:** $S_i = \frac{V_i}{V_Y}$
- Higher order indices: $S_{ij} = \frac{V_{ij}}{V_Y}, S_{ijk} = \frac{V_{ijk}}{V_Y}, \dots$
- **Total indices:** $S_{T_i} = S_i + S_{ij} + S_{iji} + \dots + S_{i\dots k}$
- N.B.: $(S_{T_i} - S_i) \Rightarrow$ influence of the interactions between parameters



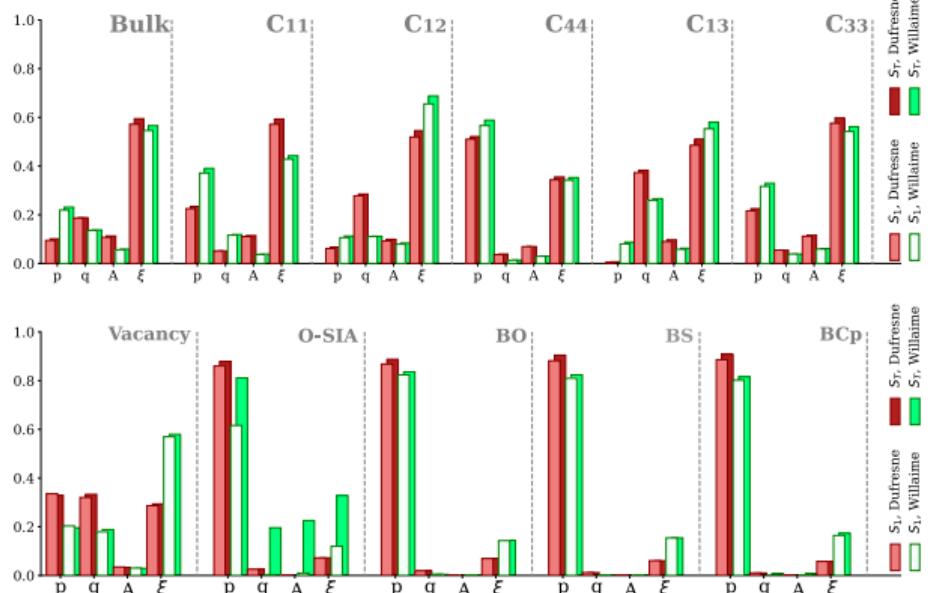
This work

- 2.5% variation around the fitted parameters sets θ_D and θ_W
- Uniform distributions (assumption)
- Stratified latin hypercube sampling
- Sampled sets: $\theta_i, i = 1\dots N \times (2^k)$, with $N = 500$ and $k = 4$ parameters
- Optimized r_{cut} interval

Results

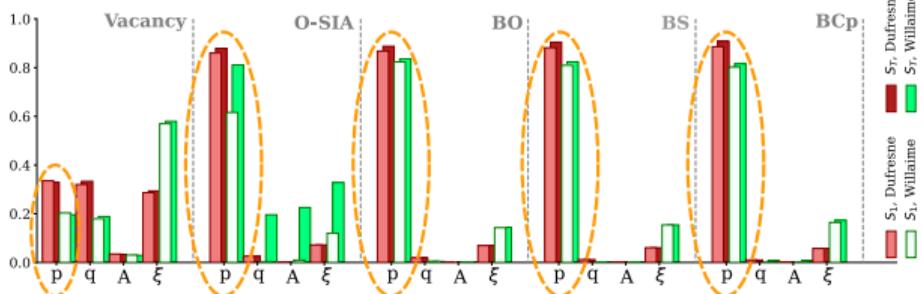
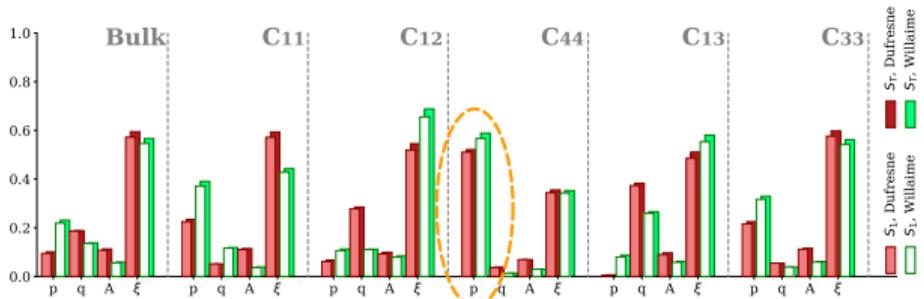
This work

- $S_i \approx S_T$ for C_{ij} and E_f
- p :
 - Strong effect on E_f^{SIAs}
 - Moderate effect on $E_f^{Vacancy}$ and C_{ij} (except C_{44})
- ξ :
 - Strong effect on C_{ij}
 - Rather important on $E_f^{Vacancy}$



