

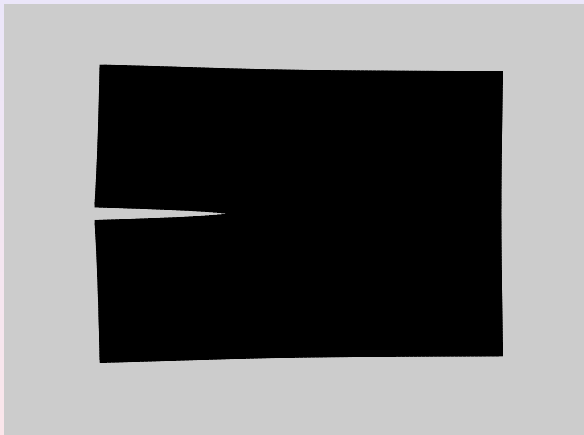
# Boundary conditions for molecular dynamics

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Penn State University

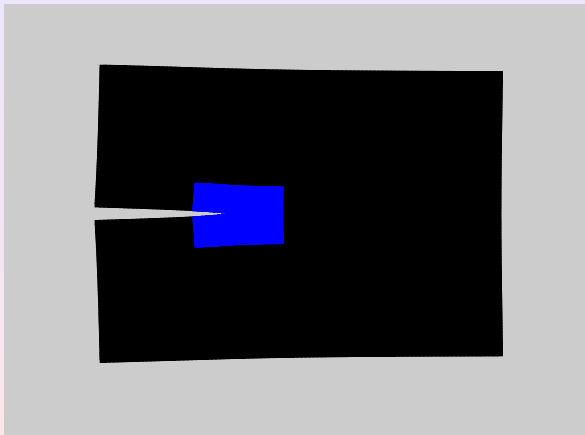
*joint work with*  
Weinan E  
Princeton University

## Motivation



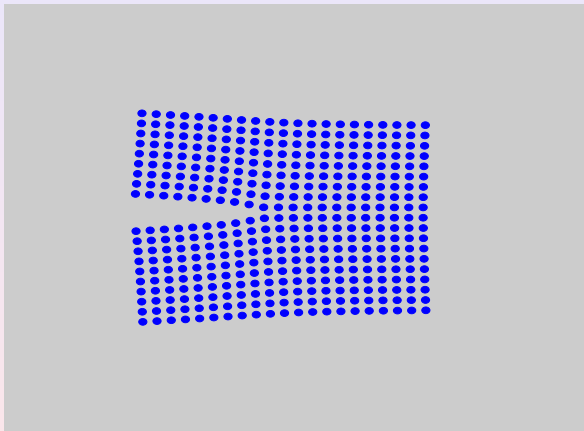
Dynamics of cracks

## Motivation



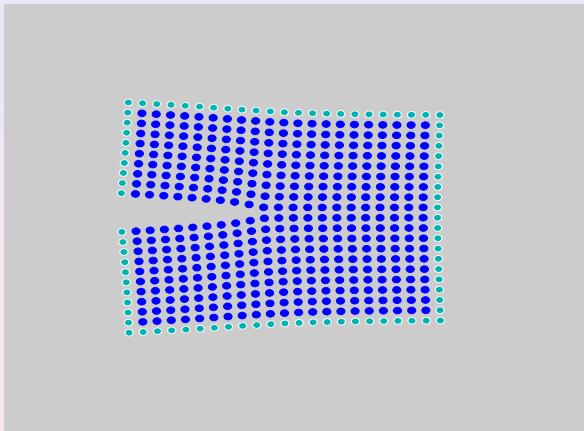
Dynamics of cracks

# Motivation



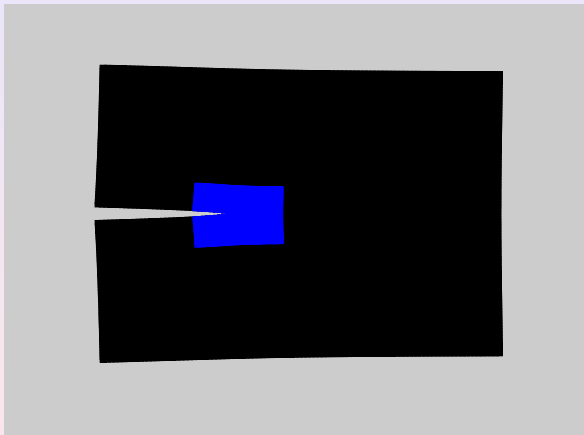
$$\text{Atomistic study } m\ddot{x}_j = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x_j}$$

