Autonomously revealing hidden local structures in supercooled liquids



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4TU.HTM & M2i Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in Materials Science

Colloidal Systems

Colloids

Nano- to micrometer particles Suspended in a solvent





Self Assembly

Due to the Brownian motion, these particles can spontaneously order (self-assemble) into a wide variety of phases, similar to what is observed in atomic systems, e.g. **liquids, crystals, gases**, etc..







ML Research



Learning structure and dynamics via **supervised ML**



Neural-network-based order parameters for classification **of binary hard-sphere crystal structures**

E. Boattini, M. Ram, F. Smallenburg, L. Filion, Molecular Physics 116, 3066-3075 (2018)



Inverse design of soft materials via a deep-learning-based evolutionary strategy G. Coli, E. Boattini, L. Filion, M. Dijkstra, submitted (2021)

Averaging local structure to predict the dynamic propensity in supercooled liquids E. Boattini, F. Smallenburg, L. Filion, arXiv: 2105.05921 (2021)

Autonomously identifying distinctive particle environments via **unsupervised ML**

Autonomously revealing hidden local structures in **supercooled liquids** E. Boattini, S. Marín-Aguilar, S. Mitra, G. Foffi, F. Smallenburg, **L. Filion**, *Nature Communications* **11**, 5479 (2020)

Unsupervised learning for local **structure detection** in **colloidal systems** E. Boattini, M. Dijkstra, **L. Filion** *The Journal of Chemical Physics* **151**, 154901 (2019)



Fitting effective potentials with symmetry functions



Modeling of many-body interactions between **elastic spheres** through symmetry functions E. Boattini, N. Bezem, S.N. Punnathanam, F. Smallenburg, **L. Filion**, *The Journal of Chemical Physics* **153**, 064902 (2020).

Modeling of effective interactions between ligand coated **nanoparticles** through symmetry functions D. Chintha, S. Kumar Veesam, E. Boattini, L. Filion, S. N. Punnathanam, in preparation

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Fitting the dynamics in glasses (3 projects in progress)

E. Boattini, D. Vos, R. Alkemade, F. Smallenburg, L. Filion

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Marjolein Dijkstra



What is the local structure of my particles?



Which particles are crystalline, which are fluid?

What is the local structure of my particles?



Unsupervised ML

•

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What is the local structure of my particles?



Local Ordered Environments



Goal: develop an algorithm that can distinguish on a single-particle basis which environment a particle is in (i.e. FCC, HCP, BCC, disordered)

Local Environment Descriptions:

- Bond order parameters (BOP)
- Common neighbour analysis (CNA)
- Templating

• ...

Bond order parameters



Want:

1) Description of local environment (density) that captures the symmetry

2) Rotationally invariant



Sarxos, Wikimedia Commons (2007)

Expand the local density in terms of *spherical harmonics*

Develop *rotationally invariant* quantities from the spherical harmonics that depend **only on** *I*: *q*_{*µ*} *w*_{*l*}

Bond order parameters

$$q_{lm}(i) = \frac{1}{N_b(i)} \sum_{j=1}^{N_b(i)} Y_l^m(\mathbf{r}_{ij})$$

Rotationally invariant quantities

$$q_{l}(i) = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{2l+1} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} |q_{lm}(i)|^{2}} \quad \text{Wigner 3j}$$

$$w_{l}(i) = \frac{\sum_{m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}=0} \binom{l}{m_{1}} \frac{l}{m_{2}} \frac{l}{m_{3}}}{\left(\sum_{m=-l}^{l} |q_{lm}(i)|^{2}\right)^{3/2}}$$



Local averages work better (*)

$$\bar{q}_l(i) = \frac{1}{N_b(i) + 1} \left[q_l(i) + \sum_{k \in \mathcal{N}_b(i)} q_l(k) \right]$$

Steinhardt, Nelson, Ronchetti, Phys. Rev. B **28**, 784 (1983) Lechner, Dellago, J. Chem. Phys **129**,114707 (2008) (*)

Result





All four clearly identifiable!

Lechner, Dellago, J. Chem Phys. 129, 114707 (2008)

Extension?



In principle possible, but each time must determine (by **trial and error**) the "important" rotationally invariant quantities



Binary: Shevchenko *et al., Nature* **439**, 55 (2006)

Cubes: Rossi *et al. Soft Matter* **7**, 4139 (2011)

Polyhedra: Vutukuri et al., Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. **126,** 14050 (2014)

Bowls:

Utrecht SCM group



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What is the local structure of my particles?



Neural Network Order Parameter



Description of the local environment $\{\mathbf{Q}(i) = (\bar{q}_1(i), \bar{q}_2(i), \bar{q}_3(i), \dots, \bar{q}_d(i))\}$ 1) Collect training data from simulations:

Simulate **known structures**, and collect e.g. q_1 and w_1 for many particles, at different pressures, temperatures, etc.

- Optimize (fit) nonlinear function (neural network) until output of neural network matches true structures.
- **3) Test** trained network on an independent dataset.



