

# Dislocation Modelling Atomic-scale to the Continuum

David Bacon

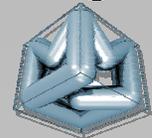
Materials Modelling Group  
Materials Science and Engineering  
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The University  
of Liverpool

US DoE, Washington, March 2004

Materials  
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## Issues:

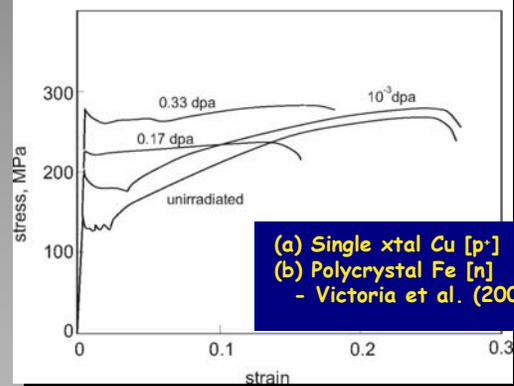
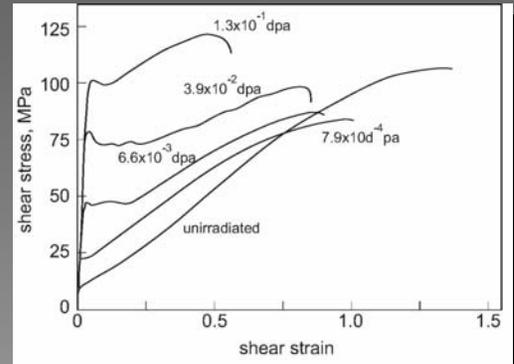
- how to model strengthening effects, yield phenomena, obstacle absorption, defect motion, etc.?
- models able to give quantitative information?
- models able to describe candidate materials?
- periodic boundary conditions?
- dislocation density?
- statics or dynamics?
- are results for dislocation shape and critical stress comparable with elasticity theory?
- is high strain rate unavoidable? - is it realistic?
- how good is simulation based on elasticity theory?
- what shape should be taken from MD or experiment for DD?
- incorporation of atomic-scale information from statics and/or dynamics into models based on elasticity theory?
- other areas: solutes, cracks

# Irradiation microstructure - effect on mechanical properties

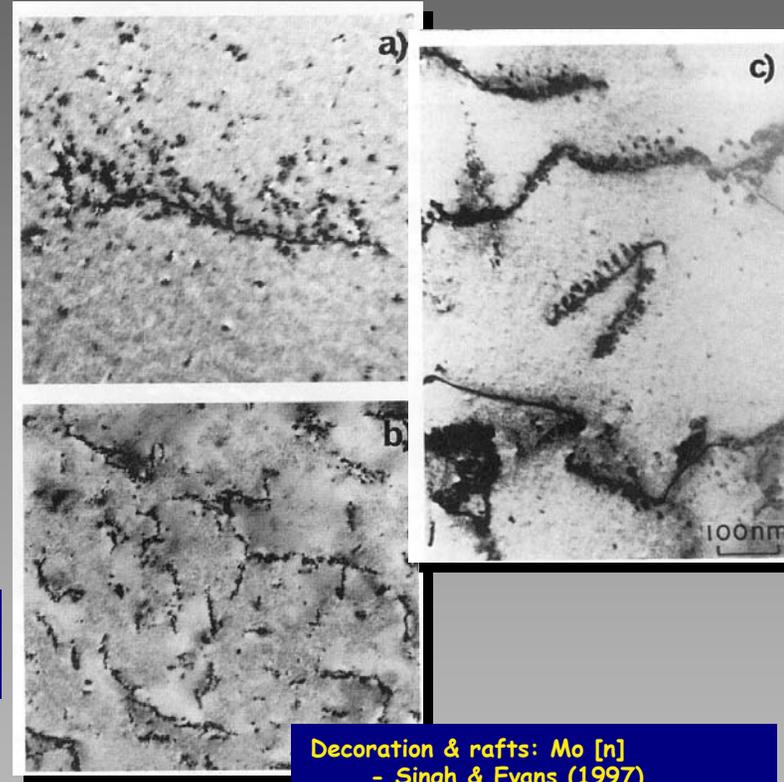
- dislocations under stress move through field of irradiation-induced obstacles - dislocation loops, SFTs, point defect clusters, voids, precipitates, etc.



Channelling: Pd [p<sup>-</sup>; 0.12dpa]  
- Victoria et al. (2000)



(a) Single xtal Cu [p<sup>-</sup>]  
(b) Polycrystal Fe [n]  
- Victoria et al. (2000)



Decoration & rafts: Mo [n]  
- Singh & Evans (1997)  
- Yamakawa & Shimomura (1998)

Issue: how to model strengthening effects, yield phenomena, defect absorption, defect motion, etc.?

- Multiscale modelling approach is necessary
  - continuum scale for strength, stress-strain characteristics, obstacle statistics effects, etc.
  - atomic scale for dislocation-obstacle interaction mechanisms, strength parameters, etc. (not obvious *a priori*)
  - nano- → micro- → meso-mechanics

- continuum scale for strength, stress-strain characteristics, obstacle statistics effects, etc.

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Journal of Nuclear Materials 276 (2000) 154–165

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**journal of nuclear materials**

3D dislocation dynamics: stress–strain behavior and hardening mechanisms in fcc and bcc metals

Hussein M. Zbib<sup>a,\*</sup>, Tomas Díaz de la Rubia<sup>b</sup>, Moono Rhee<sup>b</sup>, John P. Hirth<sup>a</sup>

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Journal of Nuclear Materials 323 (2003) 290–303

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**journal of nuclear materials**

On dislocation–defect interactions and patterning: stochastic discrete dislocation dynamics (SDD)

M. Hiratani<sup>a</sup>, H.M. Zbib<sup>b,\*</sup>

 Pergamon

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

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Acta Materialia 51 (2003) 5499–5518

[www.actamat-journals.com](http://www.actamat-journals.com)

**Acta MATERIALIA**

A level set method for dislocation dynamics

Yang Xiang<sup>a,\*</sup>, Li-Tien Cheng<sup>b</sup>, David J. Srolovitz<sup>c</sup>, Weinan E<sup>d</sup>

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS PUBLISHING

MODELLING AND SIMULATION IN MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Modelling Simul. Mater. Sci. Eng. 11 (2003) R33–R68

