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Phase Field Crystal (PFC) Model

and

Density Functional Theory (DFT) of Freezing

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Density functional Theory of Freezing

[Ramakrishnan and Yussouff [Phys. Rev. B 19, 2775 \(1979\)](#)]

The Free Energy of the liquid near freezing point is written as :

$$F[\rho(\mathbf{r})] = F_{\text{id}}[\rho(\mathbf{r})] + F_{\text{ex}}[\rho(\mathbf{r})] + F_{\text{ext}}[\rho(\mathbf{r})]$$

Ideal Gas

Excess
/interaction

External potential

$$F_{\text{id}}[\rho(\mathbf{r})] = k_B T \int d\mathbf{r} \rho(\mathbf{r}) \{ \ln[\rho(\mathbf{r}) \Lambda^d] - 1 \}$$

Λ =thermal wavelength

$$F_{\text{ext}}[\rho(\mathbf{r})] = \int d\mathbf{r} \rho(\mathbf{r}) V(\mathbf{r}, t)$$



Excess Free Energy

The excess Free energy term was expanded by Ramakrishnan and Youssouf in terms of the Density difference $\Delta\rho = \rho(\mathbf{r}) - \rho$

Equilibrium density
Of liquid

$$F_{\text{ex}}[\rho(\mathbf{r})] \approx F_{\text{ex}}(\rho) - \frac{k_B T}{2} \int \int d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' \Delta\rho(\mathbf{r}) \Delta\rho(\mathbf{r}') \times c_0^{(2)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'; \rho)$$

Direct Correlation function



Phase Field Crystal Free Energy

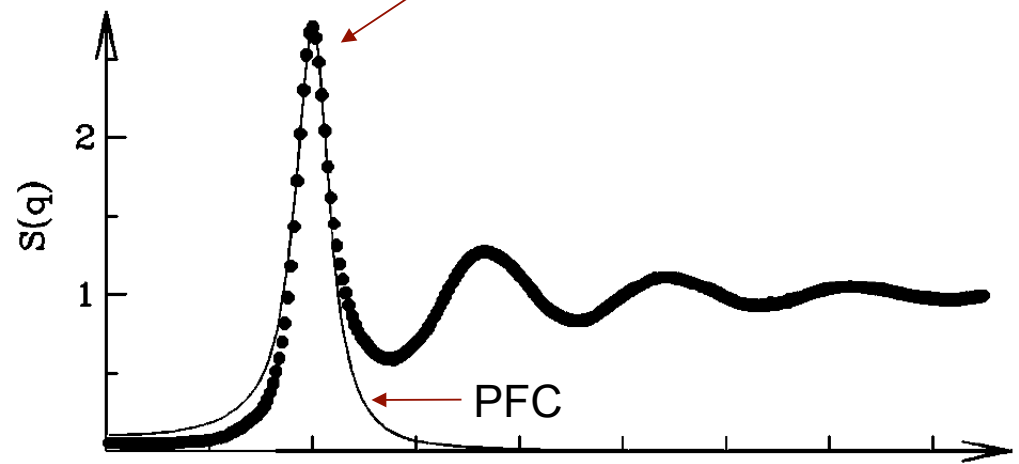
The Excess Free Energy is written as :

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{ex}}[\rho(\mathbf{r})] = F_{\text{ex}}(\rho) - \frac{k_B T}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} \Delta\rho(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\times (\hat{C}_0 - \hat{C}_2 \nabla^2 + \hat{C}_4 \nabla^4 + \dots) \Delta\rho(\mathbf{r})$$

PFC Approximation to Direct Correlation Function :

$$\hat{c}_0^{(2)}(\mathbf{k}; \rho) = \hat{C}_0 + \hat{C}_2 k^2 + \hat{C}_4 k^4$$





