

Concurrent scale coupling techniques: From nano to macro Lecture 3



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Challenges: Modeling engineering materials



Modeling complex materials is challenging: Need new modeling techniques

Challenges: Modeling engineering materials



Modeling complex materials is challenging: Need new modeling techniques



- Long-standing dream
 Calculate macroscopic properties of materials by theoretical modeling or computer simulation from a very fundamental, *ab initio* perspective
- Strategy to solve this problem is to use methods based on distinct paradigms, operating at different scales
- This progress is possible with
 - □ The advent of efficient and accurate quantum mechanical methods (e.g. DFT),
 - Development of new empirical and semi-empirical potentials (EAM, ReaxFF...),
 - Enormous growth of computing power enabling studies with billions of particles.
- Critical: Breakthroughs in scale coupling techniques (e.g. QC method) and analysis methods for complex systems (centrosymmetry technique)

Vision: Atomistic simulations of engineering properties at macroscopic scales to 1) understand fundamental mechanisms in materials (e.g. deformation, assembly), and to 2) predict properties of new materials to design new materials





 Multi-scale computational modeling aims at developing systematic techniques for bridging scales, for example between atomistic models and continuum models, in order to increase the speed of, or enable dynamical calculations

Payoff:

- Continuum level models can simulate large volumes of material, typically at the expense of accuracy
- Conversely, nanoscale models can accurately capture small-scale features, but are computationally too slow to simulate large (useful) volumes of material
- The goal of multi-scale modeling is to take advantage of the fact that in many systems, only a small percentage of the total region is of interest.
- Main challenges in multi-scale modeling:
 - Determining which regions are simulated with a continuum model or a nanoscale model,
 - Adequately model the transition region.
- S. Prudhomme, JP. Bauman and T. Oden

Concurrent versus hierarchical multi-scale simulations





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- The strength of materials is dominated by the existence of cracks or other defects ("flaws")
- Cracks and similar defects lead to stress concentrations, which in turn lead to nucleation of dislocations or generation of new material surfaces
- Defects lead to highly localized regions in materials at which material undergoes strong deformation; therefore, division of computational domain into regions of different accuracy is possible (e.g. dependent on strain gradient)



T.H. Courtney, Mechanical Behavior of Materials, T, Timoshenko, History of strength of materials. New York: McGraw Hill





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- Introduction
- Historical perspective on multi-scale modeling and multi-paradigm modeling
- Modeling codes and established methods:
 - MAAD method: Direct handshaking DFT-empirical MD-continuum (displacement)
 - □ QC method (Cauchy-Born rule, local and newer nonlocal formulation)
 - QC-DFT method (extension of QC method to couple in DFT via handshake region)
 - Bridging scale method (no handshake region, FE and MD exist simultaneously in computational domain)
 - □ CADD method (handshake FE/mesoscale DD with atomistic)
- Discussion and conclusion







Sees: Atomic displacement field, fast oscillations of atoms...

- Goal: Avoid wave reflection at MD/FE interface: Make seamless interface (wave reflection may have dramatic impact on results, leads to melting)
 Fordiant attempts by Singleir (4075). Fightwoister/(Cumbook FEAt (4004))
- Earliest attempts by Sinclair (1975), Fischmeister/Gumbsch-FEAt (1991)

Generally: Handshaking requires physical insight

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- Coupling between regions of different level of scale/accuracy can be achieved using <u>handshake regions</u>
- Exchange information associated with each modeling paradigm (translation rules or algorithms)

Property	Atomistic scale	Continuum scale
Temperature	Random velocities	Thermodynamic energy
Displacements	Atomic displacements "fine"	Continuum displacements "coarse" (atoms are subset)
Particle velocity	Includes high frequency vibrations	Only low frequency vibrations
Particle forces	Atomic forces (point-wise "discrete")	Continuum forces (distributed)

Development of filter algorithms to handshake regions is essential Energy conserving formulations for both MD and FEM



Continuum-Atomistic: Difficult, since atomistic contains information that continuum does not provide (or only indirectly, e.g. temperature)



statistical mechanics, once "real" dynamical trajectory is known; "filter" useful information **Still**: Boundary effects critical!