PII: S0965-0393(03)21576-X

TOPICAL REVIEW

**Atomistic/continuum coupling in computational materials science**

W A Curtin<sup>1</sup> and Ronald E Miller<sup>2</sup>

PHILOSOPHICAL MAGAZINE, 1 Nov–1 Dec 2003

VOL. 83, Nos. 31–34, 3475–3528

 Taylor & Francis  
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**Multiscale modelling of nanomechanics and micromechanics: an overview**

NASR M. GHONIEM†

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90095-1597, USA

ESTEBAN P. BUSSO

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College, London, UK

NICHOLAS KIOUSSIS

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HANCHEN HUANG

Department of Mechanical, Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York 12180-3590, USA

PHILOSOPHICAL MAGAZINE, 2003, VOL. 83, No. 5, 539–567

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**Periodic image effects in dislocation modelling**

WEI CAI†‡§, VASILY V. BULATOB†, JINPENG CHANG‡, JU LI†, and SIDNEY YIP†

- atomic scale for dislocation-obstacle interaction mechanisms, strength parameters, etc. (not obvious *a priori*)

VOLUME 82, NUMBER 16

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

19 APRIL 1999

**Dislocation Pinning by Small Interstitial Loops: A Molecular Dynamics Study**

D. Rodney and G. Martin

PHYSICAL REVIEW B

VOLUME 61, NUMBER 13

1 APRIL 2000-I

**Dislocation pinning by glissile interstitial loops in a nickel crystal: A molecular-dynamics study**

D. Rodney and G. Martin

PHILOSOPHICAL MAGAZINE, 1 Nov–1 Dec 2003  
VOL. 83, Nos. 31–34, 3623–3641



**Atomic modelling of strengthening mechanisms due to voids and copper precipitates in  $\alpha$ -iron**

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Acta Materialia 51 (2003) 5711–5742



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**Atomistic modeling of mechanical behavior<sup>☆</sup>**

Ju Li <sup>a,\*</sup>, Alfonso H.W. Ngan <sup>b</sup>, Peter Gumbsch <sup>c,d</sup>

**Atomistic Simulations of Dislocations and Defects**

Preprint  
UCRL-JC-152885

John A. Moriarty, Vaclav Vitek, Vasily V. Bulatov and  
Sidney Yip

This article has been submitted to the Journal of Computer-Aided  
Materials Design

**April 28, 2003**

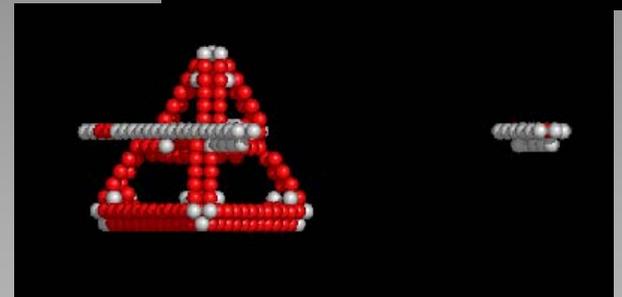
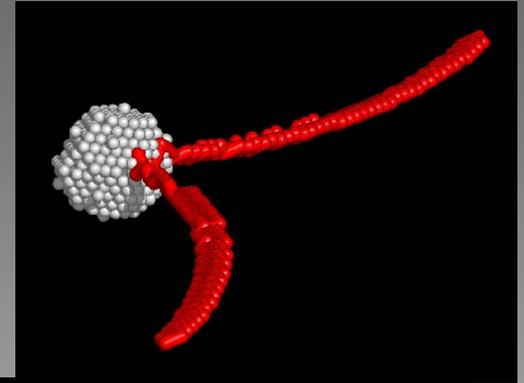
# Atomic-scale

- Requirements

- long-distance motion of dislocation
- extraction of stress/strain and stress/strain-rate characteristics
- $T = 0K$  and  $T > 0K$
- atomic structure of obstacle and dislocation after interaction

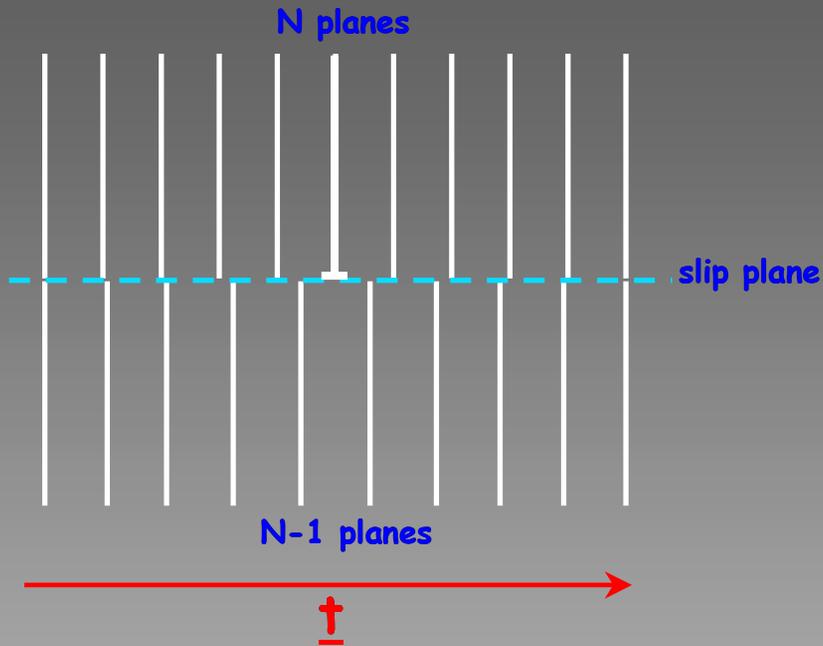
Issue: models able to give quantitative information?