Variance-based sensitivity analysis

Results



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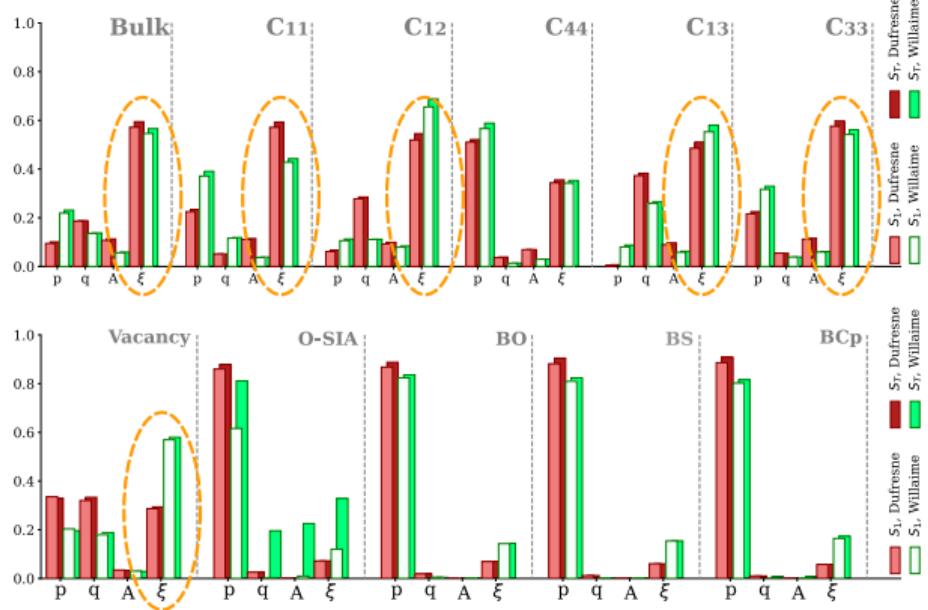
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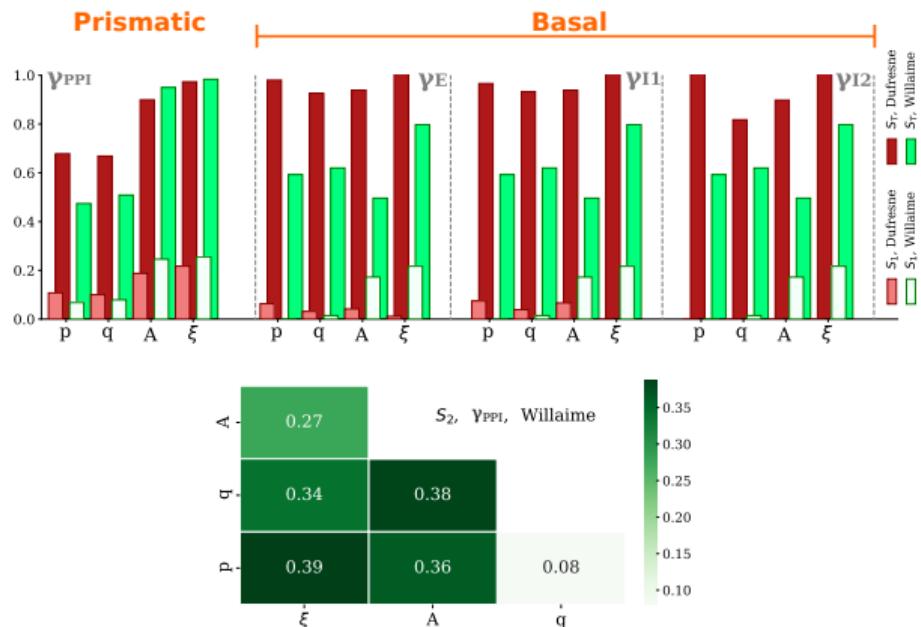
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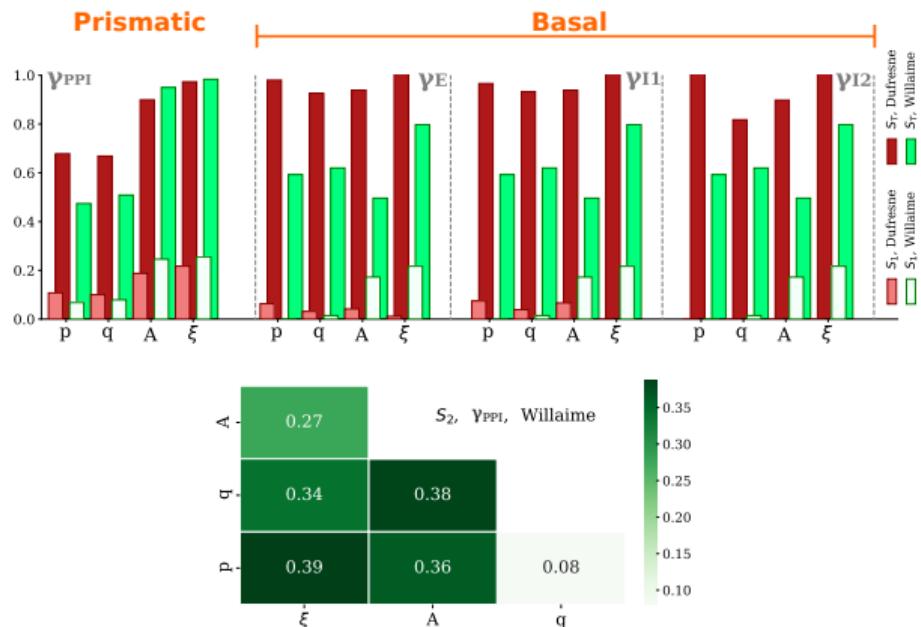


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- γ_{SF} :
 - Similar indices for I_1 , I_2 and E faults (Hirth & Lothe 1982)
 - Effects of parameters are indirect
 - Fairly high influence of (p, ξ) interaction.

