



MSE6701H Multiscale Materials Modeling and Simulation

Lecture 04

Molecular Statics & Temperature/Pressure Control

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Case study: Surface Energy

Surface energy:

excess energy associated with the presence of a surface.

$$\gamma = \frac{G_{\text{slab}} - G_{\text{bulk}}}{A_{\text{surface}}} \approx \frac{E_{\text{slab}} - E_{\text{bulk}}}{A_{\text{surface}}}$$

E_{slab} : total energy of system with surfaces

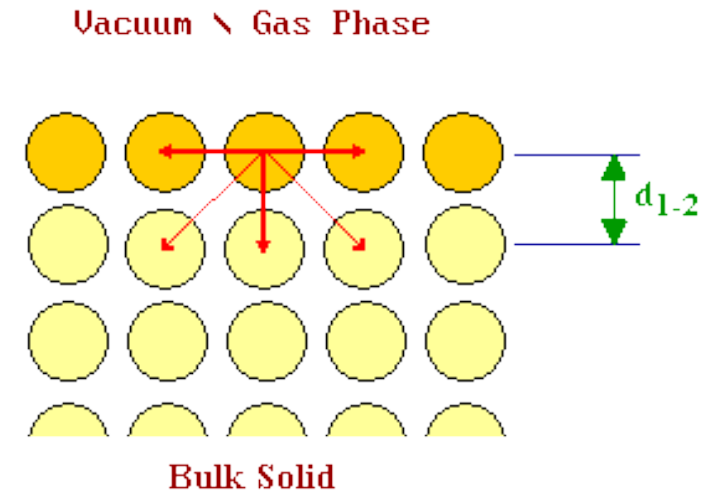
E_{bulk} : total energy of bulk system with same size as the slab

A_{surface} : surface area

Case study: Surface Energy

General steps:

- ① Calculate the total energy of bulk system.
- ② Calculate the total energy of the slab system
 - a) Cleave a slab
 - b) Relax the slab
 - c) Get the total energy of the relaxed slab
- ③ Work out the surface energy



Total energy of bulk system

```
# LAMMPS input script for total energy calculation
```

```
units      metal
boundary   p p p
atom_style atomic
```

```
lattice    fcc 3.615
region     box block 0 10 0 10 0 10
create_box 1 box
create_atoms 1 box
```

```
# Potential
pair_style  eam
pair_coeff   * * Cu_u6.eam
```

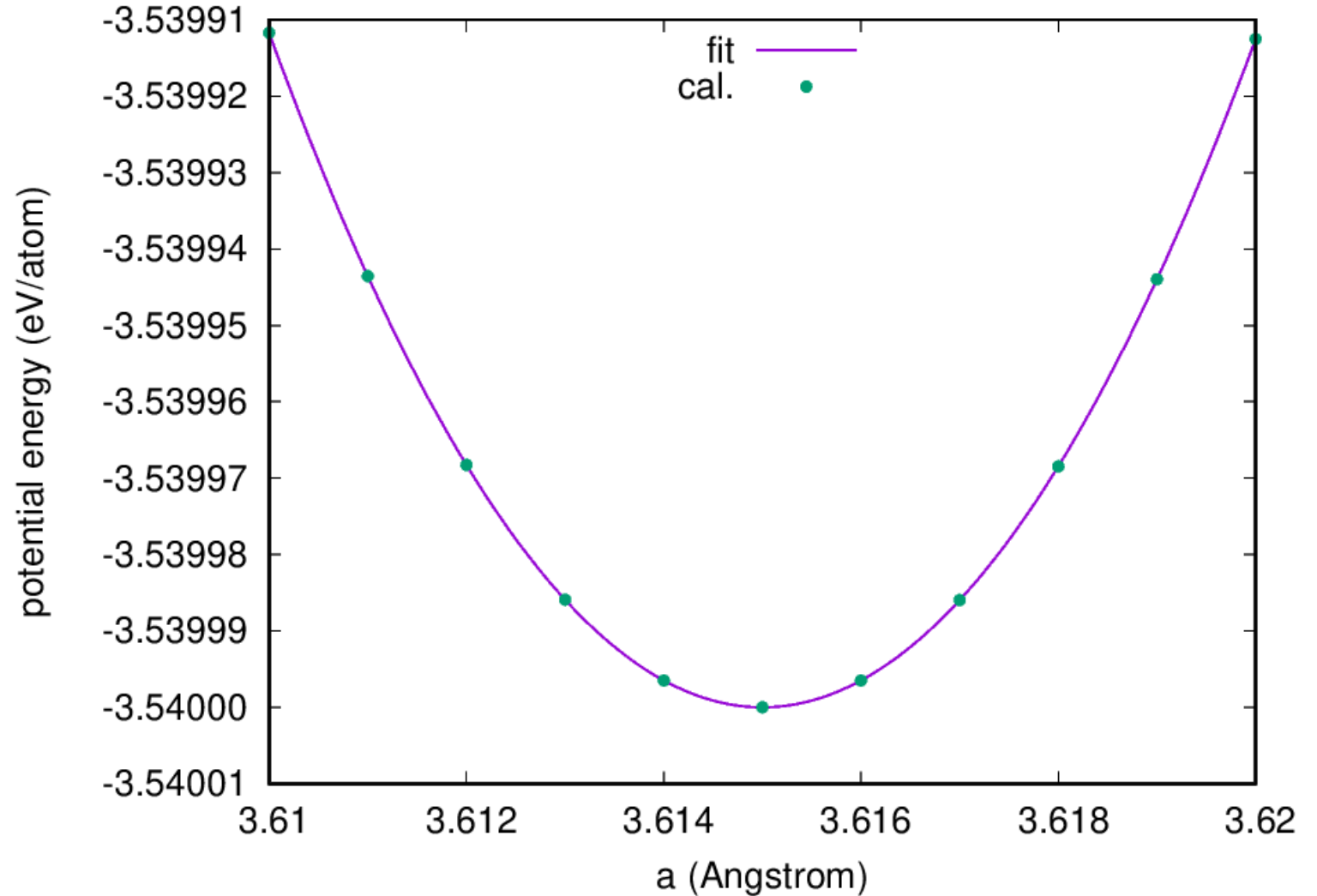
```
neighbor    0.2 bin
neigh_modify delay 5
```

```
# Time step
timestep     0.001
```

```
# Variables to output
variable     vpa equal "vol / atoms"
variable     epa equal "pe / atoms"
```

```
# MD
fix          1 all nve
run          0
```

```
# Output the energy
print        "${a} \${vpa} \${epa}" append ev.dat
```



