# Applications of the ReaxFF reactive force field for identifying properties for complex materials and interfaces

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A B B CH<sub>4</sub> B CH<sub>4</sub> B CH<sub>5</sub> CH<sub>6</sub> CH

ReaxFF simulations of Fisher-Tropsch catalysis on a Fe-metal surface (Zou et al. Topics in Catalysis 2012)



ReaxFF structure of a  $TiO_2$ nanoparticle in water (Raju et al. Nano Letters 2014)



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PENN

# Current Penn State group members and projects



Postdoctoral staff

Dr. Yun-Kyung Shin Dr. Mark Fedkin Dr. Weiwei Zhang Dr. Roghayyeh Lofti

#### **PhD-students**

Mahbub Islam Chowdhury Ashraf Kichul Yoon ASM Jonayat Abhishek Jain Seung Ho Hahn Gunwoo Jo Behzad Damirchi Metal alloys, Sulfur-embrittlement, Proteins Mineral dissolution in water/electrolyte systems Fuel cells, proton transfer Treibology

Li/S battery interface simulations Combustion Electrocatalysis, graphene surface chemistry Mixed metal oxide catalysis Atomistic and continuum scale combustion Treibochemistry 2D-materials

# Outline

- The ReaxFF reactive force field
- Overview of ReaxFF applications
- Tribochemistry applications
- Proton transport across graphene
- New and ongoing developments

- Summary



ReaxFF MD simulation of char combustion at T=2500K



ReaxFF MD simulation of  $S_2$  gas reacting with a MoO<sub>3</sub> slab at T=1000K



ReaxFF MD simulation of the indentation of a Ni-slab with a diamond fragment (Tavazza et al., *J.Phys.Chem C* 2016, **119**, 13580

# Length scales in Material Computation Reactive force fields



Quantum mechanics (1-1000 atoms)

# Simulations on the dynamics of chemical reactions



# QM-methods



Allows calculation of atomic interactions First Principles
 Computationally expensive, especially for finding accurate approximations of electron-electron repulsion term

# Force field methods



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# QM and FF-based approaches to reactive MD

- Option 1: Burn CPUs with QM/MD (e.g. Raty et al., PRL 2005, Wang et al. Nature Chem 2014) - Option 2: use empirical assumptions to make QM faster (semiempirical methods)

- CINDO/MINDO/AM1/MOPAC (e.g. Pople and Segal, JCP 1966; Stewart, J. Comp. Chem. 1989)

- Tight-binding (e.g. McMahan and Klepeis, PRB 1997)
- Analytical Bond Order Potentials (e.g. Pettifor and Oleinik, PRB 1999)

- Option 3: Add ability to simulate reactions to FF-method (empirical bond-order based force fields)

- Tersoff/Brenner /AIREBO (Tersoff, PRL 1988; Brenner, PRB 1990, Stuart et al., JCP 2000)

- LCBOP (de Los et al., PRB 2005)
- EDIP (e.g. Bazant and Kaxiras, PRL 1996)
- COMB (e.g. Liang et al. JPC-A 2012)
- ReaxFF (e.g. van Duin et al. JPC-A 2001)







from Steve Stuart, Clemson University

# Key Features of ReaxFF



- To get a smooth transition from nonbonded to single, double and triple bonded systems ReaxFF employs a bond length/bond order relationship<sup>1,2,3</sup>. Bond orders are updated in every iteration
- All connectivity-dependent interactions (i.e. valence and torsion angles) are made bond-order dependent.
- Nonbonded interactions (van der Waals, Coulomb) are calculated between every atom pair





### Introduction of bond orders

Calculation of bond orders from interatomic distances

$$BO_{ij} = \exp\left[p_{bo,1} \cdot \left(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_o^{\sigma}}\right)^{p_{bo,2}}\right] + \exp\left[p_{bo,3} \cdot \left(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_o^{\pi}}\right)^{p_{bo,4}}\right] + \exp\left[p_{bo,5} \cdot \left(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_o^{\pi\pi}}\right)^{p_{bo,6}}\right] + \exp\left[p_{bo,5} \cdot \left(\frac{r_{ij}}{r_o^{\pi\pi}}\right)^{p_{bo,6}}\right]$$

