

# The force constant potential

From GPUMD

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## Brief descriptions

- This is the force constant potential (FCP) implemented for Ref. [Brorsson 2020].
- When you use this potential, currently you need to add `-DUSE_FCP` in the makefile. In this case, you cannot use any other potential.
- Neighbor list is not used for this potential, but you still need to specify the `MN` and `r_c` parameters in `xyz.in`. You can choose any reasonable values for them and just remember that they will not be used for calculating the forces and related quantities.

## Potential form

In the force constant potential, the potential energy is calculated as a Taylor expansion in terms of the atomic displacements  $\{u_i^a\}$  relative to a set of reference (equilibrium) positions as

$$U = U_2 + U_3 + U_4 + U_5 + U_6 + \cdots;$$

$$U_2 = \frac{1}{2!} \sum_{ij} \sum_{ab} \Phi_{ij}^{ab} u_i^a u_j^b;$$

$$U_3 = \frac{1}{3!} \sum_{ijk} \sum_{abc} \Phi_{ijk}^{abc} u_i^a u_j^b u_k^c;$$

$$U_4 = \frac{1}{4!} \sum_{ijkl} \sum_{abcd} \Phi_{ijkl}^{abcd} u_i^a u_j^b u_k^c u_l^d;$$

$$U_5 = \frac{1}{5!} \sum_{ijklm} \sum_{abcde} \Phi_{ijklm}^{abcde} u_i^a u_j^b u_k^c u_l^d u_m^e;$$

$$U_6 = \frac{1}{6!} \sum_{ijklmn} \sum_{abcdef} \Phi_{ijklmn}^{abcdef} u_i^a u_j^b u_k^c u_l^d u_m^e u_n^f.$$

Here,  $\Phi_{ij}^{ab}$ ,  $\Phi_{ijk}^{abc}$ ,  $\Phi_{ijkl}^{abcd}$ ,  $\Phi_{ijklm}^{abcde}$ , and  $\Phi_{ijklmn}^{abcdef}$  are the second-order, third-order, fourth-order, fifth-order, and sixth-order force constants. The indices  $i, j, k, l, m$ , and  $n$  refer to the atoms and can take integer values from 0 to  $N - 1$ , where  $N$  is the number of atoms in the system. The indices  $a, b, c, d, e$ , and  $f$  refer to the axes in the Cartesian coordinate system and can take integer values 0, 1, and 2, which correspond to the  $x, y$ , and  $z$  axes, respectively. In GPUMD, we only consider force constants up to the sixth order.

## Potential files

One needs to prepared quite a few files related to this potential, but they can be conveniently generated by hiPhive (<https://hiphive.materialsmodeling.org/>) [Eriksson 2019], except for the driver potential file below (which is very easy to prepare).

### The driver potential file

The driver potential file for this potential model reads

```
fcp number_of_atom_types
highest_order
path_to_force_constant_files
```

- `fcp` is the name of this potential and tells the code that we are using the force constant potential.
- `number_of_atom_types` is the number of atom types defined in the `xyz.in` file.
- `highest_order` is the highest order of the force constants used in the potential. For example, when `highest_order` is 4, second-order, third-order, and fourth-order forces constants will be used (and should be prepared).
- `path_to_force_constant_files` is the path to the force constant files (see below). **Important convention:** Write something like `/path/to/your/folder` instead of `/path/to/your/folder/`. That is, there should be no `/` after the folder name.

### The force constant files

The force constant data should be prepared in some files named as

```
clusters_order2.in
clusters_order3.in
clusters_order4.in
clusters_order5.in
clusters_order6.in
fcs_order2.in
fcs_order3.in
fcs_order4.in
fcs_order5.in
fcs_order6.in
```

These files should be in the folder you specified in the **driver** potential file (see above). If you only consider force constants up to the 4th order, you don't need the files with numbers 5 and 6. **These files can be generated by hiPhive** (<https://hiphive.materialsmodeling.org/>). We therefore do not discuss the formats of these files.

### The equilibrium position file

Because this potential is defined in terms of the atom displacements, one has to define the equilibrium (reference) positions of the atoms in the system. A file called `r0.in` is used for this purpose. This file should be in the folder you specified in the **driver** potential file (see above). The format of this file is:

```
x_0 y_0 z_0
x_1 y_1 z_1
x_2 y_2 z_2
x_3 y_3 z_3
...
```

That is, each line gives the position of one atom. The order of the atoms should be consistent with that in the `xyz.in` file. The coordinates are in units of angstrom. **This file can be generated by hiPhive (<https://hiphive.materialsmodeling.org/>).**

## References

- [Brorsson 2020] Joakim Brorsson, Arsalan Hashemi, Zheyong Fan, Erik Fransson, Fredrik Eriksson, Martti Puska, Tapio Ala-Nissilä, Arkady V. Krasheninnikov, Hannu-Pekka Komsa, and Paul Erhart, In preparation.
- [Eriksson 2019] Fredrik Eriksson, Erik Fransson, and Paul Erhart, *The Hiphive Package for the Extraction of High-Order Force Constants by Machine Learning* (<https://doi.org/10.1002/adts.201800184>), Adv. Theory. Sim., 1800184 (2019).

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