Phase Field Crystal Model

Choosing the scaled density difference as the field variable : $\phi(\mathbf{r}, t) = [\rho(\mathbf{r}, t) - \rho] / \rho$

$$\partial_t \phi = \nabla \cdot (M(\phi) \nabla \mu)$$

Mobility

$$\mu := \delta_\phi E(\phi)$$

Temperature

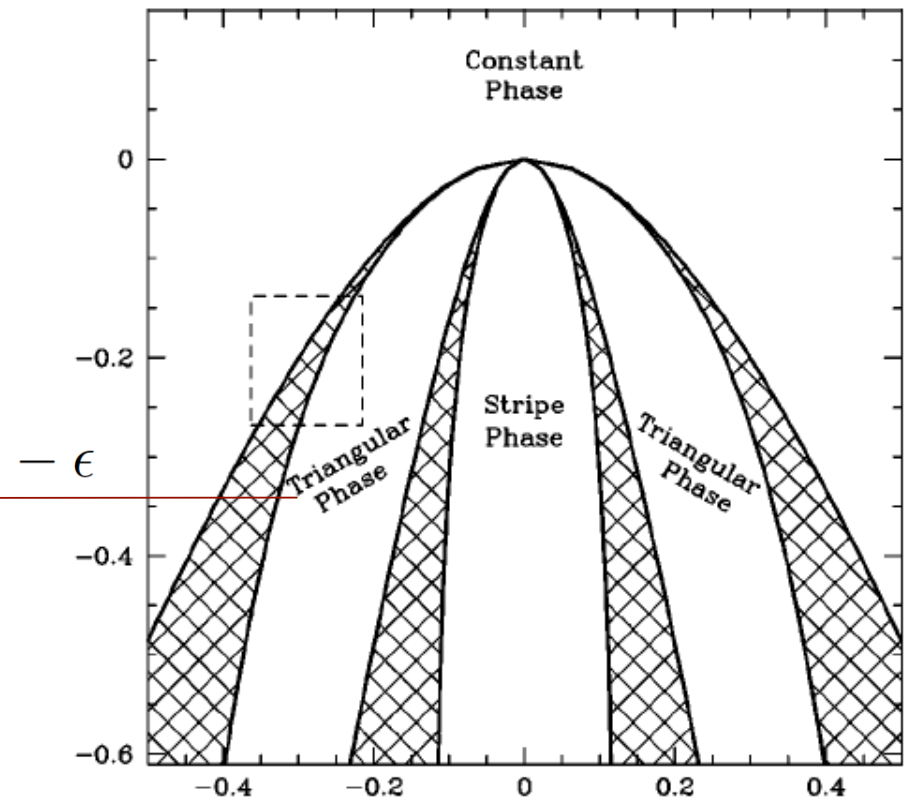
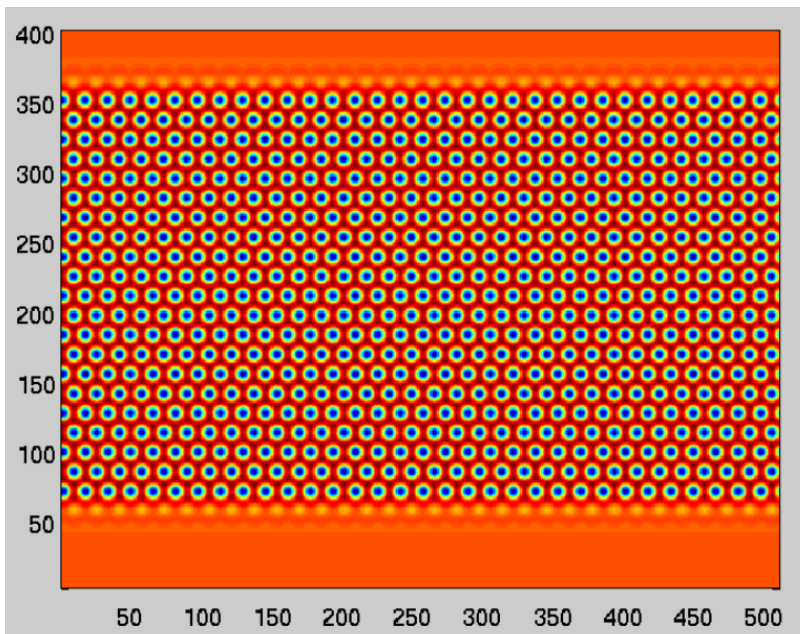
$$E(\phi) = \int_{\Omega} \left\{ \frac{1}{4} \phi^4 + \frac{1 - \epsilon}{2} \phi^2 - |\nabla \phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\Delta \phi)^2 \right\} d\mathbf{x}$$

