# Pushing the Frontiers of Atomistic Modeling Towards Predictive Materials Design

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# Molecular Conversion and Transport at Interfaces

# Atomistic Origins of the Physical Properties of Nanoscale Materials





#### **Materials By Design: Need for Hybrids**



Different desired characteristics of materials are often in conflict in materials design -> HYBRID MATERIALS HOLD THE KEY

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# **Reactive interfaces underpin energy technologies**



# Solid-liquid interfaces

## Interface

- Chemical reactions
- Adsorption

Structure (defects etc.), composition, Interface and morphology of the interface strongly influence its functionality



# Interfacial water

Solvation dynamics





# Why should we understand reactive interfaces?

#### **Energy Storage**

Development of cost-effective, high energy density batteries is essential to enable complete electrification of road transport



#### **Aqueous Corrosion**

Corrosion cost the US economy 1.1 trillion dollars (5% GDP) in 2015 -NACE International (2015)

#### Tribology

1.2 million barrels of oil are spent everyday just to overcome friction in car engines -Tribology International (2012)

A fundamental understanding of interactions at reactive interfaces is crucial to develop next-generation energy technologies

# **Our Approach**





Carbon

- Force Field Development: Bridging the electronic and atomistic scales
- Integrated imaging: Ultrafast imaging with MD and data analysis

# - SIMOX for Reactive MD



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# Length and time-scales for materials modeling methods



# **Overview:**

#### Extreme Computing and Big Data in Molecular Dynamics

- Size range (Few millions to billion atoms?)
- Need for performing all atom simulations
- Properties (Mechanical properties, phase transitions, Chemical dynamics etc)

## Representative Examples:

- Friction laws at the mesoscale (Graphene-Diamond like carbon-Diamond)
- Design of Clean Operando Lubricants for Anti-wear protection

# Limitations of Existing Force-Fields:

- Energetics
- Dynamics
- Our Data Driven Agnostic approach towards Force-Field Development:
  - Bridge the electronic and atomistic length-scales
    - Non-reactive
    - Reactive
- Modeling, Analysis and Ultrafast Imaging
- Future Directions/Perspectives



# Example 1: Macroscale Superlubricity Enabled by Graphene Nanoscrolls



S. Deshmukh, D. Berman, A. Erdemier, A. V. Sumant and S. K.R.S Sankaranarayanan

# Friction and Structural Superlubricity



# Scrolling of graphene flakes over nanodiamond



#### Nanoscale

Mesoscale



- Collective scrolling and tribological behavior evaluated at the mesoscale
- Scroll formation is consistent with TEM images of the wear debris

# Friction laws at the nanoscale

- Single asperity theories break down at the nanoscale
  - Frictional force is not a linear function of the contact area of asperity
- Nanoscale contacts explained on the basis of the multiple asperity behavior
- Frictional force is proportional to the actual contact area (N<sub>atoms</sub>\*A<sub>atom</sub>)
- Contact area reduction can lead to superlubricity







# Friction laws at the mesoscale

- Initial distribution of the COF values shows most graphene patches are in a state of high friction
- Density profile shifts towards lower COFs
- Contact area reduction is significant at the later stages of sliding (~65-70%)

#### => Mesoscopic system is in a superlubric state

- Friction mechanism at mesoscale is the same as nanoscale
- Tribological evolution from nanoscale to mesoscale is analogous to single vs. multiple asperity behavior

# Summary

- First experimental demonstration of stable superlubricity at the engineering length scales
- Discovery of a new mechanism of nanoscale scroll formation that leads to macroscale superlubricity
- Diamond nanoparticles play a key role in stabilizing the superlubric regime
- Opens up new avenues for realizing macroscale superlubricity in real systems of industrial interest

#### **Future directions:**

- Can we extend this to other 2-D materials like Boron Nitride, MoS<sub>2</sub> and others?
- Explore mesoscopic friction laws
- Explore materials phase space to identify other NPs candidates
- Study geometric effects of the nanoparticle (spheres, rods, tubes, facets)
- Can we realize superlubricity in humid environment?