# Bond order correction

Uncorrected bond orders in ethane



- Unphysical; normally coordinated atoms should not have binding interactions with next-neighbours
- Puts strain on angle and overcoordination potentials
- Short-range bond orders will not capture transition states





- Normally coordinated carbon will not make weak bonds, under-coordinated carbon (radical) can make weak bonds (no 13 correction)



- Correction removes unrealistic weak bonds but leaves strong bonds intact

- Increases computational expense as bond orders become multibody interactions

- Correction only applied for covalent-systems, not for metals

# Reaction barriers for concerted reactions



**Reaction coordinate** 

**ReaxFF** barrier for Grob fragmentation (collaboration with John Daily, Boulder). QM barrier: 65 kcal/mol (Nimlos et al., JPC-A 2006)



#### Surface reactions



- Good agreement between ReaxFF and QM for entire reaction path

### Charge polarization

Assign one electronegativity and hardness to each element; optimize these parameters against QM-charge distributions
Use system geometry in solving electronegativity equilibration equations in every iteration



•••••

 $\frac{\partial E}{\partial q_n} = \chi_n + 2q_n\eta_n + C \cdot \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{q_j}{\left(r_{n,j}^3 + \left(\frac{1}{\gamma_{n,j}}\right)^3\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}}$ 

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n} q_i = 0$ 

EEM-method (Mortier et al., JACS 1986); shielding: Janssens et al. J.Phys.Chem. 1995.

Similar to Qeq-method (Rappe and Goddard, J. Phys. Chem. 1991) with empirical shielding correction.

χ: atom electronegativity
η: atom hardness
γ: shielding parameter *r*: interatomic distances *q*:atom charge



- Good reproduction of Mulliken charges (similar concepts)
- Combined with 1-2 Coulomb-interactions, this enables ReaxFF to simulate polarization effects on local chemistry
- EEM/Qeq methods work well around equilibrium; incorrect description of charge flow at high compression and dissociation (Chen and Martinez, Chem.Phys.Lett. 2006)
- Most expensive part of the reactive force field; needs to be updated every MD-step

### General rules for ReaxFF

- MD-force field; no discontinuities in energy or forces even during reactions.

- User should not have to pre-define reactive sites or reaction pathways; potential functions should be able to automatically handle coordination changes associated with reactions.

- Each element is represented by only 1 atom type in the force field; force field should be able to determine equilibrium bond lengths, valence angles etc. from chemical environment.

# ReaxFF Computational expense



-ReaxFF allows for reactive MD-simulations on systems containing more than 1000 atoms

- ReaxFF is 10-50 times slower than non-reactive force fields
- Better scaling than QMmethods (NlogN for ReaxFF, N<sup>3</sup> (at best) for QM



### Current development status of ReaxFF

- ReaxFF combines covalent, metallic and ionic elements allowing applications all across the periodic table

- All ReaxFF descriptions use the same potential functions, enabling application to interfaces between different material types
- Code has been distributed to over 750 research groups
- Parallel ReaxFF (LAMMPS/ReaxFF) available as open-source
- Incorporated into the ADF/BAND graphical user interface

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3	Na	Mg	IIIa* IIIb*	* IVa ** IVb	Va Vb	VIa VIb	VII a VII b	-	- VIIIa - VIIIE		11   Ib	12 IIb	Al	Si	Р	S	C1	Ar	
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5	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Тс	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	l n	Sn	Sb	Те	I I	Xe	l
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#### ReaxFF transferability

### ReaxFF development tree: towards complex materials



# ReaxFF integration into ADF/BAND graphical user interface

- Collaboration with SCM.
- Professional software support team.
- Parallel version.

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- Direct integration of stateof-the art DFT/FF/TB codes.



