Modèle de liaisons fortes au 4ème moment pour traiter l'ordre-désordre dans les alliages

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#### Context

#### Tight Binding, moment method, SMA, FMA

- Fourth Moment Appoximation (FMA) ? What is that ?

#### Bulk mixing properties

- trends in the mixing excess energy from calculations for a perfect lattice
- role of diagonal and off-diagonal disorder

#### Surface segregation properties

- some results from a lattice approach within a slab geometry

#### Parametrisation of the TBFMA potential

- limitations of a pure d-band description for the late TMs

#### Simulations based on a pure d-band TBFMA model

- illustration of the impact of the d-band filling on the segregation behaviour

Conclusions, perspectives



<u>Goal</u>: accurate determination of the phase behaviour of nano-clusters of

(late) transition metal (TM) alloys: how does it change w.r.t. bulk phase behaviour ?



What the critical temperature  $T_c$ ? How does it change w.r.t. the bulk value?

Transition metal alloys

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Exceptions: e.g. CoPt shows ordered phases experimentally

To determine the phase behaviour for 'nano'-cluster alloys we want to do <u>Semi-grand Canonical Monte Carlo simulations</u>, including two types of events: ----> atomic displacements for geometrical relaxation and equilibration ----> change of chemical identity of a particle for given chemical potential

very time consuming simulations !!

Wanted:

$$E({\mathbf{r}}) = E(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{F}_i = -\frac{dE}{d\mathbf{r}_i}$$

Expression should be:

- > 'sufficiently' accurate
- > computationally fast
- > linear scaling, i.e. computation time ~ N (number of atoms)

# Methods

## Empirical Potentials

## Advantages:

- simple, fast
- linear scaling

## Disadvantages:

- transferability
- no electronic structure
- physical grounds

## Examples:

Embedded Atom Methods Bond Order Potentials

Stillinger and Weber

## Tight Binding (TB) Models

## Advantages:

- electronic structure
- improved accuracy
- faster then ab-initio

## Disadvantages:

- no self-consistency
- bad scaling  $(N^3)$

## Ab-initio Models

## Advantages:

- electronic structure
- reliable (!?)

## Disadvantages:

- complexity
- slow
- bad scaling

Allows for systematic approximations with: - limited loss of accuracy

- linear scaling (!!!)

via the so-called moment methods:

- second moment approximation (SMA)
- fourth moment approximation (FMA)
- ....etc

# Tight Binding

Total energy:  

$$E = E_{rep} + E_{band} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{at}} \sum_{j} V(r_{ij}) + \int_{-\infty}^{E_F} (E - \epsilon)n(E) dE$$
Density of states:  

$$n(E) = \sum_{\lambda} \delta(E - E_{\lambda}) = \sum_{\epsilon} \langle \psi_{\epsilon} | \delta(E - H_{TB}) | \psi_{\epsilon} \rangle$$
Tight binding hamiltonian matrix:  

$$IH_{TB}]_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} = \langle \psi_{i\alpha} | T + V_{eff} | \psi_{j\beta} \rangle = \langle \psi_{i\alpha} | T + \sum_{i'} V_{i'}^{at} | \psi_{j\beta} \rangle$$

$$\simeq \epsilon_{i\alpha} \delta_{ij} \delta_{\alpha\beta} + \langle \psi_{i\alpha} | V_i^{at} | \psi_{j\beta} \rangle = \epsilon_{i\alpha} \delta_{ij} \delta_{\alpha\beta} + \beta_{ij}^{\alpha\beta}$$
Wave function linear combination of atomic orbital:  

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{at}} \sum_{\alpha} c_{i\alpha} \psi_{i\alpha}(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{at}} \sum_{n,l,m} c_i^{nlm} R_{nl} (|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i|) Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$$

Tight Binding hamiltonian matrix blocks for spd-basis set:

$$\vec{\vec{H}}_{TB,ij} = \vec{\vec{\epsilon}}_{ij}\delta_{ij} + \vec{\vec{\beta}}_{ij}$$

diagonal matrix block;

