



# PyQuake3D

3D BOUNDARY ELEMENT METHODS FOR  
EARTHQUAKE MODELING

## PyQuake3D Documentation

Rongjiang TANG<sup>1</sup> & Luca DAL ZILIO<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>rongjiang.igp@hotmail.com

<sup>2</sup>luca.dalzio@ntu.edu.sg

# Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Contribution	2
3	Dependencies	2
4	How to run	2
5	Code Structure and file description	3
6	Parameters setting	3
7	External file format	3
8	Initial Condition	5
9	Stop Control	5
10	Visualization	5
11	Common issues and potential solutions	6
12	Testing and Validation	6
13	License	6
14	Acknowledgments	6
15	Contact	7

# 1 Introduction

PyQuake3D is a **Python**-based Boundary Element Method (BEM) code for simulating sequences of seismic and aseismic slip (SEAS) on a complex 3D fault geometry governed by rate- and state-dependent friction. It can handle arbitrary 3D fault geometries in either uniform elastic half-space or full-space scenarios, including simulations of non-planar, branches, step-over, and rough faults. This document provides an overview of how to use the script, as well as a detailed description of the input parameters.

# 2 Contribution

2024.7.1 Rongjiang Tang developed the code framework and the Quasi-dynamic BIEM Seismic cycle model on a complex 3D fault geometry governed by regularized aging law.

2024.10.5 Rongjiang Tang and Luca Dal Zilio implemented the H-matrix Matrix-Vector Multiplication and developed the Cascadia model.

We welcome contributions to PyQuake3D. Please ensure that you follow the contribution guidelines and maintain the consistency of the codebase.

# 3 Dependencies

Python  $\geq 3.8$   
 NumPy  $\geq 1.2$   
 ctypes == 1.1

Generally, the numpy library comes pre-installed with Python. The ctypes is a library used for calling C code from Python, and it can be installed using:

*pip install ctypes*

# 4 How to run

Download the source codes from github. Type:

To run the PyQuake3D script, use the following command

`python -g --inputgeo <input_geometry_file> -p --inputpara <input_parameter_file>`

For example, To execute benchmarks like BP5-QD at Current Directory

`python src/main.py -g examples/bp5t/bp5t.msh -p examples/bp5t/parameter.txt`

To run cascadia model, use:

`python src/main.py -g examples/cascadia/cascadia35km_ele4.msh -p examples/cascadia/parameter.txt`

Ensure that the ‘parameter.txt’ file in each example is appropriately configured as described in the parameter setting description.

## 5 Code Structure and file description

All the python codes are located in the *src* directory, and parameters and models can be found in the examples folder. H2lib is a C language H-matrix library used to compile the dynamic library *hm.so*, which allows Python to call the H2lib C programs to use H-Matrix. Generally, you do not need to recompile the library, as we have already compiled the dynamic library in a Linux environment and placed it in the *src* directory. However, if you are using macOS or need to modify the C code, you will need to recompile and link the code in the H2lib-master directory using *make*, and then replace the original *hm.so* file in the *src* directory with the newly compiled version.

The examples directory contains three subdirectories, each with an example. The *bp5t* directory contains the benchmark half-space fault model published by the Southern California Earthquake Center (<https://strike.scec.org/cvws/seas/download/>). The *Cascadia* directory simulates the Cascadia subduction zone, based on the publicly available slab2 model (<https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/5aa1b00ee4b0b1c392e86467>). *Surface0* is a simple half-space non-planar fault surface model used for testing simulation results for non-planar condition.

The code consists of multiple modules as the following functions:

- **main.py**: Executing the quasi-dynamic model program, allow the user to code for output
- **QDsim.py**: Class for establishing a quasi-dynamic model
- **DH\_Greenfunction.py**: Calculate stress green functions in homogeneous Elastic Half-Space
- **SH\_Greenfunction.py**: Calculate stress green functions in homogeneous Elastic Full-Space.
- **Readmsh.py**: Reading External Data and parameters
- **Hmatrix.py**: Load dynamic library

## 6 Parameters setting

The simulation parameters are implemented by modifying the *parameter.txt* file, rather than by changing the source code. The input variable list is in *Table 1*. If *InputHetoparamter* in *Table 1* is True, heterogeneous stress and friction parameters are imported from external files. The external filename is defined in *parameter.txt* and must remain in the same directory as *parameter.txt*. In this case, you only need to appropriately set parameter of *Table 1* and *Table 4*. Otherwise, you need to appropriately set the parameters of stress and frictional initial condition shown in *Table 2* and *Table 3*.

## 7 External file format

In addition to *parameter.txt*, the program requires external files, primarily the *.msh* and *Inputparameter files*. The filename for *Inputparameter files* is defined within *parameter.txt*.

