COMMENTARY

Glass transition imminent, resistance is futile

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The immense variety of glassy materials around us makes it is easy to get caught up in excessive detail when thinking about the structural glass transition. For decades, there have been only a few attempts to describe covalently bonded, molecular, and metallic glasses on the same footing, so different do the molecular motions seem in these various classes of substances. The article by Angelini and Biroli (1) is a noteworthy attempt to use the renormalization group (RG) philosophy to uncover similarities between seemingly distinct glass-forming systems, thus spotlighting universal aspects of the structural glass transition.

The idea of renormalization goes back at least as far as the 19th century, in the context of the phenomenological theory of dielectric media. Electrostatic interactions between charges in condensed



Fig. 1. Equation of state for a liquid that fails to crystallize, at constant temperature T (main graph) and pressure p (*Inset*); ρ stands for density and V for volume. In a typical protocol, the liquid is cooled or compressed until the translational degrees of freedom become largely arrested within an individual free energy.

PNAS, 20 mars 2017

CrossMark ← click for updates Bertrand has generated sets of (x,y,z) positions for various times at various given thermodynamic conditions (N,V,T,P). Matthieu attempts now to use the trajectories !

Numerical simulations and Rigidity of glasses – I

Matthieu Micoulaut (UPMC)

- What can we obtain from MD trajectories ? Structure Dynamics









Structure Thermodynamique Dynamique Vibration

Historically...

Compution of the radial distribution function of vitreous SiO₂ from a ball and stick model







Figure 4 (online colour at: www.pss-b.com) A comparison of the relaxed [9] Bell and Dean [4] model (1980) for vitreous silica (red histogram) with X-ray data (blue curve). The histogram does not include thermal broadening, nor the experimental broadening in real space, whilst the X-ray data of Mozzi and Warren [6] have been Fourier transformed to simulate the earlier (1936) Radial Distribution Function of Warren et al. [10].

A) PAIR CORRELATIONS

□ Radial distribution function :

$$g(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{N\rho} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k\neq i}^{N} \langle \delta(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_{k} - \mathbf{r}_{i}) \rangle$$



□ Pair correlation function:

$$g(r) = \frac{1}{4\pi r^2} \frac{1}{N\rho} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{k\neq i}^{N} \langle \delta(\boldsymbol{r} - |\boldsymbol{r}_k - \boldsymbol{r}_i|) \rangle$$

<u>Alternative definitions :</u>

Total distribution function: $T(r) = 4\pi \rho r g(r)$

□ Differential distribution function $D(r) = 4\pi \rho r[g(r) - 1]$

Pair distribution function : examples

Visual inspection allows to distinguish between a crystalline and an amorphous structure



Effect of thermodynamic variables : temperature



FIG. 3. Pair correlation function of Se at three different temperatures: 6 K (solid line), 290 K (dotted line), 550 K (long dashed line). The inset shows the mean coordination numbers for the same temperatures.

Caprion, Schober, PRB 2000

The integral of g(r) allows to determine the number of neighbors around a central atom. Remember

$$\int_{r=0}^{\infty} \rho g(r) \cdot 4\pi r^2 dr = N - 1$$

The integral to the first minimum gives the coordination number.

$$CN = \int_0^{r_m} \varrho g(r) 4\pi r^2 dr$$

Running coordination number N(r)

$$N(r) = \int_0^r \varrho g(r') 4\pi r'^2 dr'$$



Effect of thermodynamic variables : pressure

Expt. (neutron) Salmon, JPCM 2011 MD: 256 GeO₂ using Oeffner-Elliot FF

- Direct comparison with experiments possible but can sometimes fail
- Simple force fields can not account for pressure-induced changes (metallization)
- Additional structural insight is provided by partial correlation functions : Ge-Ge, Ge-O,