- ~1-10M atoms
- simple, short-range potentials

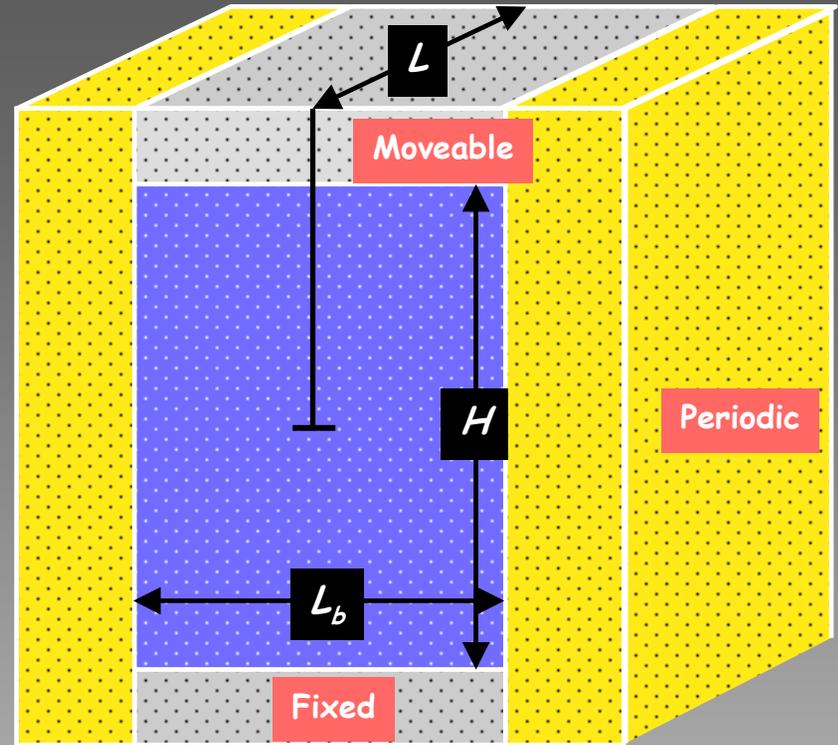


Issue: models able to describe candidate materials?

# Model - edge dislocation:



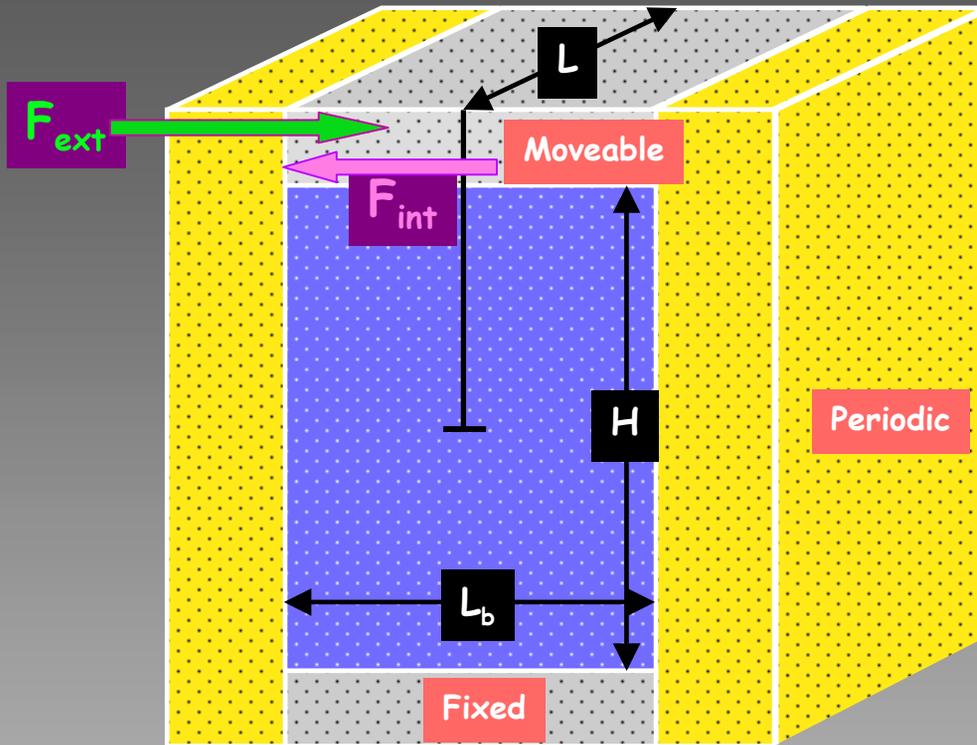
translation vector of two half crystals  
= translation vector of MD cell



MD cell  
(periodic boundaries along line  
and glide direction)

$$\sigma_{\text{appl}} = F_{\text{ext}} / (L_b L)$$

$$\sigma_{\text{gen}} = F_{\text{int}} / (L_b L)$$



Issue: dislocation density?

e.g.  $L_b = 120b$   
 $H = 80b$   
 $L = 120b$

$$\rho_D = 1 / (L_b \times H)$$
$$\sim 1 / (10^4 b^2)$$
$$\sim 1.6 \times 10^{15} \text{ m}^{-2}$$

$$N_{\text{atoms}} \sim 1.5M$$

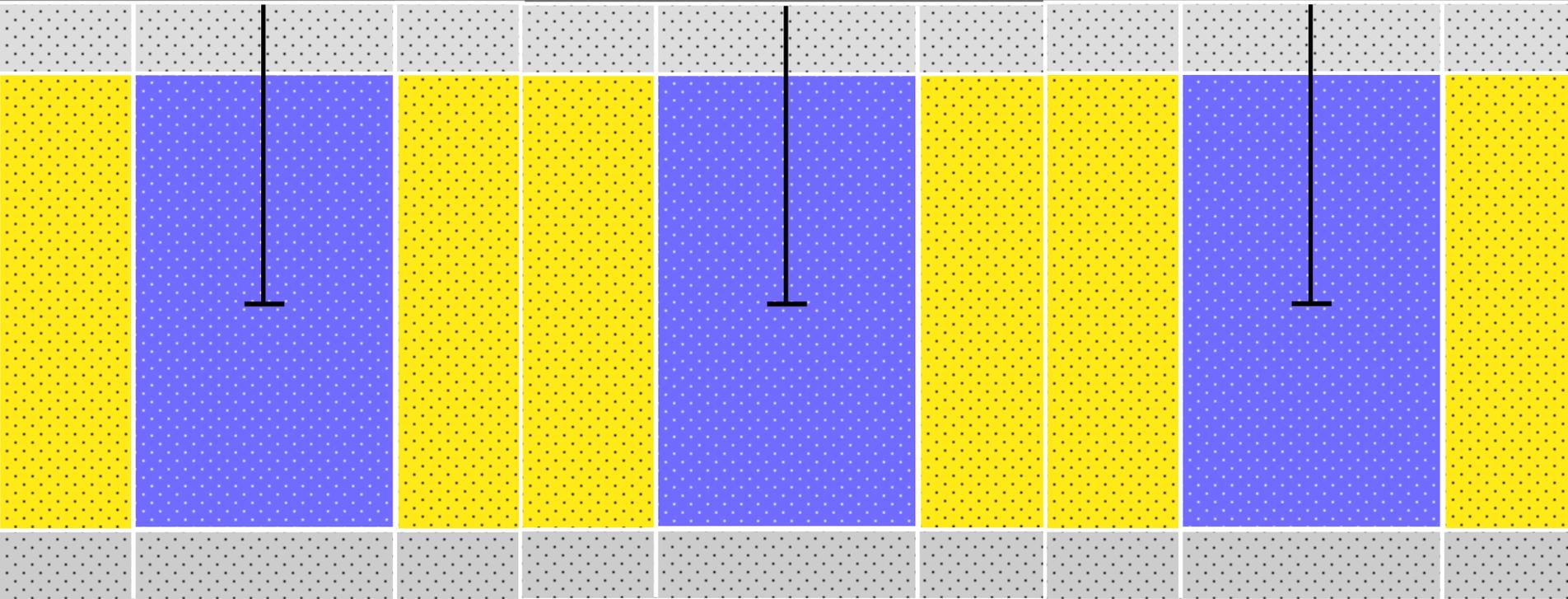
Issue: statics or dynamics?