Variance-based sensitivity analysis

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 - Effects of parameters are indirect
 - Fairly high influence of (p, ξ) interaction.
- Sensitivity indices can guide potential fitting

Metamodel and multi-objective optimization

Polynomial chaos-based metamodel (Ghanem et al., J. Appl. Mech. 57 (1990))

- PCE-based **surrogate model** for a , c/a , C_{ij} and E_f (**with correction of artefacts**):

$$Y = \sum_{\alpha} y_{\alpha} \Psi_{\alpha}(\theta)$$

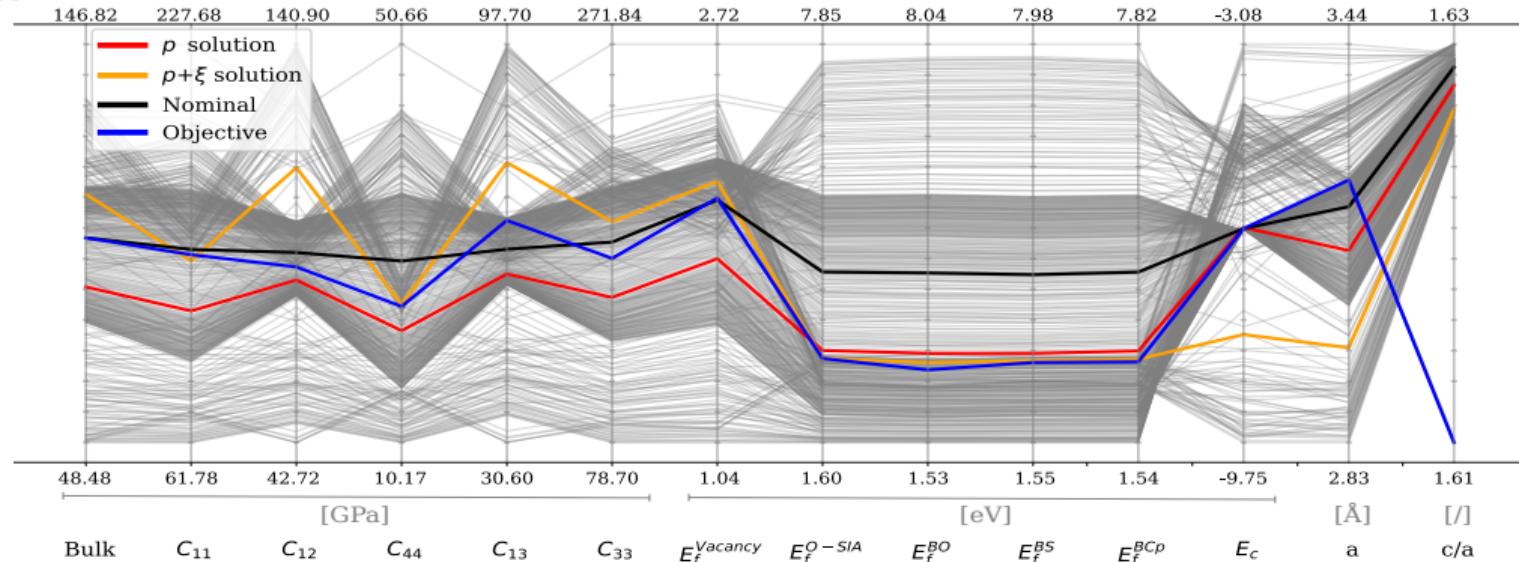
- Legendre polynomials (suited for uniform distributions of parameters)
- only p and (p, ξ) parameters used to build the model
- $p=[7, 13.94]$, $\xi=[0.42, 3]$, $A=0.17936$, $q=2.1$ (based on Willaime potential)

Multi-objective optimization

- Non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm II (**NSGA-II**) (Deb et al., IEEE Trans. Evol. Comput. 6, 182 (2002))
- Genetic algorithm with a modified mating and survival selection
- **pymoo implementation** (Blank and Deb, IEEE Access 8, 89497 (2020))
- **Objective function:** DFT reference values for a , c/a , C_{ij} and E_f (14 objectives, same weights)

