Quantum Molecular Dynamics Simulations

Aiichiro Nakano

Collaboratory for Advanced Computing & Simulations Depts. of Computer Science, Physics & Astronomy, Chemical Engineering & Materials Science, and Biological Sciences University of Southern California Email: anakano@usc.edu





Molecular Dynamics Hierarchy



Quantum Molecular Dynamics (QMD)



O(N) DFT algorithms

- Divide-&-conquer DFT [W. Yang, Phys. Rev. Lett. 66, 1438 ('91);
 F. Shimojo et al., Comput. Phys. Commun. 167, 151 ('05); Phys Rev. B 77, 085103 ('08);
 Appl. Phys. Lett. 95, 043114 ('09); J. Chem. Phys. 140, 18A529 ('14)]
- Quantum nearsightedness principle [W. Kohn, Phys. Rev. Lett. 76, 3168 ('96)]
- A recent review [Bowler & Miyazaki, Rep. Prog. Phys. 75, 036503 ('12)]

Born-Oppenheimer Approximation

• Consider a system of N electrons & N_{atom} nuclei, with the Hamiltonian

$$\widetilde{H} = \sum_{I=1}^{N_{\text{atom}}} \frac{\mathbf{P}_{I}^{2}}{2M_{I}} + H(\{\mathbf{r}_{i}\}, \{\mathbf{R}_{I}\})$$
electron position nucleus position
$$= \sum_{I=1}^{N_{\text{atom}}} \left[\frac{\mathbf{P}_{I}^{2}}{2M_{I}} + V_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{R}_{I}) \right] + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[-\frac{\hbar^{2}}{2m} \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \mathbf{r}_{i}^{2}} + v_{\text{ext}}(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \right]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{r}_{j}|} - \sum_{i, j} \frac{Z_{J}e^{2}}{|\mathbf{r}_{i} - \mathbf{R}_{j}|} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{I \neq j} \frac{Z_{I}Z_{J}e^{2}}{|\mathbf{R}_{I} - \mathbf{R}_{J}|}$$
nucleus charge

- Due to the much larger nuclei masses (M_I) compared to the electron mass (m), the quantum-mechanical wave function of the system is separable to those of the electrons & nuclei
- At ambient conditions, the electronic wave function remains in its ground state $(|\Psi_0\rangle)$ corresponding to the instantaneous nuclei positions ({R_I}), with the latter following classical mechanics

$$M_{I}\frac{d^{2}}{dt^{2}}\mathbf{R}_{I} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial\mathbf{R}_{I}}\langle\Psi_{0}|H(\{\mathbf{r}_{i}\},\{\mathbf{R}_{I}\})|\Psi_{0}\rangle$$

Complexity Reduction: Density Functional Theory

 P. Hohenberg & W. Kohn, "Inhomogeneous electron gas" Phys. Rev. 136, B864 ('64)

The electronic ground state is a functional of the electron density $\rho(\mathbf{r})$

W. Kohn & L. Sham, "Self-consistent equations including exchange & correlation effects" *Phys. Rev.* 140, A1133 ('65)
 Derived a formally exact self-consistent single-electron equations for a

many-electron system



Kohn-Sham Energy Eigenstates



Abstraction: Exchange-Correlation Functional

• Universal functional (of density) that describes many-body effects beyond the mean-field approximation

$$v_{\text{Hxc}}(\mathbf{r}) = \int d\mathbf{r}' \frac{e^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}')}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} + v_{\text{xc}}(\mathbf{r})$$
Hartree (mean-field) exchange-con

potential energy due to electron-electron interaction

ia) exchange-correlation potential

- Some commonly used exchange-correlation functionals
 - **>GGA** (generalized gradient approximation) **PBE:** Perdew, Burke & Ernzerhof, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **77**, 3865 ('96)

>MetaGGA

SCAN: Sun, Ruzsinszky & Perdew, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **115**, 036402 ('15)

>Hybrid exact-exchange (Hartree-Fock) functionals HSE: Heyd, Scuseria & Ernzerhof, J. Chem. Phys. 118, 8207 ('03)

