Towards real materials: Mechanical properties from first-principles simulations

Ruben Pérez

SPM Theory & Nanomechanics Group Theory of Condensed Matter Department & Condensed Matter Physics Center (IFIMAC)

http://www.uam.es/spmth



Mike Payne's 60th birthday Symposium, Cambridge, 11/01/2020

"The mechanical properties of materials are ultimately determined by events occurring on the atomic scale." Fracture of Brittle Solids - Brian R. Lawn

• QM is needed to describe the breaking and remaking of bonds that lies behind.

(You can go quite far –thousands of atoms- ... BUT...)

• The correct boundary conditions have to be imposed...

(Long-range interactions are present: Elasticity, Electrostatics)

Technical developments + increase in computer power \Rightarrow Approaching the size that matters for material science

Is ab-initio really necessary?

MICROMECHANICS

Could we do something useful?

Experiments probing matter on shorter scales (scanning probes: STM,AFM,Nanoindentation)

Tip-sample interaction: from wear to near-contact

 $\mathbf{2}$

3



First Principles Simulations of Silicon Nanoindentation

Rubén Pérez and Michael C. Payne

TCM, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 OHE, United Kingdom

Alan D. Simpson

Edinburgh Parallel Computer Centre, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, United Kingdom



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Can Atomic Force Microscopy Achieve Atomic Resolution in Contact Mode?

M. R. Jarvis,¹ Rubén Pérez,² and M. C. Payne¹

¹Theory of Condensed Matter, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 OHE, United Kingdom ²Departamento de Física Teórica de la Materia Condensada, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049 Madrid, Spain

(Received 9 June 2000)

Maximum force: 30 nN !! Contamination effects Resolution limits in c-AFM

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20 April 1998

Microscopic Mechanism for Mechanical Polishing of Diamond (110) Surfaces



M. R. Jarvis,¹ Ruben Pérez,² F. M. van Bouwelen,³ and M. C. Payne¹ ¹Theory of Condensed Matter, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 OHE, United Kingdom

²Departamento de Física Teórica de la Materia Condensada, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049 Madrid, Spain ³Applied Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Nijmegen, Toernooiveld 1, 6525 ED Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Diamond Polishing

Dealing with the boundary conditions.. Atomic scale mechanism for wear?

Industrial Polishing of Diamonds





- Scaife rotates at ~ 50 RPS Radius 15-20 cm \Rightarrow v ~ 30 m/s
- Ratio of material lost diamond/scaife ~ 10
- Rate of removal proportional to scaife speed (same amount of material removed per rotation)

No thermally activated!!!

Strong Anisotropy in Diamond Polishing: microscopic wear mechanism?

<001>



10:1 ratio between the removal rate for $\langle 001 \rangle$ and the $\langle 1-10 \rangle$ in the (110) surface

New experimental evidence: (STM, AFM, EELS,...)

- Inconsistent (surface morphology, residue) with the accepted (111) microcleavage theory.
- Mechanism in which only a few carbons are removed in each tribological event.

Nanogrooving?

F.M. Van Bouwelen, L.M. Brown, J.E. Field (Cambridge) J. Couto, W.J.P. Van Enckevort, M. Seal (Nijmegen)



Nanoasperity removal in the "soft" (001) direction: Extend of deformation





- •Local deformation.
- Atomically flat surface.
- Amorphous residue

Nanoasperity removal in "hard" (110) direction: Non-local deformation



Non-local deformation + sub-surface damage

Nanogroove formation vs asperity removal



- "soft" direction: local deformation \Rightarrow Forces and mechanism as in the isolated asperity.
- "hard" direction: Non-local deformation \Rightarrow Greater resistance: subsurface damage or tip deflection.

Fracture: a multiscale problem



Long-range elastic interactions transfer the load to the crack tip

The breaking/remaking of bonds that controls crack propagation requires a quantummechanical description

Directional Anisotropy in the Cleavage Fracture of Silicon

Rubén Pérez^{1,2} and Peter Gumbsch²

¹Departamento de Física Teórica de la Materia Condensada, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049 Madrid, Spain ²Max Planck Institut für Metallforschung, Seestrasse 92, 70174 Stuttgart, Germany



Experiments: Directional Anisotropy

Are first-principles methods necessary?



D. Holland and M. Marder PRL 80, 746 (1998).

10⁵ atoms + 10 ns Stillinger-Weber

In our Letter we stated that we used Stillinger-Weber potentials in our simulations. The statement is incorrect. Our potentials are of the Stillinger-Weber form but the parameter λ , a coefficient governing the stiffness of angle-dependent forces, should have had the value $\lambda = 21$, while we used $\lambda = 42$. One consequence of increasing λ is that the melting temperature of silicon increases to approximately 3500 K, while the correct value is 1683 K. Upon reducing λ to the correct value, cracks in Stillinger-Weber silicon emit blunting dislocations and refuse to move further until given an energy on the order of 4 times the experimentally known value. With $\lambda = 42$ the phenomenology of fracture agrees with experiment. Neither the Stillinger-Weber potential nor our modification can be regarded as giving a satisfactory description of fracture.

D. H. & M. M., PRL 81, 4029 (1998) (ERRATUM)

Classical Potentials vs Tight-Binding



F. Abraham et al, MRS Bull (May 2000)

Directional Anisotropy in the Cleavage Fracture of Silicon

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¹Departamento de Física Teórica de la Materia Condensada, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049 Madrid, Spain ²Max Planck Institut für Metallforschung, Seestrasse 92, 70174 Stuttgart, Germany



Experiments: Directional Anisotropy

Our approach: Boundary Conditions + Scaling

[-110](110) Easy



[001](110) Difficult



- Outer atoms fixed at positions predicted by anisotropic linear elasticity.
- Inner atoms relaxed with QM.