$$a_0 = 3.615 \text{ \AA}, E_0 = -3.54 \text{ eV/atom}$$

Slab cleavage

```
# Relaxation of Cu(001) surface
units          metal
boundary       p p p
atom_style     atomic

lattice        fcc 3.615
region         box block 0 10 0 10 0 20
region         fill block 0 10 0 10 6 14
create_box     1 box
create_atoms   1 region fill

# Potential
pair_style     eam
pair_coeff     * * Cu_u6.eam

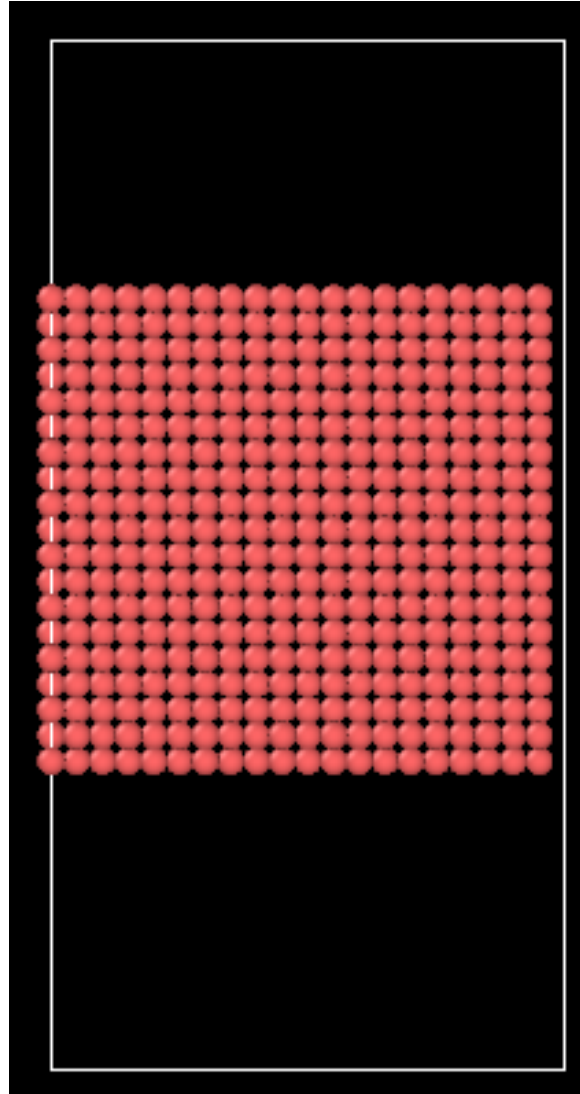
neighbor       0.2 bin
neigh_modify   delay 5

# Variables to output
variable       area equal "2.* lx * ly"
variable       delE equal "pe + atoms * 3.54"

# Thermal and trajectory
thermo_style   custom step pe pxx pyy pzz
thermo        10

dump          1 all atom 1000 dump.lammpstrj

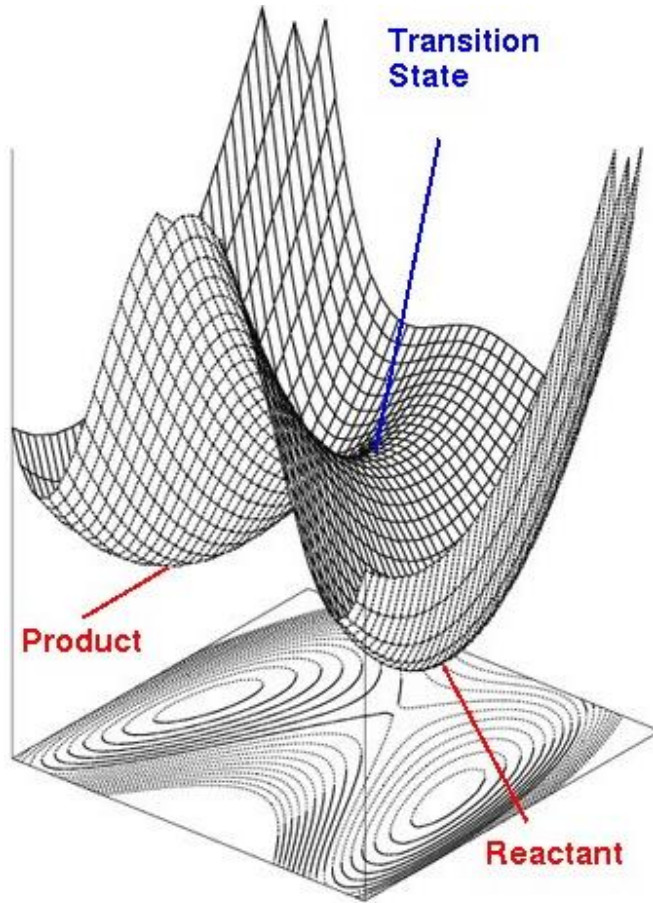
# Minimization
min_style      cg
minimize       1e-12 1e-12 1000 10000
```