Abstraction: Pseudopotential



Representation: Plane-Wave Basis

• Pseudopotentials result in slowly varying wave functions that can be represented on a regular grid, which in turn can be represented as a linear combination of plane waves, *i.e.*, Fourier transform

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_j) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}_n} \psi_{\mathbf{k}_n} \exp(i\mathbf{k}_n \cdot \mathbf{r}_j)$$



Numerics: Fast Fourier Transform

• O(NlogN) fast Fourier-transform (FFT) algorithm is typically used to perform Fourier transform



Periodic Solid

• Consider a periodic solid with the unit cell spanned by vectors a, b & c



• Fourier transform of a periodic function

$$u(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{\mathbf{G}} u_{\mathbf{G}} \exp(i\mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{r})$$
$$\mathbf{G} = \frac{2\pi}{\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})} [l(\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}), m(\mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a}), n(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b})] \quad (l, m, n \in \mathbb{Z})$$

Bloch's theorem

band index

$$\psi_{n\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r}) = \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) u_{n,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$= \sum_{\mathbf{G}} u_{n,\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{G}) \exp(i(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{G}) \cdot \mathbf{r})$$

 $\mathbf{k} \in$ first Brillouin zone in the reciprocal space

Electronic Bands: Infinite Lattice



J. R. Chelikowsky & M. L. Cohen, Phys. Rev. B 10, 5095 ('74)

Self-Consistent Field Iteration

$$\begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mathbf{r}^2} + \hat{V}_{\text{ion}} + \hat{V}_{\text{H,xc}}[\rho(\mathbf{r})] \end{pmatrix} \psi_n(\mathbf{r}) = \epsilon_n \psi_n(\mathbf{r})$$
Given $\rho(\mathbf{r})$,
iteratively obtain
 $\{\psi_n, \epsilon_n\}, e.g., by$
preconditioned
conjugate gradient

$$\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_n |\psi_n(\mathbf{r})|^2 \Theta(\mu - \epsilon_n)$$
Chemical potential
 $N = \int d\mathbf{r}\rho(\mathbf{r})$

Nonadiabatic Quantum Molecular Dynamics



W. Mou et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 98, 113301 ('11); *ibid.* 100, 203306 ('12); J. Chem. Phys. 136,
184705 ('12); Comput. Phys. Commun. 184, 1
('13); Appl. Phys. Lett. 102, 093302 ('13); *ibid.*102, 173301 ('13); J. Chem. Phys. 140, 18A529
('14); IEEE Computer 48(11), 33 ('15); Sci. Rep. 5,
19599 ('16); Nature Commun. 8, 1745 ('17)

Zn porphyrin

Rubrene/C₆₀



quasi-electron; quasi-hole

Excited states: Linear-response time-dependent density functional theory [Casida, '95]
Interstate transitions: Surface hopping [Tully, '90; Jaeger, Fisher & Prezhdo, '12]

TDDFT & Surface Hopping

• Incorporate electron transitions with the time-dependent density-functional theory (TDDFT) & surface-hopping method

Tully, J. Chem. Phys. 93, 1061 ('90); Craig et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 95, 163001 ('05)



• Electronic transitions from the current state to another occur stochastically based on the switching probability obtained by solving TDDFT equations

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r},t) = \sum_{J} C_{J}^{(I)}(t) \Phi_{J}(\mathbf{r};\underline{\mathbf{R}}(t)) \quad C_{J}^{(I)}(0) = \delta_{I,J}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} C_{J}^{(I)}(t) = -\sum_{k} C_{k}^{(I)}(t) \left(i\omega_{K} \delta_{JK} + \langle \Phi_{J} | \frac{\partial}{\partial t} | \Phi_{K} \rangle \right)$$

$$J \text{-th adiabatic excited state}$$

$$K \text{-th excitation frequency}$$

Nonadiabatic coupling

Example: Electron Transfer in a Dendrimer



• The photoexcited electron at the peripheral antenna is transferred to the core due to the energy-crossing & overlapping of orbitals assisted by thermal molecular motions