$\epsilon \leq 1, \epsilon \in \mathbb{R}$

Swift-Hohenberg



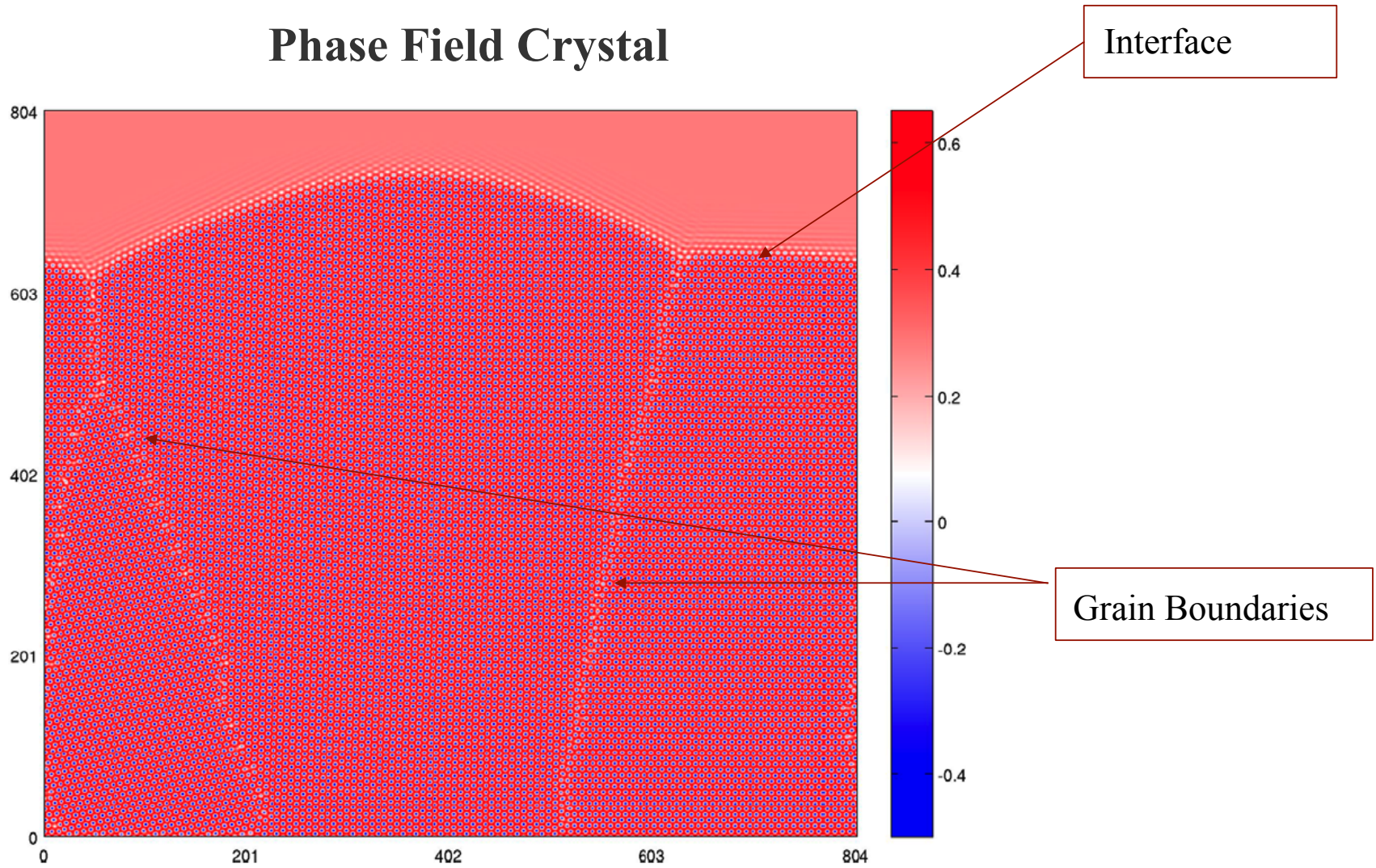
Phase Diagram



$$E(\phi) = \int_{\Omega} \left\{ \frac{1}{4} \phi^4 + \frac{1-\epsilon}{2} \phi^2 - |\nabla \phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\Delta \phi)^2 \right\} dx \quad \phi \text{ (average)}$$