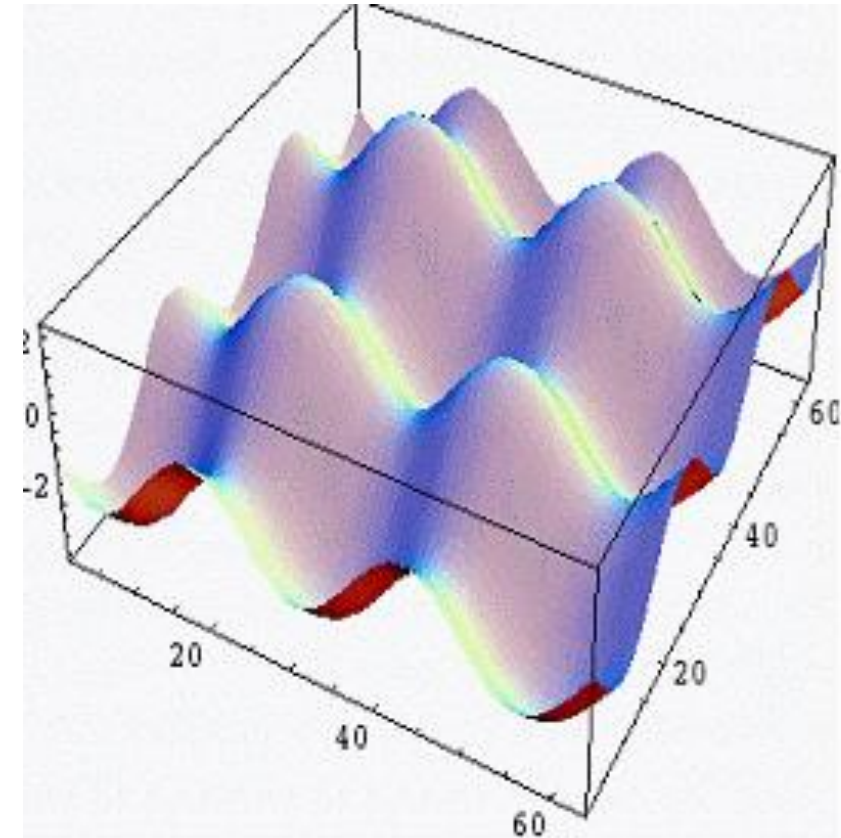
Other tools to create models

- ase
- pymatgen
- atomsk
- latgen
-

Minimization/optimization



$E(x)$



- Local minimum
- Global minimum
- Saddle point (transition state)

Minimization/optimization (Local)

$$E(x + \delta x) = E(x) + G(x)\delta x + \frac{1}{2}H(x)\delta x^2 + \dots$$



Gradient
Force



Hessian
Modulus

Minimum:

$$\frac{d\Delta E(x)}{d\delta x} = 0$$

$$\frac{d[E(x + \delta x) - E(x)]}{d\delta x} \approx G(x) + H(x)\delta x = 0$$

$$\delta x = -\alpha H^{-1}(x) \cdot G(x)$$

Local minimization algorithms

➤ Energy and first derivatives based (forces)

◆ steepest descents (robust but slow)

min_style sd

◆ conjugate gradients (robust and faster than sd)

min_style cg

◆ Hessian-free truncated Newton algorithm

min_style htfn

◆ Damped MD (fast when far from equilibrium)

min_style quickmin

min_style fire

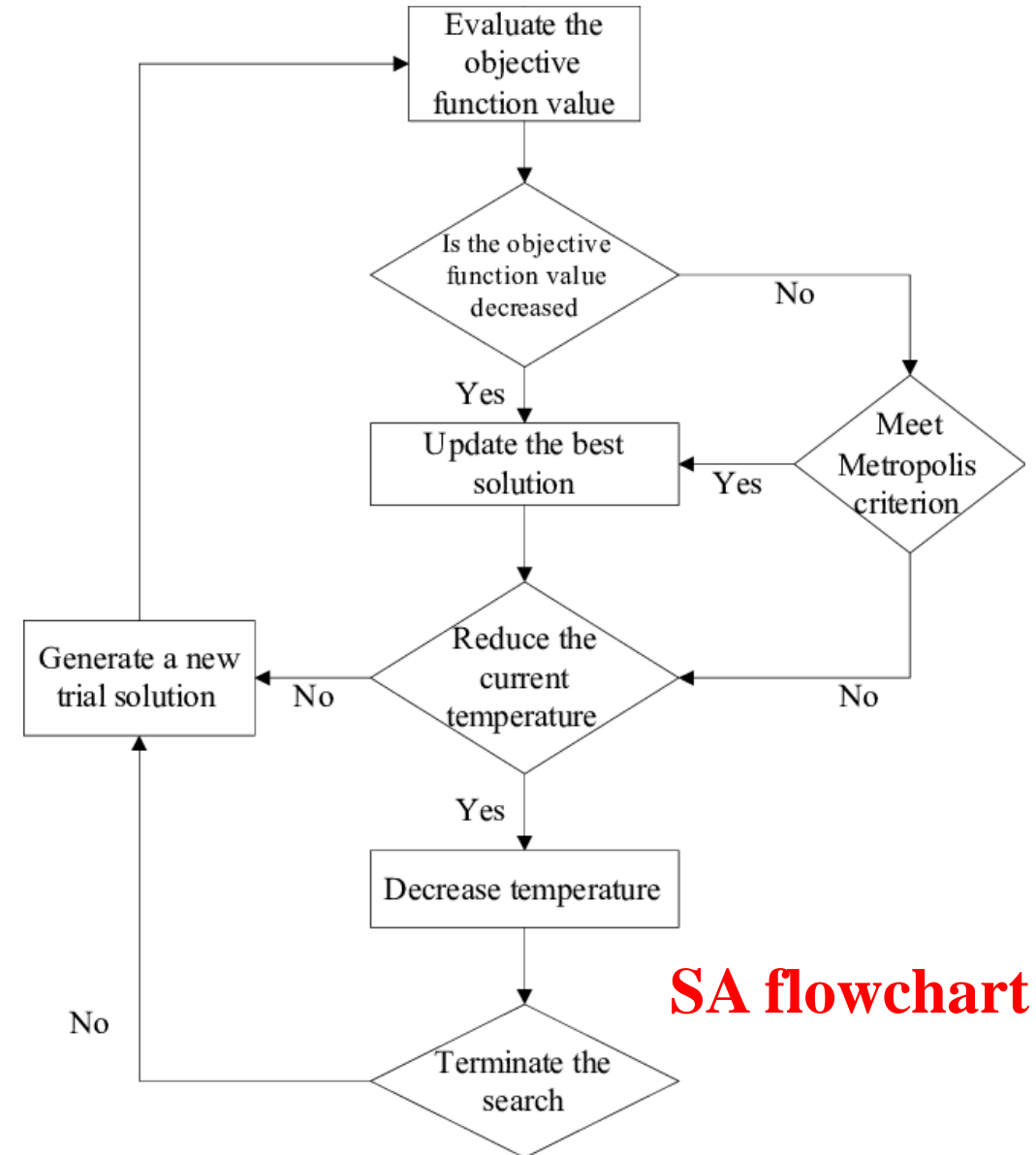
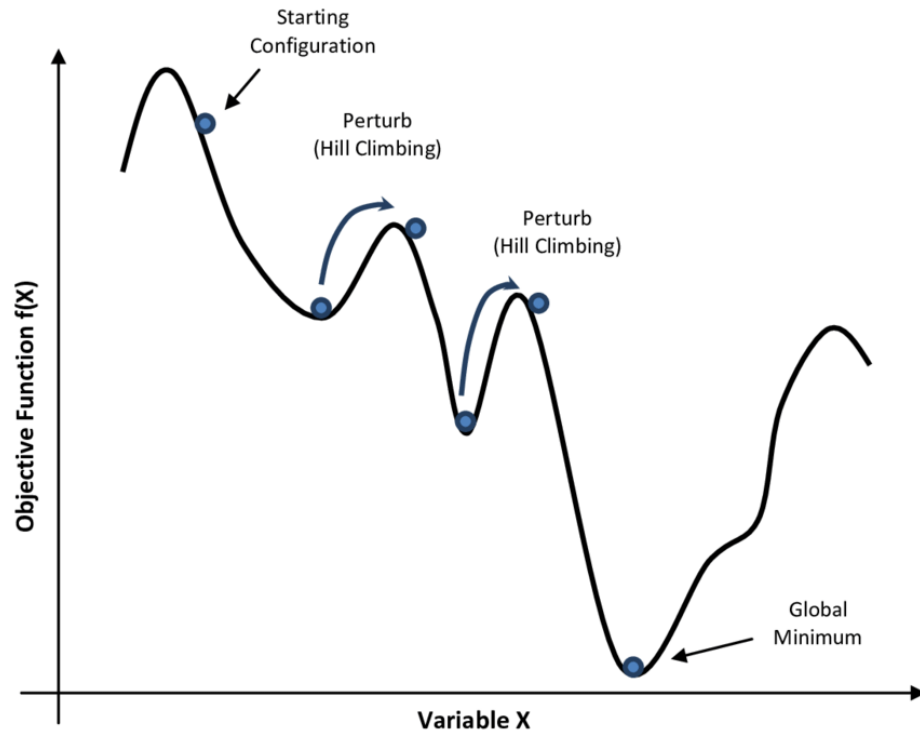
➤ Energy, first and second derivatives based (fast but not necessarily stable)