Electron Transfer in a Light-Harvesting Dendrimer



• The photoexcited electron at the peripheral antenna is transferred to the core due to the energy-crossing & overlapping of orbitals assisted by thermal molecular motions

Excitonic Effects: LR-TDDFT

• Excited electron-hole pairs within the linear-response time-dependent density functional theory (LR-TDDFT) [Casida, '95]

$$\delta V(t) = \delta v_{kl\tau}(t) \hat{a}^{\dagger}_{k\tau} \hat{a}_{l\tau} \longrightarrow \delta P_{ij\sigma}(t) = \delta \langle \Phi(t) | \hat{a}^{\dagger}_{i\sigma} \hat{a}_{j\sigma} | \Phi(t) \rangle$$

$$\chi_{ij\sigma,kl\tau}(t-t') = \delta P_{ij\sigma}(t) / \delta v_{kl\tau}(t') \qquad \text{electron hole}$$

• Excitation energies from the poles of the response function $\chi_{ij\tau,kl\sigma}(\omega)$

 $2N_{unoccupied}N_{occupied} \times 2N_{unoccupied}N_{occupied}$ matrix eigenequation

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{B}^* & \mathbf{A}^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}_I \\ \mathbf{Y}_I \end{pmatrix} = \hbar \omega_I \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & -\mathbf{1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}_I \\ \mathbf{Y}_I \end{pmatrix}$$

I-th excitation energy

Kohn-Sham energy

$$A_{ia\sigma,jb\tau} = \delta_{\sigma,\tau} \delta_{i,j} \delta_{a,b} \left(\varepsilon_{a\sigma} - \varepsilon_{i\sigma} \right) + K_{ia\sigma,jb\tau} \qquad B_{ia\sigma,jb\tau} = K_{ia\sigma,bj\tau}$$
$$K_{ia\sigma,i'a'\sigma'} = \iint \psi_{i\sigma}^*(\mathbf{r}) \psi_{a\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) \left(\frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} + \frac{\delta^2 E_{\mathrm{xc}}}{\delta \rho_{\sigma}(\mathbf{r}) \delta \rho_{\sigma'}(\mathbf{r}')} \right) \psi_{i'\sigma'}(\mathbf{r}') \psi_{a'\sigma'}^*(\mathbf{r}') d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}$$

Coulomb & exchange-correlation interaction matrix elements

Electronic Excited States

• *I*-th excited state

$$|\Phi_{I}(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R})\rangle = \sum_{i \in \{\text{occupied}\}} \sum_{a \in \{\text{unoccupied}\}} \sum_{\sigma} \sqrt{\frac{\varepsilon_{a\sigma} - \varepsilon_{i\sigma}}{\hbar\omega_{I}}} (X_{I,ia\sigma} + Y_{I,ia\sigma}) \hat{a}_{a\sigma}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{i\sigma} |\Phi_{0}(\mathbf{r};\mathbf{R})\rangle$$
electron-hole pair ground state



QXMD Code

- Quantum molecular dynamics (QMD) code developed by Prof. Fuyuki Shimojo at Kumamoto University in Japan
- Various eXtensions co-developed with USC-CACS: Nonadiabatic QMD, linearscaling divide-&-conquer, parallelization, *etc*.
- Unique features:
 - > Interatomic forces with electronic excitation to study photo-excited lattice dynamics

Shimojo et al., Comput. Phys. Commun. 184, 1 ('13)

- > Range-separated hybrid exact-exchange functional for exciton binding Tawada et al., J. Chem. Phys. 120, 8425 ('04)
- > Lean divide-&-conquer density functional theory (LDF-DFT) with small O(N) prefactor

Shimojo et al., J. Chem. Phys. 140, 18A529 ('14)

- > Omni-directional multiscale shock technique (OD-MSST) Shimamura et al., Appl. Phys. Lett. 107, 231903 ('15); 108, 071901 ('16)
- > Berry-phase computation of bulk polarization
- Other features:
 - > Various functionals: spin-polarized, GGA+U, DFT+D, nonlocal correlation
 - > Nudged elastic band (NEB) method for energy-barrier calculation