## Motivation



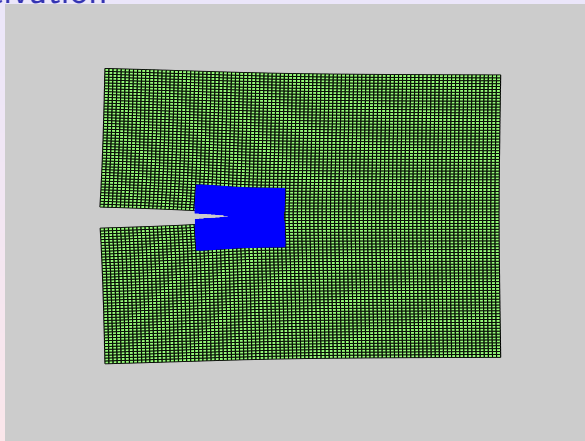
Boundary condition

## Motivation



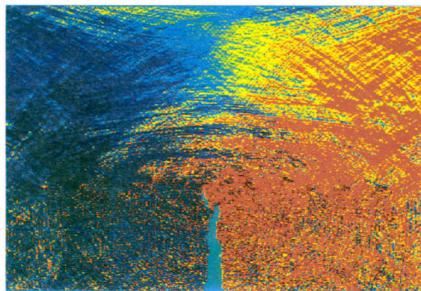
Hybrid model

## Motivation

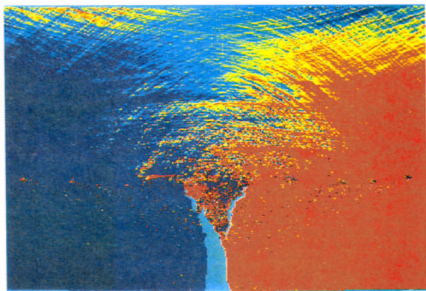


Hybrid model

## Boundary effects



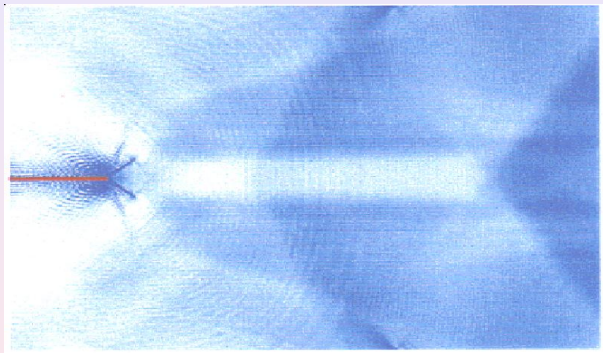
(a)



(b)

Fracture simulation in triangular lattice (Holian et. al. 1996)

## Boundary effects



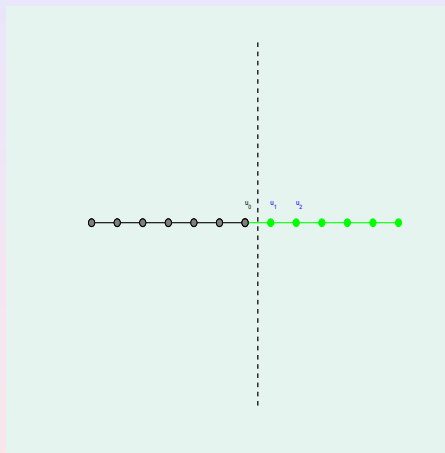
Fracture simulation in BCC iron (Machova and Ackland 1998)

## Outline

- ▶ Exact boundary conditions
- ▶ Phonon reflection
- ▶ Variational formulation
- ▶ Examples
- ▶ Applications to fracture simulation
- ▶ Further issues

## Exact BC: a 1D example

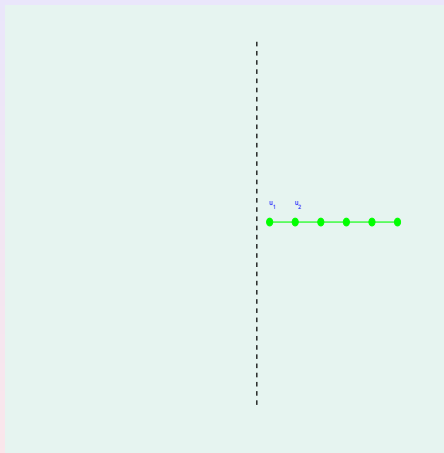
$$\ddot{u}_j = u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1}.$$