□ Newton-Raphson

□ BFGS updating of Hessian (reduces inversions)

Global minimization

- Simulated annealing (SA)
- Genetic algorithms (GA)
- Particle swarm optimization (PSO)



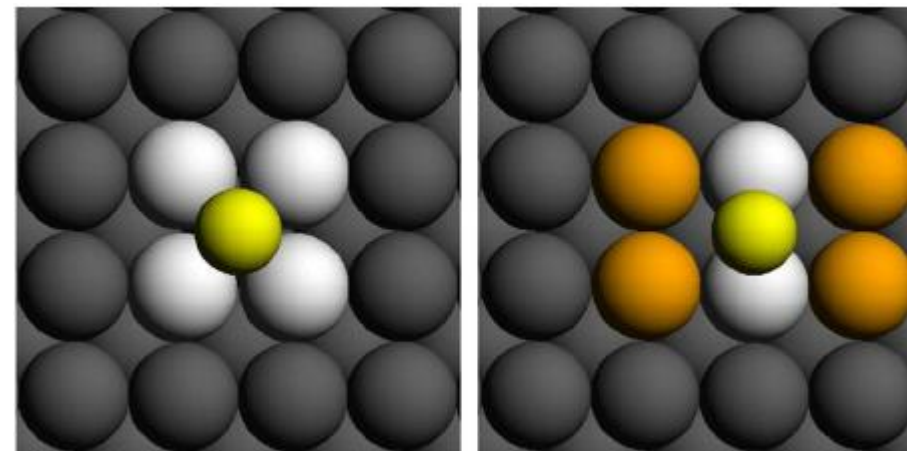
Transition State Search

Transition State Theory

$$k = k_0 e^{-\frac{\Delta E}{k_B T}}$$

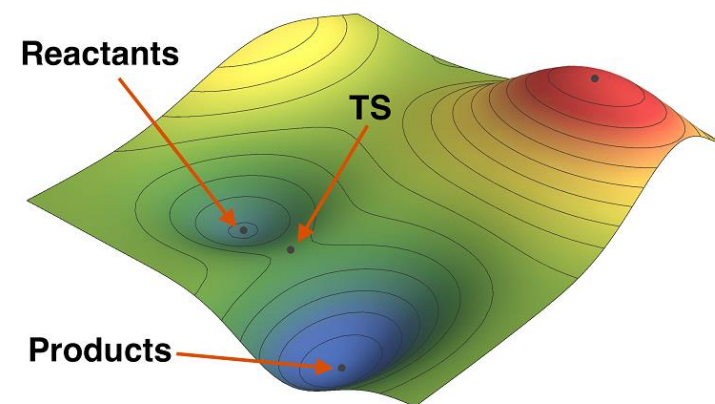
Methods:

- Nudged Elastic Band (NEB)
- Dimer
- Activation-Relaxation-Technique (ARTn)
-



Stable

Saddle



Case Study: Melting temperature

T_m of a solid is the temperature at which a substance changes state from solid to liquid at atmospheric pressure.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| IA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | VIIIA | |
| 1 | H -259.2 | IIA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | He -269.7 | |
| 2 | Li 180.5 | Be 1283 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Ne -248.6 |
| 3 | Na 98 | Mg 650 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Ar -189.4 |
| 4 | K 63.2 | Ca 850 | Sc 1423 | Ti 1677 | V 1917 | Cr 1900 | Mn 1244 | Fe 1539 | Co 1495 | Ni 1455 | Cu 1083 | Zn 419.5 | Ga 29.78 | Ge 960 | As 817 | Se 217.4 | Br -7.2 | Kr -157.2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Rb 38.8 | Sr 770 | Y 1500 | Zr 1852 | Nb 2487 | Mo 2610 | Tc 2127 | Ru 2427 | Rh 1966 | Pd 1550 | Ag 960.8 | Cd 320.9 | In 156.2 | Sn 231.9 | Sb 630.5 | Te 450 | I 113.6 | Xe -111.9 | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Cs 28.6 | Ba 710 | La 920 | Hf 2222 | Ta 2997 | W 3380 | Re 3180 | Os 2727 | Ir 2454 | Pt 1769.3 | Au 1063 | Hg -38.9 | Tl 303.6 | Pb 327.4 | Bi 271.3 | Po 254 | At | Rn -71 | | | | | | | | | |