Micoulaut, JPCM 2004

Effect of composition: extending to multicomponent systems

This is case for most glasses and materials **SiO₂, GeSe₂, SiO₂-Na₂O,...**



D. Marrocchelli et al., 2010





Pair distribution function in multicomponent systems...failures



•Need to use First Principles Molecular Dynamics

- Classical force field fail to describe the structure
- Charge transfer (covalent bonding)
- Homopolar defects



First Principles Molecular Dynamics simulations of chalcogenides



Classical MD

Ab initio MD



Solve the Schroedinger equation for a system of N atoms Simplified with the DFT scheme (one electron density)

□ No force field necessary. Heavy computational cost

- □ Small systems (100s of atoms, 10⁶ in Classical MD)
- □ Small simulation time (100ps, 100 ns for classical MD)

□Most approximation encoded in the exchange-correlation functional



Presence of homopolar defects !!

B) STATIC STRUCTURE FACTOR

Also,

For a simple liquid, the static structure factor is given by :

$$S(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{N} \langle \rho_{\mathbf{k}} \rho_{-\mathbf{k}} \rangle$$

where ρ_k is the Fourier transform of the microscopic density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$. In molecular simulations, a convenient way of calculating is:

$$\begin{split} S(\mathbf{k}) &= \frac{1}{N} \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \exp(-i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}_{i}) \exp(i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}_{j}) \right\rangle. \\ S(\mathbf{k}) &= 1 + \frac{\rho^{2}}{N} \int \int \exp(-i\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')) g(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' \\ g(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') \text{ depends only on } |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|, \text{ i.e.:} \quad S(\mathbf{k}) &= 1 + \rho \int \exp(-i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}) g(r) d\mathbf{r}. \end{split}$$

Or (isotropic fluid, everything depends only on k=|k|):

$$S(k) = 1 + 4\pi\rho \int_0^\infty r^2 g(r) \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} dr.$$

An alternative calculation of the structure factor S(k) is achieved via a Fourier transform of the pair distribution function g(r).

In a cubic box of finite size L with PBC with periodic boundary conditions (PBCs)

- \Box wavevector increment is $\delta k = 2\pi/L$
- PBCs impose a constraint L on the maximum possible period.
- Any period larger than L (any wavevector smaller than k) is unphysical.
- □ For glasses, uniformity hypothesis
- Both methods agree for liquids and glasses
- FT breaks down for the low k limit (long wavenumber lamellar phase)
- □ For crystals, the FT of g(r) only capture some peak locations of S(k).
- Peak locations that correspond only partially to those determined from crystallography (blue vertical lines)



Zhang, arXiv:1606.03610v2 (2016)

Direct comparison with experiments : neutron or X-ray diffraction



Kob et al. 1999

Equal to the computed structur efactor.

Calculating a structure factor S(k) from a MD simulation : 2 options

1. Calculate the pair correlation function g(r) from the MD trajectory, then use :

$$S(k) = 1 + 4\pi\rho \int_0^\infty r^2 g(r) \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} dr.$$

2. Calculate directly S(k) from the trajectory using:

$$S(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{N} \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \exp(-i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}_{i}) \exp(i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}_{j}) \right\rangle$$

Differences between both methods can arise, and one is limited to r<L/2, i.e. $k<\pi/L$

Effects of the components of the wavevector



Structure factor in multicomponent systems SiO₂, GeSe₂, SiO₂-Na₂O,...

Consider a system with n components having N_1 , N_2 , ... N_n particles. We can write Faber-Ziman partial structure factors:

$$S_{\alpha\beta}(\boldsymbol{k}) = \frac{(1+\delta_{\alpha\beta})}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \sum_{k\neq i}^{N_{\beta}} \langle \exp[-\boldsymbol{k}.(\boldsymbol{r}_{i}-\boldsymbol{r}_{k})] \rangle$$

out of which can be computed a total structure factor:

D Neutron weighted:
$$S_N(k) = \frac{\sum_{i,j} c_i c_j b_i b_j S_{ij}(k)}{\sum_{i,j} c_i c_j b_i b_j}$$

with b_i the neutron scattering cross section , c_i the concentration of the species b_i = (tabulated, depends on the isotope)