Boundary condition

## Exact BC: a 1D example

$$\ddot{u}_j = u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1}, j > 0.$$

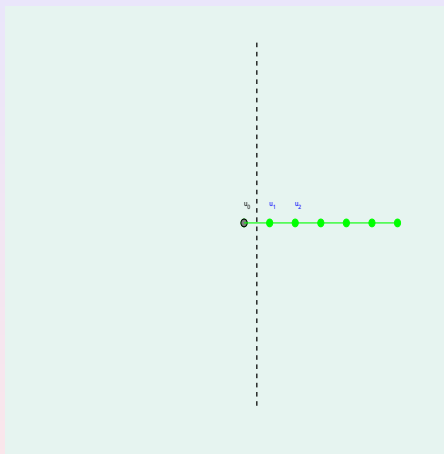


Boundary condition

## Exact BC: a 1D example

$$\ddot{u}_j = u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1}, j > 0$$

$u_0(t)$  given.



Boundary condition

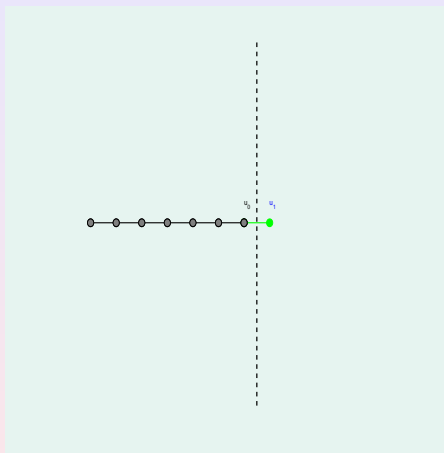
## Exact BC: a 1D example

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{u}_j &= u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1}, & j \leq 0 \\ u_j(0) &= 0, \quad v_j(0) = 0, & j \leq 0 \\ & u_1(t) \text{ given.} \end{cases}$$

Exact B.C. (Adelman and Doll, JChP 1974) :

$$u_j(t) = \int_0^t \beta_j(t-s) u_1(s) ds, j \leq 0$$

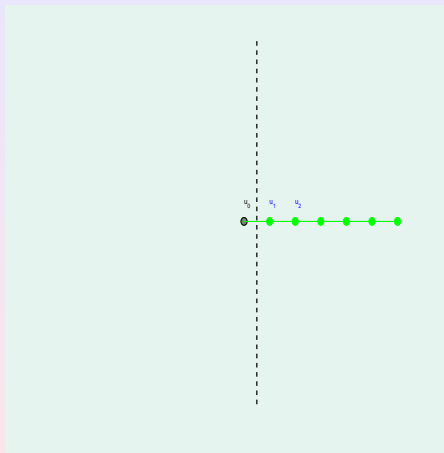
$$\beta_0 = \frac{J_2(2t)}{t}$$



Boundary condition

## Exact BC: a 1D example

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{u}_j &= u_{j+1} - 2u_j + u_{j-1}, \quad j > 0 \\ u_0(t) &= \int_0^t \beta_0(s) u_1(t-s) ds. \end{cases}$$



Boundary condition

## Exact B.C.: 3D lattice

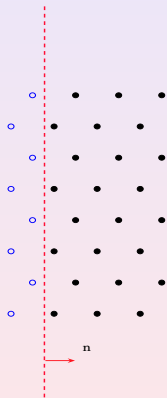
### General exact boundary conditions:

$$\mathbf{u}_{0,j,k}(t) = \sum_m \sum_n \int_0^t \theta_{l,j-m,k-n}(t-\tau) \mathbf{u}_{l,m,n}(\tau) d\tau.$$

### Numerical approximations:

1. Laplace/Fourier transform:  
(Wagner, Karpov, Liu, Park et al 2004, 2005)
2. test simulations (Cai, de Koning, Bulatov and Yip 2000)

## Exact B.C.: 3D lattice



boundary condition for molecular dynamics

## Exact B.C.: a 1D example

**Exact B.C. :**

$$u_0(t) = \int_0^t \theta_j(t-s) u_j(s) ds, j \leq 0$$

$$\tilde{\theta}_j = \tilde{\theta}_1^j = \tilde{\theta}^j.$$

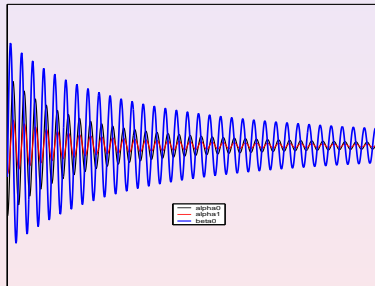
$$\theta_1(t) = \beta_0(t) = \frac{J_2(2t)}{t}.$$