GitHub repository: https://github.com/USCCACS/QXMD_Course

Software download site: https://magics.usc.edu/qxmd

Current & Future Computing Platforms

• Won two DOE supercomputing awards to develop & deploy metascalable ("design once, scale on future platforms") simulation algorithms (2017-2020)



NAQMD & RMD simulations on full 800K cores

Innovative & Novel Computational Impact on Theory & Experiment

Title: "Petascale Simulations for Layered Materials Genome"

Principal Investigator: Co-Investigator: Aiichiro Nakano, University of Southern California Priya Vashishta, University of Southern California



786,432-core IBM Blue Gene/Q



• One of 10 exclusive users of the next-generation DOE supercomputer

But...



M. Kunaseth et al., ACM/IEEE SC13 ('13)

Divide-Conquer-Recombine (DCR) Engines



M. Kunaseth *et al.*, *ACM/IEEE* SC13

- Quantum MD: Lean divide-&-conquer density functional theory (LDC-DFT) algorithm minimizes the prefactor of O(N) computational cost
 F. Shimojo et al., J. Chem. Phys. 140, 18A529 ('14); K. Nomura et al., IEEE/ACM SC14
- Reactive MD: Extended-Lagrangian reactive molecular dynamics (XRMD) algorithm eliminates the speed-limiting charge iteration
 K. Nomura *et al.*, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **192**, 91 ('15)

Scalable Simulation Algorithm Suite



4.9 trillion-atom space-time multiresolution MD (MRMD) of SiO₂
67.6 billion-atom fast reactive force-field (F-ReaxFF) RMD of RDX
39.8 trillion grid points (50.3 million-atom) DC-DFT QMD of SiC parallel efficiency 0.984 on 786,432 Blue Gene/Q cores

Divide-&-Conquer Density Functional Theory



Lean Divide-&-Conquer (LDC) DFT

• Density-adaptive boundary potential to reduce the O(N) prefactor

$$v_{\alpha}^{\rm bc}(\mathbf{r}) = \int d\mathbf{r}' \frac{\partial v(\mathbf{r})}{\partial \rho(\mathbf{r}')} \left(\rho_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r}) - \rho_{\rm global}(\mathbf{r}) \right) \cong \frac{\rho_{\alpha}(\mathbf{r}) - \rho_{\rm global}(\mathbf{r})}{\xi}$$

• More rapid energy convergence of LDC-DFT compared with nonadaptive DC-DFT



Factor 2.03 (for v = 2) ~ 2.89 (for v = 3) reduction of the computational cost with an error tolerance of 5×10⁻³ a.u. (per-domain complexity: n^v)

F. Shimojo et al., J. Chem. Phys. 140, 18A529 ('14)

Hierarchical Computing



• Hierarchical band (*i.e.* Kohn-Sham orbital) + space + domain (BSD) decomposition



Divide-&-conquer domains

Parallel Performance

- Weak-scaling parallel efficiency is 0.984 on 786,432 Blue Gene/Q cores for a 50,331,648-atom SiC system
- Strong-scale parallel efficiency is 0.803 on 786,432 Blue Gene/Q cores



K. Nomura et al., IEEE/ACM Supercomputing, SC14 ('14)

Floating Point Performance

- Transform from band-by-band to all-band computations to utilize a matrixmatrix subroutine (DGEMM) in the level 3 basic linear algebra subprograms (BLAS3) library
- Algebraic transformation of computations

Example: Nonlocal pseudopotential operation D. Vanderbilt, Phys. Rev. B 41, 7892 ('90) $\hat{v}_{nl}|\psi_n^{\alpha}\rangle = \sum_{I}^{N_{atom}} \sum_{ij}^{L_{max}} |\beta_{i,I}\rangle D_{ij,I}\langle\beta_{j,I}|\psi_n^{\alpha}\rangle \quad (n = 1, ..., N_{band})$ $\Psi = [|\psi_1^{\alpha}\rangle, ..., |\psi_{N_{band}}^{\alpha}\rangle] \tilde{B}(i) = [|\beta_{i,1}\rangle, ..., |\beta_{i,N_{atom}}\rangle] [\tilde{D}(i,j)]_{I,J} = D_{ij,I}\delta_{IJ}$ $\hat{v}_{nl}\Psi = \sum_{i,j}^{L} \tilde{B}(i)\tilde{D}(i,j)\tilde{B}(j)^{T}$