# Example 2: Tribocatalysis - Carbon based lubricating films from oil



B. Narayanan, G. Ramirez, A. Erdemier, and S. K.R.S Sankaranarayanan

# Friction reduction is generally achieved by adding a lubricating film



Liquid lubricants

- Reducing viscosity
- Additives (e.g., ZDDP, SAPS) environmental hazards

Low-friction coatings

Adhesion problems

# **Tribology + Catalysis**



#### **Employ catalytic coatings to form solid low-frictions films from base** *Iubricants during operation*

A.Erdemir, G. Ramirez, O.Eryilmaz, B. Narayanan, G. Kamath, S. Sankaranarayanan, Nature, **536, 67–71** (2016)

# MoN<sub>x</sub>-Cu coating on steel shows minimal wear in base lubricating oil



# MoN<sub>x</sub>-Cu coatings contain Cu rich regions



Atomic scale processes responsible for wear reduction are unclear

A.Erdemir, G. Ramirez, O.Eryilmaz, B. Narayanan, G. Kamath, S. Sankaranarayanan, Nature, **536**, **67–71** (2016)

# Ab initio molecular dynamics simulations

1-pentene on metal/metal-nitride surface for 10 ps at 1000 K

MoN (001)





- MoN surfaces are inert
- Copper surfaces catalyze dissociation of olefins

# **Reactive molecular dynamics simulations**

ReaxFF based MD simulations of evolution of olefins between two sliding Cu surfaces for 2 ns at 1000 K



# **Reactive molecular dynamics simulations**

ReaxFF based MD simulations of evolution of olefins between two sliding Cu surfaces for 2 ns at 1000 K



A.E, G. R, O.E, B. Narayanan, G. K, S. S, Nature, Accepted for publication, (2016)

## Atomic scale processes governing carbon tribofilm growth





A.E, G. R, O.E, **B. Narayanan,** G. K, S. S, Nature, Accepted for publication, (2016)

Classical (Reactive) MD

# Experimental characterization of the formed tribofilms





Experimental characterizations confirm that these tribo-films possess structure similar to diamond-like carbon with graphitic features.

A.E, G. R, O.E, **B. Narayanan**, G. K, S. S, Nature, *Accepted for publication*, (2016)

# Effect of surface orientation









- DLC-like carbon tribofilm forms irrespective of surface orientation
- Dehydrogenation rate increases as surface stability decreases

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# Effect of chemical nature of the surface

#### **Formation of carbon tribofilm**



#### **Propensity to form carbide**

A.Erdemir, G. Ramirez, O.Eryilmaz, B. Narayanan, G. Kamath, S. Sankaranarayanan, Nature, **536, 67–71** (2016)



# Design of low-friction coatings

- MoN<sub>x</sub>-Cu coatings reduce friction via formation of solid amorphous DLClike carbon tribofilms from base lubricating oils
- Atomistic simulations (AIMD + ReaxFF-MD) show that Cu catalyze breakdown of PAO oils
  - Dehydrogenation
  - Chain scission
  - Polymerization of C atoms into an amorphous, hydrogenated DLClike solid tribo-film
- The tribocatalyst employed should have a low propensity to form carbides.



# Force-Field Development from the First Principles: Bridging the electronic and atomistic length-scales

S.K.R.S. Sankaranayanan

Maria Chan Stephen Gray Mike Davis Benoit Roux







Verlet Algorithm

• Newton: 
$$\sum_{j} \vec{F}_{ij} = m_i \frac{d\vec{v}_i}{dt} \qquad \vec{F}_{ij} = -\frac{\partial \phi_{ij}}{\partial r_{ij}} \hat{r}_{ij}$$
  
• Updated Position:  

$$\vec{r}_i(t + \Delta t) = \vec{r}_i(t) + (\Delta t)\vec{v}_i(t) + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta t)^2 \frac{\vec{F}_i(t)}{m_i}$$
  
• Updated Velocity:  

$$\vec{v}_i\left(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) = \vec{v}_i(t) + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta t)\frac{\vec{F}_i(t)}{m_i} \qquad \vec{v}_i(t + \Delta t) = \vec{v}_i\left(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta t)\frac{F_i(t + \Delta t)}{m_i}$$
  

$$\vec{v}_i(t + \Delta t) = \vec{v}_i\left(t + \frac{\Delta t}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta t)\frac{F_i(t + \Delta t)}{m_i}$$

equipartition theorem

system kinetic energy

# Force Field or Inter-atomic Potential

- The heart of any molecular dynamics scheme is the force model used to analytically describe the atomistic interactions
- Regardless of the merits of the other algorithms in the simulation code (integrators, pressure and temperature controls etc.), whether or not your simulation produces realistic results depends ultimately on the force model
- Force models are also the computationally most intensive parts of a molecular dynamics simulation code, taking up to 95% of the total simulation time

#### Force models / potential functions / force fields / ...

- Empirical form or based on QM approximations
- Parametrized with *ab-initio* or experimental data
- Can be reactive (changes in chemical bonds) and polarizable
## Bridging the electronic and atomistic length scales

The broad ranges of time and spatial scales relevant to reactive interfaces and processes of interest cannot be met without a new generation of highly accurate and robust, yet computationally efficient, potentials.





biology (ion channels)

### **Existing Force Fields:**



Energies relative to the minimum at each composition for the modified embedded atom potential (MEAM) vs. DFT. Note that the MEAM errors are very large.