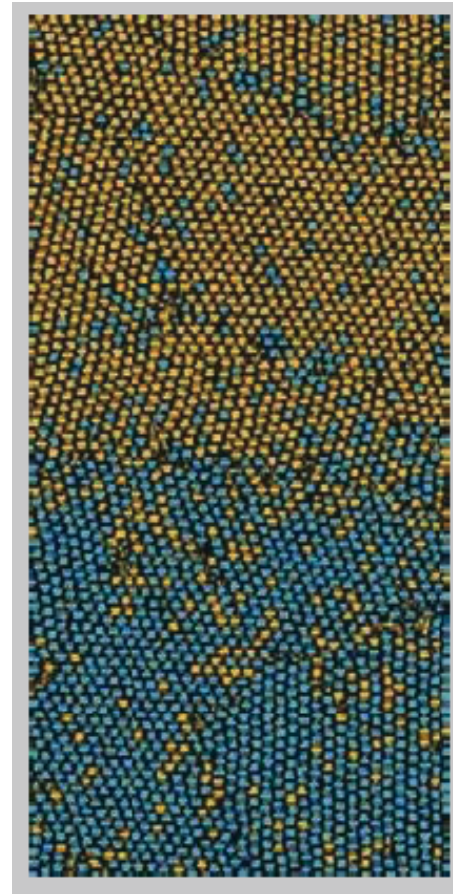
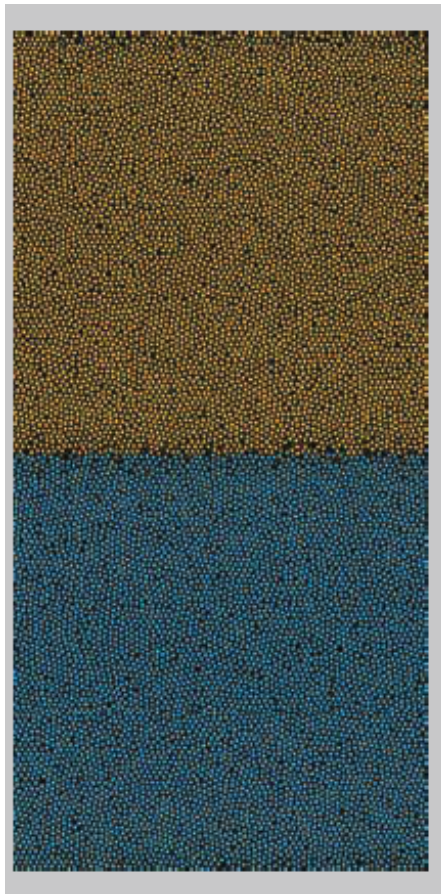
Phase Field Crystal





Phase Field Simulation of Binary Alloy

[N Provatas et al JOM (2007)]





Elastic and Interfacial Energy

Elastic Interactions

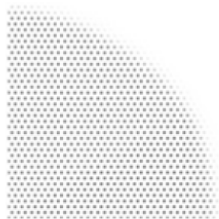
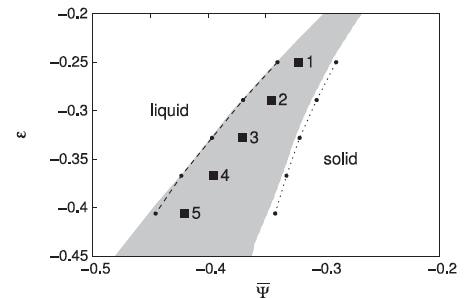
$$\phi(\vec{x}) = \phi_{eq}(\vec{x} + \vec{u}) + \delta$$