- $T=0K$  (statics) simulations - apply shear strain
- $T>0K$  (dynamics) simulations - apply shear stress or strain rate

# Issue: periodic boundary conditions?

←  $L_b$  →

Dislocation fields overlap      Dislocation fields overlap

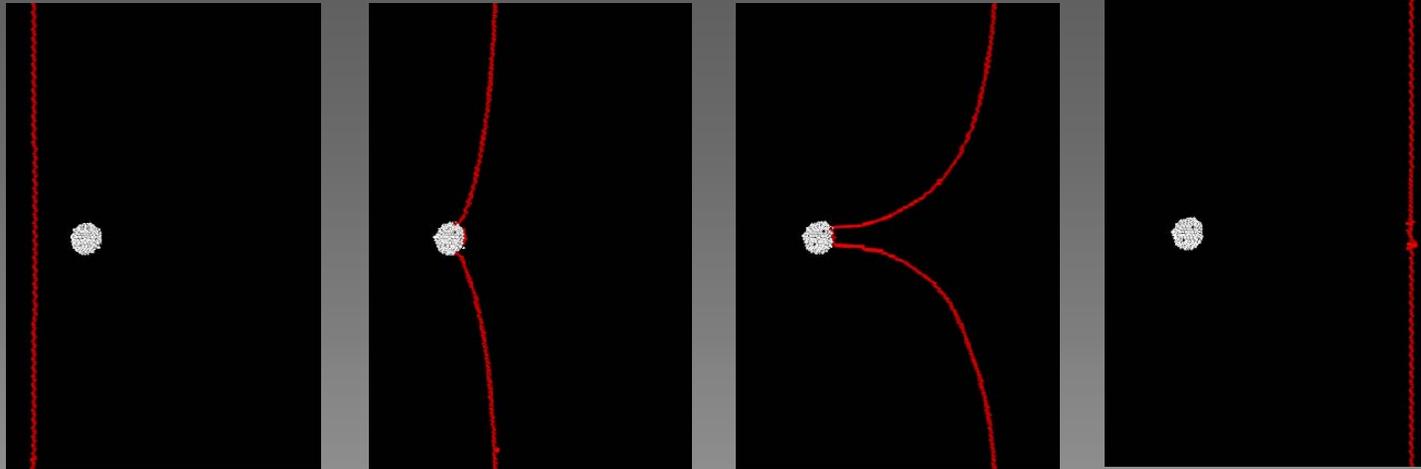


←  $\sim 0.4L_b$  →

'true' region  
⇒ good match to infinite-body stress field

# Static simulation ( $T = 0K$ )

Ex. edge dislocation  $\Rightarrow$  row of voids in  $\alpha$ -Fe at  $T = 0K$

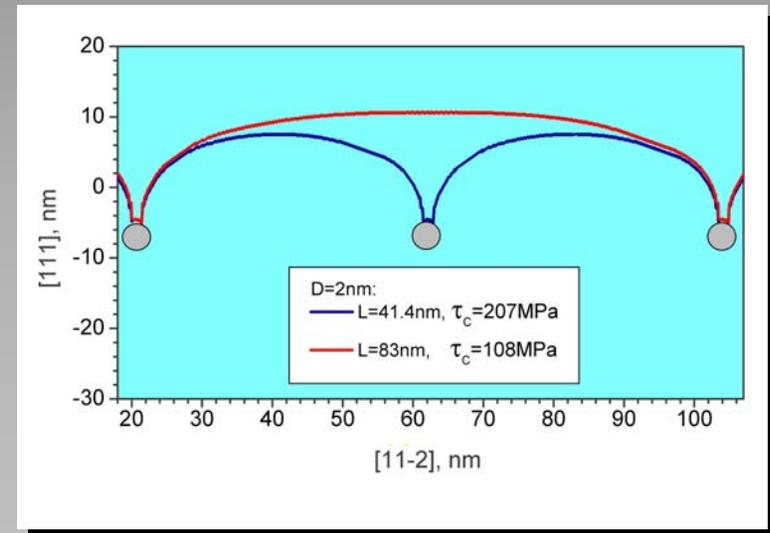
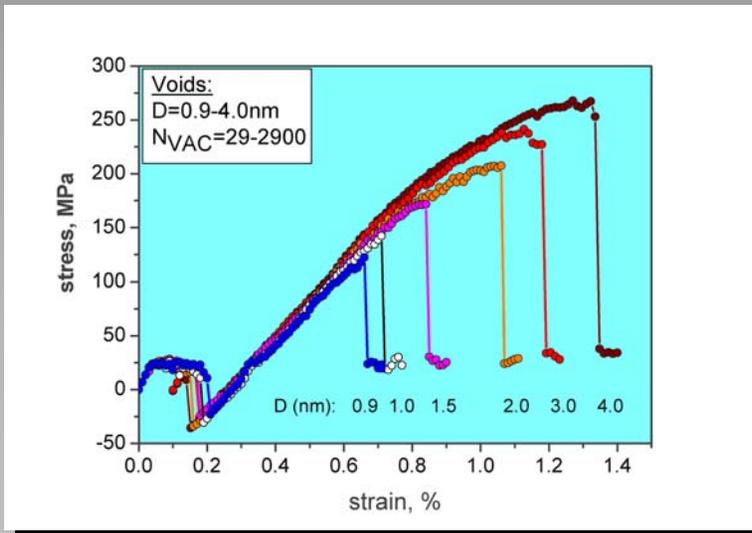


 2nm (339v) void in Fe  
L=42nm, T=0K. C1 xtal

increasing strain  $\longrightarrow$

void size  $D$

void spacing  $L$

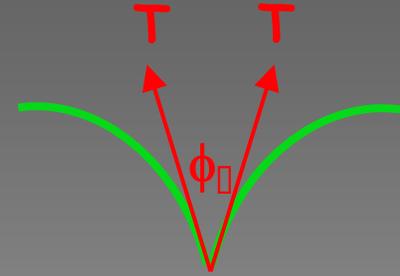


Issue: are results for dislocation shape and critical stress comparable with elasticity theory?