Table 1: General Parameters

Parameter	Default	Description
Corefunc directory		The storage path for the kernel function matrix composed of stress Green's functions
Input Hetoparamter	False	If 'True', the heterogeneous stress and friction parameters are imported from external files.
Inputparamter file		The file name of imported heterogeneous stress and friction parameters
Processors	50	The number of processors which can be scheduled by the operating system to run on different CPU cores.
Batch.size	1000	The number of processes which can be scheduled by the operating system to run on different CPU cores.
H-matrix	False	If 'True', The kernel function will be approximated using H-Matrix. Note that in this case, the code must be run under Linux or MacOS system. The H-Matrix approximation is implemented using the open-source C library <i>H2Lib</i> , and the compilation of the dynamic library is done based on Makefile in <i>H2Lib – master</i> directory.
Lame constants	0.32e11 Pa	The first Lame constant
Shear modulus	0.32e11 Pa	Shear modulus
Rock density	2670 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	Rock mass density
Reference slip rate	1e-6	Reference slip rate.
Reference friction coefficient	0.6	Reference friction coefficient.
Plate loading rate	1e-6	Plate loading rate.

The *.msh* file contains necessary mesh data such as node coordinates, element numbers, and other relevant information. It is exported from *Gmsh* software. Please ensure to select the *Version2ASCII* format to match the code's reading program.

When *InputHetoparameter == True*, the initial condition can be imported externally (via the *Inputparameter* file):

```
rake(0) a(0) b(0) dc(0) f0(0) tau(0) sigma(0) vel(0) taudot(0) sigdot(0)
rake(1) a(1) b(1) dc(1) f0(1) tau(1) sigma(1) vel(1) taudot(1) sigdot(1)
...
```

The total number of rows in the *InputHetoparameter* file is equal to the number of cells. The first column represents the rake angle, which is currently kept constant in the calculations. Columns 2, 3, 4, and 5 represent parameters related to the rate-state friction law. Columns 6 and 7 denote shear and normal tractions, respectively. Column 8 is the initial slip rate, and the last two columns represent the loading rates for shear and normal tractions. Note that this loading refers to additional loading other than the slip deficit

rate loading, with a default value of 0.

## 8 Initial Condition

The initial values for frictions, slip and stress can be imported from an external file (section 7), or directly set (section 6) under simple fault geometry conditions. However, when the initial shear stress information is missing, the scalar pre-stress  $\tau_0$  is chosen as the steady-state stress:

$$\tau_0 = \bar{\sigma}_n \cdot a \cdot \sinh^{-1} \left( \frac{V_{\text{init}}}{2V_0} \cdot \exp \left( \frac{f_0 + b \ln \left( \frac{V_0}{V_{\text{init}}} \right)}{a} \right) \right) \quad (1)$$

## 9 Stop Control

The simulation stops when any of the following is satisfied.

1. The time-step reaches the *totaloutputsteps*.
2. RungeKutta\_solve\_Dormand\_Prince iteration attempted 20 times without meeting the error tolerance requirements.

## 10 Visualization

The current program supports output in VTK format, which can be used for 3D visualization in ParaView. We encourage users to develop their own code within the main function to flexibly output data using *sim0* object from *QDsim* class. The *sim0* object contains all variables required for the simulation, and you can access them by using *sim0.variables*. Code framework is shown as listing 1.

```

1  # Create class
2
3  sim0=QDsim.QDsim()
4  nodelst,elelst=readmsh.read_mshV2(fnamegeo)
5  sim0=QDsim.QDsim(elelst,nodelst,fnamePara)
6
7  # Forward modelling of earthquake cycle
8  for i in range(totaloutputsteps):
9      if(i==0):
10         dttry=sim0.htry
11      else:
12         dttry=dtnext
13         dttry,dtnext=sim0.simu_forward(dttry)
14
15  # print sim0.variables
16  print(sim0.__dict__)
17
18  ...user write code to ouput sim0.variables...

```

Listing 1: Forward implementation and user-defined ouput code

## 11 Common issues and potential solutions

If computer memory is insufficient, parallel computing of the Green's function may lead to errors. In such cases, it may be necessary to run `self.A1s, self.A2s, self.Bs = self.get_coreAB_mulproess1()` and `self.A1d, self.A2d, self.Bd = self.get_coreAB_mulproess2()` separately to prevent memory overflow. We are currently optimizing this part of the code. If the calculation diverges, such as in cases where the slip rate becomes excessively large or the Runge-Kutta iteration error is too high, reducing the grid size may solve this problem.

## 12 Testing and Validation

(under construction)

## 13 License

This project is licensed under the MIT License.

## 14 Acknowledgments

We referred to the HBI code to develop original python-based BIEM algorithm:

Ozawa, S., Ida, A., Hoshino, T., Ando, R. (2023). Large-scale earthquake sequence simulations on 3-D non-planar faults using the boundary element method accelerated by lattice H-matrices. *Geophysical Journal International*, 232(3), 1471-1481.