 $\theta_j(t)$  delays like  $t^{-3/2}$ ,

## Exact B.C.: enhance the decay rate

$$u_0 = \sum_{j=1}^J \int_0^t \alpha_j(t-s) u_j(s) ds$$

$$\alpha(t) \sim \frac{C}{t^{J+1/2}}, t \rightarrow +\infty.$$

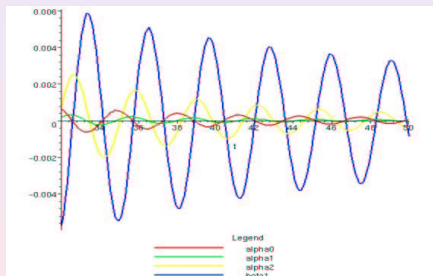


J=2

## Exact B.C.: enhance the decay rate

$$u_0 = \sum_{j=1}^J \int_0^t \alpha_j(t-s) u_j(s) ds$$

$$\alpha(t) \sim \frac{C}{t^{J+1/2}}, t \rightarrow +\infty.$$



J=3

## Implementation issue

### Problem with exact boundary conditions:

- ▶ difficult to obtain
- ▶ **nonlocal** in both space and time
- ▶ not practical in MD simulations
- ▶ premature truncation leads to large reflection
- ▶ not feasible in a multiscale method

### Objectives

- ▶ **local** boundary conditions
- ▶ given stencil, find the BC with minimal phonon reflection
- ▶ external loading

## Analogy with absorbing B.C. for wave equations

**Local** boundary condition for wave equations:  
(Engquist and Majda 1977 and 1979)

**Local** boundary condition for molecular dynamics:  
(E and Huang 2001 and 2002)

# Phonon spectrum

## Harmonic approximation:

$$m_i \ddot{\mathbf{u}}_i = - \sum_j D_{i-j} \mathbf{u}_j.$$

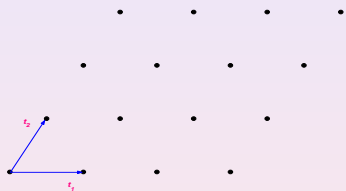
## Dynamic matrix

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_j D_j e^{-i\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}},$$

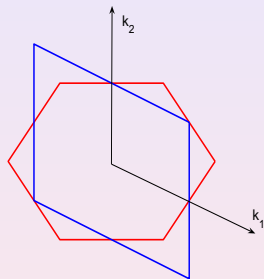
## Phonon spectrum

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{k})\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{k}) = \lambda_s \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(\mathbf{k}), \omega_s^2 = \lambda_s.$$

# Lattice and Brillouin Zone (BZ)

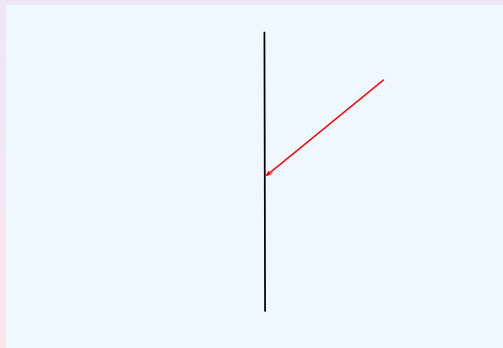


triangular lattice



the first Brillouin zone

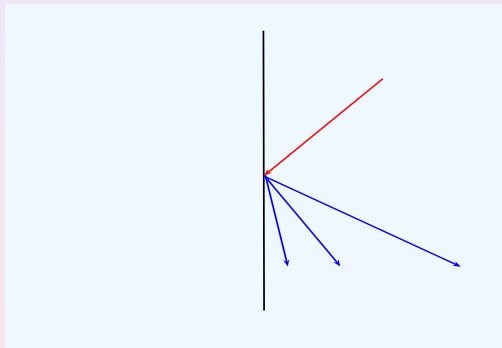
# Phonon reflection



$$\mathbf{u}_j = e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}^l - \omega_s t)} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_s(\mathbf{k}^l)$$