Main Options			-
Task:	Molecular Dyr	namics 😐	,
Force field:	+ Combust	ion.ff	
Number of iterations:	40000		
Time step:	0.25	fs	
Method:	Velocity Verle	t + Berendsen 🛁	
Temperature:	1000.0	к	
Damping constant:	100.0	fs	
Pressure:	0.0	GPa	
Damping constant:	500.0	fs	
Restart:	T Yes		



Integration team:

Stan van Gisbergen,
Olivier Visser, Alexei
Yakovlev (SCM)
Kaushik Joshi, Tom
Senftle (Penn State)



Company website: http://www.rxffconsulting.com/

### A typical reactive force field project outline

Development and application of ReaxFF to silicon carbide oxidation



- Train force field against QM-data (Newsome et al. JPC-C 116, 16111, 2012)





- Single-processor simulations (<4000 atoms) (Newsome et al. JPC-C 117, 5014, 2013) - Massively parallel, large scale (>> 1,000,000 atoms) reactive MD (Nomura et al. Scientific Reports 2016)

#### Combustion/catalysis



Angle distortion in  $CH_2(OH)_2$ (Chenoweth et al. JPC-A 2008)



TiO<sub>2</sub> equations of state (Kim et al. Langmuir 2013)



JP-10 pyrolysis - comparison with experiment (Chenoweth et al. JPC-A 2008)

#### Crystal growth



Water structure and reactivity on TiO<sub>2</sub>-surfaces (Raju et al. JPC-C 2013)



2015)



(Shin et al. ACS Catalysis Coal combustion on a MoNi alloy surface (Vasenkov et al. JAP 2012)



Oriented crystal growth of TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs in water (Raju et al. Nano Letters 2014)



Water approach to silanol (Fogarty et al. JCP 2010)

# Hydrolysis reactions on mineral surfaces



Strain-dependent hydrolysis reactions on a silica nanowire (Yeon et al. JPC-C 2016)



Water diffusion in clay/zeolite interfaces (Pitman et al. JACS 2012)



#### High energy materials



RDX dissociation channels (Strachan et al. JCP 2005)

Comparison with experiment – shock velocity and carbon clustering (Strachan et al. PRL 2013; Zhang et al. JPC-A 2009)

#### **Batteries**





Stability of various MoS<sub>2</sub> defects (Ostadhossein et al. in progress)



Li-etching of a defected, strained carbon nanotube (Huang et al APL 2013)

#### 2D-materials



(a) (b) (c) Comparison of c-lattice expansion for MXenes with DFT and experiment (Osti et al. ACS-AMI 2016)

= 25.37 Å

 $D = 9.77 \times 10^{-12} m^2 s^{-1}$ 



Void effects on HE-response (Nomura et al. PRL 2007)



Li-migration in a carbon onion anode (Raju et al. JCTC 2015)



High-speed collision of a silica nanoparticle on graphene (Yoon et al, Carbon 2016)

#### Applications to catalytic carbon-growth on Ni-surfaces

Collaborations with Jonathan Mueller (Caltech, currently U.Ulm) and Erik Neyts (U. Antwerp)





# Molecular dynamics tests of ReaxFF for bulk water [1]



[1] van Duin, A. C. T., Zou, C., Joshi, K., Bryantsev, V. S., and Goddard, W. A., 2013. A ReaxFF reactive force field for proton transfer reactions in bulk water and its applications to heterogeneous catalysis. Royal Society of Chemistry, Cambridge.

## Water/silica chemistry – influence of electrolytes



 $Si(OH)_4$  dimerization catalyzed by a  $Ca(OH)_2.2H_2O$  complex

Ca-ion assists by coordinating to the silanol-group, facilitating proton transfer to a hydroxyl coordinated to the Ca-cation
Barrier with Ca: 21 kcal/mol; without Ca: 28 kcal/mol (DFT/B3LYP/6-311G\*\* [1])
Ca/O/H parameters from Manzano et al., Langmuir 2012 [2]

MD/NVT-simulation at T=25K with sliding restraint to drive reaction 5000 iterations CPU-time (this laptop) 35 seconds

## Aqueous Proton Transfer Across Single Layer Graphene

Jennifer Achtyl, Raymond Unocic, Lijun Xu, Yu Cai, Muralikrishna Raju, Wei Zhang, Robert L. Sacci, Ivan V. Vlassiouk, Pasquale F. Fulvio, Ganesh, P. David Wesolowski, Sheng Dai, Adri van Duin, Matthew Neurock, Franz Geiger, Nature Communications 2015.