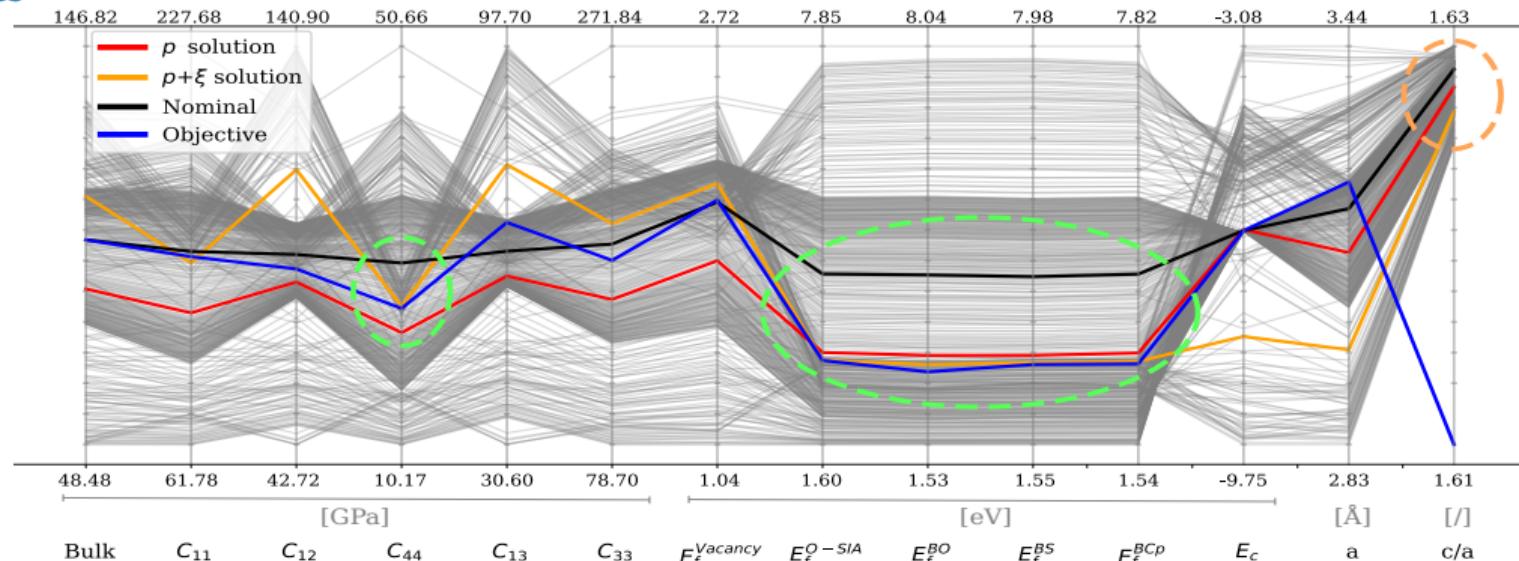
Multi-objective optimization

Results



Multi-objective optimization

Results



- Improvement of the formation energies E_f of SIAs point defects and C_{44}
- Ideal c/a
- p solution = 8.04, (p, ξ) solution = (7.513, 2.627)

Multi-objective optimization

Results

[GPa]	Ref.	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2	[eV]	Ref.	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2
<i>Bulk</i>	99	109.01	99.3	100.2	E_f^V	2.07	2.14	1.67	2.26
C_{11}	140	133.24	142	149	E_f^{O-SIA}	2.915	3.04	2.96	3.13
C_{12}	86	108.86	75	82	E_f^{BO}	2.72	2.837	2.79	2.87
C_{44}	24	24.31	44	48	E_f^{BS}	2.839	2.87	2.93	3.21
C_{13}	68	77.8	76	65	E_f^{BCp}	2.81	2.84	2.88	3.13
C_{33}	168	185.7	168	180	E_l^{2Va}	0.176	0.259	-0.009	0.3
					E_l^{2Vb}	0.094	0.33	0.0069	0.31
	Ref.	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2	$[mJ.m^{-2}]$	Ref.	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2
E_c [eV]	-6.17	-7.94	-6.63	-6.469	γ_{I1}	147	29.61	99	55
a [\AA]	3.23	2.98	3.23	3.22	γ_{I2}	213	59.21	198	110
$\frac{a}{a}$ [%]	1.6	1.627	1.59	1.619	γ_E	274	88.8	297	164
$\Delta E_{bcc-hcp}^*$	0.071	0.018	0.054	0.052	γ_{PPI}	211	332.21	135	357
$\left[\frac{\text{eV}}{\text{atom}} \right]$									

- Not perfect C_{ij} (except C_{44})

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- Stacking fault energies not well reproduced → link with c/a ratio and expressivity limit of this SMA with $r_{cut} = 6$ nearest neighbours

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- Stacking fault energies not well reproduced → link with c/a ratio and expressivity limit of this SMA with $r_{cut} = 6$ nearest neighbours
- $E_f^{BO} < E_f^{BCP} < E_f^{BS} < E_f^{O-SIA}$, as in DFT, and in contrast with EAM#2

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C_{11}	140	133.24	142	149	E_f^{O-SIA}	2.915	3.04	2.96	3.13
C_{12}	86	108.86	75	82	E_f^{BO}	2.72	2.837	2.79	2.87
C_{44}	24	24.31	44	48	E_f^{BS}	2.839	2.87	2.93	3.21
C_{13}	68	77.8	76	65	E_f^{BCp}	2.81	2.84	2.88	3.13
C_{33}	168	185.7	168	180	E_l^{2Va}	0.176	0.259	-0.009	0.3
					E_l^{2Vb}	0.094	0.33	0.0069	0.31
	Ref.	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2		Ref.	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2
					[mJ.m ⁻²]				
E_c [eV]	-6.17	-7.94	-6.63	-6.469	γ_{I1}	147	29.61	99	55
a [\AA]	3.23	2.98	3.23	3.22	γ_{I2}	213	59.21	198	110
$\frac{c}{a}$ [ʃ]	1.6	1.627	1.59	1.619	γ_E	274	88.8	297	164
$\Delta E_{bcc-hcp}$					γ_{PPI}	211	332.21	135	357

- Not perfect C_{ij} (except C_{44})
- Not perfect lattice parameter a and cohesive energy E_c , but *hcp* more stable than *bcc*
- Stacking fault energies not well reproduced → link with c/a ratio and expressivity limit of this SMA with $r_{cut} = 6$ nearest neighbours
- $E_f^{BO} < E_f^{BCp} < E_f^{BS} < E_f^{O-SIA}$, as in DFT, and in contrast with EAM#2
- Positive 1nn vacancy binding energies as in DFT, and in contrast with EAM#3

