Simulating Heat Flux and Bubble Nucleation using Molecular Dynamics

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By

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EPSRC Pioneering research and skills

Molecular Dynamics

Discrete molecules in continuous space

- Molecular position evolves continuously in time
- Position and velocity from acceleration

$$egin{aligned} \dot{m{r}}_i &
ightarrow \dot{m{r}}_i \ \dot{m{r}}_i &
ightarrow m{r}_i(t) \end{aligned}$$



Acceleration obtained from forces

- Governed by Newton's law for an N-body system
- Point particles with pairwise interactions only

$$m_i \ddot{\boldsymbol{r}}_i = \mathbf{F}_i = \sum_{i \neq j}^N \boldsymbol{f}_{ij} \qquad \Phi(r_{ij}) = 4\epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\ell}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\ell}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]$$

Molecular Dynamics



Pressure and viscosity from an MD Simulation

- Pressure includes kinetic and structural (configurational) component
 - Average over a control volume

$$\oint_{S} \mathbf{\Pi} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\langle \frac{\boldsymbol{p}_{i} \boldsymbol{p}_{i}}{m_{i}} \cdot d\mathbf{S}_{i} \right\rangle}_{\text{Kinetic}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} \left\langle \boldsymbol{f}_{ij} \mathbf{n} \cdot d\mathbf{S}_{ij} \right\rangle}_{\text{Configurational}}$$

• Autocorrelation of the shear pressure is the viscosity

Kinetic theory part Momentum due to average of molecules crossing a plane and returning







Configurational part Inter-molecular bonds act like the stress in a stretched spring

Viscosity, Surface Tension and Heat Flux

• Outputs of the simulation, shown here for liquid Argon



Phase Diagram



Surfaces



Nucleation at the molecular level



Low Heating Twall=1.0 (Tc = 1.3)



Medium Heating Twall=1.1 (Tc = 1.3)



High Heating Twall=1.3 (Tc = 1.3)



Pool Boiling Curve



No nucleation and convection

Coupled Simulation





CFD

MD

mpiexec -n 32./md.exe : -n 16 ./cfd.exe



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Coupled Simulation



CFD Region

Overlap Region

CFD→**MD** Boundary condition

MD→**CFD** Boundary condition

MD Region

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Coupled Simulation

CFD

Region

Overlap

Region



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Energy minimisation constraint

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{r}_{ij}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[\boldsymbol{F}_{i} - \boldsymbol{r}_{ij} \right]^{2} - \boldsymbol{\lambda} \cdot \boldsymbol{g} = 0$$

 $\textbf{CFD} {\rightarrow} \textbf{MD} \text{ Boundary condition}$

$\textbf{MD} {\rightarrow} \textbf{CFD} \text{ Boundary condition}$

Coupled Simulation





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Coupled Simulation of Boiling



Summary and Outlook

- Molecular Dynamics (MD) can model the nucleation events on rough surfaces
- MD is limited to very small systems
- Coupled simulation extends the spatial and temporal scale accessible with MD
- MD could provide a-priori estimates of nucleation and insight into the dynamics of a nascent bubble