$$E(\phi) = E(\phi_{eq}) + \int d\vec{x} (C_{ijkl} u_{ij} u_{kl}) + \dots$$

Hook's Law

Anisotropic Interfacial Energy

R. Backofan and A. Voigt *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* 21. (2009) 464109



1



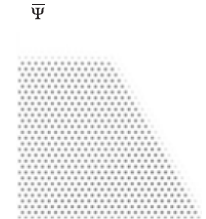
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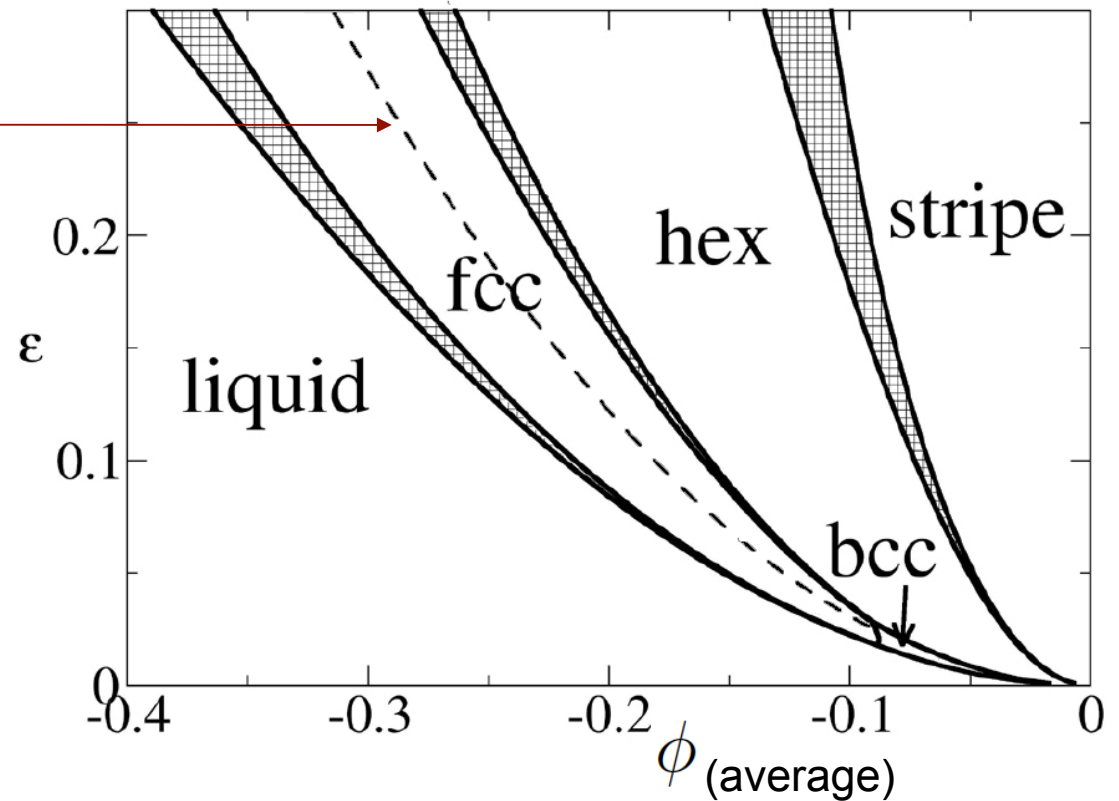


PFC Model in 3 – D (Phase Diagram)

The PFC Model extends directly to 3-D but generally fails to capture the FCC structure in 3-D

Unstable FCC
Region
BCC lattice is preferred

[PhD Thesis Kuo-An Wu
Northeastern University]





Phase Field Crystal Models for FCC Lattice - 1

Introduction of Two mode PFC Free energy (Kuo-An Wu et al [Arxiv:1001.1349](#))

Standard PFC Model

$$\mathcal{F} = \int d\vec{r} \left\{ \frac{\psi}{2} [-\epsilon + (\nabla^2 + 1)^2] \psi + \frac{\psi^4}{4} \right\}$$

Modified 2 Mode PFC Model with two sets of reciprocal lattice vectors for the FCC

$$F = \int d\vec{r} \frac{\psi}{2} [-\epsilon + (\nabla^2 + 1)^2 ((\nabla^2 + Q_1^2)^2 + R_1)] \psi + \frac{\psi^2}{4}$$

Equilibrium Density field of 2 Mode FCC solid :

$$\psi = \bar{\psi} + \sum_{\vec{K}=\{111\}} A e^{i\vec{K}\cdot\vec{r}} + \sum_{\vec{K}'=\{200\}} B e^{i\vec{K}'\cdot\vec{r}} + \dots$$