### Line Tension

$T = Gb^2/2$  - approximation

$\cos\phi_c$  characterises obstacle strength

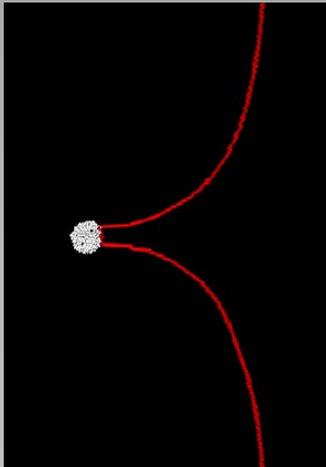


$$\tau_c bL = 2T \cos(\phi_c/2) \quad (\text{for strong obstacles})$$

$$\therefore \tau_c = \alpha Gb/L \quad (\text{or } \tau = \tilde{\alpha} Gb/L)$$

$$\alpha = \cos(\phi_c/2)$$

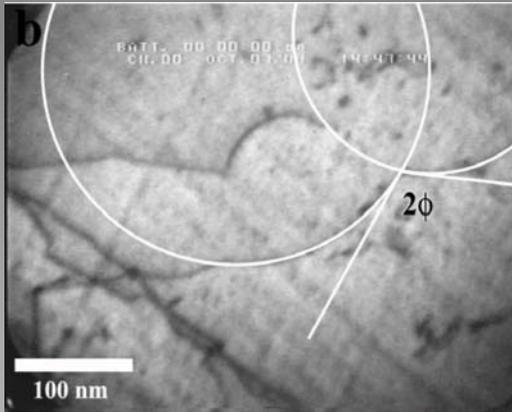
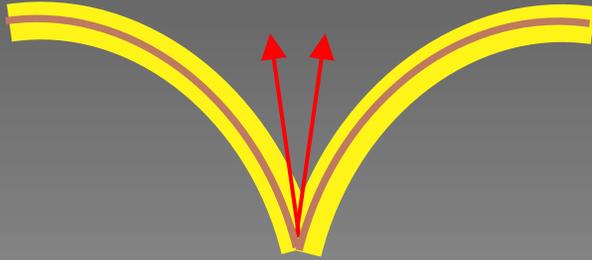
$\phi_c$  (line tension) should not be equated to  $\phi_c$  (atomic modelling)



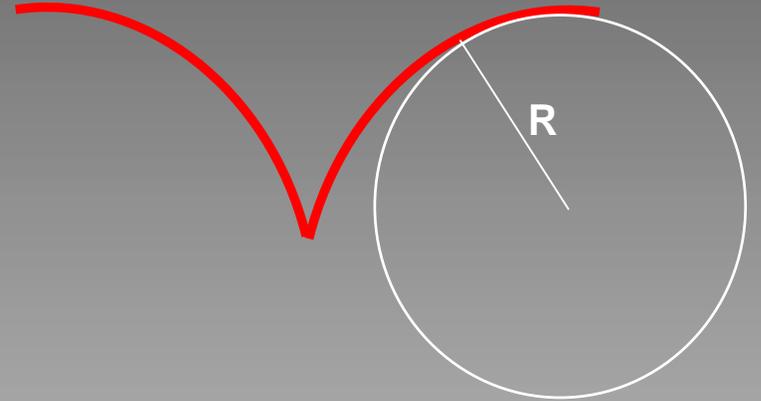
# Issue: what shape should be taken from MD or experiment for DD?

- TEM

resolution?



Angle?



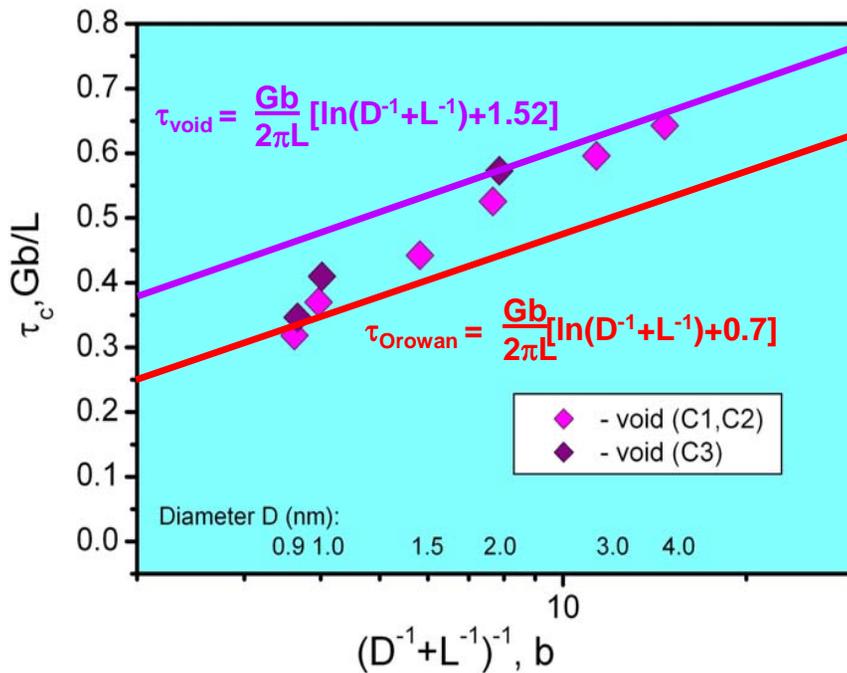
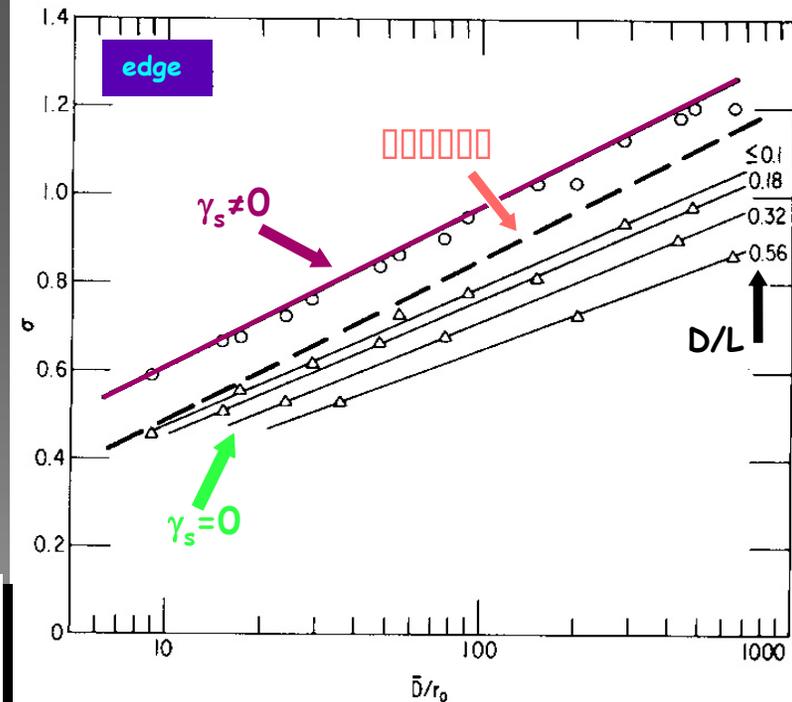
$\tau = T/bR$  in line tension, but what is  $T$ ? ( $\ln(R/r_0)$  and  $r_0$  unknown)