Mg

650

Symbol

Melting point in °C

2000–3000 °C

>3000 °C

IIIA

IVA

VA

VIA

VIIA

IB

IIB

IIIB

IVB

VB

VIB

VIIIB

VIII

IB

IIB

III

IV

V

VI

VII

VIII

IX

X

XI

XII

XIII

XIV

XV

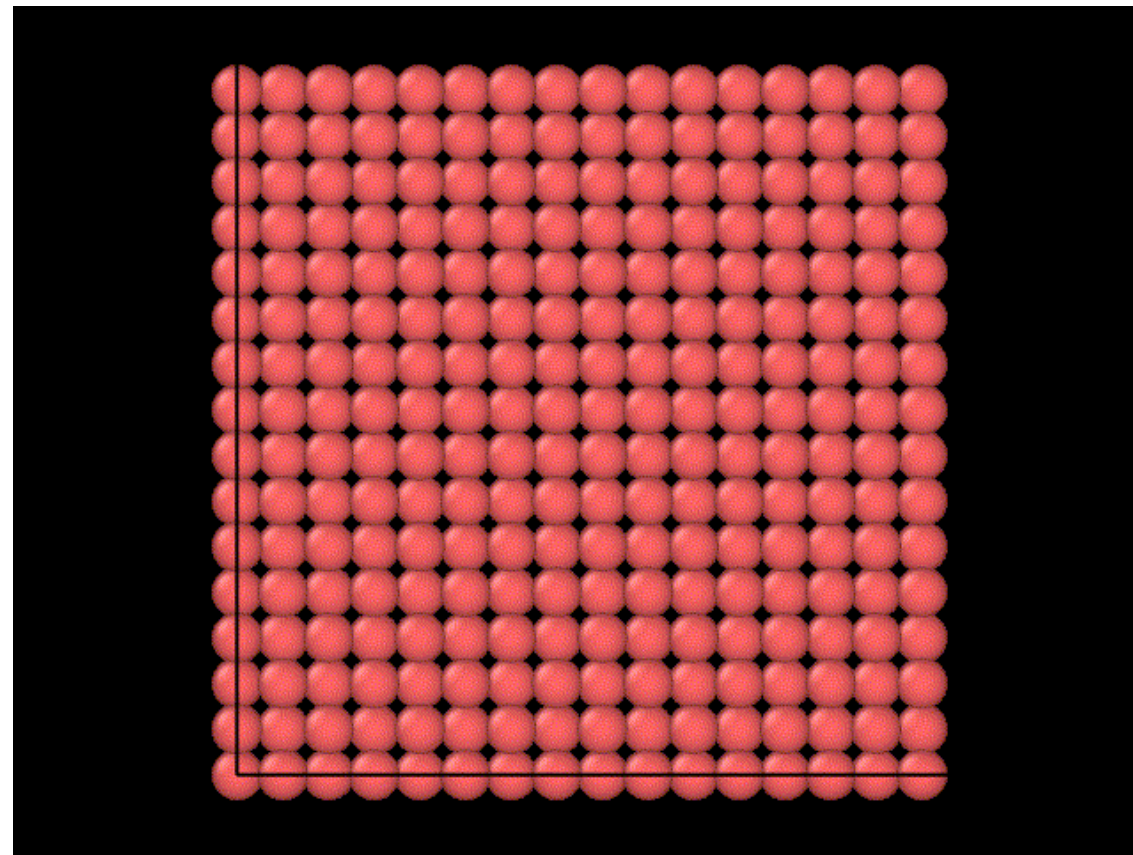
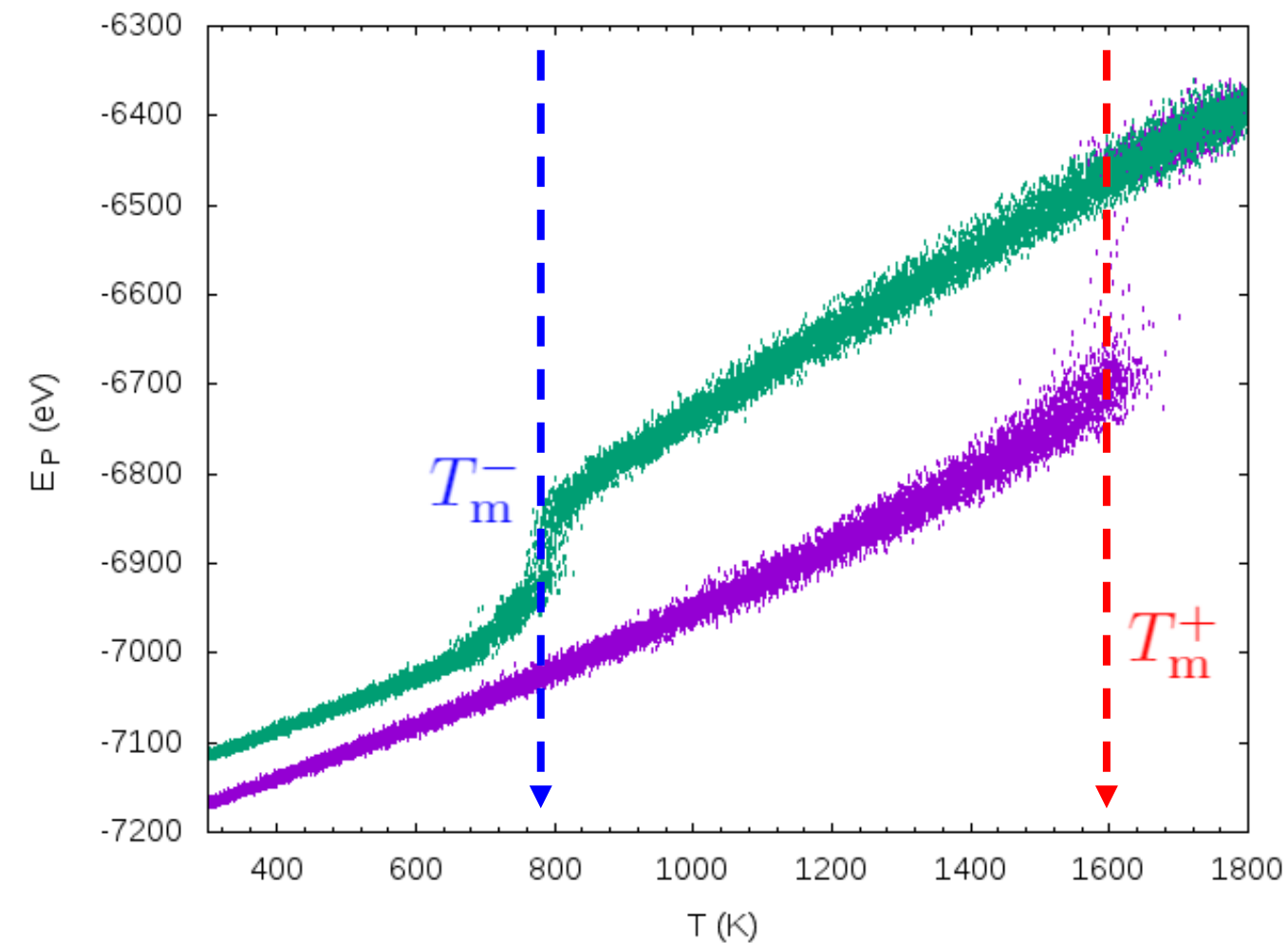
XVI