Major Disadvantage is that the evolution equation is an 8th order PDE and the model does not capture structure factor of liquid



Phase Field Crystal Models for FCC Lattice - 2

Introduction of new nonlinearities into PFC Free energy (Kuo-An Wu et al

Standard PFC Model (captures only triangular lattice in 2 D) [arXiv:1008.4019v1](#))

$$\mathcal{F} = \int d\vec{r} \left\{ \frac{\psi}{2} [-\epsilon + (\nabla^2 + 1)^2] \psi + \frac{\psi^4}{4} \right\}$$

Modified PFC Model that captures other symmetries (work in 2D captures square, hexagonal and triangular lattices)

$$F = \int d\vec{r} \left(\frac{\psi}{2} [-\epsilon + (\nabla^2 + 1)^2] \psi + \frac{\psi^4}{4} + \frac{g_4}{4} \psi^2 \Delta^2 \psi^2 + \frac{g_6}{4} \psi^2 \Delta^3 \psi^2 + \frac{s_4}{4} |\nabla \psi|^4 + \frac{s_6}{6} |\nabla \psi|^6 \right).$$

This approach may be adopted to development of a future FCC model.

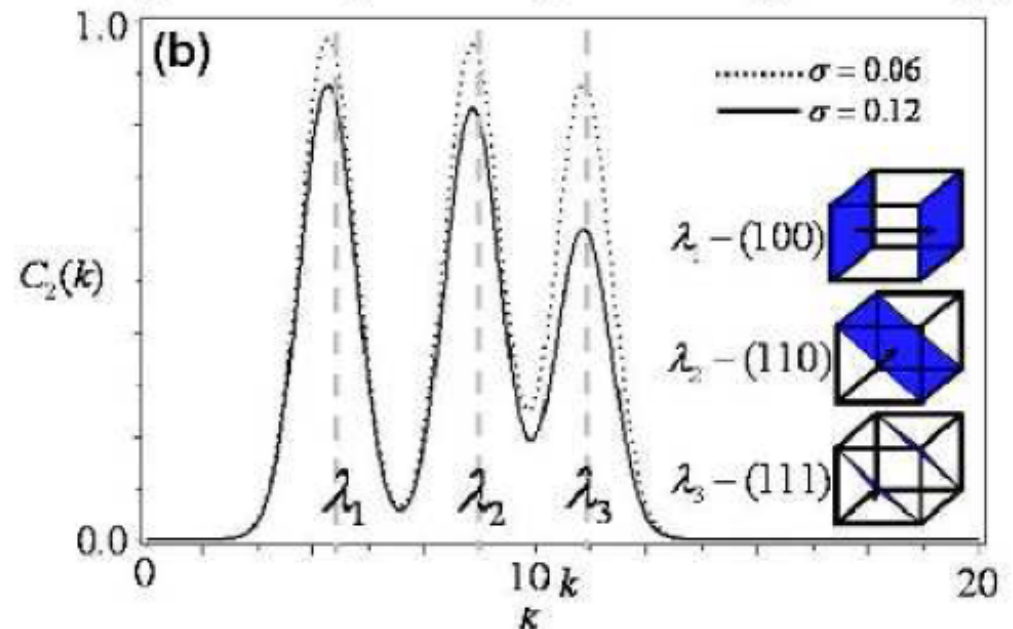


Phase Field Crystal Models for FCC Lattice - 3

Introduction of artificial Direct Correlation Function PFC Free energy

[arXiv:1002.3185v1]

$$\hat{c}_0^2 = \sum_i \gamma_i \exp\left(-\frac{(k - k_i)^2}{2\alpha_i^2}\right)$$



Major Disadvantage is that the model does not capture the structure factor of liquid



Phase Field Crystal Models for FCC Lattice

- 1) The models concentrate on capturing the equilibrium density field correctly
But neglect to address the physics.
 - a) The correct structure factor
 - b) The correct elastic response(unknown properties for all three approaches
material properties depend on the shape of the first peak of
structure factor)

- 2) The models no longer hold the simplicity (computational) of the PFC model



Structure Factor and Direct Correlation functions for Liquids

Given a microscopic interaction potential for the liquid (say Lennard Jones) the Direct correlation function can be computed using the Ornstein Zernike relation Using an approximate closure relation.