- data fits

$$\tau_{\square} = (\mu b / 2\pi L) [\ln(D^*) + B]$$

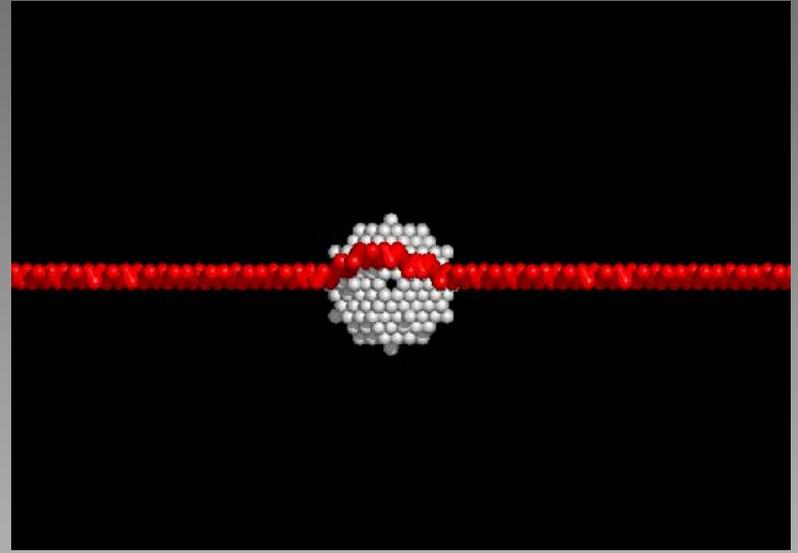
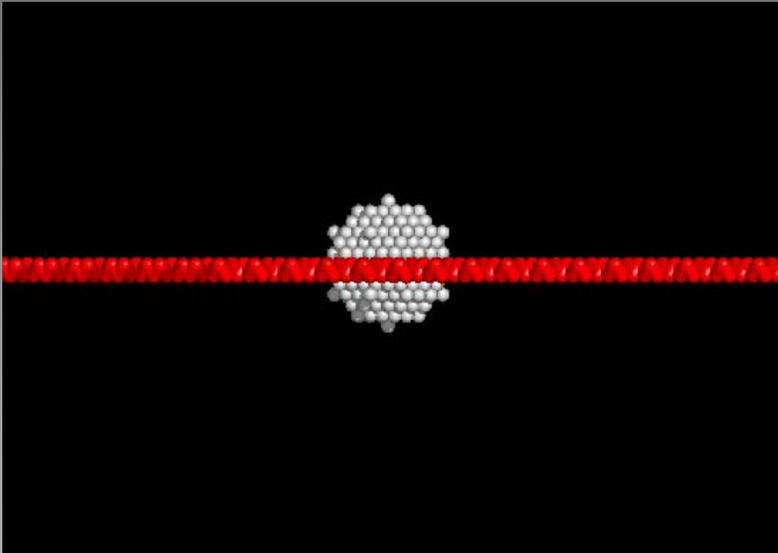
$$\text{where } D^* = (1/D + 1/L)^{-1} \approx D$$



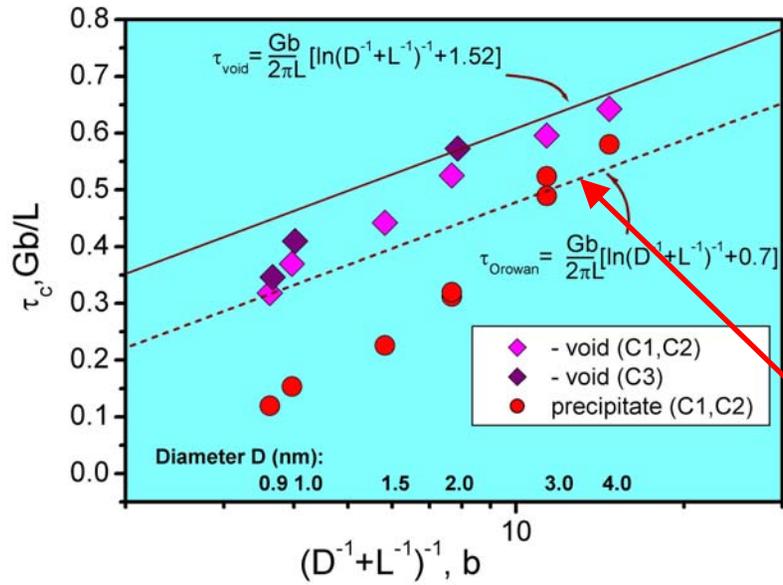
- the atomic simulation stress values are similar
- so are the line shapes

Issue: incorporation of atomic-scale mechanisms into models based on elasticity theory?