 $\varepsilon_{\lambda}$ =free atom orbital level ( $\lambda$ =s,p,d)

off-diagonal matrix block for  $r_{ij}$  // z-axis; probabilities of electron hopping from  $|i\alpha\rangle$  to  $|j\beta\rangle$ 



## Typical examples of the density of states for a transition metal



Cohesive energy of TMs dominated by d-band filling

Graphs from: N.I. Kulikov and E.T. Kulatov, J. Phys F: Met. Phys 12, 2267 (1982)

## Tight Binding and moments method



all closed paths of n steps beginning and ending on atom i central atom i nearest neighbour next nearest neibour  $\mu_3 = \dots + \epsilon_i \beta_{ij} \beta_{ji} + \beta_{ij} \epsilon_j \beta_{ji} + \dots$  $= \epsilon_i$  $\mu_1$  $\mu_2 = \epsilon_i^2 + \beta_{ij}\beta_{ji} + \dots$  $\mu_4 = \dots + \beta_{ij}\beta_{jk}\beta_{kj}\beta_{ji} + \dots \beta_{ij}\epsilon_i^2\beta_{ji} + \dots$ 

Computation of the n-th moment for atom i involves

## Second Moment Approximation (SMA)



#### Simplication for pure d-band description for transition metals

Using:  $\epsilon = a_1 = \epsilon_d \longrightarrow E=0$  for isolated atom

and the variable change: E

$$E' = \frac{E - a_1^{i\lambda}}{\sqrt{b_1^{i\lambda}}}$$

leads to:

$$Z_{i} = \int_{E_{b,min}}^{E_{F}} \frac{\sqrt{4b_{1}^{i\lambda} - (E - a_{1}^{i\lambda})^{2}}}{b_{1}^{i\lambda}} dE = \int_{-2}^{E_{F}'} \sqrt{2 - E'^{2}} dE' = C(N_{el,i})$$

$$E_{band} = \int_{E_{b,min}}^{E_F} (E-\epsilon) \frac{\sqrt{4b_1^{i\lambda} - (E-a_1^{i\lambda})^2}}{b_1^{i\lambda}} dE = \sqrt{b_1^{i\lambda}} \int_{-2}^{E'_F} E' \sqrt{2 - E'^2} dE' = C'(N_{el,i}) \sqrt{b_1^{i\lambda}}$$
  
where:  $\sqrt{b_1^{i\lambda}} = \sqrt{\mu_2^{i\lambda} - \mu_1^{i\lambda} \mu_1^{i\lambda}} = \sqrt{\langle \vec{\psi_i} | \sum_j \vec{\beta}_{ij} \vec{\beta}_{ji} | \vec{\psi_i} \rangle}$ 

Next, forget about angular dependence in the d-band hopping integrals (i.e. treat the d-band as an s-band), then:

$$E_{band} = C'(N_{el,i}) \sqrt{\sum_{j} \left(\beta'_0 \exp\left(-q'r_{ij}\right)\right)^2} \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{Finnis-Sinclair} \\ \text{Embedded atom} \\ \text{SMA} \end{array}$$

## Fourth Moment Approximation (FMA)

 $\begin{cases} a_n^{in} = a_2^{in} \\ b_n^{i\lambda} = b_2^{i\lambda} \end{cases} \quad \forall n > 2 \end{cases}$ Termination of the continued fraction expansion by taking:  $n_{i,\lambda}(E) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} Im \frac{A_0 + A_1 z - ib_1 \sqrt{4b_2^{i\lambda} - (E - a_2^{i\lambda})^2}}{B_0 + B_1 z + B_2 z^2}$ Consequently: • energy band for:  $a_2^{i\lambda} - 2\sqrt{b_2^{i\lambda}} \le E \le a_2^{i\lambda} + 2\sqrt{b_2^{i\lambda}}$  $En_{i,\lambda}(E)$ and (E) $n_{i.\lambda}$ still analytically integrable\* • possibly pole contribution when  $B_0 + B_1 E + B_2 E^2 = 0$ \* Analytic solution from:

G. Allan, M.C. Desjongueres and D. Spanjaard – Solid State Communications, Vol. 50, no. 5 (1984)



NB: SMA does not take into account diagonal disorder. FMA does !!! In SMA mixing behaviour has to be adjusted by  $\beta_{ij}^{AB}$ 

## Monitoring mixing properties and surface segregation

Cluster expansion in the spirit of a TB description:

$$E = NV_0 + \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \sum_{i} p_i^{\mathbf{n}} V_{1,i}^{\mathbf{n}} + \sum_{\mathbf{n},\mathbf{m}} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} p_i^{\mathbf{n}} p_j^{\mathbf{m}} V_{2,ij}^{\mathbf{nm}} + \dots$$
with:  

$$\int_{i} 1 \quad \text{if the atom at site } \mathbf{n} \text{ is of type } i$$

 $p_i^{\mathbf{n}} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the atom at site } \mathbf{n} \text{ is of type } i \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$ 

For a perfect, bulk lattice, we obtain:

$$E = C + N_{AB}V_E + \dots$$

with:

$$V_E = V_{2,AB} - \frac{1}{2} \left( V_{2,AA} + V_{2,BB} \right) \longrightarrow \text{excess energy parameter}$$

$$V_E > 0 \longrightarrow \text{demixing}$$

$$V_E < 0 \longrightarrow \text{ordering}$$

## Parameter space

Excess energy depends on:

$$V_E = V_E(\Delta\epsilon, \Delta\beta, \beta_{av}, N^d_{e,av}, x_B)$$
 with:

 $\Delta \epsilon = \epsilon_A - \epsilon_B =$   $\Delta \beta = \beta_{AA} - \beta_{BB} =$   $\beta_{av} = (\beta_{AA} + \beta_{BB})/2 =$   $N_{e,av}^d = (1 - x_A)N_A^d + x_BN_B^d =$   $x_B = 1 - x_A =$  $(\beta_{AB} = \sqrt{\beta_{AA}\beta_{BB}} =$ 

- = diagonal disorder
- = off-diagonal disorder
- = average off-diagonal term
- = band filling
- = composition
- = Sheba rule)

Using canonical rules:

$$\beta_{dd\sigma} = -2\beta_{dd\pi}$$
 and  $\beta_{dd\delta} = 0$ 

the d-band width W is equal to :

 $W = 8|\beta_{dd\sigma}|$ 

# Range of parameter values

variation of  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$ 

variation of W



..... according to Papaconstantopoulos

#### Computation of excess parameter $V_E$ from reference lattice systems



$$V_E = \frac{\Delta E_{coh}}{N_{AB}}$$
  
=  $\frac{N}{N_{AB}} \sum_{i=A,B} x_i \left( \int_{-\infty}^{E_{f,AB}} (E - \epsilon_i) n_{AB,i}^d(E) dE - \int_{-\infty}^{E_{f,A+B}} (E - \epsilon_i) n_i^d(E) dE \right)$   
=  $\frac{N}{N_{AB}} \sum_{i=A,B} x_i \left( \int_{-\infty}^{E_{f,AB}} E n_{AB,i}^d(E) dE - \int_{-\infty}^{E_{f,A+B}} E n_i^d(E) dE \right)$ 



Calculation  $V_E$  from mixed reference system with 2 impurities, being 1-st, 2-nd, 3-rd, 4-th and 5-th neighbours







Monitoring surface segregation

For a slab geometry on a lattice, using cluster expansion:

$$E = C + N_{AB}V_E + \frac{1}{2}(N_A^s - N_B^s)\Delta V^s + \dots$$

with  $\Delta V^s$  the surface segregation parameter:

$$\Delta V^{s} = E^{s}_{A}(N^{d}_{e,A}) - E^{s}_{B}(N^{d}_{e,B})$$
  
=  $V^{s}_{1,A} - V^{b}_{1,A} - \left(V^{s}_{1,B} - V^{b}_{1,B}\right) + \frac{1}{2}(\gamma^{s} - \gamma^{b})\left(V_{2,AA} - V_{2,BB}\right)$ 