Dynamics of conformational change of a thermosensitive polymer predicted by four popular force fields is seen to be widely different.

### Limitations

- Pre-defined function forms limit the flexibility of the potential model
- Forces are not included in the fitting
- Lack of adequate training datasets (overemphasis on equilibrium structures)
- Use of least square fitting (prone to difficulty of convergence and overfitting)
- Lack of quantitative cross-validation using data not used in fitting procedure

# The flexibility and accuracy of electronic structure calculations with the *speed* of classical potentials

152 atoms, 512 electrons:0.2 core-second classical (Buckingham)2800 core-second DFT (PBE)

4 orders of magnitude in compute time + scaling advantage



## Approach

### Data-driven model selection:

linear fitting, beyond least square e.g. Sparse regression (compressive sensing)

# Uncertainty quantification:

sensitivity analysis sampling effects cross validation Charge polarization/transfer dynamics:

multipole moments charge equilibration boot-strap species-by-species fitting



N 1 18 1 19 1 1 18

Improve upon Existing Charge Transfer Schemes

### **Force Field Development from first princples**



ABadri Narayanan Alper Kinaci

Fatih Sen

Lei Huang

## Force Field Fitting Framework

- types of interaction: ionic, covalent, metallic, vdW
- fixed charge vs variable charge

(1) Model

selection

(2) DFT training data

- bulk solids/ liquids/ surfaces
- nano-clusters
- di-/tri-mers

- global: multistart, genetic algorithm
- local: simplex, Levenberg– Marquardt

(3) Parameter optimization

### **Test systems**

### Au & IrO<sub>2</sub>: relevant for catalysis/photocatalysis



## (1) Model selection $E=f(\{\vec{r}_i\})$

IrO<sub>2</sub>: no existing force fields
 – ionic system, Morse + electrostatics

$$E(r_{ij}) = D_e \left( [1 - \exp(-a(r_{ij} - r_0))]^2 - 1 \right) + \frac{q_i q_j}{r}$$



Variable charge scheme using QEq

 Au: several existing force fields for bulk systems – Sutton-Chen, Gupta, ReaxFF, Tersoff

– do they work for nanoclusters?

## (2) DFT training data - bulk

 lattice parameters, formation energies, elastic constants, surface energies, internal coordinates



## (2) DFT training data - nano

- dimers and trimers: straightforward
- Iarger clusters?



GA gives larger range of energies and diverse structures

\*w/bond-length constraints Generations

(3) Genetic algorithm (GA) Optimization Objective Function landscape in multidimensional parameter space

$$\Delta = \sum_{j} w_{j} \left( V_{j}^{EFF} - V_{j}^{DFT} \right)^{2} \qquad \alpha_{2}$$

j – observable (property used for training)

\* Global minimum

Efficient algorithms are necessary to sample this complex landscape to find the lowest point (the best parameter set)

## (3) Genetic algorithm (GA) Optimization

DFT training set (energies, structures)

> Random population of possible parameter sets





## (3) Multi-objective GA Optimization

DFT training set (energies, structures)





Multiple objectives: energies, elastic constants, etc. Keep a set of optimal solutions

Convergence reached?

Optimized parameter set Perform genetic operations

## Force Field Fitting Framework

- types of interaction: ionic, covalent, metallic, vdW
- fixed charge vs variable charge

(2) DFT training data

- bulk solids/ liquids/ surfaces
- nano-clusters
- di-/tri-mers

- global: multistart, genetic algorithm
- local: simplex, Levenberg– Marquardt
- cross
  validation

(3) Parameter optimization

Results →

### Au nanoclusters: model selection



## Au nanoclusters: GA+simplex optimization



# Fitted force field correctly predicts 2D-3D transition for Au

### Electronic

#### **Atomistic**







DFT genetic algorithm optimization of Au<sub>13</sub>

Existing force fields: wrong structure Re-parameterized force field: isolated Au coming together to form correct (DFT) structure

# Fitted force field correctly predicts 2D-3D transition for Au



DFT genetic algorithm optimization of Au<sub>13</sub>



Existing force fields: wrong structure for Au<sub>13</sub>

### **Force fields**

Re-parameterized force field: correct planar structure for Au<sub>13</sub>





## Example: machine-learning based force fields and molecular dynamics analysis: an efficient and accurate model for water



• New force field ("BOP") trained against best atomistic and empirical data describes water density anomaly and ice better than all existing models and is 1000 times faster.