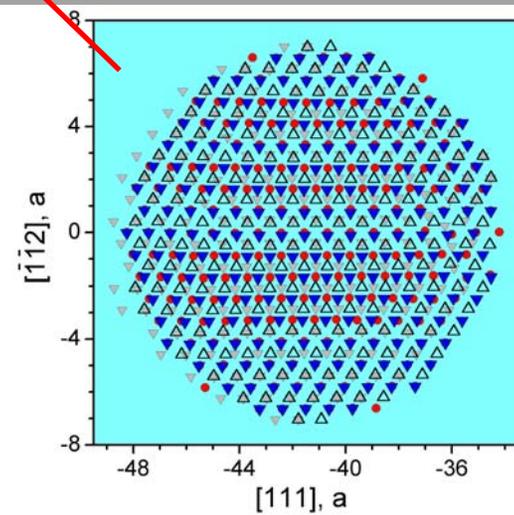
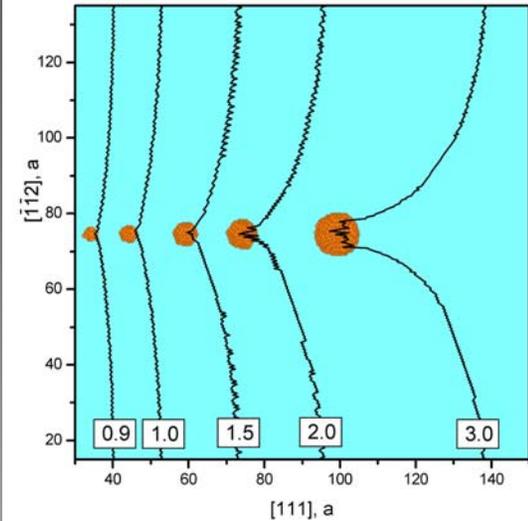
Ex 1 - Dislocation climb due to vacancy absorption from voids



# Ex 2 - Dislocation-induced transformation of Cu precipitates in Fe



critical shape:  
Cu precipitates



# Dynamics simulation ( $T > 0K$ )

- dislocation dynamics at the atomic scale
- motion under constant applied strain-rate ( $10^6$ - $10^8s^{-1}$ )

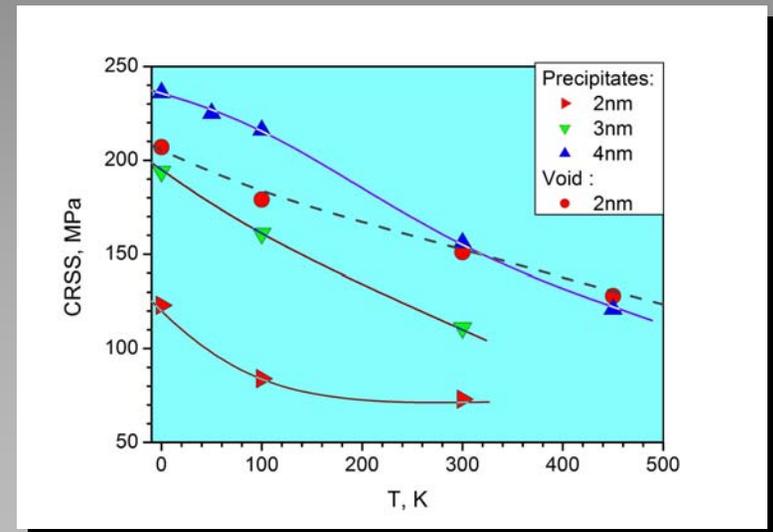
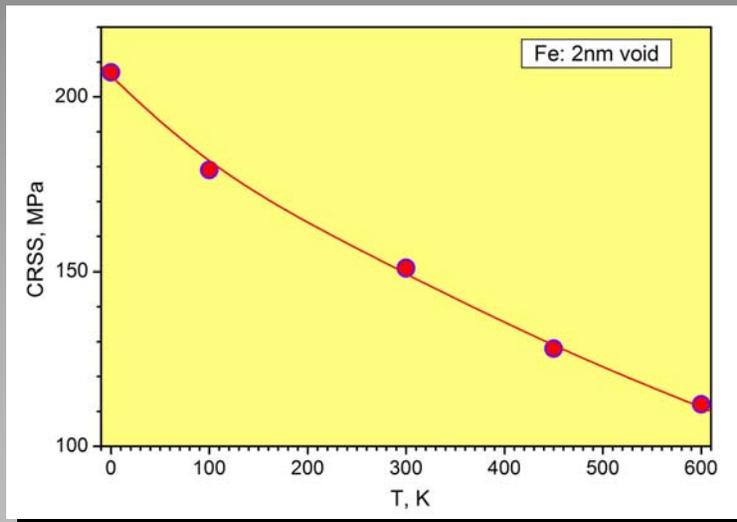
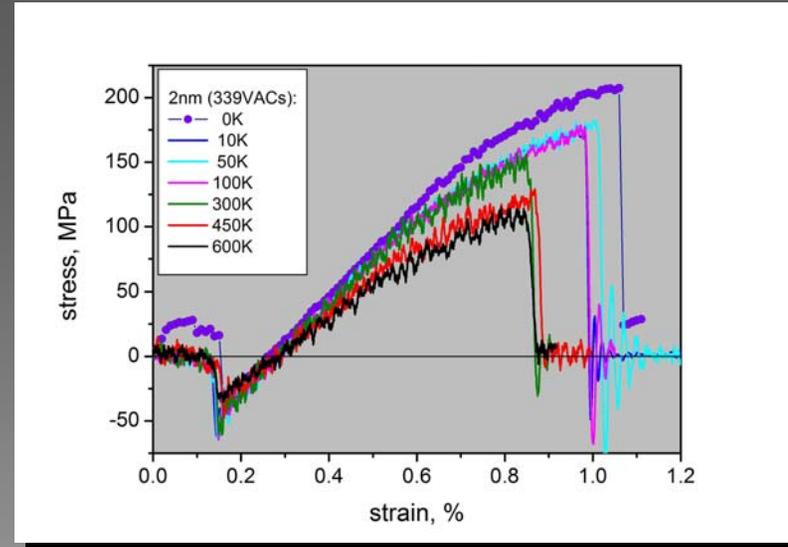
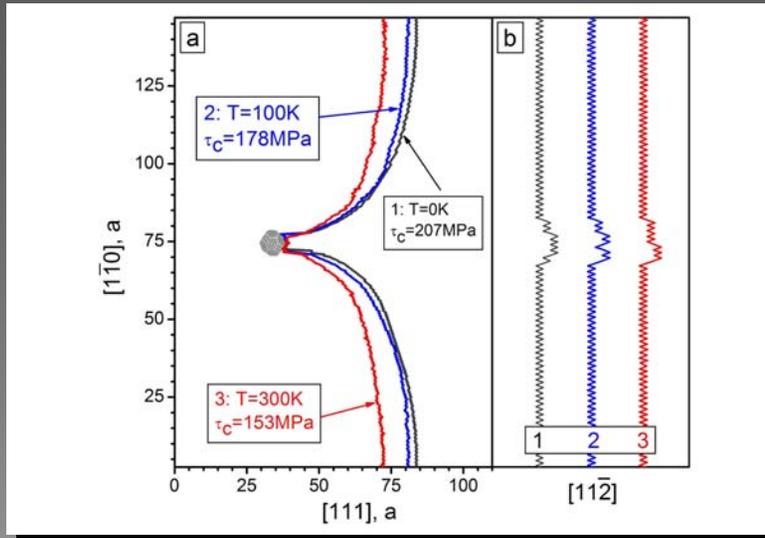
e.g.

