# A computational framework for studying normal mode dynamics

Andrew Rohskopf Advisor: Asegun Henry

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Mechanical Engineering



## Modes & phonons: how does heat flow?





#### Traditional theory can't describe these.

Arrows are eigenvectors centered on atoms.





# Strongly interacting modes

Interface mode



Extended mode



Eigenvector overlap



# Strongly interacting modes



Interface mode

Optical mode



Eigenvector overlap



# Weakly interacting modes

Interface mode



Extended mode



No eigenvector overlap



## Studying real-time vibrational energy transfer







#### Heat flux in mode coordinates



## Breaking crystal symmetry with defects





Frequency (THz)

## ModeCode extracts modes for any system

https://github.com/rohskopf/modecode

![](_page_14_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_0.jpeg)

Morse  $E = \lambda_1 \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\lambda_2 \left(r - \lambda_3\right)\right) \right]^2$ Linear Regression  $E = \beta_0 + \sum_k \beta_k B_k$ Neural Networks

![](_page_15_Figure_2.jpeg)

Rohskopf, Andrew, et al. "Fast & accurate interatomic potentials for describing thermal vibrations." *Computational Materials Science* 184 (2020): 109884.

Rohskopf, Andrew, et al. "Empirical interatomic potentials optimized for phonon properties." *NPJ Computational Materials* 3.1 (2017): 1-7.

## Accurate heat transfer simulations

![](_page_16_Picture_1.jpeg)

Gallium nitride

 $E = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ii} K_{ij} u_i u_j + E_{SNAP}$ 

![](_page_16_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_5.jpeg)

Rohskopf, Andrew, et al. "Fast & accurate interatomic potentials for describing thermal vibrations." *Computational Materials Science* 184 (2020): 109884.

# Backup Slides

#### Mode coordinates

 $X_n = \sum \sqrt{m_i u_i^{\alpha} e_{ni}^{\alpha}}$  $i,\alpha$ 

 $\dot{X}_n = \sum \sqrt{m_i} v_i^{\alpha} e_{ni}^{\alpha}$  $i, \alpha$