- Does single-layer graphene act as a perfect barrier to proton exchange ?
- To test this hypothesis,
  - Single layer graphene is placed between an aqueous phase and the surface of an amphoteric oxide
  - Aqueous phase is cycled betweeen acidic and basic pH
  - Cycling the pH changes the relative concentration of species on the silica surface (SiOH, SiOH<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, SiO<sup>-</sup>)
  - Second Harmonic Generation (SHG) signals depend on the relative concentration of these species



### Comparison of DFT and ReaxFF-calculated activation barriers

# DFT and ReaxFF-calculated activation barriers for proton transfer through different vacancy sites on graphene in water

Graphene Surface	Bottom Layer	Defect Termination	Activation Barrier <i>DFT</i> *	Activation Barrier R <i>eaxFF</i> *
No vacancy	Water	No termination	3.9 eV	> 5 eV
1V	Water	No termination	> 2.0 eV	3.54 eV
4V	Water	No termination	0.25 eV	0.22 eV
4V	Water	3O ether capped	1.8 eV	1.7 eV
4V	Water	6OH hydroxyl capped	0.68 eV	0.61 eV
4V	Water + SiO <sub>2</sub>	3O ether capped	2.5 eV	2.53 eV
4V	Water + SiO <sub>2</sub>	6OH hydroxyl capped	0.7 eV	0.75 eV

- Excellent agreement between ReaxFF and DFT- especially for the important, low-barrier events.
- ReaxFF allows us to study the dynamics of proton transfer in large 33 (>> 1000 atoms), long-time (>> 1 nanoseconds) MD-simulations,

#### Proton transfer channel formation from ReaxFF MD simulations at 300 K



- The protons are transferred via proton shuttling following a Grotthuss mechanism along a network of O-H-O-H bonds that make up the proton relay conduit.
- ReaxFF simulations clearly show the formation of a proton transfer channel through the six hydroxyl terminated 4V site (Fig.a).
- This channel thins when the three pairs of OH groups terminating the defect site are replaced, one by one, with oxygen atoms (Fig. b, c).
- The proton transfer channel is fully disrupted when the defect site is terminated by three oxygen atoms (Fig. d).

#### New direction: biomaterials and their interface chemistry



AMBER(pink), ReaxFF(tan) and native structure (cyan) of Cambin in water (Monti, Shin, van Duin et al. Phys.Chem.Chem.Phys 2013, **15**, 15062)



Reactions of a glycine droplet on a titania surface (Monti, van Duin, Kim and Barone, J.Phys.Chem.C 2012, **116**, 5141



Simulation of copper-complex catalyzed peptide cleavage



Simulation of proton-transfer induced de-helification on a polypetide/graphene oxide interface (Golkaram, Shin and van Duin, manuscript in progress)

#### Hybrid Grand Canonical Monte Carlo/MD ReaxFF [1] With Thomas Senftle and Michael Janik

-Enables prediction of thermodynamic end states at various P/T conditions - Application to PdO<sub>x</sub> shows high-T reduction, in good agreement with experiment [2,3]

- Hybrid GCMC/MD allows crystal morphology change during oxidation/reduction - Highly transferable tool



a)

(kcal/mol) 200 150

150

**Bulk PdO Formation Energy** 

[1] Senftle, Janik, Meyer and van Duin, Journal of Chemical Physics 2013, 139, 044109 Pop (atm) [2] Ketteler, G.; Ogletree, D. F.; Bluhm, H.; Liu, H. J.; Hebenstreit, E. L. D.; Salmeron, M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2005, 127, 38269. [3] Zhang, H.; Gromek, J.; Fernando, G.; Marcus, H.; Boorse, S. Journal of Phase Equilibria and Diffusion 2002, 23, 246.