• Large-scale (microseconds, billions of molecules) MD simulations using BOP to discover key aspects of nucleation, etc., which will be enabled by clustering, tracking.

### Formation and growth of grains of ice



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### Formation and growth of grains of ice



### Summary

- Developed framework to fit force fields from first principles
- Systematic DFT data generation
  - Use genetic algorithm global structural optimization for clusters
- Genetic algorithm approach for parameter fitting gives good results for test cases
  - multi-objective allows control of tradeoffs between competing objectives
  - maintaining appropriate population size important



## **Our New Approach to Force Field Fitting:**

Potential function in terms of a superposition of a linearly-independent basis set of functions

$$E_{\text{total}} = \sum_{m} \alpha_m \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} f_m(r_{ij}) + \sum_{n} \beta_n \sum_{\langle ijk \rangle} g_n(r_{ijk}) + \sum_{m} \beta_m \sum_{\langle ijk \rangle} g_m(r_{ijk}) + \sum$$

 $E_{total}$  is the total energy,  $f_m$  and  $g_n$  are <u>over-complete sets</u> of basis functions (e.g. Bessel functions, Hermite polynomials, exponentials, trigonometric functions, or combinations thereof),  $r_{ij}$  and  $r_{ijk}$  are rotationally-invariant combinations of the atomic coordinates  $r_i$ 

 $\alpha 's$  and  $\beta 's$  are expansion coefficients to be determined by fitting

<u>Compressive sensing</u> to perform fitting to the *large DFT dataset of forces and energies* 





## Modeling, Analysis and Ultrafast Imaging

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> Ian McNulty Ross Harder Haidan Wen Todd Munson

### Modeling, Analysis and Ultrafast Imaging



## Phase Retrieval: Recover real space structure and strains



#### Reciprocal Space Constraints

Experimental Amplitudes Oversampled, Thresholded, ZeroPadded





(n)

**Evolving Support** Mixing old and new iterates.

 $\mathcal{U}^{(n)}$ 

1000's of iterations and multiple random starts required for high fidelity data!

FF

### CDI and MD: not so strange bedfellows



Cha, et. al Nat Mater 12 (8) 729–34.



CDI

- ~10 nm spatial resolution
  - Lot that happens at smaller length scales
- Can only image crystalline structures.
  - Not chemical reactants and products
  - Not solvent or ions

### MD

- Full atomistic information
  - Can do up to 100's of nm.
- Can provide a picture of all aspects of the system.
  - Ions, ligands, gas phase

Newton, Leake, Harder, Robinson, Nat. Mat 9 120-124

### MD is the ideal technique to complement CDI



### Forward Problem Full Workflow



### **Reverse Problem Full Workflow**



### Nanocatalytic activity under operando conditions



# Displacement field dynamics during the first ascorbic acid exposure



### Mechanism of gold lattice strain induced by ascorbic acid


#### **Direct comparison between CDI and Simulations**



Maximum element size: 20 nm

#### **MD + Finite element**





### A.I. cdi: Atomistically Informed CDI



# **Future Directions and Perspectives**

- Rapid advances in high performance computing have allowed for mesoscopic simulations with atomistic precision
- Reactive simulations of material interfaces with millions and billions of atoms are now possible
- Accuracy of the force-field remains a key challenge and limitation
- Efficient and elegant ways to bridge the gap between the electronic and atomistic length scales are needed



Our basis expansion technique to achieve a flexible form of force field is a step towards this direction

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# IrO<sub>2</sub>: fitted results



Accuracies represent a trade-off between objectives Energy-only fit gives MAE of 5 meV/atom

**Multi-objective GA optimization Objectives**: 1. Energies 50 Av. Error in Elastic Constants (GPa) 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2. Elastic Constants 3. Lattice parameters & Internal coordinates **Pareto front** Generation advances n 5 10 20 30 40 50 10 70 100 150 170 0 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 Av. Error in Energy (eV/IrO<sub>2</sub>)

# Population size effects: 5000 evaluations



# Population size effects: 10000 evaluations



# Population size effects: 20000 evaluations



# Population size effects: 100<sup>th</sup> generation