Our approach: Boundary Conditions + Scaling





Bond breaking vs Lattice trapping



Origin of lattice trapping: load sharing

K = 1.25



K = 1.30

K = 1.35





Propagation at experimental loads
Anisotropy: "lattice trapping" (two types of atomic processes)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 84 (2000) 5347 Acta Mater. 48 (2000) 4517

Atomic-scale AFM: a single atomic contact



Atomic resolution in FM-AFM:Si(111)-7x7







Dynamic AFM



http://monet.physik.unibas.ch/famars/afm_prin.htm

Understanding the contrast in FM-AFM

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

27 JANUARY 1997

Role of Covalent Tip-Surface Interactions in Noncontact Atomic Force Microscopy on Reactive Surfaces

Rubén Pérez^{1,2} and Michael C. Payne¹

¹Theory of Condensed Matter, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 OHE, United Kingdom ²Departamento de Física Teórica de la Materia Condensada, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049 Madrid, Spain

Ivan Štich and Kiyoyuki Terakura

Angstrom Technology Partnership & National Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Research, JRCAT 1-1-4 Higashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan (Received 20 March 1996; revised manuscript received 31 May 1996)

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

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Surface-tip interactions in noncontact atomic-force microscopy on reactive surfaces: Si(111)

Rubén Pérez

Departamento de Física Teórica de la Materia Condensada, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, E-28049, Madrid, Spain

Ivan Štich

JRCAT, Angstrom Technology Partnership, 1–1–4 Higashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan and Slovak Technical University, Department of Physics, Ilkovičova 3, SK-812 19 Bratislava, Slovakia

Michael C. Payne

Theory of Condensed Matter, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HE, United Kingdom

Kiyoyuki Terakura

JRCAT, National Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Research, 1-1-4 Higashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305, Japan and Institute of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106, Japan (Received 9 March 1998; revised manuscript received 11 May 1998)

Force-distance curves & Atomic relaxations



Comparison between theory and lowtemperature FM-AFM experiments



M. Lantz et al, PRL 84, 2642 (2000) M. Lantz et al, Science 291, 2580 (2001)



Separation of VdW and chemical interaction: substracting the corner hole contribution.

Tip-surface interactions R. Pérez et al , PRL 78, 678 (1997)

R. Pérez et al, PRB 58, 10835 (1998)

Chemical identification of individual surface atoms by atomic force microscopy Y. Sugimoto et al Nature 446, 64 (2007).

Yoshiaki Sugimoto¹, Pablo Pou², Masayuki Abe^{1,3}, Pavel Jelinek⁴, Rubén Pérez², Seizo Morita¹ & Óscar Custance¹



What makes this hot new material tick?

EXTREME LASERS Letting rip in space-time

CYPAVIRUS POLYHEDRA Small but perfectly formed

NATUREJOBS Focus on physics based on the relative interaction ratio of the maximum attractive force measured by dynamic force spectroscopy

HINT: changes in the topography of defects with the distance: access to the real surface structure?



Y. Sugimoto et al Phys. Rev. B 73, 205329 (2006).

Chemical Structure Resolved by AFM

Pentacene/2(NaCI)/Cu(111) imaged with a CO Tip



AFM (*z* = -0.1 Å, *A* = 0.2 Å)

Cu tip

AFM (*z* = 0.0 Å, *A* = 0.8 Å)

L. Gross et al, Science 325, 1110 (2009)

TMA networks on Cu(111)



Our approach for HR-AFM simulations

A total potential split in four contributions:

 $V(R_{\rm tip}, \theta, \varphi) = V_{\rm ES} + V_{\rm SR} + V_{\rm vdW} + V_{\rm tilt}$

(1) electrostatic:

$$V_{\text{ES}} = \int \rho^{\text{tip}}(\mathbf{r}, R_{\text{tip}}, \theta, \varphi) \phi^{\text{sam}}(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$$
(2) short range:

$$V_{\text{SR}} = V_0 \int [\rho^{\text{tip}}(\mathbf{r}, R_{\text{tip}}, \theta, \varphi) \rho^{\text{sam}}(\mathbf{r})]^{\alpha} d\mathbf{r}$$
Two DFT inputs
Charge density $\rho^{\text{tip}} \rho^{\text{sam}}$
Local potential ϕ^{sam}
Two (universal) fitting
parameters
 αV_0

(3) van der Waals: → From DFT (D2/D3)

(4) tilting: $V_{\text{tilt}} = \frac{1}{2} \kappa \theta^2$ Spring constant ≈ 0.01 Ha/rad²
M. Ellner, et al., Nanoletters 16, 1974 (2016)
M. Ellner, P. Pou, RP, PRB 76, 075418 (2017)
M. Ellner, P. Pou, RP, ACS Nano **13** (2019) 786

AFM imaging analysis





Six-membered rings with N heteroatoms

fingerprints for molecular ID



M. Ellner, P. Pou, R. Perez, ACS Nano 13, 786 (2019)

Gaining insight into the mechanical response...

- Nanoindentation. PRL 75 (1995) 4748
 defect nucleation
 permanent damage
- Wear: diamond polishing. PRL 80 (1998) 3428
- Mechanical resistance of diamond PRL 86 (2001) 1287 tips and surfaces.

Maximum force: 30 nN !! Contamination effects

• Atomic contrast in FM-AFM.

PRL 78 (1997) 0678 PRB 58 (1998) 10835

"The mechanical properties of materials are ultimately determined by events occurring on the atomic scale."