Reflection of phonon

## Phonon reflection

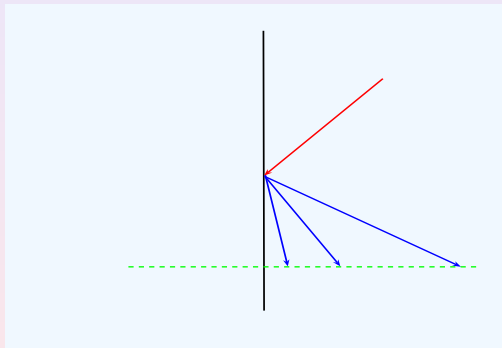


$$\mathbf{u}_j = e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}^I - \omega_s t)} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_s(\mathbf{k}^I)$$

$$+ e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}^R - \omega'_s(\mathbf{k}^R) t)} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}'_s(\mathbf{k}^R)$$

Reflection of phonon

## Phonon reflection



$$\mathbf{u}_j = e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}^I - \omega_s t)} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_s(\mathbf{k}^I)$$

$$+ e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}^R - \omega'_s(\mathbf{k}^R) t)} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}'_s(\mathbf{k}^R)$$

Reflection of phonon

## Phonon reflection

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{k}^I - (\mathbf{k}^I \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} &= \mathbf{k}^R - (\mathbf{k}^R \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n} \\ \omega_S(\mathbf{k}^I) &= \omega_{S'}(\mathbf{k}^R). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\lambda = e^{-i(\mathbf{k}^R \cdot \mathbf{n})a_n}$

$$\det\left(\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{k}^R) - \omega(\mathbf{k}^I)^2 I\right) = 0,$$

**Wave mode of the reflected phonons:**

$$\{\mathbf{k}_{SS'}^R, l = 1, 2, \dots, S \times N_e\}.$$

## Phonon reflection: *reflection coefficients*

**Boundary condition:**

$$\mathbf{u}_0(t) = \sum_{j \in J} \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) \mathbf{u}_j(t - \tau) d\tau.$$

Phonon reflection: *reflection coefficients***Boundary condition:**

$$\mathbf{u}_0(t) = \sum_{j \in J} \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) \mathbf{u}_j(t - \tau) d\tau.$$

**Incident and reflected waves:**

$$\mathbf{u}_j(t) = c_s^j e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k} - \omega_s t)} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_s(\mathbf{k})$$

Phonon reflection: *reflection coefficients***Boundary condition:**

$$\mathbf{u}_0(t) = \sum_{j \in J} \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) \mathbf{u}_j(t - \tau) d\tau.$$

**Incident and reflected waves:**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_j(t) &= c_s^I e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k} - \omega_s t)} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_s(\mathbf{k}) \\ &+ \sum_I c_{ss'}^R e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}_{ss'}^R - \omega_{s'} t)} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{s'}(\mathbf{k}_{ss'}^R), \quad \mathbf{c}^R = R\mathbf{c}^I \end{aligned}$$

Phonon reflection: *reflection coefficients***Boundary condition:**

$$\mathbf{u}_0(t) = \sum_{j \in J} \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) \mathbf{u}_j(t - \tau) d\tau.$$

**Incident and reflected waves:**

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$$+ \sum_I c_{ss'}^R e^{i(\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}_{ss'}^R - \omega_{s'} t)} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{s'}(\mathbf{k}_{ss'}^R), \quad \mathbf{c}^R = R\mathbf{c}^I$$

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathbf{k}) = \sum_{j \in J} e^{i\mathbf{r}_j \cdot \mathbf{k}} \int_0^{t_0} e^{i\omega\tau} \alpha_j(\tau) d\tau,$$

**Linear system:**

$$(I - \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{k}))\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_s(\mathbf{k}) + \sum_I R_{ss'} (I - \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{k}_{ss'}^R))\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{s'} = 0.$$

## Variational formulation: energy flux

**Energy flux at the atomic scale** (Irving & Kirkwood 1950):

$$J = \frac{1}{2} \sum (\dot{\mathbf{u}}_i + \dot{\mathbf{u}}_j) D_{i-j}(\mathbf{u}_i - \mathbf{u}_j) \mathbf{r}_{ij}.$$

**Convert to Fourier space:**

$$J = J^I + J^R.$$

$$\begin{aligned} J^R &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_l \int |c_{ss'}^R|^2 \omega_s \nabla \lambda_s(\mathbf{k}_{ss'}^R) d\mathbf{k}_{ss'}^R, \\ &= \sum_s \int_{\mathbf{k} \in \text{BZ}, \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{n} \leq 0} \left| \sum_l c_s^l R_{ss'} \right|^2 \omega_s^2 (\nabla \omega_s \cdot \mathbf{n}) d\mathbf{k}. \end{aligned}$$

This is the thermal flux due to the applied boundary condition.

