

Plasma Surface Dynamics

Introduction

This project addresses the modeling and analysis of plasma-surface kinetics, emphasizing the following key objectives:

- **Simulation** of plasma surface kinetics using the system of differential equations directly computed from the JSON file that includes the surface kinetics scheme .
- **Optimization** of kinetic parameters based on experimental data.
- **Error analysis** via uncertainty propagation using *Monte Carlo* sampling.

Theoretical formulation

Model Description and Observable

Now, we present a brief introduction to the theoretical formulation addressed on this paper. The general formulation of the system corresponds to:

$$\frac{d\vec{y}(t)}{dt} = \vec{F}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}(t); \theta), \quad \vec{y}(t_0) = \vec{y}_0 \quad (1)$$

where

- \vec{x} : vector of the input experimental conditions (e.g. wall temperature, gas temperature, ...)
- \vec{y} : vector of species concentrations
- θ : set of parameters that governs the surface kinetics (e.g. energy activation barrier, desorption frequencies, ...)
- $F(\cdot)$: system of chemical equations that model the surface and it is obtained from the kinetics scheme

The steady-state regime, corresponds to the condition: $d\vec{y}/dt = 0$

In our system, we are interested in modeling what we can categorize into two different types:

- **Linear** reactions (matrix A):



They correspond to the mechanisms such as adsorption, where a gas specie, $B(g)$, adheres to a surface kinetics specie, y_i , or desorption, the reverse mechanisms

- **Bimolecular** reactions (tensor B):



This type corresponds to mechanisms like diffusion or *LH*-recombination, where an atom diffuses along the surface and establishes a connection with other site

Using these mechanisms, we can develop, by using the surface scheme, a mesoscopic model that describes the average occupation of the surface by the different chemical species. However, the macroscopic observable that can be measured corresponds to the recombination probability, γ , which is given by:

$$\gamma = \hat{T}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}^*(\vec{x}, \theta), \theta) \quad (4)$$

where $\hat{T}(\cdot)$ corresponds to an operator that, by selecting the appropriate reactions from the surface kinetics scheme, projects the computed steady-state chemical concentrations, \vec{y}^* , into the scalar and observable quantity γ . More details and the derivation of such observable are presented on previously cited papers.

Optimization Problem

Having the physical simulator that allow us to compute the observable, γ , for all the input conditions, we intend to tackle the optimization problem that corresponds to find the best parameters of the simulator, θ , that describe better the experimental data. We can summarize the problem as:

$$\min_{\theta} J(\theta) = \sum_{i \in D} \left(\frac{\gamma_{exp,i} - \gamma_i(\theta)}{\gamma_{exp,i}} \right)^2 \quad (5)$$

where i iterates over all the input experimental conditions considered.

Error Propagation

We also intend to compute uncertainty of model predictions resulting from experimental uncertainties in input parameters. We assume the following set of independent random variables:

$$X = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\} \quad (6)$$

with knowns pdfs $P(X_1), P(X_2), \dots, P(X_n)$, that modulate input experimental conditions. If we assume that the inputs are independent, the joint distribution is given by:

$$P(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i) \quad (7)$$

The deterministic relationship between inputs and observable, γ , is defined as:

$$\gamma = F(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \quad (8)$$

And so it defines the conditional probability $P(\gamma|X_1, \dots, X_n)$, which in our deterministic case is given by:

$$P(\gamma|X_1, \dots, X_n) = \delta(\gamma - F(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)) \quad (9)$$

The resulting PDF for γ is calculated as:

$$P(\gamma) = \int_{x_1} \dots \int_{x_n} \delta(\gamma - F(x_1, \dots, x_n)) P(x_1, \dots, x_n) dx_1 \dots dx_n \quad (10)$$

This integral is numerically estimated using the **Monte Carlo sampling method**.

More about the theoretical foundation and detailed methodologies introduced here can be found on the following paper:

- Pedro Viegas *et al.* 2024 *Plasma Sources Sci. Technol.* **33** 055003,
- V. Guerra, "Analytical Model of Heterogeneous Atomic Recombination on Silica," *IEEE Transactions on Plasma Science*, vol. 35, no. 5, pp. 1397–1403, Oct. 2007.
- José Afonso *et al.* 2024 *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.* **57** 04LT01