$$SR = 5 \times 10^6 s^{-1}, L_b = 120b, \rho_D = 1.6 \times 10^{15} m^{-2};$$
$$v = 12ms^{-1}, \tau = 2.4ns$$

If  $\Delta t = 2fs$ ,  $N_{atom} = 1.5M$ , computational speed =  $10^{-5}s/atom/\Delta t$ :  
time = 170 days

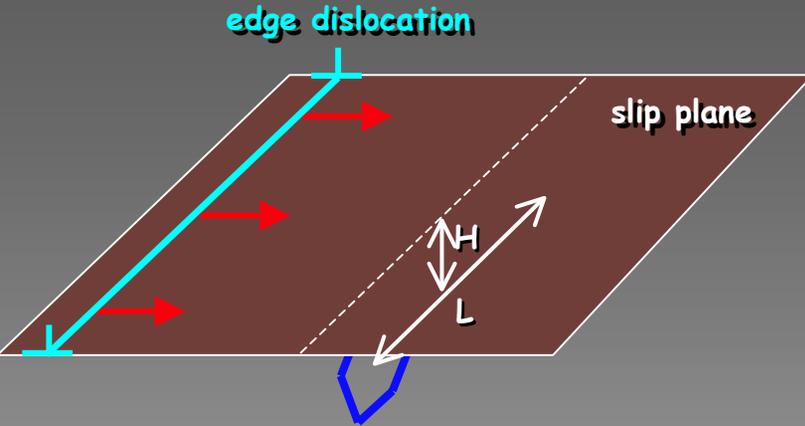
Issue: is high strain rate unavoidable? - is it realistic?

# Ex 1. 2nm voids in Fe - strain rate $5 \times 10^6 \text{s}^{-1}$

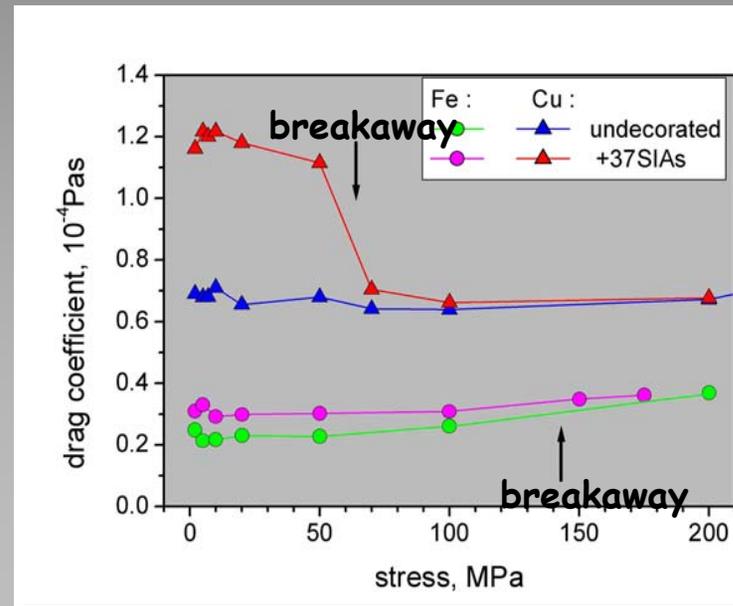
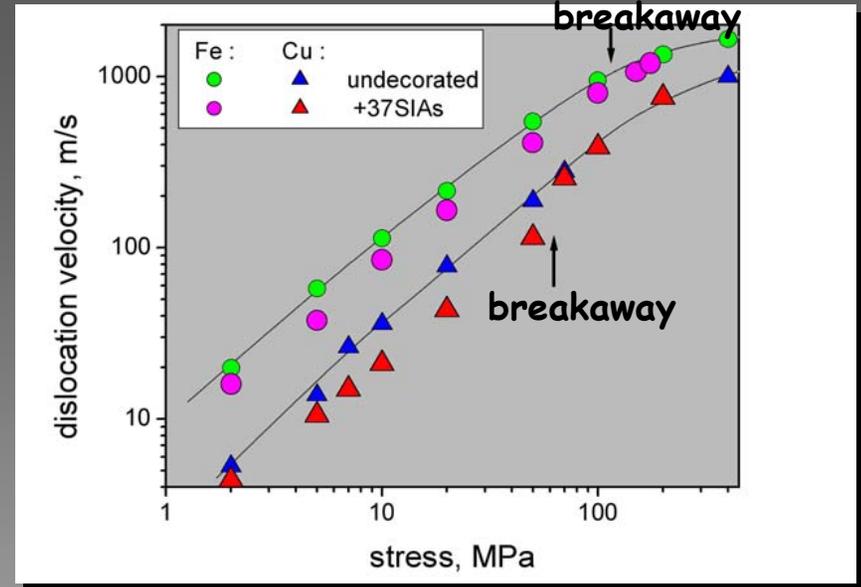


- mechanisms of T-dependence?

# Ex 2. Interaction of dislocation with row of glissile interstitial loops - constant applied stress



edge+loop drag glide\_1  
Fe 100MPa, 300K



- drag coefficient  $\tau b = (B_{disl} + B_{loop})v$ :  
- drag due to moveable pinning points spacing  $L$ , mobility  $m$ :

$$B_{loop} = \frac{1}{mL} \quad \text{where} \quad m = \frac{D}{kT}$$

and for loops:

$$D = f \frac{1}{2} b^2 v_0$$

Issue: incorporation of atomic-scale mechanisms from dynamics into models based on elasticity theory?

General Issue: incorporation of information from atomic-scale simulations into models based on elasticity theory?

- obstacle forces
- dislocation dynamics
- obstacle dynamics

Other areas:

- effects of solutes
- dislocations near cracks

## Issues:

- how to model strengthening effects, yield phenomena, obstacle absorption, defect motion, etc.?
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- other areas: solutes, cracks