[See “ Introduction to Liquid state physics “ by Norman H. March]

$$h(r) = c(r) + \rho \int c(r - r')h(r')dr'$$

direct correlation function

$$\hat{h}(k) = S(k) - 1$$

Structure factor

Percus-Yevick (PY) approximation

$$c(r) = \left(1 - e^{\beta\phi(r)} \right) (h(r) + 1)$$

analytically solvable for hard sphere interactions



Several such methods have been used to study the freezing of Lennard Jones Liquids using Density Functional Theory.

[See [Phys Rev E 50 4801 \(1994\)](#)]

The Lennard Jones Liquid naturally freezes into an FCC solid.

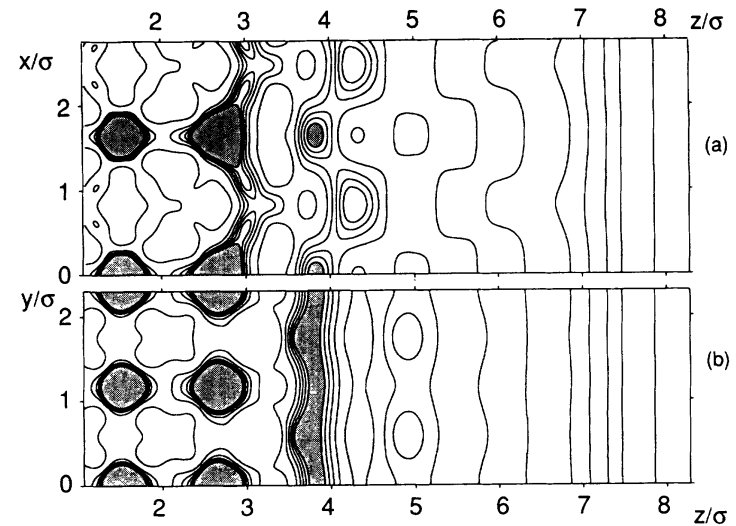
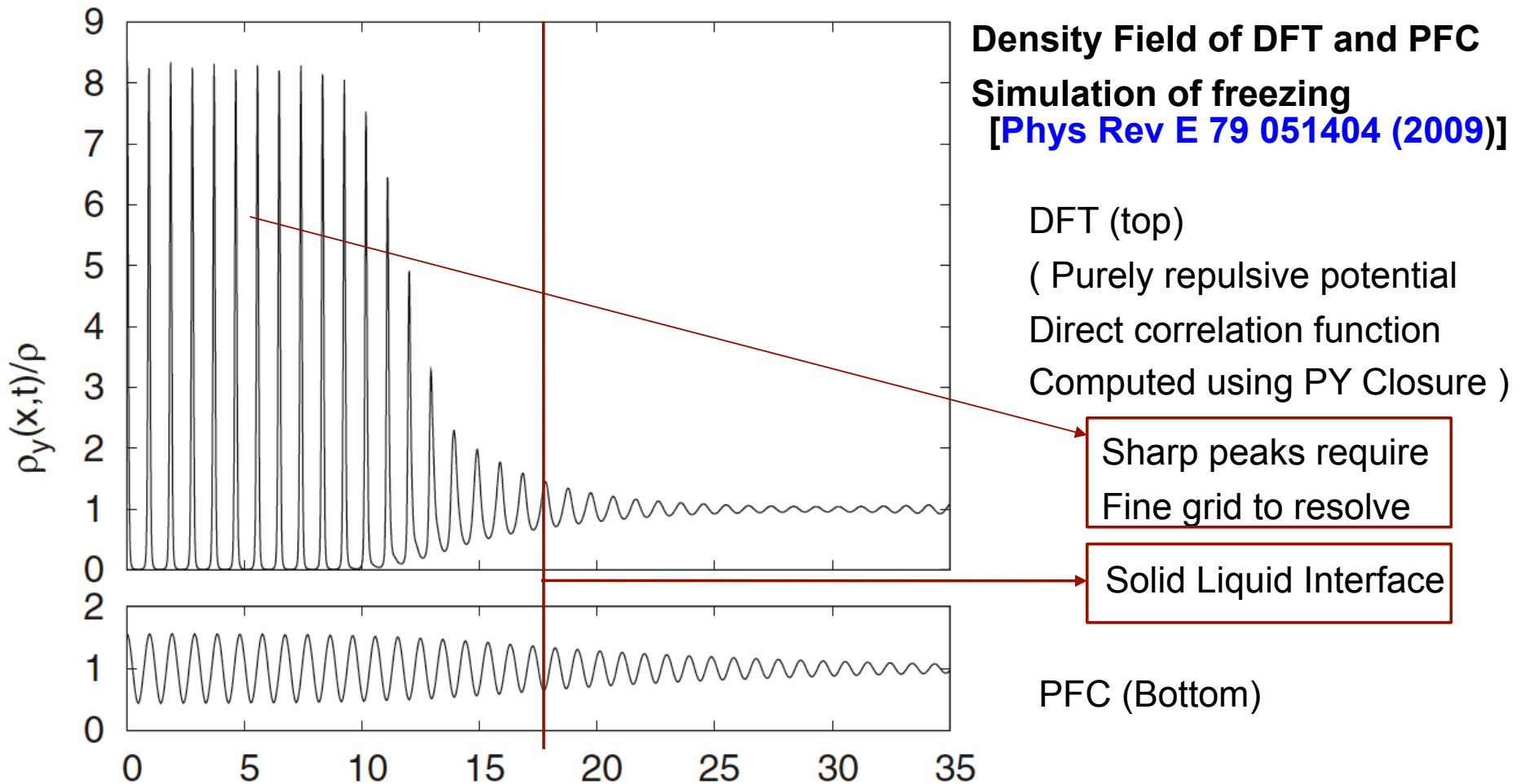