## Variational formulation: objective function

**Seek boundary condition:**

$$\mathbf{u}_0(t) = \sum_{j \in J} \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(s) \mathbf{u}_j(t - \tau) d\tau,$$

**Variational formulation:**

$$\min_{\{\alpha_j\}} I[\{\alpha_j\}; \mathbf{n}] \triangleq \sum_s \int_{\mathbf{k} \in \text{BZ}, \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{n} \leq 0} \sum_l |R_{ss'l}|^2 (\nabla \omega_s \cdot \mathbf{n}) d\mathbf{k}$$

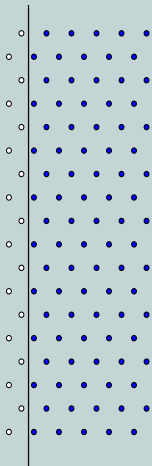
subject to certain constraints.

## Variational formulation: constraints

$$R(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_j \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) d\tau = I.$$

$$\sum_j \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) \tau d\tau \partial_{\xi} \omega_s(0) \epsilon_s + \sum_j \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) d\tau \mathbf{r}_j \cdot \xi \epsilon_s = 0.$$

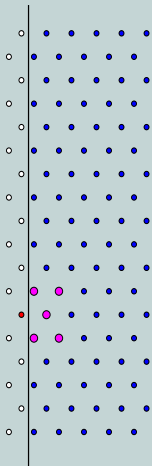
## Choosing the stencil



**Discrete boundary conditions:**

$$\mathbf{u}_i^n = \sum_{\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i \in J} \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_j^m \mathbf{u}_j^{n-m}.$$

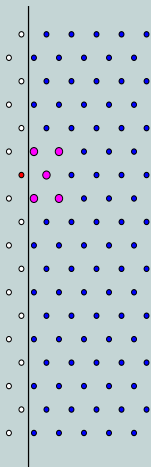
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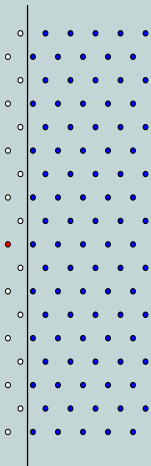
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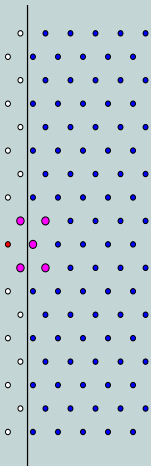
## Choosing the stencil



Discrete boundary conditions:

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## Choosing the stencil



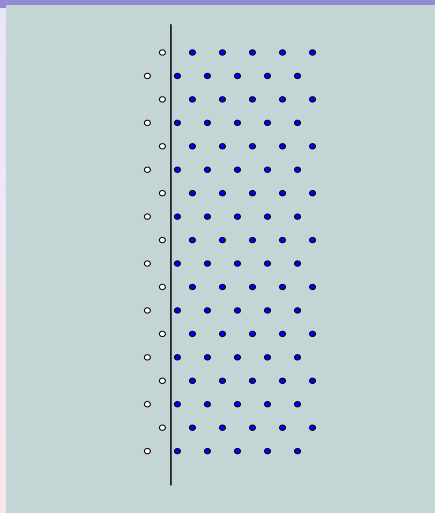
**Discrete boundary conditions:**

$$\mathbf{u}_i^n = \sum_{\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i \in J} \sum_{m=1}^M \alpha_j^m \mathbf{u}_j^{n-m}.$$

## Symmetry properties

$$\tilde{\alpha}_{j'} = P\alpha_j P^T,$$

$$I[\tilde{\alpha}, \mathbf{n}'] = I[\alpha, \mathbf{n}].$$

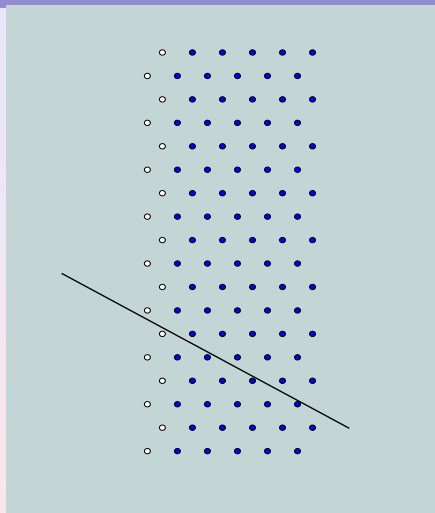


equivalent planes

# Symmetry properties

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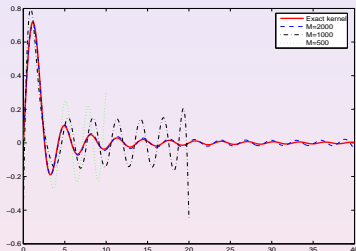
equivalent planes