Omain decomposition algorithms



- First step in a concurrent multi-scale model is typically decomposition of the computational domain, according to criteria such as
 - □ Foreign atom types (e.g. only method A treats atom type Y and X-Y interactions)
 - Strain (atomic) or stress (localization)
 - □ Large forces (between atoms, suggests bond breaking/formation)
 - Large strain/cohesive energy
 - Or, simply geometric criteria and information (e.g. interfaces, boundaries or others)
- The union of many domains associated with fine scale represents the area treated by the fine scale method:



 $\Omega = \bigcap \Omega_{i}$





MAAD Method Coupling DFT to Continuum

Abraham, Kaxiras, Broughton and coworkers, 1998-2000

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Concurrent Multiscale/Coupling of Length Scales: The MAAD method



- Finite elements (FE), molecular dynamics (MD), and tight binding (TB) all used in a single calculation (MAAD)
- MAAD = macroscopic, atomistic, *ab initio* dynamics
- Atomistics used to resolve features of interest (crack)
- Continuum used to extend size of domain
- Developed by Abraham, Broughton, Kaxiras and coworkers



MAAD was one of the first methods of its kind Received lots of attention

http://www.nnin.org/doc/kaxiras.pdf Abraham, Kaxiras, Broughton and coworkers, 1998-2000 © 2005 Markus J. Buehler, CEE/MIT





- Provides coupling of TB-MD-FEM
- Transition regions are very thin (desired due to computational expenses)
- Displacement and velocity link between scales ("kinematic")
- Time step governed by atomistic scale/TB-MD (O(fs)): Limit to ns





Abraham, Kaxiras, Broughton and coworkers, 1998-2000 http://www.nnin.org/doc/kaxiras.pdf





Abraham et al., Europh. Lett., 1998

T.B. Region

Mixed Hamiltonian Conserves energy

M.D. Region

FE/MD and MD/TB: "Handshake" regions



FE mesh down to atomic scale **Problem**: Short-wave length oscillations "see" the interface Last plane of Silogens Silogens=H terminated Si atoms (behave monovalent, hydrogenic Si atoms)

TB determines elasticity, then hierarchically transported upwards, in scale E/MIT





Distance versus time history of crack tips



Increased roughness with increased crack speed ([100] Si)

Abraham et al., Europh. Lett., 1998

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Stress waves propagating through the slab

Blue=high stress, red= low stress

Abraham et al., Europh. Lett., 1998





The quasicontinuum method (QC)

Coupling empirical potentials (EAM) to continuum (FE)

http://www.qcmethod.com/qcreview.pdf http://www.qcmethod.com/







- Key idea: Selective representation of atomic degrees of freedom
- Instead of treating all atoms making up the system, a small relevant subset of atoms is selected to represent, by appropriate weighting, the energetics of the system as a whole.
- Based on their kinematic environment, the energies of individual "representative atoms" are computed either in nonlocal fashion in correspondence with straightforward atomistic methodology or within a local approximation as befitting a continuum model.
- The representation is of varying density with more atoms sampled in highly deformed regions (such as near defect cores) and correspondingly fewer in the less deformed regions further away, and is adaptively updated as the deformation evolves.

Development history: Early stages

- The QC method was originally developed by Dr. Ellad B. Tadmor as part of his Ph.D. research at the department of Mechanics of Solids and Structures at Brown University between 1992 and 1996 under the advisement of Prof. Michael Ortiz and Prof. Rob Phillips.
- The method was applied to single crystal fcc metals and shown to reproduce Lattice Statics results for a variety of line and surface defects and used to study nanoindentation in thin films.





- QC provides alternative to handshaking
- Basic idea: Obtain FE stiffness matrix on the fly based on atomic lattice/potential (no a priori assumptions)
- Zero temperature relaxation technique
- Elastic energy used in FEM region is computed by applying the FEM interpolated displacement field (via Cauchy-Born rule) to a reference system of atoms interacting by MD forces, e.g. based on EAM potential
- Difficulties:
 - □ No thermal fluctuations, since atoms are at reference positions (displaced)
 - "Ghost forces" due to discreteness in FE setup, and the problem that the MD probing is based on discrete displacement fields



Cauchy-Born rule: Hypothesizes that the infinite crystal underlying each continuum particle deforms according to a locally uniform, continuum deformation gradient *F*; used to extract constitutive law

In Bravais lattice, lattice vectors deform by deformation gradient **F**

$$\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{r}^0$$

Due to periodicity of Bravais lattice, this leads to strain energy per atom is

$$\Lambda = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j} V(r^{j})$$

May calculate continuum Cauchy stress at the deformed configuration

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \frac{1}{2\Omega} \sum_{j} \frac{\partial V}{\partial r^{j}} \frac{\mathbf{r}^{j} \otimes \mathbf{r}^{j}}{r^{j}}$$