Results

[GPa]	Ref.	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2	[eV]	Ref.	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2
	C_{11}	109.01	99.3	100.2		E_f^V	2.07	2.14	1.67
C_{12}	140	133.24	142	149	E_f^{O-SIA}	2.915	3.04	2.96	3.13
C_{44}	86	108.86	75	82	E_f^{BO}	2.72	2.837	2.79	2.87
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	168	185.7	168	180	E_l^{2Va}	0.176	0.259	-0.009	0.3
					E_l^{2Vb}	0.094	0.33	0.0069	0.31
Ref. Optim $p + \xi$ EAM #3 EAM #2					Ref. Optim $p + \xi$ EAM #3 EAM #2				
$[mJ.m^{-2}]$					$[mJ.m^{-2}]$				
E_c [eV]	-6.17	-7.94	-6.63	-6.469	γ_{I1}	147	29.61	99	55
a [\AA]	3.23	2.98	3.23	3.22	γ_{I2}	213	59.21	198	110
$\frac{c}{a}$ [/ \AA]	1.6	1.627	1.59	1.619	γ_E	274	88.8	297	164
$\Delta E_{bcc-hcp}$	0.071	0.018	0.054	0.052	γ_{PPI}	211	332.21	135	357
$\left[\frac{\text{eV}}{\text{atom}}\right]$									

- Not perfect C_{ij} (except C_{44})
- Not perfect lattice parameter a and cohesive energy E_c , but *hcp* more stable than *bcc*
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- $E_f^{BO} < E_f^{BCp} < E_f^{BS} < E_f^{O-SIA}$, as in DFT, and in contrast with EAM#2
- Positive 1nn vacancy binding energies as in DFT, and in contrast with EAM#3
- Refitted potential = good compromise

Conclusions

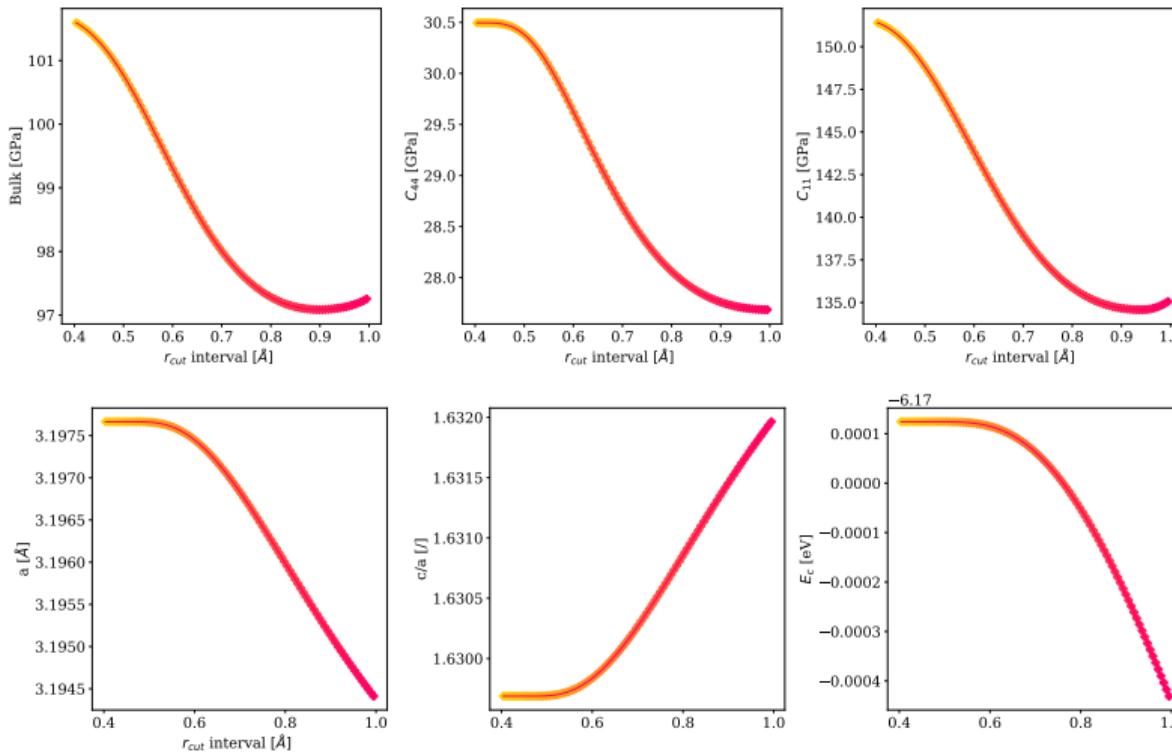
- The robustness of a potential is affected by the existence of strong gradients;
- **A sensitivity indices-oriented technique to refit interatomic potentials is proposed;**
- An improved SMA potential is identified, that can be used to study **small point defects physics in α -Zr.**