## Numerical procedure

1. Compute the dispersion relation and the polarization vectors,
2. For each  $\mathbf{k}$ , such that  $\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{n} \leq 0$ , find all the possible wavenumbers for the reflected phonon,
3. Select the stencil: the set  $J$  and the number of time steps  $M$ ,
4. Initialize the time history kernels  $\{\alpha_j^m\}$ ,
5. Compute the reflection coefficients  $R_{ss'}$  and the objective function
6. Use a optimization subroutines to obtain new values for the time history kernels.
7. Go to step 5 unless certain convergence criterion is met.

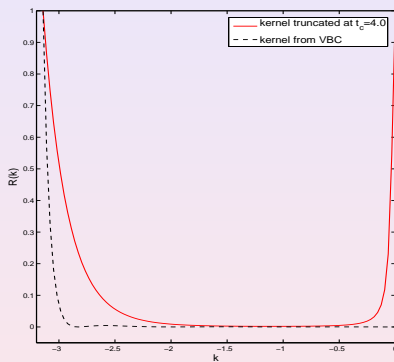
## Example I: 1D chain

$$R(k) = \frac{1 - \sum_j e^{ijk} \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) e^{i\omega\tau} d\tau}{1 - \sum_j e^{-ijk} \int_0^{t_0} \alpha_j(\tau) e^{i\omega\tau} d\tau}.$$