This represents the "local" QC formulation

Example application: Deformation of thin films (geometry)



• Biaxial loading by thermal mismatch of film and substrate material: High stresses cause severe problems during operation of the device

• Ultra thin, submicron copper films become critically important in next generation integrated circuits (see, e.g. *Scientific American*, April 2004), MEMS/NEMS







Combine atomistic regions embedded in continuum region

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Dislocation-GB interaction





- Does not use Cauchy-Born rule as does the local QC method
- Instead: Use full non-local (atomistic) representation to determine forces
- Developed by Knap and Ortiz at Caltech (2002-now)

Features:

- Truly seamless!
- There is no boundary present between atomistic and continuum region
- Smart scheme to avoid double counting of bonds (demarcation)

$$f_{j} \equiv -\frac{\partial E^{a}}{\partial U_{i}} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\partial E_{i}(u)}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial U_{j}}$$
$$f_{j} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\partial E_{i}(u)}{\partial u} S_{j}$$
$$f_{j} \approx -\sum_{i}^{N} n_{i} \left[\sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}_{i}} g_{c} S_{j}(X_{c}) \right]$$

Use explicit expression for forces on the nodes (atomic limit: each node=one atom) Evaluate in small cluster around node *j*

Knap and Ortiz, 2001, JMPS

 Z-now)
 Typical cluster (no overlap)

 Typical cluster (no overlap)

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Example results: Non-local QC method

Example: Nanoindentation





3D dislocation structure below an indenter

Load-displacement curve comparing full atomistic with NL-QC formulation

Knap and Ortiz, 2001, JMPS

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- Multiscale modeling approach that concurrently couples quantum mechanical, classical atomistic and continuum mechanics simulations in a unified fashion for metals.
- This approach is particular useful for systems where chemical interactions in a small region can affect the macroscopic properties of a material.
- Quasi-static conditions: 0K



- "nonlocal EAM"=atomistic
- "nonlocal DFT"=QM regime



QC-DFT method: Example results



- Dislocation core structures obtained from the EAM-based QC (top) and the present QCDFT method (bottom)
- The black circles are atoms
- Contours correspond to out-ofplane (z) displacement (in Å).
- Contours clearly indicate the splitting of the dislocation.
- Atoms within the black box in the bottom panel are DFT atoms.
- Note: The finite element mesh serves no other purpose in this nonlocal atomistic region other than as a guide to the eye to help visualize deformation.



Gang Lu et al., 2005

QC-DFT method: Example results



Al+2H

- QC-DFT dislocation core structure in the presence of a column of H impurities.
- The circles are AI atoms (black) and H atom
- The black lines are a guide to the eye, indicating atomic planes.
- •Charge density distribution in region I in the absence (top) and in the presence of one (middle) and two H impurity atoms (bottom).
- The blue spheres are AI atoms and the red spheres are H atoms.
- Gray iso-surfaces illustrate the charge density distribution at 0.28 electrons/Å³.
- Electron density values range from 0 to 0.30 electrons/Å³.







Various Cauchy-Born based techniques Atomistically informed FE model





- Developed by Gao and Klein (JMPS, 1998)
- Virtual internal bond method enables immediate link of interatomic potential with constitutive FE equation via Cauchy-Born rule, accounting for hyperelastic (nonlinear) effects
- Unlike QC, no atomic resolution present
- Represents an attempt to avoid difficulties of FE formulations to model fracture (e.g. imposed cohesive surfaces etc.); and make those formulations physically sound
- Example: Used to model fracture since the failure of each FE can be determined on the fly by instability criterion; no a priori determination of fracture surface is required
- Localization (fracture) estimated by determinant of the acoustic tensor approaches zero (element itself "breaks"):

$$C_{IJKL} = D_0 l_0^{*4} \left(\frac{U''}{l^2} - \frac{U'(l)}{l^3} \right) \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \xi_I \xi_J \xi_K \xi_L d\phi = \mu(\delta_{IJ} \delta_{KL} + \delta_{IK} \delta_{JL} + \delta_{IL} \delta_{KJ})$$

 $(C_{1111}\lambda_1^2 + S_{11})(C_{1212}\lambda_2^2 + S_{11}) - 4(C_{1212}\lambda_1\lambda_2)^2\psi^2 = 0$

 $(\sigma + \mu\lambda^2)(\sigma + 3\mu\lambda^2) = 0$







Fracture patterns for different impact velocities

Klein, Gao, 2001

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VIB applications: Onset of instability





VIB predicts many of the experimental observations, including reduced instability speed and branching patterns





Acoustical shear wave speed Indicates softening at crack tip





Distribution of opening stress



Klein, Gao, 2001



Atomistically informed finite temperature FE method (Huang et al.)