We referred to MATLAB code to develop the kernel function:

Nikkhoo, M., Walter, T. R. (2015). Triangular dislocation: an analytical, artefact-free solution. *Geophysical Journal International*, 201(2), 1119-1141.

The implementation of the hierarchical matrix is mainly based on open-source code H2lib. <http://www.h2lib.org/>.

We would like to thank Associate Prof. Ryosuke Ando and Dr. So Ozawa for their help in the code development, and Professor Steffen Börm for his assistance with HMatrix programming.

For further details, please refer to the official documentation or contact the development team.

We referred to MATLAB code from Nikkhoo and Walter (2015) to develop the kernel function:

Nikkhoo, M., Walter, T. R. (2015). Triangular dislocation: an analytical, artefact-free solution. *Geophysical Journal International*, 201(2), 1119-1141.

The implementation of the hierarchical matrix is mainly based on open-source code *H2lib*, which is developed by Professor Börm. <http://www.h2lib.org/>. We would like to thank Professor Steffen Börm for his assistance with HMatrix programming.

## 15 Contact

For further details, please refer to the official documentation or contact the development team.

Rongjiang Tang: [rongjiang.igp@hotmail.com](mailto:rongjiang.igp@hotmail.com)

Luca Dal Zilio: [luca.dalzilio@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:luca.dalzilio@ntu.edu.sg)



Table 2: Stress and Friction Settings

Parameter	Default	Description
Vertical principal stress (ssv)	1.0	The vertical principal stress scale: the real vertical principal stress is obtained by multiplying the scale and the value
Maximum horizontal principal stress (ssh1)	1.6	Maximum horizontal principal stress scale.
Minimum horizontal principal stress (ssh2)	0.6	Minimum horizontal principal stress scale
Angle between ssh1 and X-axis	30°	Angle between maximum horizontal principal stress and X-axis.
Vertical principal stress value	4e7 Pa	Vertical principal stress value
Vertical principal stress value varies with depth	True	If True, Vertical principal stress value varies with depth
Vertical principal stress value varies with depth	15000 m	If vertical principal stress value, it maintains a constant value at the conversion depth, and the horizontal principal stress value also changes with depth simultaneously
Shear traction solved from stress tensor	False	If 'True', the non-uniform shear stress is projected onto the curved fault surface by the stress tensor
Rake solved from stress tensor	True	If 'True', the non-uniform rakes are solved from the stress tensor. The angle of rake is defined as 90 =reverse faulting, 0=right lateral strike slip faulting, and -90=normal faulting.
Fix_rake	30°	If 'True', Set fixed rakes if 'Rake solved from stress tensor' is 'False'.
Shear traction in VW region	0.53	The ratio of shear traction to normal traction in the velocity strengthening region.
Shear traction in VS region	0.78	The ratio of shear traction to normal traction in the velocity weakening region.
Shear traction in nucleation region	1.0	The ratio of shear traction to normal traction in the velocity nucleation region.
Widths of VS region	10000.0 m	The width of the velocity weakening region.
Transition region ratio from VS to VW region	0.4	The size ratio of transition to VS region

Table 3: Nucleation and Friction Setting

Parameter	Default	Description
Set_nucleation	True	If True, sets a patch whose shear stress and sliding rate are significantly greater than the surrounding area to meet the nucleation requirements.
Radius of nucleation	8000 m	The radius of the nucleation region
Nuclea_posx	34000 m	Posx of Nucleation
Nuclea_posy	15000 m	Posy of Nucleation
Nuclea_posz	-15000 m	Posz of Nucleation
Rate-and-state parameters a in VS region	0.04	Rate-and-state parameters a in VS region
Rate-and-state parameters b in VS region	0.03	Rate-and-state parameters a in VS region
Characteristic slip distance in VS region	0.13 m	Characteristic slip distance in VS region
Rate-and-state parameters a in VW region	0.004	Rate-and-state parameters a in VW region
Rate-and-state parameters a in VW region	0.03	Rate-and-state parameters a in VW region
Characteristic slip distance in VW region	0.13 m	Characteristic slip distance in VW region
Rate-and-state parameters a in nucleation region	0.004	Rate-and-state parameters a in nucleation region
Rate-and-state parameters a in nucleation region	0.03	Rate-and-state parameters a in nucleation region
Characteristic slip distance in nucleation region	0.14 m	Characteristic slip distance in nucleation region
Initial slip rate in nucleation region	3e-2	Initial slip rate in nucleation region

Table 4: Output Setting

Parameter	Default	Description
totaloutputsteps	2000	The number of calculating time steps.
outsteps	10	The time step interval for outputting the VTK files.
outputstv	True	If True, the VTK files will be saved in out directory.
outputmatrix	False	If True, the matrix format txt files will be saved in out directory.