□ X-ray weighted:

$$S_N(k) = \frac{\sum_{i,j} c_i c_j f_i(k) f_j(k) S_{ij}(k)}{\sum_{i,j} c_i c_j f_i(k) f_j(k)}$$

With $f_i(k)$ the X-ray form factor (elastic or inelastic XRD)



Micoulaut et al., PRB 2009

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Detailed structural analysis from MD

Neighbor distribution

Remember
$$CN = \int_0^{r_m} \varrho g(r) 4\pi r^2 dr$$

First minimum of g(r) can be used to define the coordination number.

But this is an average.

• Details are provided from the statistical analysis of each atom.

- Allows to characterize the nature of the neighborhood
- Can be extended to partial CN

$$CN_{ij} = \int_0^{r_m} \varrho g_{ij}(r) 4\pi r^2 dr$$





Raty et al. Solid State Sciences 2010

Examples-2: Statistics of neighbors with homopolar bonds

TABLE III. Nearest-neighbor analysis of g-GGT at 300 K (DF-MD simulations): percentage of the atoms of the element with given configuration (with weights greater than 1%).

Ga ₁₁ Ge ₁₁ Te ₇₈		1	2	3	4	5
11 11 78	Ga			<1	99	
					Te ₄ : 69.7	
					GaTe ₃ : 16.1	
					GeTe ₃ : 13.3	
	Ge		<1	24	72	4
				Te ₃ : 23.3	Te ₄ : 54.5	Te ₅ : 3.3
					GaTe ₃ : 10.5	
					GeTe ₃ : 5.0	
					GaGeTe ₂ : 1.7	
	Te	<1	51	43	6	<1
			Te ₂ : 16.0	GaTe ₂ : 9.7	Te ₄ : 1.6	
			GeTe: 12.6	Te ₃ : 9.3	GeTe ₃ : 1.2	
			GaTe: 12.3	GeTe ₂ : 9.0	GaGeTe ₂ : 1.1	
			GaGe: 6.6	GaGeTe ₂ : 6.4		
			Ge ₂ : 1.9	Ga ₂ Te: 2.7		
			Ga ₂ : 1.3	GaGe ₂ : 2.2		
				GeTe ₂ : 1.8	Voleska et al., PRB 20	
				GaGe ₂ : 1.0		

Detailed structural analysis from MD



- Depending on the system, provides information about the local geometry (tetrahedral, octahedral,...).
- Directional bonding vs non-directional



Cormack and Du, JNCS 2001

Detailed structural analysis from MD

□ Ring statistics: serve to characterize the intermediate range order

- Simulated positions can serve to define nodes and links.
 - When connected sequentially without overlap, one has a path.
 - A ring is therefore simply a closed path.

Each of these rings is characterized by its size and can be classified.



S. Le Roux, P. Jund, Comp. Mater. Sci. 2010

http://rings-code.sourceforge.net/

C) MEAN SQUARE DISPLACEMENT AND DIFFUSION

The mean square displacement is defined as

- performed in NVE or NVT.

$$\langle r^2(t)\rangle = \frac{1}{N_{\alpha}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\alpha}} \langle |r_i(t) - r_i(0)|^2 \rangle,$$

- do not use periodic boundary conditions







A-B Lennard-Jones liquid

More insight into the msd...





Usually, a gentle Arrhenius behavior : $D=exp[-E_A/k_BT]$





• Species dependent. Na diffuses faster than Si or O in silicates

Curvature linked with EOS

Agreement on structure does not reflect the quality of the potential. Dynamics !