Use concept of local harmonic approximation to impose thermal fluctuations (only valid for small homologous temperatures)

$$S = -k_B \sum_{n=1}^{3N} \ln \left[2 \sinh \left(\frac{h\omega_n}{4\pi k_B T} \right) \right]$$
$$\omega_n^2 I_{3N \times 3N} - \frac{1}{m} \frac{\partial^2 U_{\text{tot}}}{\partial x \ \partial x} \bigg| = 0$$

"account for atomic vibration"

Helmholtz free energy

$$A(r,T) = U_{\text{tot}}(r) + k_B T \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{\kappa=1}^{3} \ln \left[2 \sinh\left(\frac{h\omega_{i\kappa}}{4\pi k_B T}\right) \right]$$

Key: Use Helmholtz free energy in Cauchy-Born rule instead of potential energy

Young Huang et al., JEMT, 2005



Atomistically informed finite temperature FE method (Huang et al.)





Example:

- Temperature dependence of specific heat c_v
- Compare pure MD, experiment and new multi-scale method





The CADD approach

Coupling Discrete Dislocation Dynamics with atomistic simulation



Coupling atomistics-DD/mesoscale CADD method: Fundamentals





- Method provides interface of DD region with atomistic region
- Coupling achieved by nodal displacement in handshake region (atomic displacement forced to agree with FE displacement, and pad atoms to agree with FE displacement)







Coupling similar to MAAD approach; quasi-static conditions

Gurtin and coworkers, Brown, 2005

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CADD method: Example results



Gurtin and coworkers, Brown, 2005

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CADD method: Example results

Gurtin and coworkers, Brown, 2005



Dislocations nucleated in atomistic region move into 5-5-4000 ain hier, CEE/MIT





Coupling atomistic scale to continuum scale at finite temperature

The Bridging Scale Method (BSM)

Park, Wagner, Liu

Features of the bridging scale method

- FE representation exists everywhere in domain, also where MD is present
- Use projector operator to represent the displacement field as a orthogonal combination at
 - □ (i) small and
 - □ (ii) coarse scale
- Advantage: Atomistic and continuum scale do not have to be integrated using same time step (as e.g. in MAAD)
- High frequency oscillations naturally disappear when leaving the atomistic core region (via impedance force)
- Atomistic region senses finite temperature in FE region via stochastic force



Park, Wagner, Liu



- E.g. Adelman and Doll, 1976, use kernel function resulting in time-history dependent force added to boundary atoms (applied to 1D chain); physical meaning of the force: Dissipate energy into the eliminated degrees of freedom (avoid wave reflection)
- Kernel function difficult to obtain analytically (in particular in higher dimensions); therefore use numerical approaches (Cai *et al.*, 2000, E and Huang, 2002)
- Kernel function for non-nearest neighbor interactions obtained by Park *et al.*, 2005 (example: use EAM method for gold), computationally very efficient

FE BCs: Atomistic displacements



MD boundary condition: FE displacements Plus kernel function forces, plus stochastic force for EQ





Based on coarse/fine decomposition of displacement field u(x):

fine

$$u(x) = \overline{u}(x) + u'(x)$$

coarse

• Coarse scale defined to be projection of MD displacements q(x) onto FEM shape functions N_i :

$$\overline{u}(x) = Pq(x) = \sum_{I} N_{I}(x)d_{I}$$

• *P* minimizes least square error between MD displacements q(x) and FEM displacements d_i

G.J. Wagner and W.K. Liu, "Coupling of atomistic and continuum simulations using a bridging scale decomposition", *Journal of Computational Physics* 190 (2003), 249-274





Fine scale defined to be that part of MD displacements q(x) that FEM shape functions cannot capture:

$$u'(x) = q(x) - Pq(x)$$

 Example of coarse/fine decomposition of displacement field (linearly independent of each other)



Important: Not necessary to refine FEM mesh to atomic scale ehler, CEE/MIT





• Total displacement written as sum of coarse and fine scales:

$$u = Nd + q - Pq$$

 Write multiscale Lagrangian as difference between system kinetic and potential energies:

$$L(u, \dot{u}) = K(\dot{u}) - V(u)$$

Multiscale equations of motion obtained via:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{d}}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{d}} = 0$$