XVII

XVIII



Approach 1: Heating-cooling



Approximation

$$\bar{T}_m = \frac{T_m^+ + T_m^-}{2}$$

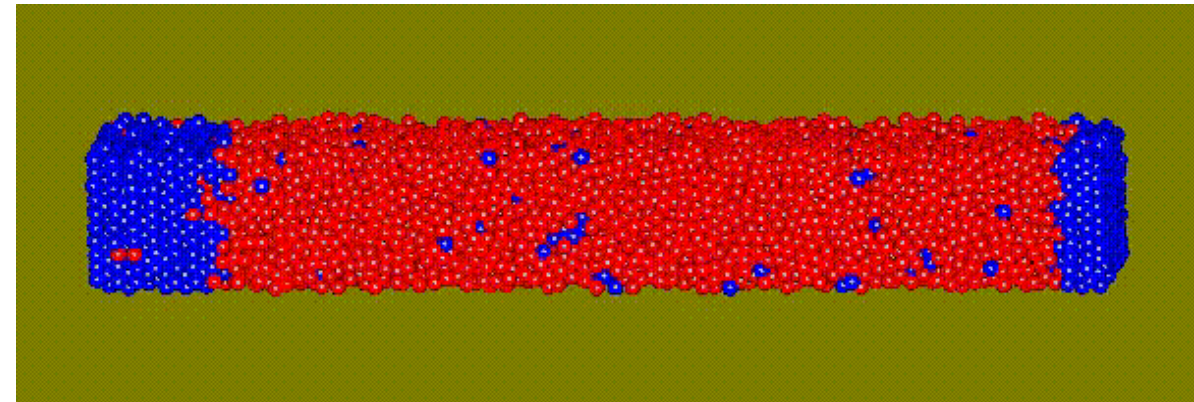
Approach 2: solid-melt coexistence

General steps:

- ① Generate solid-melt interface
- ② Equilibrate at specified T , observe motion of interface
- ③ T corresponds to zero velocity corresponds to T_m .

Alternatives:

- Switch to NVE during late stage of 2
- Switch to NPH during late stage of 2
- Use two thermostats



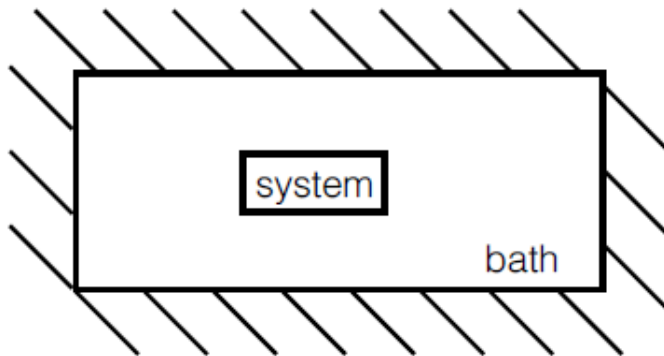
Thermodynamics Ensembles

- NVE: isolated system, microcanonical ensemble



- Very rare cases
- Newton's law

- NVT: equilibrated with a thermal bath, canonical ensemble



$$E_K = \frac{3}{2} N k_B T \quad \langle A \rangle = \frac{\int A e^{-\beta E} d^3 r d^3 p}{\int e^{-\beta E} d^3 r d^3 p} = \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t A(\tau) d\tau$$

$$\sigma_E^2 = \langle H^2 \rangle_{\text{NVT}} - \langle H \rangle_{\text{NVT}}^2 = k_B T^2 c_v.$$

$$\sigma_T^2 = \langle T^2 \rangle_{\text{NVT}} - \langle T \rangle_{\text{NVT}}^2 = \frac{2T^2}{N_{df}}.$$

Thermodynamics Ensembles

- NPT: isothermal-isobaric
- NPH: constant-pressure, constant-enthalpy

Solid phase transformation

- μ VT: grand canonical

Phase transformation, (surface) adsorption...

Temperature control: **thermostat**

◆ Velocity scaling

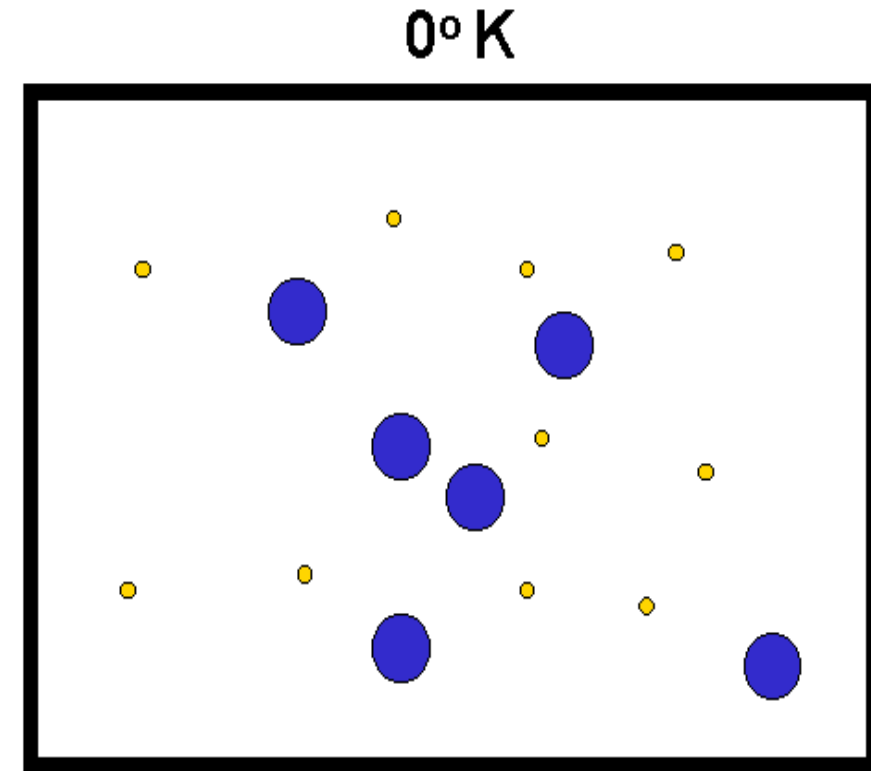
- isokinetics
- Berendsen

◆ Stochastic thermostat

- Andersen
- Langevin

◆ Extended Lagrangian

- Nose-Hoover
- Nose-Hoover chain



$$E_{\textcolor{red}{K}} = \frac{3}{2} N k_B T = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i m_i v_i^2$$