Tentative connection with viscosity

 $Ge_{20}Se_{80}$ and $Ge_{33}Se_{66}$



Calculating viscosity using Stokes-Einstein :

Clear decoupling between MD and experimental ranges

 $\frac{k_B T}{6\pi R D}$

Behavior of the diffusion constant with other thermodynamic variables

- Dependence on V or P.
- Usually at fixed V (e.g. V_g) and P non-zero





Errington et al. Nature 2001



D) VAN HOVE CORRELATION FUNCTION

We first introduce a density correlation function $G(\mathbf{r},\mathbf{r'},t)$ defined from the local atomic densities for a homogeneous system :

$$G(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{1}{N} \langle \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{i}(t) + \mathbf{r}_{j}(0)) \rangle$$

The Van Hove function is the probability density of finding a particle i in the vicinity of r at time t, knowing that a particle j is in the vicinity of the origin at time t=0.

We can split the function into two parts, self and distinct:

$$\begin{split} G_s(\mathbf{r},t) &= \frac{1}{N} \langle \sum_{i=1}^N \delta((\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_i(0) - \mathbf{r}_i(t))) \rangle & \text{Dirac at t=0} \\ G_d(\mathbf{r},t) &= \frac{1}{N} \langle \sum_{i\neq j}^N \delta(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_j(0) - \mathbf{r}_j(t)) \rangle & \text{g(r) at t=0} \end{split}$$

Physical interpretation:

□ The self part G_s(r,t) is the probability density of finding a particle i at time t knowing that this particle was at the origin at time 0. Probability that a particle has moved a distance r in time t (dynamics).

$$G_s(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{1}{N} \langle \sum_{i=1}^N \delta((\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_i(0) - \mathbf{r}_i(t)) \rangle$$

□ The distinct part $G_d(r,t)$ is the probability density of finding a particle j different from i at time t knowing that the particle I was at the origin at time t=0. Probability to find at time t a different particle at a distance r from a place at which at time t=0 there was a particle. And $G_d(r,0)=g(r)$.

$$G_d(\mathbf{r},t) = \frac{1}{N} \langle \sum_{i \neq j}^N \delta(\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{r}_i(0) - \mathbf{r}_j(t)) \rangle$$





FIG. 4. (Color online) Van Hove function $G_s(r,t)$ of the NS3 system at 2000 K and fixed time $t = t_0 = 20$ ps for various densities between 2.0 and 4.5 g/cm³. The red and blue curves correspond to 2.0 and 4.5 g/cm³, respectively. The insert shows the change in Si coordination number n_{Si} as a function of density for three selected temperatures.

Bauchy, PRB 2011

Small times: rattling and hopping motion on the length scale of nearest neighbors.
 Spatial extent of the motion is determined by thermodynamic conditions: T (viscous slowing down) or P (motion blocked by the high density).

E) INTERMEDIATE SCATTERING FUNCTION

Instead of considering correlations in space, one can perform a study in reciprocal space, i.e. in Fourier components.

The intermediate scattering function is defined as the Fourier transform of the Van Hove function:

$$F(\mathbf{k},t) = \int d\mathbf{k} G(\mathbf{r},t) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}}$$

out of which, can be defined a self and a distinct part:

$$F_s(\mathbf{k}, t) = \int d\mathbf{k} G_s(\mathbf{r}, t) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}}$$
$$F_d(\mathbf{k}, t) = \int d\mathbf{k} G_d(\mathbf{r}, t) e^{-i\mathbf{k}\mathbf{r}}$$

Instead of Fourier transform, these functions can be also directly computed from the atomic trajectories.

$$F_{s}(\boldsymbol{k},t) = \frac{1}{N} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{N} \exp[i\boldsymbol{k}.(\boldsymbol{r}_{j}(t) - \boldsymbol{r}_{j}(0)] \right\}$$

1. Self part (incoherent intermediate scattering function):

$$F_{s}(\boldsymbol{k},t) = \frac{1}{N} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{N} \exp[i\boldsymbol{k}.(\boldsymbol{r}_{j}(t) - \boldsymbol{r}_{j}(0)] \right\}$$

- \Box F_s(k,t) can be directly compared to experiments from inelastic neutron or X-ray scattering.
- □ $F_s(k,t)$ characterizes the mean relaxation time of the system (area under $F_s(k,t)$ can be used to define a relaxation time). Spatial fluctuations of $F_s(k,t)$ provides information on dynamic heterogeneities.
- □ Short times : balistic régime
- Intermediate times: cage motion (β relaxation)
- Long times: Particles leaving cages.
 Kohlrausch (stretched exponential)
 behavior.





