Plastic activity in nanoscratch molecular dynamics simulations of pure aluminum

Till Junge, J.F. Molinari, G. Anciaux



Outline

MD modeling of friction Brief History of Friction Modeling MD scratching

Parametric study General setup Parameter space

Single phase polycrystals Real polycrystals MD polycrystals

Results

Stored plastic energy $E_{\rm pl}$ Microscopic friction coefficient μ Thermal sensitivity s

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Brief History of Friction Modeling

Roughness Hypothesis

Leonardo da Vinci (1495), Later Coulomb, Amontons







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Brief History of Friction Modeling

Shear Hypothesis Bowden and Tabor (1942)

Observation $A_{\text{app}} \neq A_{\text{real}}(N)$



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Brief History of Friction Modeling

Towards the atomic scale: Luan and Robbins (2005)

Observation

Continuum mechanics break down at contacts



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Brief History of Friction Modeling

Involved Mechanisms

- Elasticity
- Plasticity
- Heating
- Asperity Locking
- Lattice Vibrations
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Brief History of Friction Modeling

Involved Mechanisms

- Elasticity
- Plasticity
- Heating
- Asperity Locking
- Lattice Vibrations
- Plasticity in friction is
 - poorly investigated
 - atomic scale

MD scratching



Advantages

- Very few a priori assumptions (Semi-empirical potentials)
- Deep understanding because of complete knowledge of each atom in the simulation box
- Dislocation nucleation and motion handled accurately



Computation of plastic work E_{pl} — Part I: MD Simulation

Setup

- fixed boundary conditions for bottom atoms
- prescribed indenter path x(t)



During simulation

- Evaluate force F(t) acting on the indenter at every time step,
- Save positions $\boldsymbol{r}_i(t)$ and velocities $\dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_i(t)$ periodically

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Computation of plastic work $E_{\rm pl}$ — Part II: Energy Balance



Energy influx

$$E_{\rm in}(t) = \int_0^t \boldsymbol{F}(\tau) \cdot \boldsymbol{v} \, \mathrm{d}\tau$$



Computation of plastic work $E_{\rm pl}$ — Part II: Energy Balance



$$E_{\rm in}(t) = \int_0^t \boldsymbol{F}(\tau) \cdot \boldsymbol{v} \, \mathrm{d}\tau$$

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Stored as

$$E(t) = E [\mathbf{r}_1, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N, \dot{\mathbf{r}}_1, \dots, \dot{\mathbf{r}}_N] (t)$$

= $E_{\text{pot}} [\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots] (t)$
+ $E_{\text{kin}} [\dot{\mathbf{r}}_1, \dot{\mathbf{r}}_2, \dot{\mathbf{r}}_3, \dots] (t)$



Computation of plastic work $E_{\rm pl}$ — Part II: Energy Balance

Stored Energy

$$E = E_{\text{pot}} [\boldsymbol{r}_1, \boldsymbol{r}_2, \boldsymbol{r}_3, \dots] + E_{\text{kin}} [\dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_1, \dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_2, \dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_3, \dots]$$

Potential Energy

- empirical interatomic potential function
- ► e.g., EAM:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{pot}_i} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} V(r_{ij}) \\ &+ \sum_i \Phi\left(\sum_{i \neq j} \rho(r_{ij}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Kinetic Energy

Classical mechanics:

$$E_{\mathrm{kin}\,i} = \frac{1}{2}m_i \dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_i^2$$

summed over all atoms



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Computation of plastic work $E_{\rm pl}$ — Part II: Energy Balance

Stored Energy

$$E = E_{\text{pot}} [\boldsymbol{r}_1, \boldsymbol{r}_2, \boldsymbol{r}_3, \dots] + E_{\text{kin}} [\dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_1, \dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_2, \dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_3, \dots]$$

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Kinetic Energy

Classical mechanics:

$$E_{\mathrm{kin}\,i} = \frac{1}{2}m_i\dot{\boldsymbol{r}}_i^2$$

summed over all atoms

But we won't use this!

EPEL

Computation of plastic work E_{pl} — Part III: Minimizing Potential Energy

Main Idea

Monitor variation of potential energy at 0 K: $\Delta E_{\text{pot}}(0 \text{ K}) = E_{\text{pl}}$

Problem

MD snapshots $\{r_i, \dot{r}_i\}(t)$ are **close** to static equilibrium $(\sim 0 \, \mathrm{K})^{-1}$



Computation of plastic work E_{pl} — Part III: Minimizing Potential Energy

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Monitor variation of potential energy at 0 K: $\Delta E_{\text{pot}}(0 \text{ K}) = E_{\text{pl}}$

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MD snapshots $\{r_i, \dot{r}_i\}(t)$ are **close** to static equilibrium (~ 0 K)

Solution
Molecular Statics:
$$E_{
m pot}^{
m min}(t) = \min_{oldsymbol{R}=(oldsymbol{r}_1,...,oldsymbol{r}_N)} E_{
m pot}(oldsymbol{R}(t))$$

$$E_{\rm pl}(t) = E_{\rm pot}^{\rm min}(t) - E_{\rm pot}^{\rm min}(0)$$

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Computation of plastic work $E_{\rm pl}$



Paper in review

T. Junge et al., *Plastic activity in nanoscratch molecular dynamics simulations of pure aluminium*, submitted for publication