$$\Delta V^s > 0$$
  $\longrightarrow$  B segregates to surface

$$\Delta V^s < 0$$
 — A segregates to surface

#### Computation of surface segregation parameter $\Delta V^s$ from lattice slabs



Surface segregation parameter calculated simply as:

$$\Delta V^s = \frac{1}{N^s} \left( E_{sl1} - E_{sl2} \right)$$

#### or use (method 1b):



Then, assuming 
$$V_{2,AB}^{sb} = V_{2,AB}^{bb}$$
, again:  
 $\Delta V^s = rac{1}{N^s} (E_{sl1} - E_{sl2})$ 



For give N<sup>d</sup><sub>e</sub>, first compute charges on A and B, solving:

$$N_{e}^{d} = \int_{-\infty}^{E_{f,slA+slB}} (x_{A}n_{slA}(E) + x_{B}n_{slB}(E))dE = x_{A}N_{e,A}^{d} + x_{B}N_{e,B}^{d}$$

Subsequently compute:

$$\Delta V^{s} = \frac{1}{N^{s}} \Delta E^{s} = \frac{1}{N^{s}} \left( E^{s}_{A}(N^{d}_{e,A}) - E^{s}_{B}(N^{d}_{e,B}) \right)$$
$$= \frac{1}{N^{s}} \left( E_{slA}(N^{d}_{e,A}) - E_{bA}(N^{d}_{e,A}) - (E_{slB}(N^{d}_{e,B}) - E_{bB}(N^{d}_{e,B})) \right)$$



Parametrisation of TBFMA potential

Starting with Nickel ( $E_{coh}$ =-4.46 eV,  $W_d$ =3 eV).....



Conclusion: a d-band basis cannot give a good fit of total energy and electronic structure (d-band width  $W_d$ ) at the same time ----> next step: sd-band basis set

## Simulations

Constructing a family of potentials from an existing TBFMA model for Ni\*



\*H. Amara, J.M. Roussel, C. Bichara, J.P. Gaspard, F. Ducastelle, Phys Rev B 79 (2009) 014109



... pictures from Ducastelle in "Alloys"

Simulations performed for two alloys from the family



#### alloy 1 after melting



alloy 1 after recrystallisation



#### initial ordered cluster



#### alloy 2 after melting



#### alloy 2 after recrystallisation







# Conclusions

The fourth moment approximation includes the effects the electronic structure satisfactory by taking into account both diagonal and off-diagonal disorder.

The impact of the electronic structure on mixing properties is significant.

A significant improvement of the TBFMA description of the late transition metals seems achievable by using an sd-band basis set (instead of just d). The improvement regards the electronic structure (band width) and thus the mixing properties.

# Context

The use of the Fourth Moment Approximation\* (FMA) within a Tight Binding (TB) description to build an interatomic interaction model for atomistic simulations seems a significant step forward w.r.t. the Second Moment Approximation (SMA):

- it includes electronic structure properties
- more quantum aspects are preserved
- due to a recent effort\*\*, simulations based on FMA are only up to one order of magnitude slower then for SMA models

With the expected increase of accuracy of the FMA w.r.t. SMA, predictions of equilibrium properties and the critical temperature of nano clusters of (late) transition metal alloys from grand-canonical Monte Carlo simulations should become much more reliable.

As a important test for the FMA, before starting to parametrize a FMA based model for real transition metals (TMs) relevant for SimNanA, we performed a FMA based lattice model study of the trends in the bulk mixing properties and surface segregation properties.

\* An example of a TBFMA model for C-Ni systems is described in: H. Amara, J.M. Roussel, C. Bichara, J.P. Gaspard, F. Ducastelle, Phys Rev B 79 (2009) 014109 \*\* J.H. Los, C. Bichara and R.J.M. Pellenq, "Tight Binding within the Fourth Moment Approximation: efficient implementation and application to ....etc", submitted to PRB

# Examples of the local densities of states for TB model within 4-th moments approximation (a2=0, b2=1)