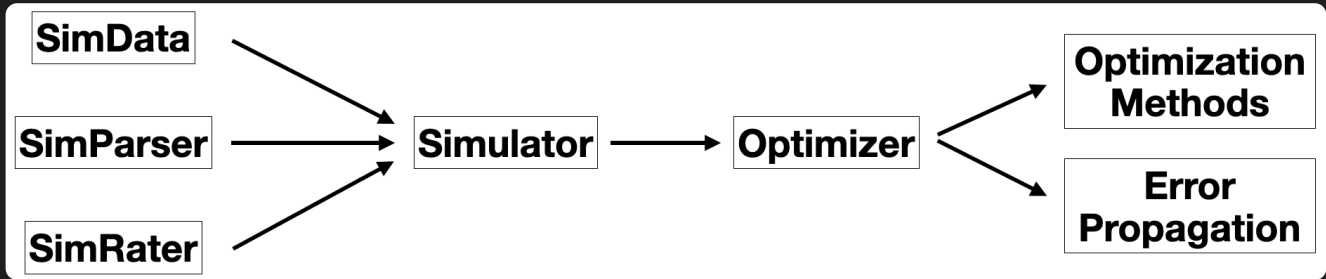
Project Structure

The code is written in Python and it uses Numpy, PyTorch, h5py, Scipy and pathos.multiprocessing packages.

The project is composed by the following classes and methods that perform the following roles:

- The SimData class picks all the input experimental data and measures output observables from different source files and creates a data buffer with the proper data structure used in the code;
- The SimParser class creates the symbolic representation of the system of chemical equations using Sympy directly obtained from the provided surface kinetics scheme (through a JSON file);
- The SimRater class computes the rates for each chemical equation provided on the surface kinetic scheme for all the experimental conditions
- The Simulator class leverages on the SimData, SimParser and SimRater classes and computes steady-state surface chemical concentrations and the output observable using Scipy numerical methods (ODE solvers)

- The Optimizer class modifies the simulator hyperparameters provided on the surface kinetics scheme that are choosed to be optimized and computes the objective loss.
- The OptimizationMethods and ErrorPropagation classes allows to solve the optimization problem based on either model-free or model-based algorithms and the error propagation of the input experimental conditions to the output observable respectively.



Details Concerning the Implementation :

Simulator:

The surface kinetics scheme is provided through a JSON file, which also includes the default model parameters, θ , the rates used on each chemical equation and set of reactions that directly participate in the observable computation. An example of application is presented on folder tests.

Optimization:

For optimization we use three different approaches:

- Model-free methods: Our exploration revolved mainly round the differential evolution algorithm. Examples of application are presented on the `study_opt_model_free` folder
- Gradient based methods: Leverage on PyTorch, we compute the gradients efficiently (when compared to the numerical counterpart), which we provide for minimization algorithm used. Examples of application are presented on `study_opt_grad_based` folder. Considering the $J(\theta)$ and $\gamma_m(\theta)$ where m corresponds to an input experimental condition, we define:

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{|D|} \sum_{m \in D} \left(\frac{\gamma_m(\theta) - \gamma_{exp,m}}{\gamma_{exp,m}} \right)^2 \quad (11)$$

$$\gamma_m(\theta) = \sum_k [T_1(\theta)]_k y^*(\theta)_k + \sum_{kl} [T_2(\theta)]_{kl} y^*(\theta)_k y^*(\theta)_l, w$$

where we have that:

$$\vec{F}(x, y^*(x, \theta); \theta) = \vec{0} \quad (12)$$

As a result the derivatives are given by:

$$\frac{\partial J(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i} = \frac{1}{|D|} \sum_{m \in D} \frac{2}{\gamma_{exp,m}^2} (\gamma_m(\theta) - \gamma_{exp,m}) \frac{\partial \gamma_m(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i} \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{\partial \gamma(\theta)}{\partial \theta_m} = \sum_k \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_m} [T_1(\theta)]_k \right) y_k^* + \sum_{ln} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_m} [T_2(\theta)]_{ln} \right) y_l^* y_n^* + \sum_k [T_1(\theta)]_k \frac{\partial y_k^*}{\partial \theta_m} + \sum_{ln} [T_2(\theta) + T_2^T(\theta)]_{ln} y_l^* \frac{\partial y_n^*}{\partial \theta_m} \quad (14)$$

Using the **Implicit Differentiation** Theorem:

$$\frac{dF_i}{d\theta_m} = 0 \implies \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial \theta_m} + \sum_n \frac{\partial F_i}{\partial y_n} \frac{\partial y_n}{\partial \theta_m} = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow [\partial_\theta F]_{im} + \sum_n [\partial_y F]_{in} [\partial_\theta y]_{nm} = 0 \quad (15)$$

$$\implies [\partial_\theta F] + [\partial_y F] \cdot [\partial_\theta y] = \vec{0}$$