Thermostat: isokinetic velocity scaling

Instantaneous temperature $T(t)$:

$$T(t) = \frac{1}{k_B N_{df}} \sum_{i,\alpha} m_i v_{i\alpha}^2$$

Isokinetics scaling:

$$\lambda = \sqrt{\frac{T_{\text{target}}}{T(t)}}, \quad v'_{i\alpha} = \lambda v_{i\alpha}$$

Problem: cannot reproduce the variance in temperature for canonical system.

Thermostat: Berendsen

$$\lambda = \sqrt{1 + \frac{\Delta t}{\tau} \left[\frac{T_{\text{target}}}{T(t)} - 1 \right]}$$

$$v'_{i\alpha} = \lambda v_{i\alpha}$$

- No thermal noise.
- No clear proof that it reproduces canonical distribution.
- For weak coupling ($\tau > 0.01$ ps) it does lead to correct canonical averages.

Thermostat: Andersen

- ◆ Reset velocity of randomly selected atoms following a distribution.

Practical algorithm: **at each MD step for each atom**

- ① Draw a uniformly random number p in $[0, 1]$;
- ② If $p < \frac{\Delta t}{\tau}$, draw another random number p_r that follows:

$$P(p_r) = \left(\frac{\beta}{2\pi m} \right)^{3/2} \exp \left(-\frac{\beta p_r^2}{2m} \right)$$

- ③ Reset the **momentum** of current atom as p_r .

- Does reproduce the canonical ensemble
- It however breaks the continuity of MD trajectories
- Does not preserve energy and momentum.

Thermostat: Langevin

$$\mathbf{f}_i = -\nabla_{\mathbf{r}_i} E - \frac{m}{\tau} \mathbf{v}_i + \mathbf{w}_i$$

Where \mathbf{w}_i satisfies:

- **Gaussian distribution** $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$
- $\langle w_i \rangle = 0$
- $\langle w_i w_j \rangle = \delta_{ij} \frac{2mk_B T}{\tau}$

Practically approximated by

$$w_i = \omega \sqrt{\frac{24mk_B T_{\text{target}}}{\tau \cdot \Delta t}} \quad \omega \in [-0.5, 0.5]$$

Thermostat: Nose-Hoover

$$\mathbf{f}_i = -\nabla_{\mathbf{r}_i} E - m\dot{\gamma}\mathbf{v}_i$$

$$\dot{\gamma} = -N_{df} \frac{k_B T(t)}{Q} \left[\frac{T_{\text{target}}}{T(t)} - 1 \right]$$

Practical implementation:

$$\dot{\gamma} = -\frac{1}{\tau_{NH}} \left[\frac{T_{\text{target}}}{T(t)} - 1 \right]$$

Barostat: Berendsen

Virial theorem

$$P_{\alpha,\beta} = \frac{1}{V} \left(\sum_i^N m_i v_{i\alpha} v_{i\beta} + \sum_{i>j} r_{ij,\alpha} \cdot f_{ij,\beta} \right)$$

$$P = \langle P_{\alpha,\alpha} \rangle = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{\alpha}^d P_{\alpha,\alpha} = \frac{N}{V} k_B T - \frac{1}{d} \sum_{i>j} \vec{r}_{ij} \cdot \frac{\partial \Phi_{ij}}{\partial \vec{r}_{ij}}$$

System coupled to external bath

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{P_{\text{target}} - P(t)}{\tau_P}$$

Coordinate and volume variations

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{v} + \alpha \mathbf{r}$$

$$\dot{V} = 3\alpha V$$

Barostat: Berendsen

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\beta V} \frac{dV}{dt} = -\frac{3\alpha}{\beta} \quad \alpha = -\frac{\beta [P_{\text{target}} - P(t)]}{3\tau_P}$$

For cubic system where $V = L^3$

$$\mu = 1 + \alpha = 1 - \frac{\beta \Delta t}{3\tau_P} [P_{\text{target}} - P(t)] \quad \begin{aligned} \vec{r}_i &\rightarrow \mu \vec{r}_i \\ L &\rightarrow \mu L \end{aligned}$$

Equivalent expression

$$\mu = \left[1 - \frac{\Delta t}{\tau_P} (P_{\text{target}} - P) \right]^{1/3}$$