- 50.5% of the theoretical peak FLOP/s performance on 786,432 Blue Gene/Q cores (entire Mira at the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility)
- 55% of the theoretical peak FLOP/s on Intel Xeon E5-2665

K. Nomura et al., IEEE/ACM Supercomputing, SC14 ('14)

Renewal Energy Cycle by Metal Carriers



• **Problem:** Accelerated hydrogen-production reaction kinetics for metal (Mg, Al, Zn, Fe) + water?

Nanotechnology Solution



• QMD simulation shows rapid H₂ production from water by a superatom^{*} (Al₁₇), but the technology is not scalable to larger particle sizes

*Roach, Castleman, Khanna et al., Science 323, 492 ('09)

H₂ Production from Water Using LiAl Particles

16,661-atom QMD simulation of Li₄₄₁Al₄₄₁ in water on 786,432 IBM Blue Gene/Q cores

K. Shimamura *et al., Nano Lett*. **14**, 4090 ('14)



21,140 time steps (129,208 self-consistent-field iterations)

Rapid & Scalable H₂ Production

• Orders-of-magnitude faster H₂ production from water than with pure Al



• Reaction rate does not decrease for larger particles \rightarrow industrial scalability

K. Shimamura et al., Nano Lett. 14, 4090 ('14); K. Nomura et al., IEEE/ACM SC14 ('14)

Crack Self-Healing Stishovite

- Superhard, ultratough nano-polycrystalline stishovite (NPS) synthesized N. Nishiyama *et al., Scripta Mater.* 67, 955 ('12); *Sci. Rep.* 4, 6588 ('14)
- Made of Earth-abundant silica glass, NPS provides sustainable supply of high-performance ceramics





K. Yoshida et di., Sci. Rep. **5**, 10993 (*) Acta Mater. **124**, 316 (*17)

- Toughening mechanism hypothesized to be amorphization under tension
- To catch up with a fast moving crack, amorphization needs rapid, but no theoretical nor experimental evidence

Rapid Tensile Amorphization

 QMD simulation reveals rapid amorphization of stishovite within picoseconds under tension ~ 30 GPa



• The rapid & expansive amorphization can catch up with, screen & selfheal a fast moving crack

M. Misawa et al., Science Advances 3, e1602339 ('17)

Rapid Amorphization Mechanism

• Found a displacive amorphization mechanism that only involves shortdistance collective motions of atoms, thereby facilitating the rapid transformation





• Two-step amorphization pathway from stishovite to glass involves an intermediate state akin to an experimentally suggested "highdensity glass polymorph"

Singlet Fission in Amorphous DPT

- Photo-current doubling by splitting a singlet exciton into 2 triplet excitons
- Singlet fission in mass-produced disordered organic solid → efficient low-cost solar cells
- Experimental breakthrough: SF found in amorphous diphenyl tetracene (DPT)



• Divide-conquer-recombine nonadiabatic QMD (phonon-assisted exciton dynamics) + time-dependent perturbation theory (singlet-fission rate) + kinetic Monte Carlo calculations of exciton population dynamics in 6,400-atom amorphous DPT

Singlet-Fission Hot Spot

• Nonadiabatic quantum molecular dynamics simulations not only reproduced experimentally measured exciton population dynamics but also revealed unknown molecular geometry of singlet fission hot spots



Photoexcited Carriers in MAPbI₃

• Organometal halide perovskites (*e.g.* methylammonium lead iodide, CH₃NH₃PbI₃ or MAPbI₃) for solar cells with high power conversion efficiency > 20%

[Stranks & Snaith, Nat. Nanotechnol. 10, 391 ('15)]