Perspectives

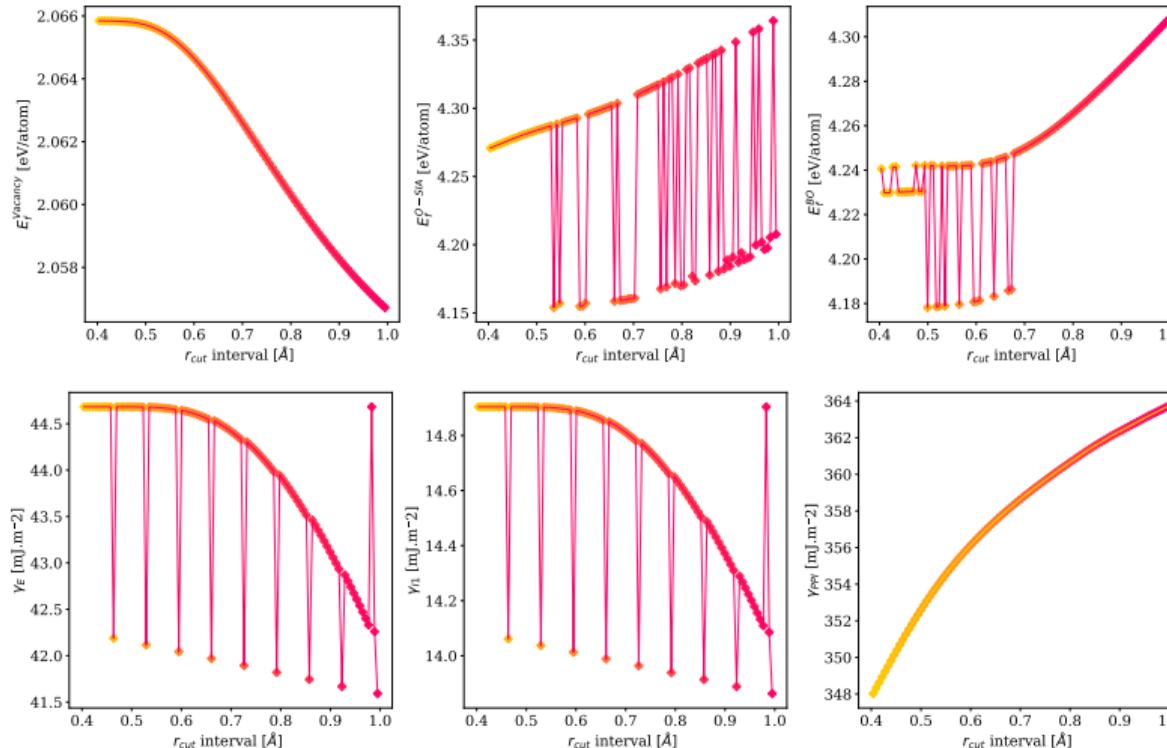
- Application to N-moments TB potentials
- Further efforts to obtain a better SMA potential require:
 - r_{cut} = adjustable parameter (explicitly);
 - a more global SMA model screening, in order to push the optimization problem up to the SMA expressivity limits.

Thank you for your attention.

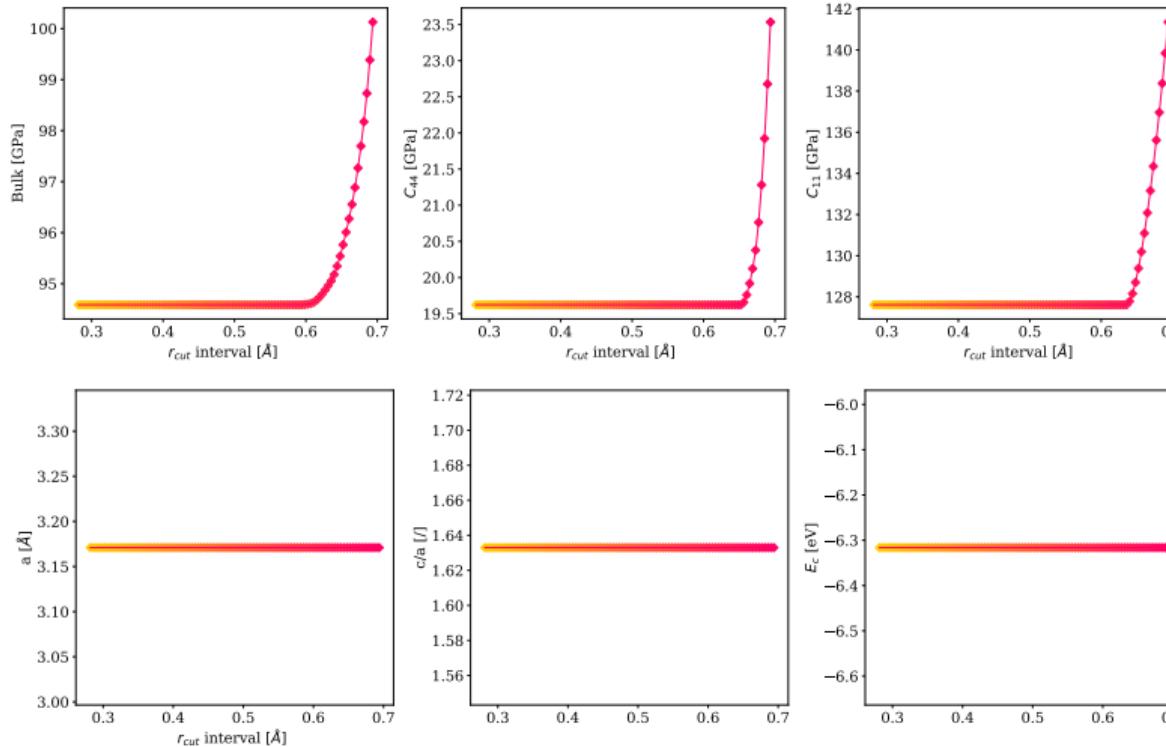
Properties vs cutoff interval - Willaime potential