## Parallel Replica Dynamics with ReaxFF in LAMMPS (Kaushik Joshi & Sumathy Raman(EMRE)

- PRD<sup>1</sup> parallelizes rare event simulation in time domain and accelerate time scale of MD
  - Infrequent events
  - Transitions can be detected
  - Exponential distribution of firstescape times
  - Correlation time known
- PRD is coupled with REAXFF [2] in by implementing a connectivity-based event detection

	PRD	Experiment <sup>7</sup>	
E <sub>a</sub> (kcal/mol)	50.01	54	
Pre exponential factor, A	$7.17 \times 10^{13}$	6.3 × 10 <sup>11</sup>	





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<sup>1</sup>Phys. Rev. B, 57, R13985 (1998); <sup>7</sup> Blades A.T., Sandhu H.S. (1971) Int, J. Kin., 3 187-193 <sup>2</sup>: Joshi, Raman and van Duin, J.Phys.Chem.Letters 4, 3792 (2013)

#### PRD Results on n-heptene pyrolysis

## ReaxFF/GPU developments

- ReaxFF/GPU published by Zheng, M., Li, X., and Guo, L., 2013. Algorithms of GPU-enabled reactive force field (ReaxFF) molecular dynamic. Journal of Molecular Graphics and Modelling 41. Single precision ?
- Ananth Grama-group has finished an initial ReaxFF/GPU version, based on C++/ReaxFF version integrated in LAMMPS. Double precision, gcc 4.5.4, CUDA 5.0 (Kylasa, Aktulga and Grama, J.Comp.Chem. 2014, 272, 343)
- Purdue/GPU/ReaxFF looks promising 4 times faster then best current ReaxFF method for 2000 atoms; looks even better for larger systems (5000-10,000 atoms).
- Needs further development (memory management, parallel GPU)



### Improved charge calculation: ACKS2

# Condensed form for the 'electronic energy' $E_{\text{EEM}} = \left(\sum_{A} \chi_{A} q_{A} + \frac{1}{2} \eta_{A} q_{A}^{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{A, B \neq A} \frac{q_{A} q_{B}}{|\mathbf{r}_{A} - \mathbf{r}_{B}|}\right)$

Variables:  $q_i$ 

Parameters:  $\chi_i, \eta_i, \bar{r}_i$ 

#### Charges minimize E<sub>EEM</sub> (with total charge constraint)

$$\frac{\partial E_{\text{EEM}}}{\partial q_A} = \sum_A \left( \chi_A + \eta_A q_A + \sum_{B \neq A} \frac{q_B}{|\mathbf{r}_A - \mathbf{r}_B|} \right) = \chi_{\text{mol}}$$

#### EEM equations in block matrix notation

$$-\begin{bmatrix} \eta & -d \\ \hline -d^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} q \\ \hline \chi_{\text{mol}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \chi \\ \hline q \\ \hline q_{\text{tot}} \end{bmatrix}$$

#### ACKS2 equations in block matrix notation



#### In collaboration with Toon Verstraelen (U. Gent)

#### 

-EEM gives non-zero charges after bond dissociation

- ACKS2 enforces integer charges
- ACKS2 solves polarization issues (EEM: metallic)

Verstraelen et al. JCP 2013<sup>39</sup>

## Inclusion of explicit electrons/holes (e-ReaxFF)

Mahbub Islam and van Duin [1]



Electron migration across a sp<sup>3</sup>-region to a radical site



Barriers for intramolecular electron transport in EC

- e-ReaxFF integrates aspects of the eFF-reactive force field [2] into the ReaxFF method
- Enables simulations including explicit electron transfer – relevant to battery interface chemistry
- Fully transferable to existing ReaxFF descriptions

[1] Islam and van Duin, JCTC 2016 (online) [2] Su, J. T. and Goddard, W. A., 2007 Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 185003.

#### e-ReaxFF/ACKS2 : Ongoing and Future Work



# Summary

- ReaxFF has proven to be transferable to a wide range of materials and can handle both complex chemistry and chemical diversity. Specifically, ReaxFF can describe covalent, metallic and ionic materials and interactions between these material types.

- The low computational cost of ReaxFF (compared to QM) makes the method suitable for simulating reaction dynamics for large (>> 1000 atoms) systems (single processor). ReaxFF has now been parallelized, allowing reactive simulations on >>1000,000 atoms.



: not currently described by ReaxFF

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- NETL/RUA (Fuel catalysis)
- AFOSR/MURI (O-resistant materials
- DoE/EFRC FIRST-center
- Exxon (Software development, catal
- British Royal Society (initial ReaxFF funding)



More information: Websites: <u>http://www.engr.psu.edu/adri</u> http://www.rxffconsulting.com

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Parallel ReaxFF simulation of hydrocarbon cracking (4800 atoms, 4 processors)

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