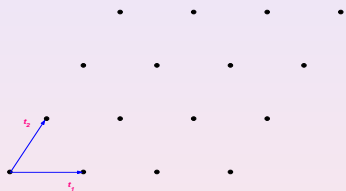
time history kernels

## Example I: 1D chain

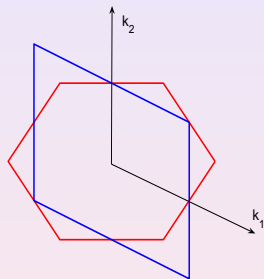


phonon reflection

## Example II: 2D triangular lattice

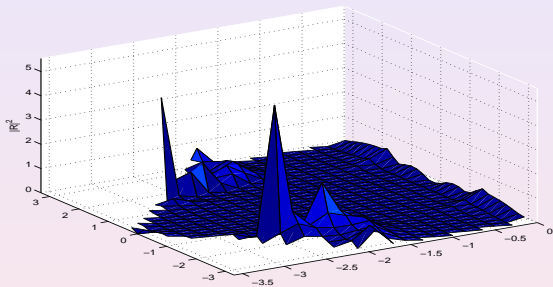


triangular lattice



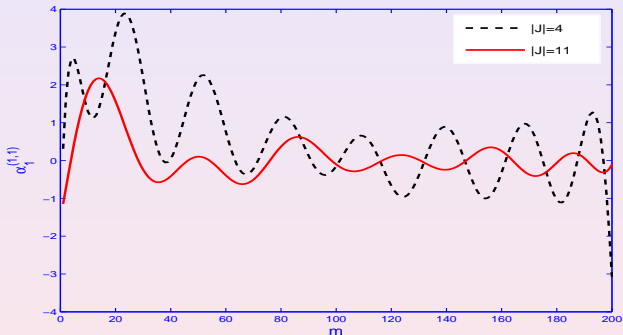
the first Brillouin zone

## Example II: reflection coefficients



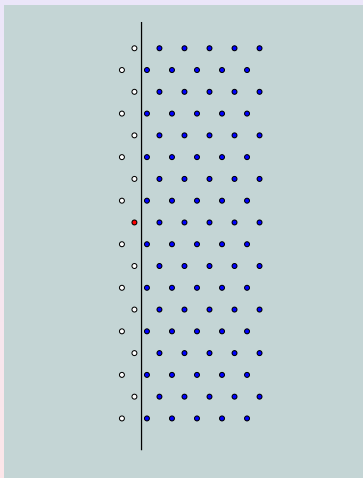
the total reflection

## Example II: time history kernels



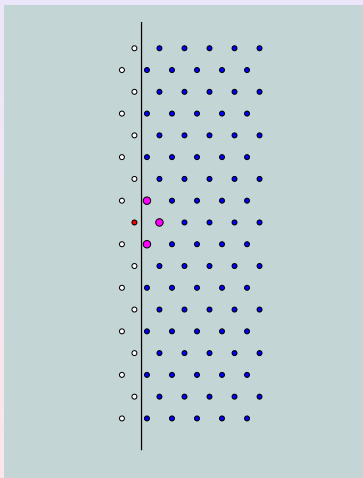
the memory kernels

## Example II: comparing different stencils



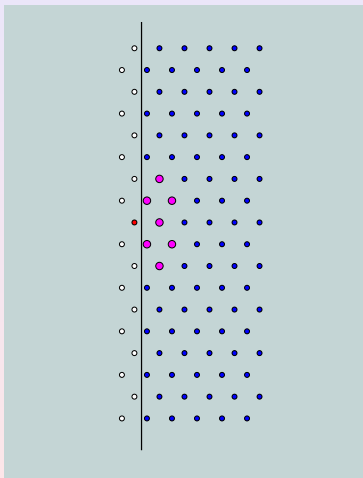
Selection of the stencil

## Example II: comparing different stencils



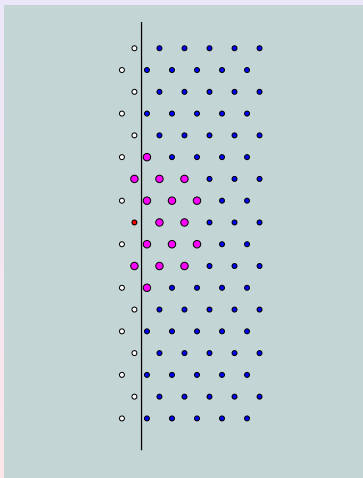
$$|J| = 4$$

## Example II: comparing different stencils



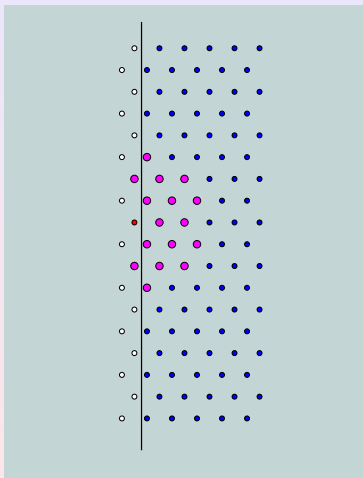
$$|J| = 8$$

## Example II: comparing different stencils

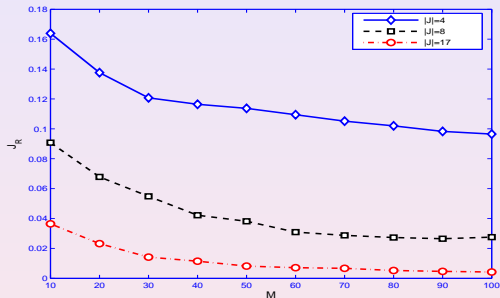


$$|J| = 17$$

## Example II: comparing different stencils

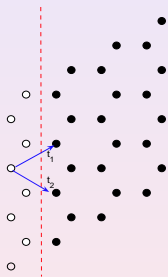


$$|J| = 17$$

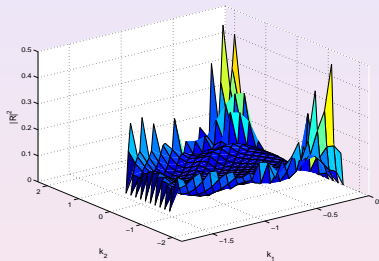


Total reflection on various stencil

## Example III: graphene sheet



Graphene lattice structure



Total reflection

# Application: fracture simulation in BCC Iron

fixed boundary condition

variational boundary condition



## Implementations

1. **minimization**

BFGS routines e.g. Zhu et al 1997

2. **integration over the Brillouin zone**

K-point method

3. **boundary conditions for the corners**

create new planes

4. **external loading**

specify displacement, apply traction

## Work in progress

1. standardization
2. stability analysis
3. comparison with damping method
4. extension to finite temperature

## Summary

1. exact boundary condition
2. analysis of phonon reflection
3. variational formulation to minimize phonon reflection
4. **local** boundary condition
5. implementation issues
6. applications to fracture simulations

Reference: X. Li and W. E, Variational boundary conditions for molecular dynamics simulations of solids at low temperature, *comm. comp. phys.* **1** (2006), 136--176.