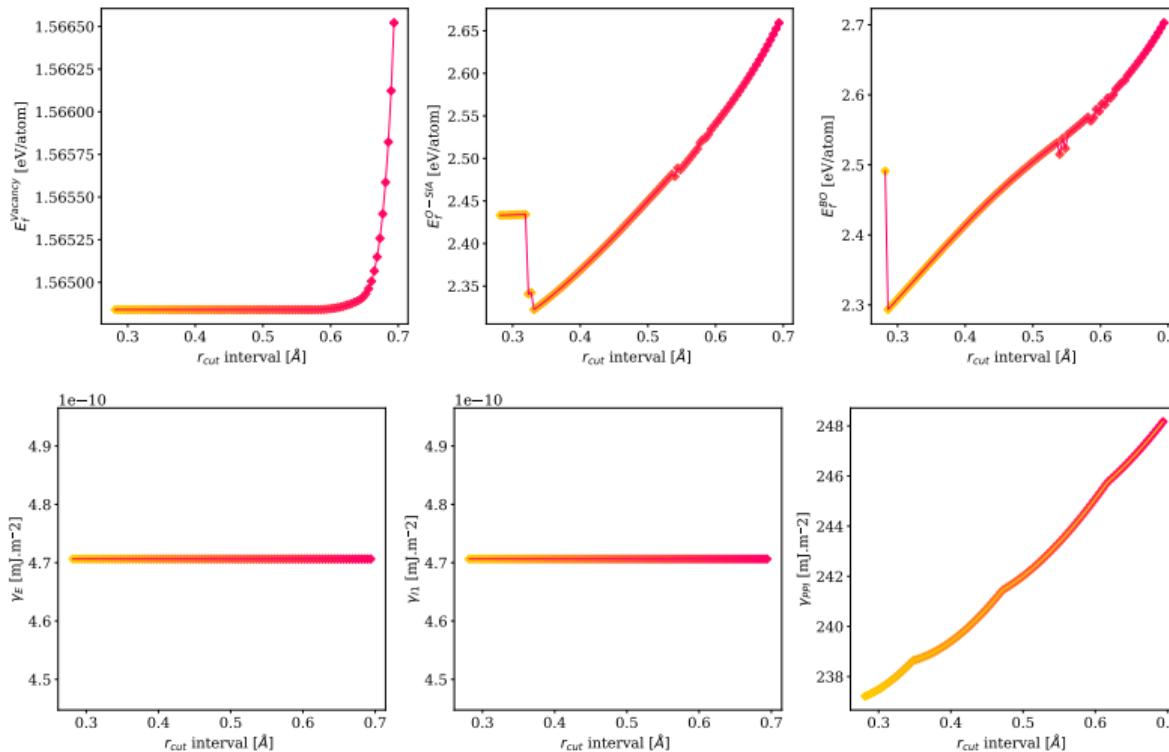
Properties vs cutoff interval - Willaime potential



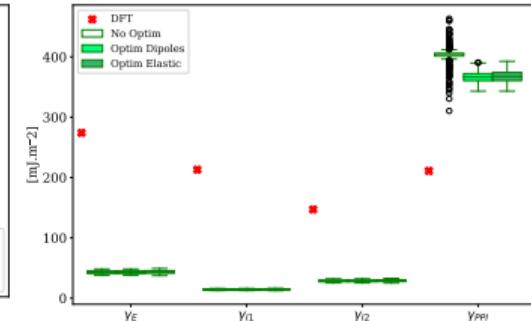
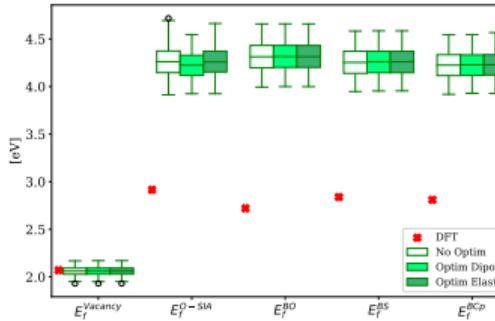
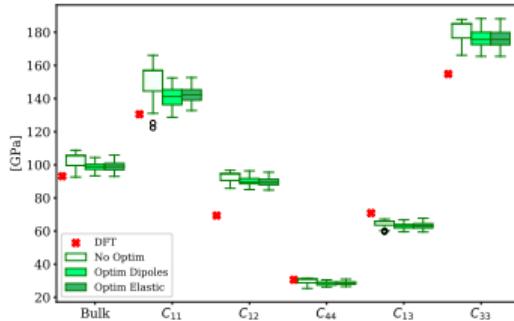
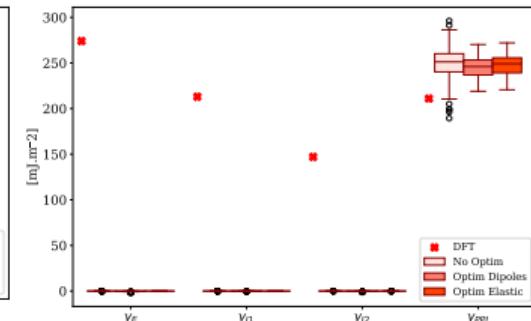
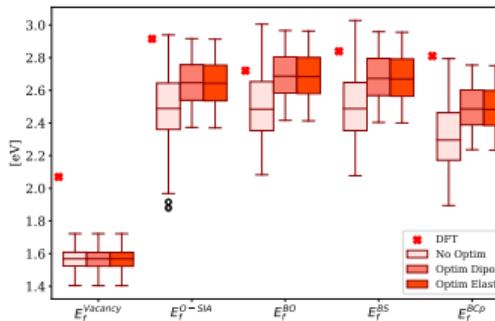
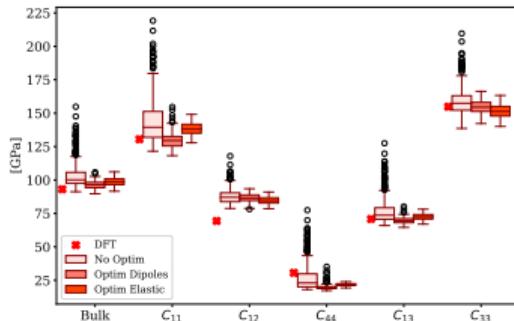
Properties vs cutoff interval - Dufresne potential