Cage motion (β régime) extends to long times at low T

Horbach, Kob PRB 1999



Examples (chalcogenides, Ge-Se) :



- Glassy relaxation at low k extends to longer times
- **Δ** Kohlrausch fit at long times. Access to the relaxation time τ_{α} , β .



Slowing down of the dynamics: a more universal behavior...



MD simulation of hard spheres

Chaudhuri et al. AIP Conf. 2009

Experiments on bidimensional granular packing



FIG. 1 (color online). On the left: $F_s(k, t)$ as a function of time for different odd values of the wave vector k = 1, 3, ..., 29 from top to bottom (as indicated by the arrow and the increasing $k \nearrow$). The black lines are fits of the form $\exp[-(t/\tau(k))^{\beta(k)}]$. On the right: $\tau(k)$ (top) and $\beta(k)$ (bottom) as a function of k.

Dauchot et al. PRL 2006

F) LINEAR RESPONSE THEORY

Goal: Having MD generated trajectories at our disposal, we want to compute

 viscosity, electrical or thermal conductivity, mechanical properties, etc.
 Use of linear response theory

- General idea (Onsager): Disturbance in a system created by a weak external perturbation decays in the same way as a spontaneous fluctuation in equilibrium.
- □ Linear response theory : link between time correlation functions and response to weak perturbations (Green-Kubo's fluctuation-dissipation relations)

$$\sigma(t) = \frac{1}{Vk_BT} \int d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' \langle \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}, 0) \mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r}', t) \rangle$$

$$\eta = \frac{1}{Vk_BT} \int_0^\infty dt \langle \sigma_{xy}(0) \sigma_{xy}(t) \rangle$$

$$\eta = \frac{1}{Vk_BT} \int_0^\infty dt \langle \sigma_{xy}(0) \sigma_{xy}(t) \rangle$$



Example-1: Viscosity of a silicate liquid (NS2) and MORB under pressure

Fig. 3. Simulated viscosity of the NS2 liquid at zero pressure (filled red squares), compared to experimental data (red circles) from Bockris et al. (1955), together with simulated viscosity of the MORB liquid at zero pressure (filled black squares), compared to experimental data (broken black curve) from Villeneuve et al. (2008). The dotted line is a high temperature Arrhenius fit for the MORB data whereas the solid line is a TVF fit (see text for parameters).

Bauchy et al. Chem. Geol. 2013



Example-1: Viscosity of a silicate liquid (NS2) and MORB under pressure



Fig. 6. Simulated viscosity of a NS2 liquid at T = 2000 K (filled circles) and a MORB liquid at T = 2273 K (open circles) as a function of pressure. Red circles correspond to the simulated viscosity of three selected densified NS2 using the potential of Guillot and Sator (2007a).

Detecting anomalies (minima in viscosity)

□ Checking for empirical relationships

Eyring (1948): $\eta = k_B T / \lambda D$

With λ a jump distance (d₀₋₀~ a few A)

- Compute (MD) D and η
- Valid only at high viscosity



Beyond linear response theory - usefulness of MD



Energy landscapesSciortino et al. PRL 2002



□ Isoconfigurational Ensemble









Meyer et al. PRL 2004





Dynamic heterogeneities



Berthier et al. (Book 2017)

Conclusion:

- Dynamics of glass-forming systems can be followed with numerous tools using computer simulations.
- □ Insight into structure and link between structure and dynamics.
- □ Functions quantify the slowing down of the dynamics.

Final recommendation regarding structural properties



Uncarefully simulated liquid GeTe₄