• Nonabiabatic QMD simulation Pb & I sublattices act as disjunct pathways for rapid & balanced transport of free electrons & holes — electron (63% Pb-6p) & hole (90% I-5p); diffusion coefficients $D_e = (1.16\pm0.31)\times10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s} \& D_h = (1.01\pm0.42)\times10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ Expt: $D_e = (1.7\pm1.1)\times10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s} \& D_h = (1.1\pm0.7)\times10^{-2} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ [Stranks *et al.*, Science 342, 341 ('13)]

Screening Role of Methylammonium Sublattice



- Large dielectric constant of MA sublattice causes small exciton binding energy, 0.012 ± 0.009 eV (experimental upper bound = 0.05 eV [D'Innocenzo et al., Nat. Commun. 5, 3586 ('14)])
- MA sublattice quickly screens out electrostatic electron-hole attraction to unbind an exciton & generate free carriers within 1 ps [cf. Zhu et al., Science 353, 1409 ('16)]

Hakamata et al., Sci. Rep. 5, 19599 ('16)



Priya Vashishta-PI, Malancha Gupta, Rajiv K. Kalia, Aiichiro Nakano, Oleg Prezhdo University of Southern California Uwe Bergmann and David Fritz Linac Coherent Light Source, SLAC William A. Goddard, III California Institute of Technology Kristin A. Persson Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory David J. Singh University of Missouri Pulickel M. Ajayan Rice University



Computational Synthesis of Functional Layered Materials: MAGICS Software Stack



INCITEIAURORA-MAGICS-LCLS Synergy



ULTRAFAST PUMP-PROBE EXPERIMENTS

X-ray pump-probe (XPP) instrument: 4-25 KeV



Ultrafast electron diffraction (UED) instrument: 3-5 MeV





2D Transition Metal Dichalcogenide (TMDC)

• Mono- and bi-layer MoSe₂ synthesized by the Rice group (P. Ajayan)



• Question: What is the nature of optically induced lattice dynamics for photo-patterning (*e.g.*, semiconducting 2H to metallic 1T' phases) of TMDC?



Ultrafast Coupled Electron-Lattice Dynamics

• Ultrafast electron diffraction experiment shows nearly perfect energy conversion from electronic excitation to lattice motions within ps





• Transition from mono- to bi-exponential decay at higher electron-hole density

M.F. Lin et al., Nature Commun. 8, 1745 ('17)

Strong Electron-Lattice Coupling

 NAQMD simulations reproduce (1) rapid photo-induced lattice dynamics & (2) mono- to bi-exponential transition at higher electron-hole density



- Rapid lattice dynamics is explained by the softening of M-point (1/2 0 0) phonon
- Bi-exponential transition is explained by the softening of additional phonon modes at higher electron-hole densities M.F. Lin *et al.*, *Nature Commun.* 8, 1745 ('17)



Electronic Origin of Phonon Softening

• Electronic Fermi surface for the electron-hole density n(e-h) ranging from 0.2 to 2×10^{14} cm⁻²



n(e-h) = 0.22, 1, 2, 3, 4 × 10¹⁴ cm⁻²

• While the Fermi surface is localized at K-points at minimal excitation (red), it occupies Σ -pockets at larger n(e-h) (black & blue), enabling electron scattering by emitting \vec{q}_n^1 (M), \vec{q}_n^2 (Σ) and \vec{q}_n^3 (K) phonons

Simulation-Experiment Synergy



- In the ultrafast 'electron camera,' laser light hitting a material is almost completely converted into nuclear vibrations — key to switching material properties on & off at will for future electronics applications
- High-end quantum simulations reproduce the ultrafast energy conversion at exactly the same space & time scales, & explain it as a consequence of photo-induced phonon softening

M.F. Lin *et al., Nature Commun.* **8**, 1745 ('17)

Semiconductor-to-Metal Transition via Doping

- Experiment at Rice shows 2H-to-1T' phase transformation by alloying MoSe₂ with Re
- QMD simulations at USC elucidate its electronic origin
- Simulation & experiment show novel magnetism centered at Re atoms



V. Kochat et al., Adv. Mater. 29, 1703754 ('17)



Conclusion

- **1.** Large spatiotemporal-scale quantum molecular dynamics simulations enabled by divide-conquer-recombine
- 2. Broad materials & energy applications