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Computation of plastic work $E_{\rm pl}$





B. Luan, Ph.D. thesis, Johns Hopkins University (2006)

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Parametric study

General setup

Setup

- fixed boundary conditions for bottom atoms
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Parametric study

Parameter space

Space is split in three groups

In common:

- substrate thickness and width
- scratch path length
- every scratch performed at the same five indentation depths: $\Delta y \in \{0, 1, 2, 5, 10\}$ Å
- rigid indenter
- Mendelev EAM
 Aluminum potential

Substrate thickness

$$\label{eq:height} \begin{split} h \in \{22.9, 45.8, 91.5, 183.1, 366.1\} \ \text{\AA} \\ \text{at} \ v = 10 \ \text{m/s} \end{split}$$

Scratch speed

 $v \in \{2.5, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80, 1000\}$ m/s at h = 45.8 Å

Microstructure

- ► 40 or 200 grains
- 2 different random seeds
- $\blacktriangleright~h=91.5$ Å, $v=10~{\rm m/s}$

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M. I. Mendelev et al., Philosophical Magazine 88 (12), 1723-1750

Parametric study

Single phase polycrystals Real polycrystals MD polycrystals

Results



Real polycrystals

Single phase aluminum



Sources:

T. Quested, DoITPoMS, Micrograph 712

K. M. Döbrich et al., Metall. Trans. A 35, 1953-1961, (2004).

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MD polycrystals

Voronoi tessellation



- Voronoi nuclei randomly positioned
- Periodic boundary conditions in all directions
- ► Random lattice orientation assigned to each cell



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MD polycrystals

Annealing and relaxation of microstructure (heuristic)



Similar:

H. van Swygenhoven, Acta Materialia 54 (7), 1975, (2006)



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MD polycrystals

Final structure



- split microstructure, insert indenter
- fix bottom layer and indenter
- constrained minimisation of potential energy

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Parametric study

Single phase polycrystals

Results

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Stored plastic energy $E_{\rm pl}$

Effect of substrate thickness h



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Stored plastic energy $E_{\rm pl}$

Effect of scratch speed v



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Stored plastic energy $E_{\rm pl}$



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Stored plastic energy $E_{\rm pl}$

Effect of microstructure is non-trivial/counterintuitive





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Microscopic friction coefficient μ

Macroscopic friction model

$$\mu \equiv \frac{\mathrm{d}F}{\mathrm{d}N} \Leftrightarrow F(N;\mu,f_{\mathrm{a}}) = f_{\mathrm{a}} + \mu N$$

Microscopic translation

Large fluctuations at nano-scale \Rightarrow window-average forces:

$$\langle F \rangle_i = \frac{1}{N_{\rm w}} \sum_j^{N_{\rm w}} F(t_{i+j})$$

Least-squares-fit the coefficient

$$\mu = \underbrace{\arg\min}_{\hat{\mu}} \left(\left[F(\langle \boldsymbol{N} \rangle, \hat{\mu}) - \langle \boldsymbol{F} \rangle \right]^2 \right)$$

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Microscopic friction coefficient μ

Effect of substrate thickness h





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Microscopic friction coefficient μ



- ► Linearity!
- Coefficient large by continuum standards
- No simulation box size dependence for thick substrates
- Suppressed plasticity for thin substrate leads to lower μ



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Microscopic friction coefficient μ



- Bell shape with trailing plateau:
 - Found in nano-machining sims
 P. A. Romero et al. Modelling
 Simul. Mater. Sci. Eng. 20 (2012)
 - Found in steel friction experiments
 S. Philippon et al. Wear 257 (7-8) (2004)
 - Analytically explained
 A. Molinari et al. Journal of Tribology 121/35 (1999)
- Suppressed plasticity for high speeds leads to same effect as thin substrate

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Microscopic friction coefficient μ



Coefficient not explained by the grain size

Not enough grains to average orientation effects?



Microscopic friction coefficient μ



Coefficient not explained by the grain size

Not enough grains to average orientation effects?

 Consistently lower friction for polycrystal



Thermal sensitivity s

Thermal Sensitivity for different Microstructures



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Sensitivity s – vertical centrosymmetry distribution



Darker means higher disorder



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1.) Computation of $E_{\rm pl}$

Novel method to analyze and quantify MD friction simulations





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1.) Computation of $E_{\rm pl}$

- Novel method to analyze and quantify MD friction simulations
- Showed clear negative rate correlation for high speeds, none for low





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1.) Computation of $E_{\rm pl}$

- Novel method to analyze and quantify MD friction simulations
- Showed clear negative rate correlation for high speeds, none for low
- Polycrystals can release stored plastic energy during scratching





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2.) Regression-based computation of μ

Recovered simple linear continuum friction model





2.) Regression-based computation of μ

- Recovered simple linear continuum friction model
- Recovered bell-shaped speed dependence observed in machining





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- Apparent strong link between $E_{\rm pl}$ and μ



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2.) Regression-based computation of μ

- Recovered simple linear continuum friction model
- Recovered bell-shaped speed dependence observed in machining
- Apparent strong link between $E_{\rm pl}$ and μ
- Sim box size independent for thick substrates Plastic zones not resolved!

Outlook





Appendix

MD Polycrystals

Grain size distributions



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