Binary hard spheres (a=0.58)



Accuracy > 99% for all 6 environments

Example 1: FCC-AB₁₃ coexistence









AB₂



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AB₂



Works similarly for all known binary hard-sphere crystals (~99% accuracy)

E. Boattini, M. Ram, F. Smallenburg, and L. Filion, Mol. Phys. 116, 3066 (2018)

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Design a **simple** and **fast** algorithm to:

- autonomously identify the distinct local environments present in the system without prior knowledge of the possibilities.
- robust (works for many different systems)



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What we need

1. A general description of local environments useful for distinguishing liquid and crystal

- 2. A way of **understanding the main features distinguishing** the **local environments** in the system.
- 3. A way of grouping together similar environments.



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What we need

1. A general description of local environments useful for distinguishing liquid and crystal (bond order parameters – vector q_l from earlier).

2. A way of **understanding the main features distinguishing** the **local environments** in the system (**dimensionality reduction**).

3. A way of grouping together similar environments .

Non-linear Dimensionality Reduction:

Nonlinear **can** find a 1d projection of original data



Dimensionality Reduction: Neural-Network-based Autoencoder (AE)

Unsupervised learning technique for **nonlinear dimensionality reduction**.



The AE is **trained** in order to **reproduce** as **accurately** as possible the **input vectors as its output**.



Dimensionality Reduction: Neural-Network-based Autoencoder (AE)

Unsupervised learning technique for **nonlinear dimensionality reduction**.



First, the **encoder** part of the AE performs a **nonlinear projection** of the **original input** onto a **smaller dimensional space** (bottleneck).



Dimensionality Reduction: Neural-Network-based Autoencoder (AE)

Unsupervised learning technique for **nonlinear dimensionality reduction**.



Once trained, **only the encoder part is retained** in order to project the original input vectors onto the low-dimensional space defined by the bottleneck.







Neural-Network-based Autoencoder (AE)



2 dimensional projection found by the encoder

Multiple ways to determine "**best**" number of dimensions



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- 1. A general **description of local environments** (bond order parameters vector q_1 from earlier).
- 2. A way of understanding the main features distinguishing the local environments in the system (dimensionality reduction).
 - 3. A way of grouping together similar environments (clustering).

Clustering via Gaussian Mixture Models (GMMs)

Results of the clustering



Fits the density of the data with Gaussians, & cluster the Gaussians

The clustering **autonomously identifies 3 distinct environments** corresponding to the **fluid**, **FCC and HCP** phases

Clustering via Gaussian Mixture Models (GMMs)

Final Classification



E. Boattini, M. Dijkstra, L. Filion, J. Chem. Phys. **151**, 154901 (2019)



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Additional applications











Additional applications



Structure in disorder: a glass?

Three glass formers:

- Binary hard spheres (HS)
 - Size ratio: 0.85
 - Composition: 30% large, 70% small
- Wahnström (W)
 - Binary mixture of repulsive Lennard-Jones particles
 - Size ratio: 0.833
 - Composition: 50% large, 50% small
- Kob-Andersen (KA)
 - Non-additive binary mixture of Lennard-Jones particles
 - $\sigma_{BB} = 0.88 \sigma_{AA}, \sigma_{AB} = 0.8 \sigma_{AA}, \varepsilon_{BB} = 0.5 \varepsilon_{AA}$, and $\varepsilon_{AB} = 1.5 \varepsilon_{AA}$.
 - Composition: 80% large (A), 20% small (B)



Algorithm Analysis:



Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC)

- dimensionality for autoencoder: HS (2), W(2), KA(4)
- Algorithm identifies
 two clusters of local
 environments in all
 models
 (min in BIC always at 2)



One dimensional order parameter:



Since there are two clusters, we defined a scalar order parameter

$$P_{\text{red}} = \frac{g_{\text{red}}}{g_{\text{white}} + g_{\text{red}}} \qquad P_{\text{red}} \in [0,1]$$

where $g_{red(white)}$ are the values of the fitted Gaussians



Structural order parameter





Structural order parameter







Correlation between structure and dynamics





Dashed lines: basic P_{red} **Solid Lines:** P_{red} averaged over a local region

V

Conclusions

- We have introduced a simple, fast, and easy to implement unsupervised learning algorithm for autonomously recognizing local structural motifs.
- Algorithm works extremely well in all situations we have explored so far
- In all glassy three model systems (HS, W, KA), two local environments are identified
- Structural variations correlate well with dynamics in HS and W, less well in KA

E. Boattini, M. Ram, F. Smallenburg, and L. Filion, Mol. Phys. 116, 3066 (2018)
E. Boattini, M. Dijkstra, L. Filion, J. Chem. Phys. 151, 154901 (2019)
E. Boattini, S. Marin-Aguilar, S. Mitra , G. Foffi, F. Smallenburg, L. Filion, Nat. Commun. 11, 5479 (2020)

V

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Missing ingredients?

- No local density information included in the input perhaps important for improving structural order parameter
- Purely **small local** environmental descriptors

E. Boattini, M. Ram, F. Smallenburg, and L. Filion, Mol. Phys. 116, 3066 (2018) E. Boattini, M. Dijkstra, L. Filion, J. Chem. Phys. **151**, 154901 (2019) E. Boattini, S. Marin-Aguilar, S. Mitra , G. Foffi, F. Smallenburg, L. Filion, Nat. Commun. **11**, 5479 (2020)



Questions?









Small Particles



Green: Polytetrahedral

Blue: Square Pyramids