https://docs.lammps.org/fix_nh.html

https://docs.lammps.org/fix_press_berendsen.html

Melting temperature: Solid-melt Coexistence

```
# Relaxation of Cu(001) surface
units      metal
boundary   p p p
atom_style atomic

# Initial configuration
lattice     fcc 3.615
region     box block 0 32 0 8 0 8
create_box 1 box
create_atoms 1 box

# Shift zero z to box center
variable    hx equal "(xhi - xlo)/2"
change_box  all x final -${hx} ${hx} remap units box

# Define regions and groups
region     low  block -46 46 INF INF INF INF side out units box
region     high block -11 11 INF INF INF INF units box

group       solid region low
group       melt  dynamic all region high every 100

# Potential
pair_style  eam
pair_coeff  * * Cu_u6.eam

neighbor    0.5 bin
neigh_modify delay 5

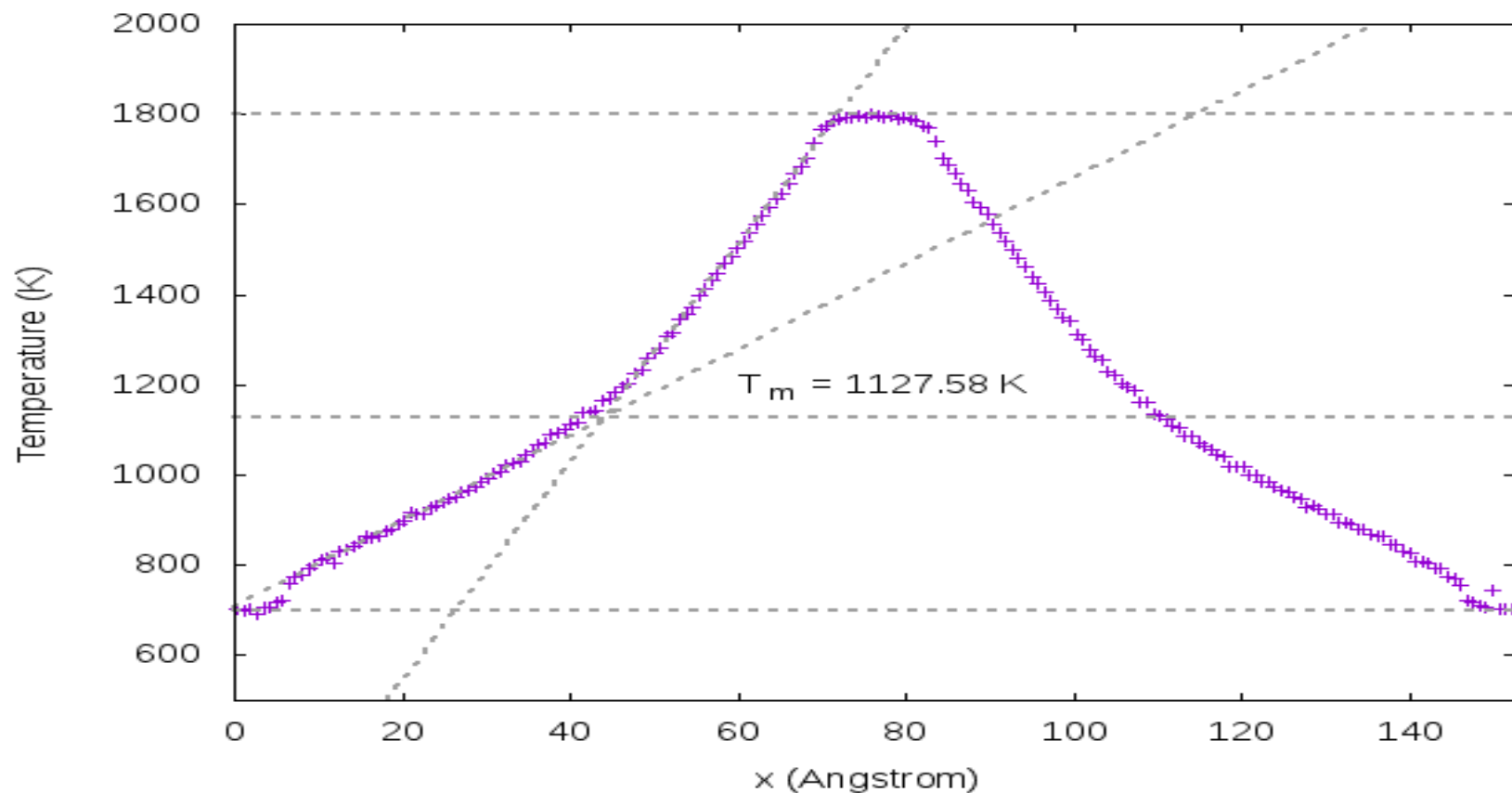
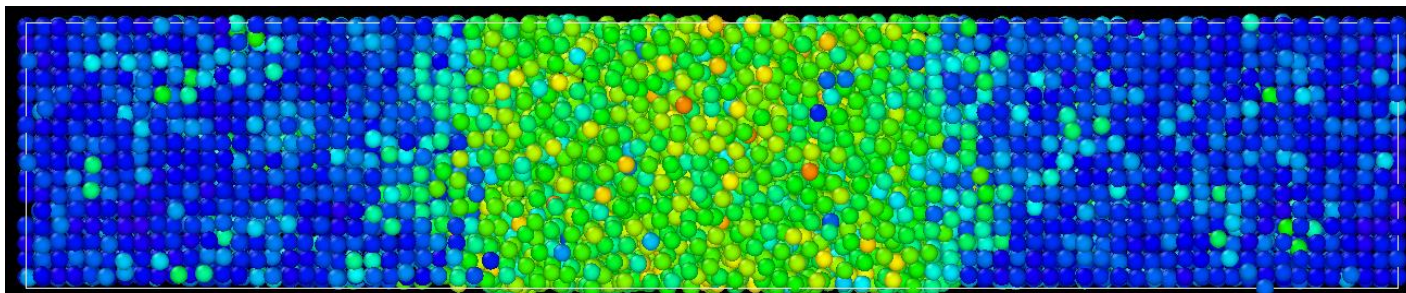
# Compute local temperature
compute     TL solid temp
compute     TH melt temp
compute     kepa all ke/atom
compute     binchk all chunk/atom bin/1d x lower 0.001 units reduc

# initialization
velocity    all create 1000. 28459 dist gaussian

# Melting the liquid part
fix         1 all nve
fix         2 solid langevin 500. 500. 0.1 4321 zero yes
fix_modify  2 temp TL
fix         3 melt langevin 2000. 2000. 0.1 4321 zero yes
fix_modify  3 temp TH
fix         4 all press/berendsen aniso 1. 1. 1. modulus 5000 coup
fix         5 all ave/chunk 10 20000 200000 binchk c_kepa ave one

# Thermal and trajectory
thermo_style custom step temp c_TL c_TH etotal pe press lx ly vol
thermo      100
dump        1 all atom 5000 dump.lammpstrj

# Run the simulation
run         1000000
```



Next Lecture:

Data Analysis and Property Calculations



Homework

Based on the examples in this course, generate Au(100), Au(110), Au(111) slab models, run minimization at 0K:

- a) Calculate their surface energies at 0K;
- b) Measure the change in interlayer separation of the surface, and compare to data in Table 1 of [Solid State Communications 149\(37–38\): 1561-1564, 2009.](#)
- c) Write a report on your experiments.

● Due: Nov. 3, 2022

Note:

- Append your lammps script but not the lengthy outputs.
- The possible potentials for Au could be found here:

<https://www.ctcms.nist.gov/potentials/system/Au/> You can adopt any potential you prefer, but please specify explicitly.