FE displacement

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\,t} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} \right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{q}} = 0$$

Atomistic displacement



Interatomic potential, e.g.

$$\mathbf{M}_{A} \ddot{\mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{f}^{\text{int}} \quad \text{Regular MD}$$

$$\mathbf{M}_{A} \ddot{\mathbf{d}} = \mathbf{N}^{T} \mathbf{f}^{\text{int}} (u)$$

$$\mathbf{f}^{\text{int}} = -\frac{\partial \phi(r)}{\partial r}$$
Coupling term

- First equation is MD equation of motion
- Second equation is FE equation of motion with internal force obtained from MD forces
- Kinetic energies (and thus mass matrices) of coarse/fine scales decoupled due to bridging scale term "Pq" (!)
- Note: FE equation of motion is *redundant* if MD and FE exist everywhere









- θ is typically a mxm matrix, where m is the number of degrees of freedom in the boundary region
- To obtain θ need to calculate dynamics long enough to capture all impedance effects (involving Laplace transform): Computational challenge
- Karpov, Wagner *et al.*: For crystalline lattices the impedance force matrix is much simplified by relying on lattice response functions (also known as lattice dynamics Green's functions)
- Then: θ is $m_B x m_B$ (m_B number of DOF in Bravais lattice)

Example:





Park, Liu, Wagner et al.



Park, Liu, Wagner et al.

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Wave propagation across atomistic-continuum interface





With impedance force

No impedance force



Example: 1D string of atoms

Park, Liu, Wagner et al.

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BSD: Example application



Bending of a carbon nanotube: Model defects using molecular dynamics methods, the rest using FE description; quasi-static application (0K)







Problem Description

- 90,000 atoms, 1,800 finite elements
- (900 in coupled region)
- Full MD = 180,000 atoms
- 100 atoms per finite element
- $\Delta t_{FE} = 40 \Delta t_{MD}$
- Ramp velocity BC on FEM









• Beginning of crack opening

• Crack propagation just before complete rupture of specimen





- 3D FCC lattice
- Lennard Jones 6-12 potential
- Each FEM = 200 atoms
- 1000 FEM, 117000 atoms
- Fracture initially along (001) plane









- Velocity BC applied out of plane (z-direction)
- All non-equilibrium atoms shown















• Full MD

• Bridging Scale





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The multigrid idea applied to concurrent atomistic-continuum modeling



Results of adaptive selection of the atomistic region at the crack tip at various loads



a)3-D domain with a crack and macroscale mesh







 d) continued adaptation of the atomic region with dislocation growth

c) adapted atomic region accounting for dislocation ford) mation and growth ca

Slide courtesy R. Picu

D. Datta, R.C. Picu, M. Shephard, Int. J. Multiscale Comput. Eng., 2004





- Similar to bridging length scales, the bridging of time scales is a similarly difficult (maybe more difficult...) matter
- In past years, many methods have been proposed; among the most prominent ones are bias potential methods, temperature accelerated dynamics, or parallel replica methods (many more)...





Example:

Temperature accelerated dynamics (TAD); developed by Art Voter Can reach up to microseconds and longer, while retaining atomistic length scale resolution





System of interest (low temperature T_0)

Sample for state transitions at high temperature T_1)

Using transition state theory, calculate when this event would have happened at low temperature

$$t_{high,stop} \equiv \frac{\ln(1/\delta)}{v_{min}} \left(\frac{v_{min}t_{low,short}}{\ln(1/\delta)}\right)^{T_{low}/T_{high}}$$











TAD low temperature 400 K (high sampling temperature 1300 K)



ReaxFF interfaced with TAD through CMDF

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- Concurrent scale-coupling techniques have evolved significantly in the past 10 years
- Now, robust and stable methods become available applicable to an increasingly wider range of problems
- Finite temperature applications remain a subject of ongoing research
- Concurrent multi-scale methods are readily available, and simulation codes can be downloaded from websites (e.g. <u>www.qcmethod.com</u>)
- However, using the codes can be quite difficult and results should be interpreted with care
- Some researchers think that concurrent coupling is difficult and associated with many numerical and physical difficulties, and therefore favor hierarchical methods as a cleaner way to convey information across the scales





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 - □ Gang Lu (SUCN)
 - □ Dan Negrut (ANL)





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