Properties vs cutoff interval - Dufresne potential



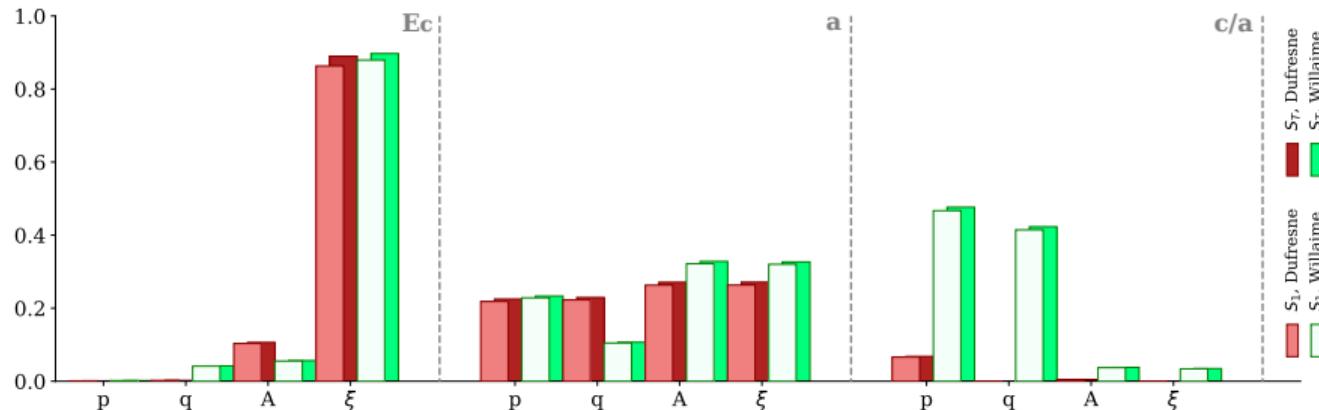
Reduction of cutoff effect



Dufresne

williams

Sensitivity analysis - lattice parameters



Refitted potential

[GPa]	Ref.	Nom.	Optim p	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2	[eV]	Ref.	Nom.	Optim p	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2
<i>Bulk</i>	99	98.98	86.3	109.01	99.3	100.2	E_f^V	2.07	2.06	1.81	2.14	1.67	2.26
C_{11}	140	142.30	114.08	133.24	142	149	E_f^{O-SIA}	2.915	4.27	3.12	3.04	2.96	3.13
C_{12}	86	89.40	82.06	108.86	75	82	E_f^{BO}	2.72	4.308	2.983	2.837	2.79	2.87
C_{44}	24	28.62	21.6	24.31	44	48	E_f^{BS}	2.839	4.26	2.981	2.87	2.93	3.21
C_{13}	68	63.12	58.96	77.8	76	65	E_f^{BCP}	2.81	4.23	2.981	2.84	2.88	3.13
C_{33}	168	175.84	148.95	185.7	168	180	E_l^{2Va}	0.176	0.216	0.193	0.259	-0.009	0.3
							E_l^{2Vb}	0.094	0.228	0.219	0.33	0.0069	0.31
	Ref.	Nom.	Optim p	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2		Ref.	Nom.	Optim p	Optim $p + \xi$	EAM #3	EAM #2
E_c [eV]	-6.17	-6.19	-6.15	-7.94	-6.63	-6.469	γ_{I1}	147	9.93	17.03	29.61	99	55
a [\AA]	3.23	3.19	3.35	2.98	3.23	3.22	γ_{I2}	213	19.86	34.05	59.21	198	110
$\frac{c}{a}$ [/ \AA]	1.6	1.63	1.629	1.627	1.59	1.619	γ_E	274	29.79	51.08	88.8	297	164
$\Delta E_{bcc-hcp}$ [$\frac{eV}{atom}$]	0.071	0.027	0.013	0.018	0.054	0.052	γ_{PPI}	211	367.48	292.85	332.21	135	357