FIG. 6. (110) surface of a LJ crystal at $\tau=10^{-4}$: Contour plots of the density in a (110) plane (a) and a (001) plane (b). Both planes are normal to the surface and hit the lattice sites. Lines correspond to densities $\rho\sigma^3=0.05+n0.25$, $n=0, \dots, 6$. The shaded areas correspond to $\rho\sigma^3 > 1.55$.

[Phys Rev E 50 4801 \(1994\)](#)



Numerical Difficulty in DFT approach





Proposed DFT Approach

- 1) Use DFT for Freezing to construct Free energy (same as PFC)
- 2) Approximate the Excess Energy term truncated at two particle direct correlation (same as PFC)
- 3) Approximate the Direct correlation function numerically using Lennard Jones or Modified Lennard Jones (Yukawa Potential) for two body interaction.
- 4) Evolve the density field using a gradient model or a more sophisticated Dynamic Density Functional Theory (DDFT) Model for the density field.

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left(M \nabla \frac{\delta E}{\delta \rho} \right)$$

Gradient descent (M constant)

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \left(\rho \nabla \frac{\delta E}{\delta \rho} \right)$$

DDFT



Advantages of DFT approach

- 1) It captures the relevant physics naturally due to design based on microscopic interactions
- 2) Extension to Multiple species is straight forward based on the DFT for freezing of Binary alloys and Binary LJ interactions
[[J. Chem. Phys. 90, 1188 \(1989\)](#)]

$$F_{ex} = \int dr dr' (\delta\rho_A(r)C_{AA}(r-r')\delta\rho_A(r') + \delta\rho_B(r)C_{BB}(r-r')\delta\rho_B(r') + 2\delta\rho_A(r)C_{AB}(r-r')\delta\rho_B(r'))$$

- 3) Potential models for Iron Pyrite based on Modified Buckingham Potentials have shown promising results in ab initio MD simulations

Philpott et al. [J. Chem. Phys. 120, 1943 \(2004\)](#) ,

Zhang et al [J. Electrochemical Society, 152 10 A1955-A1962 2005](#)

de Leeuw et al. [J. Phys Chem, 104 7969-7976 2000](#)

$$\Phi_{ij}(r_{ij}) = A_{ij}e^{-r_{ij}/\rho_{ij}} - \frac{C_{ij}}{r_{ij}^6}$$